



**STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR  
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:  
AGEING, FERTILITY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

12-13 JUNE 2018  
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

**GROUP PHOTO**



*The Honorable Delegates from Asian and Pacific countries attending the Ulaanbaatar Conference on Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Ageing, Fertility and Youth Empowerment on 12 June 2018 – State Palace, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*

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## ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AFPPD:	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
APDA:	Asian Population and Development Association
ARI:	Acute Respiratory Infection
DPRK:	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organization
FP:	Family Planning
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GMO:	Genetically Modified Organic Foods
HIV/AIDS:	Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HTC:	HIV Testing and Counseling
IAPPD:	Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ICPD:	International Conference on Population and Development
ICPPD:	International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ICT:	Information and Communication Technology
IPPF:	The International Planned Parenthood Federation
IMR:	Infant Mortality Rate
JICA:	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JFPF:	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
MFWA:	Mongolian Family Welfare Association
MMR:	Maternal Mortality Rate
OECD:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PoA:	Programme of Action
R&D:	Research and Development
RH:	Reproductive Health
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
TB:	Tuberculosis
TFR:	Total Fertility Rate
UNFPA:	The United Nations Population Fund
UNGA:	The United Nations General Assembly
WHO:	World Health Organization

## FOREWORD

This report documents the proceedings of the two-day Parliamentarians' Project held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 12-13 June 2018.

The conference was convened by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and hosted by the Government of Mongolia in conjunction with the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, to provide a forum for Members of Parliament to deliberate and seek viable ways in which they could make impactful contributions and ultimately chart a way forward towards the realization of the new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27 September 2015.

The meeting brought together Members of Parliament and prominent experts representing 11 countries from the Asia Pacific region, as well as members of the National Committees of Population and Development (NCs), the Government of Mongolia, representatives of UNFPA and other international organizations, NGOs and embassies.

During the plenary sessions, presentations were made on: (i) *Demographic Transition and Population Ageing*; (ii) *Sustainable Development Goals and Fertility Transition*; (iii) *Youth and Women Empowerment*; and (IV) *Parliamentarians' Role on the Implementation of the SDGs*.

On Day II, the delegates undertook study visits to two institutions: the Mongolian Family Welfare Association (MFWA; a member association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation—IPPF) and the Tuv Provincial Hospital, Maternity Wards and Telemedicine Services in Tuv Province.

The insights and suggestions made by the delegates in reference to important social issues in the region were productive.

It is imperative to note that successful implementation of the SDGs will depend on individual delegates and their organizations advocating for effective and efficient management of population and development issues, as well as concerted efforts by all the parliamentarians in internalizing and realizing the SDGs.

As a result of the discussion on the sessions, members of parliaments together with representatives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have set out the Ulaanbaatar Declaration.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the organizer of the 2018 Mongolia Project on *Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Ageing, Fertility and Youth Empowerment* is grateful to individuals, host and supporting organizations for making the project in Mongolia a great success.

### **The Government of Mongolia/Parliament of Mongolia**

APDA is grateful to the Mongolian Government and Parliament, in particular, H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Chair of the State Great Hural (Parliament) and H.E. L. Enkh-Amgalan, Deputy Chair of the State Great Hural (Parliament), who both made their remarks.

APDA also extends our gratitude to Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg, Chair of the Parliament Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education and Science, for his tireless coordination efforts throughout the project; and in equal measure members of the Parliament Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education and Science for playing an active role, prior to and during the conference.

### **The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

APDA expresses our appreciation to UNFPA APRO and UNFPA Mongolia for their extensive support and assistance in preparing and organizing this project.

### **The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**

APDA greatly appreciates the contributions made to this project by IPPF and its member association, MFWA.

### **Participating Members of Parliament**

APDA acknowledges all members of parliament, visiting and host parliamentarians, individually and collectively, for their active participation in the deliberations and for adopting the “Ulaanbaatar Declaration” at the conference. APDA is also grateful to all the presenters, both in plenary and in the subsequent interactive sessions. The information from their countries they shared in their presentations greatly enriched the discussions and formed an important basis for the final recommendations adopted at the conference.

June 2018

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After years of intense discussions, on 25 September 2015 world leaders adopted the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This universal agenda is a call to action for low, middle and high-income countries alike. It lays out a set of comprehensive goals that focus on people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership for the next 12 years. From the perspective of population and the SDGs, we need to directly address population issues, in particular ageing, fertility and youth issues.

Admittedly, it is an ambitious plan that will require a renewed global partnership between governments, businesses, civil society and individuals. Therefore, participants from the Asia and the Pacific region gathered in order to advance sustainable development and to discuss how to build economically viable societies, with developed and developing nations as equal partners. Parliamentarians should be a driving force, harnessing their mutual yet diverse characteristics in global partnership, to youth and women empowerment and solution of the ageing and fertility issues.

It is against this backdrop that, on 12-13 June 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) convened the Conference on *Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the SDGs: Ageing, Fertility, Youth Empowerment*. The conference was jointly organized by the Government of Mongolia, and brought together Parliamentarians, NC officers and experts representing 11 Asian countries to deliberate on the SDGs.

The Ulaanbaatar Conference was therefore primarily convened to commit parliamentarians, from both developing and developed countries, *to carry out action and to monitor progress they have made so far through collaboration and through benefiting from their own experiences*. It is important to observe that the SDGs have not only been widely viewed as ambitious goals, but as goals that shall require significant resources for them to be achieved in the next 12 years.

The Report of the Mongolia Project on “Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Ageing, Fertility and Youth Empowerment” herein summarized is divided into six chapters, and documents the proceedings and highlights of the conference as well as field visits to Tuv province:

**Chapter 1:** contains key highlights of the opening remarks and keynote speeches made during the *Opening Ceremony* including reflections on progress made and visions for the future focusing on the 2030 Agenda-covering social, economic, environmental and governance issues.

**Chapter 2:** contains a summary of highlights captured from presentations made and subsequent discussions under Sessions 1 and 2: *Demographic Transition and Population Ageing and Sustainable Development Goals and Fertility Transition*



**Chapter 3:** gives a summary of presentations and subsequent discussions set out in Session 3: *Youth and Women Empowerment*.

**Chapter 4:** contains a summary of highlights of presentations made under the Sessions 4 and 5: *Parliamentarians' Role on the Implementation of the SDGs: Resource Mobilization, Oversight, Legislation and Discussion and Adoption of Ulaanbaatar Declaration for the SDGs and Regional ICPD Review*

**Chapter 5:** contains a compilation of the highlights of the remarks made at the *Closing Ceremony*

**Chapter 6:** contains a synopsis and highlights of the *field Study Visits* by delegates to MFWA, Tuv Provincial Hospital, Maternity Wards and Telemedicine Services, as well as presentations made during the field visits.

The report recommends that delegates who participated in this conference play the championing roles in urging their parliaments and governments to mainstream population and development aspects into their national policies, programmes and laws.

It also recommends that joint meetings of parliamentarians, organized by APDA and supported by UNFPA, should be convened regularly at sub and regional levels to assess and/or monitor and evaluate the implementation progress of APDA conference resolutions and recommendations.

In conclusion, this conference offered parliamentarians, NC officers and experts representing 11 countries from the Asian and the Pacific region countries an opportunity to share and discuss imperative issues, which even though they are country-specific challenges and scenarios, reflected larger concerns.

The importance of an all-inclusive effort towards solving the growing challenges of population and development in the world and of the promotion of a global partnership on a level playing field was reaffirmed in stimulating discussions on the most critically important areas needing action.



DAY ONE: Tuesday, 12 June 2018

## CHAPTER ONE: OPENING CEREMONY

### *Chair of the Opening Ceremony*

**Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia**

Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg began his remarks by welcoming all the delegates and thanking them for their participation in the conference.

He enumerated all the honorable delegations starting with H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Chair of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, H.E. Mr. L. Enkh-Amgalan, Vice-Chair of State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, Parliament members of Mongolia and Asia Pacific region countries' parliamentarians. He noted that the objective of this conference was for each country to share their experiences of success and lessons learned within their own national contexts.

He highlighted the importance of the adoption of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration which is a way for parliamentarians to commit to carry out action and to monitor the progress they have made so far.

He expressed gratitude to both Ms. Naomi Kitahara, UNFPA Representative in Mongolia, for funding and co-organizing this conference and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA).

### *Address of the Host Organization*

**H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Chair of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia**

In his welcoming remarks on behalf of the institution responsible for setting law and legislation, H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo extended a warm welcome and thank you to all the delegates for coming to Mongolia for the conference of *Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Ageing, Fertility and Youth Empowerment*. He believes that the SDGs which were adopted on 27 September 2015 by the United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) are the most imperative document for guiding global action.

H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo called upon the delegates and exhorted them to create ways to achieve the SDGs and to discuss issues related to the problems of implementing the SDGs.

The chair reiterated that *Mongolia is one of the countries that have made a national goal of sustainable development*. In 2016, the Mongolian Parliament adopted a policy of sustainable development which addresses social, economic and environment issues.

To effectively implement such a policy, Mongolia needs a partnership with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In other words, the Mongolian Parliament sees this meeting as important in achieving the SDGs. At the end of his opening remarks, he wished luck to the delegations and organizers.

### *Address of the Organizer*

#### **Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP Japan, on behalf of H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of JPFP, Former Prime Minister of Japan**

Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima delivered an opening speech on behalf of H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of JPFP, and former Prime Minister of Japan. She began her remarks by expressing deep gratitude to the Mongolian Parliament and her appreciation of all the delegates for gathering in Mongolia and attending the conference and the study visits.

She stated that in 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) which aims to achieve sustainable future for humanity. She noted that outcome of the SDGs can also be categorized into a shared awareness that we currently stand at a critical turning point, and that a “business as usual” approach to global problems that we face would deny us the chance to achieve sustainable development for ourselves and future generations. It was emphasized that the increasing pace of globalization and the ever-expanding world population will continue to have great impact on the Earth’s environment and on what resources the Earth can provide.

Mongolia is a country with a vast territory with few inhabitants, and some would argue that it can comfortably accommodate a larger population. However, every country will find difficulties in achieving sustainable development should their population remain in a growth phase. It is also important for a country’s population to be compatible with its economic activities and for it to be of an appropriate size given the carrying capacity of the natural environment.

Mongolia’s population is currently expanding with growth concentrated around the capital city Ulaanbaatar. The average life expectancy is low when compared to the country’s level of social development. Some challenges such as a high maternal mortality rate are still faced. In order to tackle these issues, it is important for Mongolia to invest in education, in the development of appropriate social insurance programmes and in public health aimed at young people. Secondly, it is essential for Mongolia to establish social-economic structures like infrastructure in its cities for its growing number of inhabitants.

In recent years, at a global level, the world faces a more diverse set of population issues. While African countries face significant population growth, countries in Europe and East Asia are already dealing with the consequences of aging populations.

Judging from Japan's case, unless a country properly capitalizes on its period of population bonus, it will not be able to develop proper social security systems, including a universal health coverage (UHC) system. Therefore, it was suggested that Mongolia could learn from Japan's experience. In addition to advancing the welfare of the Mongolian people, learning from this experience would help Mongolia build a nation that could enjoy sound economic growth in harmony with its environment, while developing thriving regional areas to achieve the full potential of this vast country.

Although each country faces its own particular challenges, the one common goal of all of us gathered here today is to build a society in which all newborns are blessed and in which all people, regardless of age, can participate in various manners.

APDA is committed to contribute as much as possible to the achievement of the SDGs connected with population issues.

## *Address*

**Ms. Naomi Kitahara, UNFPA Representative in Mongolia, on behalf of Mr. Bjorn Joergen Andersson, Director of the UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO)**

While officiating at the opening ceremony, Ms. Naomi Kitahara, who spoke on behalf of Mr. Bjorn Joergen Andersson, Director of the UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) welcomed all Parliamentarians to Beautiful Mongolia and offered her appreciation for their participation in the conference.

She observed that there has been increasing recognition of the critical role that parliamentarians play in addressing developmental challenges and find opportunities in the area of population and development, since the launch of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. She further clarified that the 2030 Agenda reaffirms ICPD and commits to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with two specific targets that all UN member states including the Asia Pacific community to achieve. These are:

SDG Target 3.7 which ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

SDG Target 5.6 which is to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

While delivering the speech, she noted that over 25 years the Programme of Action of the ICPD has recognized the rights of women and men to be informed of, and have access to, safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice. In recent years, women’s access to SRH care and services has increased, resulting in reducing maternal mortality and promoting gender equality and youth empowerment. The Asia Pacific region also faces the challenges of investment into a growing number of young people—their access to health services, education, and employment opportunity is very important.

She reiterated that “Young people are not future leaders, they are current leaders”. The discussions to be made today will be consolidated into the ICPD review which will be a crucial process for the region to advance the ICPD agenda.

In the conclusion of her remarks, she stated that UNFPA is very pleased to work with APDA to facilitate the process of reviewing the progress made toward achieving the ICPD and SDGs. She also expressed her sincere appreciation to the Parliament of Mongolian for taking a strong leadership in hosting this event.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Session 1: DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION AND POPULATION AGEING

**Session Chair: Hon. Hector Appuhamy, MP Sri Lanka**

#### *Population Ageing*

**Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Ageing Expert, Former MP Vietnam**

Dr. Nguyen Van Tien presented population and ageing in Vietnam, giving a brief explanation on how demographic transition has occurred in Vietnam and how it changed from high fertility to low fertility as well as the country's challenge and the role of the parliamentarians.

He started his presentation by illustrating summarizing Vietnam data profile covering demographic transition, fertility and mortality rates. The Vietnamese population is 93 million and one third of population is living in the suburban area. Therefore it is somewhat rural when compared to countries like Japan and Korea. According to the data, in 2017 the life expectancy of Vietnam was 73 years and its GDP per capita was US\$2,385. He mentioned that Vietnam is still a low income country, but it has been experiencing a rapid economic growth with an average annual 6% rise in GDP in recent years.

On the other hand, its economy is changing from an agriculture-based to a service-based one. In 2013, its population was 90 million and it was 14<sup>th</sup> most populous nation in the world. This situation will change over the next few years and its growth rate is expected to fall gradually till 2050 whereas the total population still in increase.

Dr. Tien then underscored important contributions of parliamentarians to population policy in Vietnam through provision of money for measures to reduce the total fertility rate (TFR) such as family planning. In addition, the mortality rate has fallen over the past 25 years. He pointed out that Vietnam is now facing the problem of an ageing population, as the ratio of elderly is fast increasing.

This trend is attributed to both fertility and mortality reduction as a result of progress in medical science, nutrition and improved socio-economic conditions. In terms of statistics on population in Vietnam, he observed that the transition time for population ageing to aged population with Vietnam's being 17-20, shorter than other countries, even those with better development level than Vietnam. Also, he mentioned that Vietnam is similar to other developed countries as to the life expectancy at the age of 60 (around 22 years), while child dependency ratio is in decrease and elderly dependency ratio is in increase.

Some of the challenges he mentioned are:

- The number of new born girls is very low compared to the number of new born boys. Projections for 2050 show a shortage of 2.3-4.3 million females.
- Healthy life vs. Life Expectancy: 64 years / 73.4 years (a gap of 10 years)
- The medium height of Vietnamese is very low compared to the average of Asian people
- Many people get married before the legal age especially among ethnic minority groups
- Almost 25% of children suffer from stunted growth
- 30% lack any kind of health insurance
- 27% have difficulty in daily life and are in need of support
- 70% live in rural areas doing agricultural work

At the end of this part, he stated that even though Vietnam is facing these challenges they are now in a “Golden Population Period”. This period creates the opportunity to develop the nation and to solve some issues such as investing more in young people and creating more of the needed job opportunities.

Another issue with regards to health, most especially for the family, is that of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In Vietnam the burden of NCDs is growing; 70% of mortalities are due to NCDs. On the other hand, NCDs pose significant financial pressures on the health system. One of the biggest problems facing NCDs is that many Asian countries have no pension system. The Vietnamese Government allocates a lot of money to the health sector, but it is not enough, compared to other countries.

He underscored the policy measures undertaken by the government that focused on social insurance so that now 70% of insurance is funded by the state whereas before it was only 40%. This policy adjustment has meant changes in how money is spent. Primary diseases such as NCDs now account for more than half of expenditures in the health sector. The other policy undertaken concerned the use of out-of-pocket payments for health services. He observed that 40% of the overall health expenditure consists of out-of-pocket payments, which is a big problem. “We need reform of the health care system”, he said, highlighting:

- A need for universal health coverage (UHC) for all ages.
- Health systems should be re-oriented to respond to an increase in NCDs, and to ageing.

As a conclusion, he stated that tasks for achieving sustainable developments, included:

- Creating more job opportunities for young people
- Keeping fertility rates at a replacement level
- Ensuring quality human resources by reducing the incidences of stunted growth and reducing the MMR.
- Integrating demographic indicators into socio-economic plans.

## *Ageing Asia and the Three Demographic Dividends*

**Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Associate Professor at the College of Economics, Nihon University, Japan**

Prof. Rikiya Matsukura's presentation focused on demographic changes and their implications on economic growth, especially sequential gains from demographic dividends. There are three demographic dividends, the third of which was found by him. The third demographic dividend is a completely new idea, which happens in some socio-economics and demographic situations, unlike the two other dividends that are used by policymakers.

He outlined his presentation, explaining the 20th century was the time of population explosion, but that in the 21st century population ageing is one of the biggest issues globally. He raised questions as to why population is ageing and when population ageing started.

- i. Ageing begins with declining fertility, and the fertility in Asia has not reached the replacement level. In years 2015-2020 almost half of the Asian population is below the replacement level but in future almost all countries will be below the replacement level.
- ii. In case of Japan, the number of birth by year, there was a 3-year-baby boom after the end of the World War II, but over the next 10 years Japan's fertility declined to almost half. Then there was the second generation of baby boomers, but fertility has been falling since then. The problem here is that there has not been a 3rd baby boom yet. This is the reason Japan's population is ageing so fast.
- iii. Population ageing is further affected by the mortality rate of the elderly, and in particular when the average life expectancy exceeds 70 years, the process of population ageing will be accelerated.
- iv. In case of Asia as a whole, the life expectancy is at 70 years and it is expected to rise till 2100. As of 2015, Japan was a role model of ageing societies from an international perspective, but in 2100, because there will be several countries with a higher ageing rate than Japan, learning Japanese experiences is indispensable for these countries that are following in Japan's footsteps.

Then he explained the following issues relevant to recent demographic trends in Asia by asking this question "How do manage ageing society in Asia?"

- Japan is having issues with a smaller number of taxpayers, which threatens the social pension system
- Countries like China, India, Thailand and Mongolia are facing problems of their own social protection programmes.
- In Korea and Taiwan, there are not enough caregivers

Then he introduced a new approach to analyze some of the ageing-related problems, which is called National Transfer Accounts (NTA). NTA is a very successful project which has been

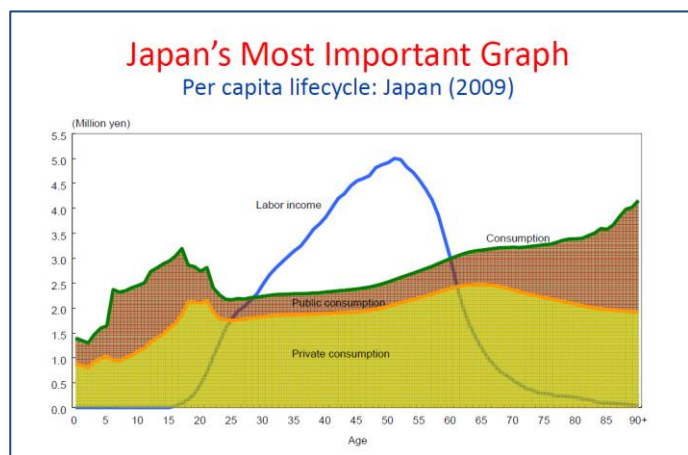


implemented in 82 countries covering almost 6 billion people over 15 years. He stated that Mongolia was included in this project as well.

Basic features of the NTA project are listed as follows:

- Integration of macro-level (public) and micro-level (familial) data
- Interplay among various age groups (age-specific)
- Consistent with the system of National Income.

He showed the graph based on the age of per capita consumption and labor income in Japan in 2009. Looking at this figure, there are time periods of deficiency (childhood and elderly) where consumption is greater than labor income, and a period of surplus in which labor incomes are higher than consumption. To manage for these deficits, there are three following options to compensate by public and private transfers from a generation with surplus and reallocations of individual assets.



- Private transfers (family taking care of either their children or the elders)
- Public transfers (government taking care of both children and elders)
- Asset reallocations

The National Transfer Account (NTA) provides important information on the following issues:

- Intergenerational equity and poverty
- Ageing policy
- Childbearing incentives
- Analysis of the three demographic dividends

v. He then made a brief introduction of the first demographic dividend. Due to the first demographic dividend caused by declining fertility, Japan's economic growth in 1950-1982 had a positive effect of the population structure on the macroeconomy. Since then, the population structure of Japan has acted negatively on economic growth and "it is in a very serious situation", explained Prof. Matsukura.

vi. According to his research, the second demographic dividend is caused by individuals' saving behavior and accumulating assets, especially to support after-retirement consumption as people's lifespan is extending. Given that the second dividend is caused by the accumulation of such wealth, most importantly, policy makers who are responsible for social security need to decide what kind of system should be chosen to

contribute to the future economic development of the country. The social security system that accumulates wealth over the lifetime will have more economic returns in the future than the pay-as-you-go social security system.

- vii. In the case of Japan, many Japanese elderly stop working because they have the social security system. With the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) and investment in human capital, there are a lot of healthy elderly. The labor income generated by the additional elderly workers corresponds to 4.5% of Japan's real GDP in 2010. There are elderly people who are not actually working, but are potentially able to work, indicating that this could be the third population dividend as a long-lived dividend.

At the end of his presentation, he noted that "Ageing is not curable, but it is modifiable".

### *Policies and Measures on Ageing in China*

#### **Hon. Liu Qian, MP China**

Hon. Lin Qian expressed gratitude to the delegates for their participation in the Conference. He also expressed his appreciation of Prof. Rikiya Matsukura's great analysis. Then on behalf of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee (ESCPHC) of National People's Congress of China, he commended APDA and the Great State Hural of Mongolia for their preparation and organization of the meeting.

He observed that the conference was being held to allow Asian parliamentarians to communicate and to contribute to a consensus on population and development issues, and then briefly introduced China's demographic transition and how the country has been managing its ageing issues.

In the first part of his speech, he explained the demographic situation and population policies in China. From the 1950s, economy growth improved people's living standard. China's demographic reproductive pattern has undergone a major transition from one of a high national population growth rate and a high mortality rate to one of a low national growth rate and a low mortality rate.

In comparing China's social conditions and social policies with those of other countries, China is quite different because its demographic transition took place over a very short period of time. The Family Planning Policy introduced in 1972 contained population growth in a fundamental way. The significance of this policy was to mitigate the contradiction between population and resources.

He observed that during this period of time there was some instability in the demographic trends, while reproduction policy was adjusted when China's economy and social situation changed. Diversified cultures and different ethnic groups have been taken into full

consideration when making policies. Policies vary according to population size, environment, culture, as well as social factors.

In the next part, he stated that in 2016, the Two Child policy was introduced. The Government of China continues making protective measures by improving supplementary policies in order to balance demographic factors and development.

Ageing issue of China:

- Since 1990, ageing has accelerated. According to the most current survey, in 2017 in China there were more than 158 million elderly aged 65 and above. That is 11.4% of the total population and this proportion is expected to double by 2030. And this proportion will gradually increase until it reaches a level of 27% in 2050. Ageing in China has its own features including that of a large population experiencing rapid growth, turning old before getting wealthy, and that of unbalanced development among the different regions. These factors have had an impact on China's economic and social development. In addition, health conditions of the elderly are not good because cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cancers are among the top causes of death for old people.

Policies and measures on ageing:

- The Chinese government has taken a proactive approach to ageing issues, providing care to the elderly by integrating medical care with pension system and by accelerating the development of industry related to issues of ageing. The National People's Congress adopted a new policy called the National Health Commission in March 2018 which addresses medical care and pension system. This policy is marked by a number of aspects as below listed:
  1. The 35-year plan for dealing with the issue of an ageing society
  2. Management to achieve better health conditions (for instance, the self-management of chronic diseases)
  3. Health services for people who are older than 65 (a combination of government-administered medical care and the pension system)
  4. The promotion of a smart adequate care system (intelligent health devices to provide more efficient health care)
- He outlined the law of the National People's Congress which has four major functions:
  1. Legislation
  2. Supervision
  3. Approval of personnel
  4. Decision making

Hon. Liu explained that the Standing Committee, in which he is involved, is closely involved with demographic-related work in order to solve problems and to improve laws and legislation relevant to reproductive policy such as family planning and the implementation of

Two Child Policy. The Committee also conducts inspection regarding measures for protection of environment and for the protection of the women and so on. In addition, the government pays much attention to the demographic-related issues and relevant institutions which are responsible for protecting women and children.

In conclusion, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Hon. Liu pointed out that China has made remarkable progress in addressing poverty and hunger, primary education, gender equality, and other goals. In recent years, China has been facing ageing and other problems impacting development, so it is working to achieve a more balanced development. Those challenges are not only faced by China but are common problems confronted by various countries. To solve these kinds of issues parliamentarians need to communicate with each other and promote relationships as well as facilitate international co-operation.

## *Discussion*

### **Question from Hon. A. Undraa, MP Mongolia, to Hon. Liu Qian, MP China:**

Is the medical care for the elderly delivered at the family doctor level? Is it different among regions?

**Response:** In China under the health care reforms implemented since 2009, we have a new social security system for all citizens throughout China – in both rural and urban areas. The government pays higher salaries to those who work at the primary level and makes primary medical care free of charge to everyone.

### **Question from Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD, India, to Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Japan:**

How do you propose that India, with such a large population and an ageing problem, do about social security and the health sector?

**Response:** Japan has the same situation as your country, but I think if you have benefit from the first demographic dividend, you will have a strong system like social protection which funds the pension system.

### **Question from Hon. Sharon Garin, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Philippines, to Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Japan:**

Is there a specific rate of growth which could mark the point where we can achieve sustainable development when we are facing an ageing problem?

**Response:** Each country has different situations and cultural backgrounds. For instance in the Philippines, a policy for the second demographic dividend is really needed, and policymakers need to focus on how to sustain the social security system.

**Question from Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, to Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Japan:**

I would like to know more about your strategy concerning revenue for the budget. What if health care and pension system costs continue to rise?

**Response:** Japan has failed to achieve the social security system. Nowadays we are trying to rectify it. Because cutting the budget is not good for people, I ask you not to follow the Japanese case.

**Question from Ms. Iliza Azyei, UNFPA Mongolia, to Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Japan:** What would be the key message that you would give to parliamentarians from Asia Pacific countries whose period of first demographic dividend is now closed? What would you do to bring about the second demographic dividend?

**Response:** Promoting the social security system and education is really important to improve productivity.

**Comment from Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam:** 25% of salary is collected as payment into the pension fund. In recent years, we have spent so much money on hospitals, and I think it is the wrong approach. All Asian countries must spend more on primary health care. In response to the question from India, 90% of the Vietnamese population is dependent on social security. If you make hospitals free you do not need to worry about out-of-pocket payments.

## **Session 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND FERTILITY TRANSITION**

**Session Chair: Hon. O. Baasankhuu, MP Mongolia**

### *SDGs and Fertility Transition*

**Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, Japan**

Dr. Kusumoto's presentation focused on the demographic transition and related factors. He started his speech with a brief introduction to the SDGs and related issues. He firmly believes that sustainable development must be achieved to maintain human dignity and ensure the survival of the human population within the limited ecosystem of the Earth. This notion was clearly stated in the declaration of the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) in Cairo in 1994, which fed into the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Dr. Kusumoto underscored challenges from the perspective of population and the SDGs. Whether it is the issue of population increase and global environmental degradation, or the issue of low fertility, our society becomes unsustainable.

He explained the demographic transition which consists of two components: the mortality transition and the fertility transition. He observed that the mortality transition advances with the development of medicine and public health, and the availability of healthcare services. Unless there is a fertility transition, the population will continue to grow, and the limited resources of the Earth cannot be sustained. We still lack a clear sense of the causes behind the so-called “second demographic transition”, why the transition to a low fertility rate occurs and how to bring about this fertility transition.

In dealing with the issues of the fertility transition, Dr. Kusumoto gave the example of Joel E. Cohen, a well-known scientist, whose answer to this question was “adaptation”. Dr. Kusumoto pointed out that this does not fully answer the question and that in terms of policy response, fertility should be understood in terms of “a result of action”.

In his study, Dr. Kusumoto explained that environmental and social conditions form the basis of means, norms and values. He outlined his hypothesis that it is not the economy that promotes the demographic transition; but rather it is the social systems—education, social security, and the housing environment—that enable economic development which brings about changes in people’s values and promotes demographic transition.

Dr. Kusumoto underscored that there would be a correlation between the economy and demographic transition, but in this case, it is not the economy but peoples’ norms and values that direct the demographic transition. He touched on the case of Mongolia—the country was not strongly influenced by external factors, has a large land area, and pre-existing cultural restrictions with regard to fertility have been removed.

At any rate, whether the population increases or declines, the concept of “fallacy of composition” applies; that is, it is the sum of rational decisions made by individuals that creates social issues. It is important to study each country’s culture and values that bring the appropriate level of fertility, which is necessary for achieving the SDGs. Therefore, parliamentarians are directly responsible for policy and must understand the structure of the fertility transition.

## *Fertility Transition*

### **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General of AFPPD**

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont commenced his presentation by pointing out the three stages of the demographic transition. The first stage consists of high fertility and high mortality, the second consists of declining mortality and declining fertility, and the third stage consists of low mortality and low fertility.

He shared a demographic overview of Thailand from the years 1782-2040, and the number of births from 1937 to 2002. He observed how the graph showed that there were more than one

million babies born annually from 1963 through 1983, the period which is called the population tsunami of Thailand.

He stressed that from the 1960s to 1990s the total fertility rate (TFR) dropped from an average of 6 to 2, while currently a Thai women has only 1.6 children on average, which is classified as very low fertility.

The other concern of Thailand is that of population ageing, which is proceeding at a high speed. As presented in his illustration, the elderly, those aged 65 and over, will account for almost 20% of the overall population in 2030, and the median age of the population is also increasing. The more fertility declines, the higher life expectancy becomes.

He pointed out seven factors leading to changes in the Thai family structure:

- Low fertility
- Longevity
- The changing composition of the Thai population
- Migration
- Higher household debt
- More women with higher education
- Changing lifestyles

He underlined the following features of changing Thai families:

- Movement towards nuclear families
- An increased number of single-parent families
- An increased number of one-person households
- Skipped-generation families

He added that in 1970, the National Population Policy was adopted and the very successful National Family Planning Program initiated. Thailand shifted its population policy from the one with emphasis on quantity to one with emphasis on quality. In relation to this, he made four recommendations as below:

- Support an enabling environment to enhance family solidarity
- Enhance social policies to the targeted population groups
- Promote an environment that enables voluntary fertility and family life among women
- Invest in building the capacity of young people

In addition, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont introduced the Adolescent Prevention and Solution Problem Act 2016, in order to address challenges that are currently occurring in Thailand. The bill was proposed by 55 parliamentarians, and the Act was enacted on 29 August 2016. This Act provides for youth participation, compulsory comprehensive sexuality education, rights of adolescents, and protection for pregnant adolescents to continue education.



## *Discussion*

**Question from Hon. D. Sarangerel, MP Mongolia, to Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, Japan:** Could you please explain your research methodology? Because the calculation result of the fertility in Mongolia is quite different from the research.

**Response:** The calculations are based on statistical data from the National Statistical Office of Mongolia. The carrying capacity of Mongolia is calculated based on scientific analysis done in the time of the former Soviet system. Calculations of the carrying capacity of Mongolia, based on its livestock-dependent population and on the productivity of pasture, put the number at 1.8 million.

**Comment from Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Japan:** People value the quality of education for their children, and that is why the education of Mongolians' children is very expensive. I think that is one reason for low fertility.

**Question from Hon. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob, MP Pakistan, to Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, Japan:**

Do we have an end point in case of population growth? What would be the ideal population and how do we maintain it?

**Response:** There is no ideal number for populations. Estimates of the carrying capacity of the earth can vary from researcher to researcher. In my research, we want to identify measures as to how we can mitigate issues that result from population changes. But I think we need time to adapt to changes and we need stabilization.

**Question from Hon. Dr. B.N. Goud, MP India, to Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, Japan:**

In the case of developed and resource-rich countries, how much do you support the SDGs and what do you feel are some practical movements that can be made towards attaining the SDGs?

**Response:** The important concern is to find a way to manage population impact. Some countries which have resources can sustain high growth for a short time. But over a longer period of time, they must have concern for how they can adapt to environmental conditions. This can be their goal of sustainable development.

**Comment from Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand:** Before 2015, we had the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also we had the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), both of which were concerned with issues relevant to population and sustainable development, and we have been working on these issues over the long period.

## CHAPTER THREE

### Session 3: YOUTH AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

**Session Chair: Hon. Dr. B.N. Goud, MP India**

#### *Women's Empowerment*

**Hon. B. Saranchimeg, MP Mongolia**

Hon. Saranchimeg began her remarks by pointing to what she regarded as imperative social issues: the empowerment of women and youth, and gender equality. As for the policymakers, involving women and young people in their decision-making process at the parliamentary level would be important.

She gave the example of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who made half of his Cabinet female, as well as the example of Scandinavian governments actively supporting the participation of women in business and in politics. In addition, she noted how the election in France proved that youth power can attract great public attention.

She observed that countries with an open economy gain advantage from the greater participation of women and are therefore developing quickly. She then outlined some features of how the empowerment of women and youth may have a positive impact on policymaking.

- Regardless of traditional values and gender difference, assessing the capacity of women has a positive impact on development in any country
- Women's natural habits may be advantage for analytical research and for the process of policymaking
- In the new era of technology, youth with technological capability will guide us to the future (i.e. Mark Zuckerberg)
- Understanding the view of young people with higher education and wider visions is a way for Mongolia to develop actively.

Then she gave an analysis of the election of parliamentarians in Mongolia in 2016. She stressed that young people (aged 18-25) did not feel a strong enough urge to participate in the election; therefore we need policy to support the participation of women and youth in politics.

Hon. Saranchimeg pointed out that as we move forward, supporting women's and youth's engagement with governmental and non-governmental organizations may both increase public trust and increase the voice of minority groups.

In conclusion, she stated that a partnership among various stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, the press and educational institutions is crucial if we wish to support women and youth in politics.

### *Youth and Women's Empowerment: The three central pillars of new strategy*

#### **Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP Japan**

Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima started her speech by introducing the packages given to the participants. These contained brochures from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japanese Government, the introduction of Continuum of Care (CoC) to protect precious lives, and small souvenirs from Japan.

She then illustrated the three pillars of the new strategy for women to be involved in the economy:

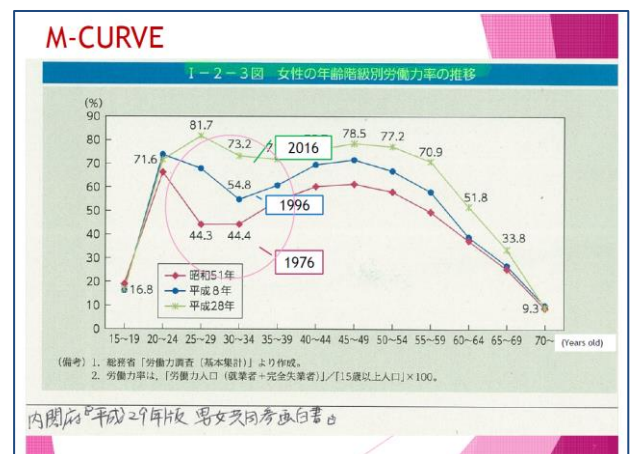
- Reducing the number of women who quit their jobs due to pregnancy, childbirth, or child-rearing,
- Increasing the ratio of women in leading positions, to 30% by 2020
- Fully realizing women's potentiality and harnessing their many talents

She outlined the aspects of industries' rationales for hiring and promoting women, and gave an example of some elaborations based on women's ingenious ideas.

Furthermore, she explained to the participants about the "M-curve" (that is, labor force participation rate of women by age group represented by the M-shaped curve) in Japan. According to her illustration, the M-curve has improved a lot, but compared with other countries such as Germany and Sweden it is not enough.

Hon. Dr. Makishima also outlined the barriers to hiring and promoting women. Here are some of the comparisons between men and women that she listed:

- 16.9% of men and 7.5% of women work more than 60 hours per week (a reason for the low birth rate in Japan)
- The percentage of men's parental leave is low at 5.14% (in 2017)
- Housework and Child-rearing by husbands is very limited
- The average hours of sleep of females per day is less than those of men
- Females' average total minutes of unpaid work exceeds males'



As a conclusion, she stated that the work-life balance is very important, and we need to improve this by changing the mindset of more males and by promoting more women to leadership positions.

### ***Youth and Women Empowerment: Challenges in the implementation of the RH Law***

#### **Hon. Sharon Garin, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Philippines**

She began her presentation by introducing the Philippines briefly. The Philippines has a population of 101 million and this is still growing quite rapidly; the population has increased by 15 million over the past decade. Youth (aged 15-30) comprise 30% of the overall population.

There are retrogressive legislation and policies at both national and local levels.

Hon. Garin gave a chronology of some legislative actions for youth protection and promotion between the years 1974 and 2016, and also of laws on women's empowerment from 1992 to 2012.

Moving forward, she outlined some challenges in the implementation of the RH law:

- Uneven implementation at the local level
- A rise in serious adolescent problems such as HIV and adolescent pregnancy (One in every 10 women 15-19 years old was pregnant for the first time or already a mother in 2017)
- Legal barriers
- A lack of public awareness (having the ability to plan a family)
- Insufficient funding (providing budget for RH and FP)

She made a recommendation that after getting the legislation enacted, the proper implementation of the laws should be promoted so that we can better fulfill these needs.

### ***Unleashing the enthusiasm and the potentialities a new generation***

#### **Hon. Tae Hyong Chol, MP, Minister of Education, DPRK**

He began his remarks by explaining how to unleash the enthusiasm and potentialities of young people in order to bring about a better future for all humanity. The youth in many countries are becoming miserable victims of war and terrorism, so he appreciated the Ulaanbaatar conference for taking up the issue of youth in society.

Then he continued his speech by mentioning how the DPRK solved youth-related issues by taking them as a crucial strategic actor that determines the future of the country. He noted that Great President Kim Il Sung and the Great General Kim Jong Il always said “What the present generation has not accomplished can be done by the new generations, but any work unfinished in bringing up new generations can never be offset by any means”. Kim Jong Un, Chair of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK has put forward three strategies of the new era of youth. In recent years, the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK passed some policies and other laws to provide social environment and legal framework to new generations, so they can fulfill their potential in society.

In addition, the future of young people can be guaranteed by the security and peaceful environment of the country by proposing improvement on the inter-Korean relations and reconciliation between the north and the south. He highlighted the importance of the Panmunjom Declaration held on 27 April and 26 May 2018, which will be a new start of close relations with the parliaments of neighboring countries as well as with the international society. At the end of his remarks, he extended his gratitude to the parliamentarians from Mongolia and other countries.

## *Discussion*

### **Question from O. Sodbileg, MP Mongolia, to Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP Japan**

Can you explain in what ways the percentage of men who are helping out with their children at home has increased? What are the reasons behind women getting less sleep than men in Japan?

**Response:** We are still struggling to have more men take parental leave. Many Japanese women after they get married have to look after their parents or parents-in-law as well as take care of their children.

### **Question from N. Oyundari, MP Mongolia, to Hon. Sharon Garin, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Philippines:**

What kind of policy measures are you taking to encourage more women, especially young women, to become entrepreneurs? What kind of medical provisions do you have to decrease the spread of infectious diseases, especially among women?

**Response:** We have schools which teach young women about work. They get money to attend and also equipment so that they can start their own businesses from home. We also provide conditional cash transfers to women for livelihood programmes in the institutions. In the Philippines, we have a commission on women and a general policy of offering women resources, but it takes more time for women who live in rural areas to apply for these.

Regarding HIV, the spread of this disease has been under control for the past few decades, but due to changes in our culture, the rate of its spread is increasing again. We currently try to promote education of reproductive health, starting with elementary students.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SESSION 4: PARLIAMENTARIANS' ROLE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, OVERSIGHT, AND LEGISLATION

**Session Chair: Hon. Liu Qian, MP China**

#### *Indian Parliamentarians Role on the Implementation of the SDGs*

**Hon. Dr. B.N. Goud, MP India**

Given that parliamentarians have a very important role in actions to fulfill the SDGs, Hon. Dr. B.N. Goud's presentation focused on resource mobilization, oversight and legislation. Targeting the SDGs means stimulating action towards solutions for problems in critically important areas such as poverty, hunger, health, well-being, education, climate change, gender equality, and so on. In other words implementing these goals is an ambitious plan that will require a renewed global partnership between governments, businesses, civil society and individuals, and one that will require coordination among these actors.

Moving forward, he pointed out that an ageing population can affect the goals of poverty eradication, good health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reducing inequalities, as well as sustainable cities. To illustrate this in his presentation, he showed a diagram of percentage of the overall population that consisted of people at the 60 years old and over for the years 2015, 2030 and 2050, emphasizing that while it is essential to address the exclusion and vulnerability of—and intersectional discrimination against—older persons in the implementation of the new agenda, older persons must be recognized as the active agents in order to achieve truly transformative, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

He observed that youth are the product of past, present and future, and that thus it is particularly important to engage with youth and empower them, stating “sustainable development– development that meets the needs of the present without compromising those of the future –begins with the respect for the future generation as an important stakeholder”.

Finally, he explained three aspects of the parliamentarians' role in the SDGs as listed below:

- Parliament level (resource, oversight, legislation and enlightenment)
- Community level (motivate and monitor)
- Personal level (communicator)

He suggested that certain principal activities should be treated as our own developmental goals, not somebody else's.



## *Introducing the Sub-Committee on the SDGs*

### **Hon. A. Undraa, MP, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the SDGs, Mongolia**

Hon. Undraa began her remarks with a brief introduction of legislation and policies adopted in Mongolia to achieve the SDGs. In accordance with *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity passed at a special summit of the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27 September 2015 in New York, in 2016, the parliament and government of Mongolia adopted the “Sustainable Development Vision of Mongolia 2030”, covering the social, economic and environmental aspects of these goals.

In addition, she mentioned that in order to successfully implement the SDGs in Mongolia, parliament has established a Sub-Committee on the SDGs with some specific goals:

- Planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference of the Sub-Committee on the SDGs
- Developing the national framework of the SDGs and its policies
- Creating new methods and approaches to assess sustainable development

She also said that the reports on the relevant checks and balances of the implementation of the SDGs are being developed at the every level of state organizations, such as the National Statistics Office of Mongolia. From 1990, almost 500 policies and legislation have been adopted, out of which 170 policies are about sustainable development. She then explained that there are several significant issues in Mongolia, which include:

- Partnership among state organizations and institutions
- Processing reports on the implementation of the SDGs
- Improving the participation within civil society
- Increasing the employment-population ratio to 70% by 2030
- Decreasing the unemployment rate to 3% by 2030
- Gender equality
- Providing work to disabled people

In conclusion to her remarks, she stated that the imperative role of parliamentarians in implementing successful sustainable development is to plan a budget so that its use is most beneficial to society.

## *Parliamentary Secretariat on the Sustainable Development Goals*

### **Hon. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob, MP Pakistan**

At the beginning of his presentation, Hon. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob stated that the Pakistani Parliament had established a parliamentary secretariat on the SDGs and listed some of its objectives:

- Transition prioritization
- Evidence based oversight, legislation and representation
- Constituency engagement/advocacy
- Parliamentary outreach to civil society: stakeholders, think tanks, experts, academia, partners and media.

In his presentation, Hon. Yaqoob mentioned that Pakistan's policy between the years 2014 and 2016 transitioned from one focused on the MDGs to one focused on the SDGs. He also listed the features of the Parliamentary Secretariat on the SDGs, include:

- 1<sup>st</sup> parliament in the world to have a SDGs secretariat
- Provincial Parliamentary Integration - 92 members
- Technical assistance
- Exposure to data - oversight
- Archiving of existing legislative and identification of gaps
- Constituency engagement - score card

At the end of his speech, he also emphasized that as every country varies in its capacity, we all need to address development goals in our own ways.

## *Discussion*

### **Question from Hon. O. Sodbileg, MP Mongolia, to All Speakers:**

What do you think are the challenges and barriers towards achieving these goals?

**Response 1:** The most important thing related to developing countries is the availability of resources as well as partnerships with other countries. For instance, what happens in North Korea, affects India too. That is why parliamentarians should play a part in utilizing resources and promoting partnerships in the best way.

**Response 2:** There are women, men and children trying to achieve their life mission through difficulties and barriers. I think that the SDGs should start in our own homes.

**Response 3:** In Mongolia, in order to achieve the SDGs, we have challenges of environment-related issues such as water shortage.

### **Question from Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam, to Hon. A. Undraa, MP Mongolia:**

Our country has just finished the demographic transition, but there are other countries that have not finished it yet. In Vietnam, fertility is still high, and some women still have 5-6 children. How do these women improve the quality of their lives?

**Response:** In the Mongolian case, we need policies directed to youth issues such as education and the employment of young people.

## **SESSION 5: DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION FOR THE SDGS AND REGIONAL ICPD REVIEW**

**Session Chair: Hon. Sharon Garin, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Philippines**

Hon. Garin guided the delegates through the draft recommendations point by point. The Chair of the Session then opened the session to the floor for input and for adoption. The plenary was to confirm whether all the deliberations were captured in the recommendations. Some of the delegates suggested grammatical and semantic adjustments to the declaration in order to make it more fully reflective of what had been discussed, before the draft was unanimously adopted as a conference output (See Appendix).

## CHAPTER FIVE: CLOSING CEREMONY

### *Chair of the Closing Ceremony*

#### **Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia**

Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg mentioned that the Ulaanbaatar conference had played a significant role in promoting the exchange among parliamentarians of experiences and opinions regarding the SDGs. He hoped that in the next conference the delegates would discuss both the impact and the progress of the newly adopted policy named the “Ulaanbaatar Declaration”. He also expressed appreciation to Ms. Naomi Kitahara, UNFPA Representative in Mongolia, for her work in co-organizing this great conference.

### *Address*

#### **H.E. L. Enkh-Amgalan, Vice-Chair of State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia**

H.E. L. Enkh-Amgalan began his closing remarks by enumerating the participants in the Ulaanbaatar conference. He expressed appreciation to the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for co-organizing the event, and then to the parliamentarians for gathering in Ulaanbaatar.

He acknowledged that 12 June was a remarkable day not only in terms of the productive discussions in the region, but also in terms of the historical summit that took place in Singapore between the heads of the U.S. and North Korea.

He also emphasized that in 2016 the Mongolian Parliament and Government adopted the “Sustainable Development Mission of Mongolia 2030” programme that covers social, economic and environmental aspects. The successful implementation of the SGDs depends greatly on the role of parliamentarians, accordingly and the Mongolian Parliament has passed policies for promoting population issues such as pension reform and youth development.

Mongolia has always been concerning with issues regarding population growth, youth empowerment, and an ageing society due to longer life expectancies. He also mentioned that one of the significant parts of this conference was to adopt the “Ulaanbaatar Declaration” as a result of the discussion on ageing, fertility and youth empowerment. At the end of his speech, he conveyed his wishes to continue such discussions and to establish a legal environment to achieve the recommendations in the Declaration.

## *Address*

### **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary General of AFPPD**

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont congratulated the participants on the adoption of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration by referring to the fact that it was discussed by participants from 11 countries. He acknowledged that Mongolia and other Asian countries were able to learn from each other at this conference and that Mongolia can benefit from the experiences of countries such as Japan and India in order to better take advantage of its vast land.

He also mentioned that he looked forward to the study tour the following day, which would allow the participants to study first-hand programmes on population issues. He added that the study tours in Kenya and Jordan that APDA had organized in the previous years were very beneficial. At last, he conveyed his hope that with the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, Asian parliamentarians would commit themselves to carry out action and to monitor progress they make, so that they can further collaborate in future and benefit from each other's actions and experiences.

## *Address*

### **Mr. M. Batzorig, President of MFWA, on behalf of Ms. Nora Murat, Regional Director, IPPF East and South East and Oceania Region (ESEAOR)**

Mr. M. Batzorig, President of MFWA, on behalf of Ms. Nora Murat, Regional Director, IPPF East and South East and Oceania Region (ESEAOR) sent her apologies for not being able to attend the conference and then outlined the IPPF goals that are consistent with the SDGs.

Moving forward, he mentioned that there are demographic and fertility issues in East and South East Asia and Oceania regions and listed the strategic focuses to address these issues:

- Sexual education
- Gender equality
- Reproductive health
- Youth empowerment
- Family planning

In other words, he concluded that IPPF East and South East and Oceania Region (ESEAOR) would always continue working on population and development issues that are relevant to Asian countries.

## CHAPTER SIX: STUDY VISITS

### Visit to the Mongolian Family Welfare Association (MFWA)

#### **Briefing by Mr. M. Batzorig, President of MFWA**

Mr. M. Batzorig, President of MFWA welcomed the delegates upon their arrival at MFWA, and, together with a chief physician, gave a brief introduction to the hospital, which is part of MFWA operations. Inside the building, Mr. Batzorig and the chief physician explained the services they provide and the equipment they use. She noted that they provide free services to those aged over 60 and to women who have experienced violence. There is also a 20% discount to adolescents and people who are aged below 25. She also stated that there are branches of this family clinic in other provinces in Mongolia.

#### **Presentation by Mr. Batbayar, Head of the Hospital Administration Department, Ministry of Health**

Mr. Batbayar welcomed the delegates to Mongolia and gave a brief summary of information regarding Mongolia. Mongolia's population as of a week ago was 3.17 million, so it is still a population-scarce country, but the country is witnessing a rise in the population. Also, he said that the fertility rate stands at 2.64, which made Mongolia a nation with a growing population. As to the life expectancy, for men it is 64 years old, while for women it is 74 years old.

He noted that MFWA has a longtime relationship with the Ministry of Health and demonstrates one of the best examples of the integrated work between the government and non-governmental organization.

In his ending remark, he congratulated MFWA on improving access to RH services including family planning in the country.

#### **Presentation on MFWA by Ms. B. Munkhtsetseg, Executive Director of MFWA**

First, Ms. Munkhtsetseg gave a brief introduction of MFWA, which was founded in 1994 and became a full member of IPPF in 2005. She was proud to say that in 2015 MFWA became the first Mongolian NGO granted UN ECOSOC special consultative status.

She outlined MFWA's mission, vision and its areas or focus:

- Mission: To champion and provide sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education and accessible, equitable and quality services for all
- Vision: To create a healthy society in which all people can enjoy their rights and the ability to make wider personal choices
- Focus areas:
  - Advocacy (policy and legal environment for SRHR education and services)
  - SRHR information, knowledge and skills
  - Integrated and quality SRH services
  - Accountable, united and self-reliant association

She then informed the delegates that MFWA's activities are directly linked to the SDGs such as Goals 3, 4, and 5. She noted that there are branches in 15 out of 21 provinces, and they work in partnership with national and international organizations which include:

- The Ministry of Health, the City Health Department
- 3 Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center (RDTC), 3 district health centers, Urguu maternity hospital
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Children, Family, Youth Development Centers, universities, institutes, colleges
- The Mongolian Youth Federation, CSO networks
- Local Government offices and health centers
- National center against violence, Princess center

Moving forward, Ms. Munkhtsetseg, noted that MFWA plans to build a new family clinic with free services within the next few years.

### **Interaction with Youth Networks of MFWA**

After an introduction by the Youth Networks of MFWA describing what they do to promote youth empowerment and raise awareness of SRHR issues among young people, the Youth Networks engaged with the delegates to demonstrate part of their activities.



## Visit to the Tuv Provincial Hospital, Maternity Wards and Telemedicine Services

Dr. Byambasuren, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health, Mr. Enkhbat, Chair of the Citizen's Representative Hural of Tuv Province, Dr. Munkhtuya, General Director of the Health Department in Tuv Province, and Dr. Oyuntsetseg, Chief of the Tuv Provincial Hospital all welcomed the delegates upon their arrival at the Tuv Provincial Hospital. Tuv Province is the nearest province to Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, and has 90,000 residents. The provincial hospital has four main buildings; the outpatient service, inpatient service, the building for tuberculosis (TP), and the section for disinfection.

### **Presentation on the Tuv Provincial Hospital by Mr. Enkhbat, Chair of the Citizen's Representative Hural of Tuv Province**

Mr. Enkhbat gave an overview of Tuv Province:

- Very close to the capital
- Supplies food products to Ulaanbaatar
- Has the highest number of Sum (administrative units of state)
- The agricultural sector accounts for 49%, the manufacturing sector accounts for 27%, and the service sector accounts for 23% of the provincial GDP
- There are general practitioners and health centers in Sum and Bag (the smallest administrative units of state).

Mr. Enkhbat noted that for the administrative unit of the state the top priority is to bring down infant and maternal mortality rates. As a result of their efforts, they have had no maternal mortalities and have significantly reduced infant mortality with the help of the local health department as well as local legislative officials.

### **Presentation by Dr. Oyuntsetseg, Chief of the Tuv Provincial Hospital**

Dr. Oyuntsetseg provided the background information on the hospital:

- 13 departments, 234 staff members including medical doctors
- In the maternity ward, they have 28 beds and provide continuous obstetric, neonatal and gynecological services
- They have about 1000 births per year on average; 76% of the total of pregnant women in the area have their babies delivered in Tuv Provincial Hospital
- They have a maternity waiting room for pregnant women and for mothers who are from remote areas
- A three-dimensional ultrasound machine for newborn hip assessment was installed in June 2017

- Surfactant treatment was introduced into practice in 2017 and was used for four preterm babies whose lives were saved
- “Telemedicine for improving maternal and neonatal care” was introduced in 2014; 61 cases were transferred during last 4 years
- Implementation of a programme on “Support for maternal and children’s health” has been started at the initiative of Aimag Governor

## **Discussion**

**Question:** How many TB patients do you care for in your TB section?

**Response:** In our TB ward, we have 20 patient beds out of 240, which is our full capacity. We have both regular TB as well as anti-drug resistant TB. Currently we have 18 multidrug resistant patients.

**Question:** How many people are there in each Bag (the smallest administrative unit of state)? What is the ratio of doctors to patients?

**Response:** We have 97 Bags and in each Bag we have at least one doctor for every 600-800 citizens.

**Question:** How many medical colleges are there in Mongolia?

**Response:** We have 12 medical colleges.

**Question:** Do all colleges offer medical doctor degree?

**Response:** Only the medical colleges that are accredited are for post graduate studies.

**Question:** Who pays for the cost of the services you provide to mothers and pregnant women, as well as babies?

**Response:** The State budget pays for the cost of all the services that mothers, pregnant women and babies receive.

**Question:** How long can women stay in the maternity waiting room?

**Response:** On average 10-14 days, but depending on the case, the period of stay can be longer.

**Question:** How do you manage the services by telemedicine?

**Response:** Using our policies and protocol we manage services by telemedicine.

## DECLARATION



### **Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the SDGs: Ageing, Fertility and Youth Empowerment**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

**12 June 2018**

### **ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION**

Parliamentarians are critical agents of change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including the goals set in the International Conference on Population Development, along with Government, the private sector, civil society and the United Nations system. We acknowledge that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an enormous opportunity to end poverty and hunger, achieve gender equality, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, combat inequalities within and among countries, build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, protect and promote human rights, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

We have a crucial role to play not only in legislation, policymaking, budgeting and oversight, but also in mobilizing public opinion and drawing strength from the wisdom of their own cultures, religions and traditions in order to build a sustainable society where people can lead a happy life with dignity and respect. In this light, parliamentarians are to “think global and act local” as ideas and solutions must be localized to best utilize available resources and achieve sustainable development along social, economic and environmental dimensions.

To this end, 33 Members of Parliaments from 11 Asian countries, together with representatives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), have set out the following Declaration to:

- **RECOGNIZE** that population ageing is a global phenomenon and many developing Asian countries with unique economic, political, socio-cultural, health, and environmental situations are ageing;
- **SEEK** innovative practical **solutions**, and human rights based responses to the multidimensional needs of rapid population ageing and low fertility, where applicable;
- **PRIORITIZE** resources to address the issues, challenges, and opportunities related to the rapid ageing of **populations** and low fertility to ensure the well-being of people at all ages;
- **ENGAGE** key national and **regional** stakeholders (public, private, and civil society), especially the youth and women, to bridge the gap between policy, research and practice on ageing and low fertility, where applicable;
- **RECOMMEND** that Governments adopt specific short-term and long-term measures to invest in youth, women and older people and promote gender responsive policy responses to harness the untapped potential for national development;
- **EMPOWER** adolescents and youth to realize their full social and economic potential by providing quality secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education, so they are equipped with skills for decent employment, and;
- **PROMOTE** the need for greater awareness, dialogue and sharing of expertise on population issues as part of the Regional ICPD Review Process so that important lessons could be learned from one another.

We, parliamentarians, commit to carry out these actions and to monitor the progress we make in doing so. We express our hope that more parliamentarians' dialogue such as this one will be held in the future so that Asian parliamentarians can collaborate and benefit from their respective experiences.

## PROGRAMME



### **Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Ageing, Fertility and Youth Empowerment**

12-13 June 2018  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

#### **PROGRAMME**

- Monday**  
**11 June** Arrival of Delegates  
(All delegates welcomed through VIP welcoming package at the “Chinggis Khaan” International Airport)
- 11:00-11:45 Press Conference (Venue: Hall G, State Palace)  
Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia  
Ms. Naomi Kitahara, UNFPA Representative in Mongolia  
Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General of AFPPD  
Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa, Chief Manager, International Affairs, APDA
- Tuesday**  
**12 June** **Day 1: Meeting**
- 08:10-08:30 Meeting at the hotel lobby
- 08:30-08:45 Depart from “Bayangol” hotel (The Police car will escort)
- 08:45-09:00 Registration at the entrance and then proceed to the Hall A, State Palace
- 09:00-09:30 **Opening Ceremony**
- Chair of the Opening Ceremony:  
Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia
- Address of the Host  
H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Chair of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia
- Address of the Organizer  
Hon. Karen Makishima, MP Japan, on behalf of H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of JPPF, Former Minister of Japan

Address

Ms. Naomi Kitahara, UNFPA Representative in Mongolia, on behalf of Mr. Bjorn Joergen Andersson, Director of the UNFPA's Asia Pacific Regional Office

09:30-09:50 Group Photo (*the Hall A, the State Palace*)

Coffee Break (*outside of the Hall A, the State Palace*)

Media Interview (*outside of the Hall A, the State Palace*)

**Session 1: Demographic Transition and Population Ageing**

Session Chair: Hon. Hector Appuhamy, MP Sri Lanka

9:50-10:45 Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Ageing Expert, Former MP Vietnam [20 min]

Prof. Rikiya Matsukura, Associate Professor at the College of Economics, Nihon University, Japan [20 min]

Hon. Liu Qian, MP China [15 min]

10:45-11:15 Q & A Session [30 min]

**Session 2: Sustainable Development Goals and Fertility Transition**

Session Chair: Hon. O. Baasankhuu, MP Mongolia

11:15-12:00 Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, Japan [20 min]

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General of AFPPD [15 min]

12:00-12:30 Q & A Session [30 min]

12:30-13:30 Lunch (*Dining Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, the State Palace*)

**Session 3: Youth and Women Empowerment**

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. B. N. Goud, MP India

13:30-14:15 Hon. Sharon Garin, MP Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Philippines [15 min]

Hon. Karen Makishima, MP Japan [15 min]

Hon. B. Saranchimeg, MP Mongolia [15 min]

14:15-14:45 Q & A Session [30 min]

14:45-15:00 Coffee Break (*outside of the Hall A, the State Palace*)

**Session 4: Parliamentarians' Role on the Implementation of the SDGs: Resource Mobilization, Oversight, and Legislation**

Session Chair: Hon. Liu Qian, MP China

15:00-15:45 Hon. Dr. B.N. Goud, MP India [15 min]

Hon. A. Undraa, MP Chair of the Sub-committee on SDGs, Mongolia [15 min]

Hon. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob, MP Pakistan [15 min]

15:45-16:15 Q & A Session [30 min]

**Session 5: Discussion and Adoption of Ulaanbaatar Declaration for the SDGs and Regional ICPD Review**

16:15-17:00 Session Chair Hon. Sharon Garin, MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Philippines

17:00-17:20 **Closing**

Chair of the Closing Ceremony:

Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg, MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia

H.E. Mr. L.Enkh-Amgalan, Vice-Chair of State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary General of AFPPD

Mr. M. Batzorig, President of MFWA, on behalf of Ms. Nora Murat, Regional Director, IPPF East and South East and Oceania Region (ESEAOR)

19:30 Official Dinner hosted by H.E. L. Enkh-Amgalan, Vice-Chair of State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia (*“Khatan Tuul” mansion of the “Ikh Tenger” complex*)

**Wednesday, Day 2: Study Visit  
13 June**

08:20-08:30 Meeting at the hotel lobby

08:30 Depart for the Clinic of the Mongolian Family Welfare Association

09:00-10:00 Briefing and the visit at the Mongolian Family Welfare Association

10:00 Depart to Tuv province

11:00-12:00 Briefing and visit at the Tuv provincial hospital, maternity wards, and telemedicine services

12:00 Depart from Tuv province

12:40 Arrive at the “Chinggis Khuree” tourist center

13:00-14:20 Lunch hosted by H.E. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Chair of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia

14:30-16:00 Mini naadam at the “Chinggis Khuree” tourist center

16:00 Depart to “Bayangol” hotel

**Thursday, Departure of the Delegates  
14 June**  
(Farewell through VIP welcoming package at the “Chinggis Khaan” International Airport)



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Position	Country
1	Hon. Mr. Liu Qian	Vice-Chair of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the National People's Congress	China
2	Hon. Ms. Jiang Lihong	Member of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the National People's Congress	China
3	Mr. Chen Guangjun	Director-General of the Science Office of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee	China
4	Mr. Xie Xiaoping	Deputy Director-General of the Public Health Office of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee	China
5	Mr. Chen Naiking	Deputy Director of the Public Health Office of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee	China
6	Ms. Chen Fangfang	Principal Staff Member of the International Exchange Office of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Interpreter of the Delegation	China
7	Hon. Tae Hyong Chol	MP, Minister of Education	DPRK
8	Hon. Pak Hyong Ryol	MP	DPRK
9	Hyon Jong Ung	Parliamentary officer	DPRK
10	Jon Kyong Jong	Parliamentary officer	DPRK
11	Hon. Dr. B.N. Goud	MP	India
12	Hon. Narayan Lal Panchariya	MP	India
13	Mr. Manmohan Sharma	Executive Secretary, Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD)	India
14	Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima	MP	Japan
15	Prof. Rikiya Matsukura	Associate Professor at the College of Economics, Nihon University	Japan
16	Dr. Osamu Kusumoto	Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA	Japan
17	Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa	Chief Manager, International Affairs of APDA	Japan
18	Dr. Farrukh Usmonov	Assistant Manager of International Affairs/Senior Researcher of APDA	Japan
19	Hon. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob	MP	Pakistan
20	Mr. Syed Raheem Shah	Assistant Director (IR), Secretariat of Parliament	Pakistan
21	Hon. Sharon Garin	MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament	Philippines
22	Hon. Hector Appuhamy	MP	Sri Lanka
23	Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont	MP; Secretary-General of AFPPD	Thailand
24	Dr. Nguyen Van Tien	Ageing expert; former MP	Vietnam
<b>Participants from Mongolian Parliament</b>			
25	H.E. Enkhamgalan	Deputy Speaker of Great State Hural	Mongolia
26	Hon. Yo. Baatarbileg	Chair of the Parliament Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education and Science	Mongolia
27	Hon. B. Saranchimeg	MP	Mongolia
28	Hon. O. Baasankhuu	MP	Mongolia
29	Hon. S. Chinzorig	MP, Minister of Labor and Social Promotion	Mongolia
30	Hon. D. Sarangerel	MP, Minister of Health	Mongolia
31	Hon. L. Bold	MP	Mongolia
32	Hon. A. Undraa	MP	Mongolia
33	Hon. B. Purevdorj	MP	Mongolia

<b>Participants from UNFPA</b>			
34	Naomi Kitahara	UNFPA Representative	Mongolia
35	Iliza Azyei	Assistant Representative, UNFPA	Mongolia
<b>Organizers and Translators</b>			
36	Sh. Narantuya	Head, Foreign Relations Department, Parliament Secretariat, Chair of the Sub-working group	Mongolia
37	J. Bayarmaa	Advisor, Foreign Relations Department, Parliament Secretariat, Chair of the Sub-working group	Mongolia
38	G. Bulgan	Referent, Foreign Relations Department, Parliament Secretariat	Mongolia
39	B. Uuganbayar	Analyst, Foreign Relations Department, Parliament Secretariat	Mongolia
40	Kh. Jantsan	Head, State protocols department, Government Secretariat	Mongolia
41	S. Batbaatar	Head, Media and Public Communications Department, Parliament Secretariat	Mongolia
42	Lkhagvasuren	Senior Adviser, Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science	Mongolia
43	J. Chimgee	Adviser, Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science	Mongolia
44	B. Majigsuren	Referent, Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science	Mongolia
45	U. Enkhuvshin	Adviser to Hon. O. Baasankhuu, MP	Mongolia
46	Solongo	Programme Assistant, UNFPA	Mongolia
47	Jargalsaikhan	IT specialist, UNFPA	Mongolia
48	Enkhchimeg	Assistant to Representative, UNFPA/Translator 1	Mongolia
49	Tim Jenkins	Partnerships and Communications Officer, UNFPA	Mongolia
50	Bazargur	Translator 2	Mongolia
51	Kh. Battuya	UNFPA	Mongolia
52	Battur Mandakhnaran	Rapporteur	Mongolia
53	Munkhbayar Uyanga	Rapporteur	Mongolia
<b>Embassy and NGOs</b>			
54	Chang Seung Joon	Executive Director, Stop TB Partnership, Korean National Tuberculosis Association	Republic of Korea
55	Sodnomjamts Oyundelger	Administrative staff, Korean National Tuberculosis Association, Mongolia Country Office	Mongolia
56	M. Batzorig	Mongolian Family Welfare Association	Mongolia
57	Mr. Mohapatra	Second Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar	India
58	R. Bat-Otgon	Marketing Assistant of the Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar	India