



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWS LETTER

No.45, May 2016



Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit (GCPPD2016)

On April 26 and 27 in Tokyo, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) co-hosted the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit (GCPPD2016).



The conference was held ahead of the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, which will be the first G7 Summit to be held since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The objectives of the conference were to discuss the roles of parliamentarians in achieving sustainable development, examine ways to counter the risks of pandemics that are growing as a result of globalization, and formulate recommendations for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit as well as work on the parliamentarians' respective parliaments and governments.

On the issue of population, which is closely associated with sustainable development, the meeting confirmed the importance of implementing appropriate programs in countries with varying population structures that have emerged as a result of the progress made in demographic transition around the world. It also reaffirmed the importance of complying with the International Health Regulations (IHR) in mitigating the risks of pandemics that have a significant effect on population. It reached a consensus that establishing universal health coverage (UHC) systems at the community, national, regional, and global levels, focusing particularly on universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, which are often neglected at times of international conflicts and other emergencies, is essential to dealing with the issue of population. It affirmed that taking such steps not only contributes to preventing infectious diseases, but also builds the foundation for protecting the human rights of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, including women and girls.

The outcomes of the conference will be presented to the Government of Japan, the host of the G7 Summit, as well as to governments of other G7 countries through parliamentarians participating from those countries. Parliamentarians from other countries will report the outcomes of the conference to their respective parliaments and present the conference's recommendations to their respective governments, building a global momentum towards attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

More than 140 speakers of parliaments and parliamentarians representing regional parliamentarians' groups from 64 countries and regions around the world gathered at the conference. In addition, some 600 persons representing international organizations, resource persons, and participants from Japan attended the conference. It was one of the largest conferences ever to be organized on the subject of "population and development" in Japan as well as one of the largest international conferences of parliamentarians in this country.

Achieving the fundamental goal enshrined in the 2030 Agenda "to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment" is in line with the proclamation of the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) that was held ahead of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 and with promoting the concept of "human security" that the Japanese Government pursues as its core diplomatic policy.



In alignment with the issues expected to figure prominently at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, the conference held two sessions on (1) empowerment of women and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and (2) building systems to counter the global threat of epidemics, such as Ebola and Zika in recent memory, that are increasing as a result of growing interdependence of countries and that

affect most acutely the health of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society. There were two other thematic sessions that reflected the diversity of population issues, namely, a session on (3) investing in youth, education, and employment - "How can we stimulate aspirations of our youth?" and a session on (4) active and healthy aging and well-being for the aging population - "population and sustainable development." The final session focused on (5) development of a global partnership for attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the role of parliamentarians as "catalysts" in strengthening health systems at the community, local, national, regional and global levels.



At the Opening Session, hosted by Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi (Chair of AFPPD and the Executive Director of JPPF), Hon. Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki (Chair of JPPF) and H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda (the Former Prime Minister of Japan, Honorary Chair of JPPF, and Chair of APDA) gave welcome addresses. Representing the Government of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe (Prime Minister of Japan) then delivered a keynote, in which he congratulated the



efforts of parliamentarians, spoke of Japan's record of taking the initiative in the field of international health each time it hosted the G7 Summits, and pledged Japan's further commitment in this field. The keynote was followed by an address by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin (Executive Director of UNFPA). Representing the parliament of the host country, H.E. Mr. Tadamori Oshima (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan) declared the opening of the conference.



In the Plenary Session, chaired by Mr. Ichiro Aisawa (Senior Vice-Chair of JPPF and President of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship Association), Hon. Mr. Frank Heinrich of Germany, which hosted the last year's G7 Summit, delivered a keynote on the "Outcome of 2015 G7 Parliamentarians Conference in Berlin."



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin (Executive Director of UNFPA) gave a keynote on “Human Security and SDGs: How to Tackle Population Issues,” and Prof. Keizo Takemi (Chair of AFPPD) delivered his keynote on “Universal Health Coverage, Human Security and Populations: Focusing on Women/Girls, Youth, and Elderly Populations.”



Session 1, which focused on the issue of women, was co-chaired by Hon. Dr. Sharman Stone (Australia; Vice-Chair of AFPPD) and Hon. Ms. Yuriko Koike (Vice-Chair of JPPF). The session began with a humorous comment from Hon. Koike and was moderated by Hon. Dr. Stone. Hon. Dr. Saliya Murzabayeva (Russia) gave a presentation, followed by reports and analyses on the prevailing situation by a panel consisting of parliamentarian panelists of Hon. Ms. Jan Logie (New Zealand), Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada), Hon. Ms. Adriana Salvatierra (Bolivia), and H.E. Ms. Margareth Natalie Mensah-Williams (Chairperson of the National Council) and non-parliamentarian panelists of Ms. Sarbani Chakraborty (Senior Director of Global Public Policy) and Ms. Anjali Sen (Regional Director of the IPPF South Asia Region).



It was recognized that UHC, including securing SRHR for women and girls, including those who are the poorest and left behind, is critical to empowering women and girls and to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The importance was recognized of continued efforts to advance gender equality, of further involvement of women, who make up only 22% of members of parliament today, in political decision-making processes, and of development of societies that guarantee liberty and individual choice for women and girls.

Session 2 on the topic of youth was co-chaired by Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay Dina (Nepal; Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth, AFPPD) and Hon. Mr. Paul Chibingu (Malawi). The session began with a presentation by Mr. Leonardo Garnier (Associate Professor of University of Costa Rica and the Former Minister of Public Education of Costa Rica).



As parliamentarian panelists, Hon. Ms. Mizuho Onuma reported that the voting age in Japan was lowered to 18 and emphasized the importance of participation of youths in the political process, and Hon. Sen. Ms. Cynthia Auilar Villar (the Philippines), Hon. Mr. Andrew Toboso (Kenya), Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi (Palestinian Authority; Vice-President of the Forum for the Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)), and Hon. Mr. Miguel Pizarro Rodriguez (Venezuela) made presentations. As non-parliamentarian panelists, Ms. Yoshimi Horiuchi (Founder of The Always Reading Caravan), Ms. Hilka Ngwedha Amadhila (Chair of Youth Action Movement in Namibia (YAM)), and Ms. Hasret Saygi (Pre-Refugee Activist of Turkey) gave presentations on their efforts working with youths, drawing deep empathy from the audience.

The session focused on investing in young people and, in particular, on the importance of education. Continuous quality education leads to employment, which in turn leads to fulfillment in life and joy of living. It was concluded that investing in young people today is a prerequisite to bringing about better societies for the future.

The theme of Session 3 was how to develop economically vibrant societies in the face of rapid aging in a world where people aged 60 and older will make up 22% of the total population by 2050. Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (Thailand; Secretary General of AFPPD) and Hon. Mr. Pascal Cherki (France) co-chaired the session, and Ms. Minah Kang (Professor of Ewha Womans University, Republic of Korea) and Dr. Takao Suzuki (Professor of J. F. Oberlin University, Japan) gave presentations on the status and challenges facing aging societies in Asia and Japan. Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah (Indonesia), Hon. Mr. Paul Chibingu (Malawi), and Hon. Dr. Ayman Ahmed Hussein Abouelala (Egypt) made





presentations as parliamentary panelists, which were followed by presentations by Ms. Reiko Hayashi (Director of Department of International Research and Cooperation of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan) and Mr. Toby Porter (Chief Executive Officer of HelpAge International) as

non-parliamentarian panelists.

Prof. Kang raised issues on social values and aging. Prof. Suzuki discussed concrete approaches to healthy aging based on scientific evidence. Mr. Porter gave a presentation on the ability of older people with different diseases to engage in activities. Ms. Hayashi observed that the world's population as a whole was about to enter a phase of aging. It was recognized that to address the issues of aging both in developed and developing countries, effective measures should be created as a social foundation for healthy aging and longevity, enabling older people to maintain functional capacity for active aging and to age with dignity and well-being.



Hon. Dr. Marco Antonio Núñez (Chile), representing IAPG, and Hon. Mr. Asahiko Mihara (Director of JPPF) co-chaired Session 4, in which reports were made on security and crisis management, bearing in mind how effective response to the ebola outbreak in West Africa was hampered due to dysfunction in the International Health Regulations (IHR) regime. Dr. Bruce Aylward (Executive Director a.i. of the Outbreaks and Health Emergencies, World Health Organization (WHO)) emphasized in his presentation that building health governance systems at the national, regional and global levels was essential and that parliamentarians had an important role to play in this regard. Mr. Mabingue Ngom (Regional Director for Western and Central Africa Region of UNFPA (UNFPA-WCARO)) provided a report that focused on women and girls and particularly young people. Mr. Yasusuke Tsukagoshi (Special Representative of the World Bank Tokyo Office) gave an explanation on the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF).



After the presentations from the experts, H.E. Dr. Saia Piukala (Minister of Health of Tonga), Hon. Dr. Wang Longde (China; Vice-Chairman of the AFPPD), Hon. Dr. Guillermo Mata Bennet (El Salvador), Hon. Dr. Florian Bodog (Romania), and H.E. Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko (Commissioner for Social Affairs of African Union) made the panel presentations, stressing the importance of training human resources in the field of health through international cooperation. A common understanding was reached on the need to strengthen the



core capacity of WHO to promote compliance of countries with the IHR. In cases where a large-scale pandemic cannot be brought under control by the WHO alone, it was expected that, under the UN Secretary General's leadership and in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WHO would fulfill an effective overall coordination role among UN and bilateral agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs).

In parallel with Session 4, "Sub-Session 1: In Danger of Health Care Workers for Caring with Ebola, HIV, and Other Infectious Diseases" and "Sub-Session 2: Dialogue between Parliamentarians and Civil Society: Building Partnership Towards G7 and TICAD for Achieving SDGs (SDGs)" were organized as civil society fora.

Sub-Session 1 included keynote speeches and panel presentations by representatives, among others, from African countries as well as presentations by Mr. Shigeru Suganami (Chair of Association of Medical Doctors of ASIA (AMDA)) and Dr. Kunihiko Chris Hirabayashi (Director of UNICEF Tokyo Office). Mr. Hiroki Nakatani (Keio University Professor of Global Initiatives), serving as a rapporteur, summed up the session's proposal to establish a mechanism for compensating the risks of health workers responding to emergencies.

In Sub-Session 2, more than ten parliamentarians, including Hon. Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi of Japan, as well as

panelists, commentators, and civil society representatives discussed the roles of civil society. Mr. Toby Porter, serving as a rapporteur, summarized the session’s proposal for promoting collaboration between civil society and parliamentarians.

The reports from the rapporteurs were presented at the end of Session 5, and the proposals for “establishing a mechanism for compensating the risks of health workers responding to emergencies” and “promoting collaboration between civil society and parliamentarians” were included in the Parliamentarians’ Declaration.



Official Reception: After the first day of the conference, participants were invited to the Official Reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Tadamori Oshima (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan) at the Official Residence of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Hon. Ms. Aiko Shimajiri (Secretary General of JFPF, Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, and Minister of State for Space Policy, Japan) and Hon. Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara served as masters of ceremonies. Parliamentarians actively promoted exchange in a convivial atmosphere.

At the reception, H.E. Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, affirmed the support of the National Diet of Japan for presenting the recommendations of the conference to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. The participants expressed sincere gratitude to the speaker’s generous offer and expressed their desire to reciprocate by putting forward the recommendations within their own countries.



Session 5, held on April 27 under the co-chairs Hon. Mr. Hiroyuki Nagahama (Vice-Chair of JFPF) and Hon. Ms. Edith Gueugneau (France), discussed the roles of parliamentarians in accomplishing the goals of 2030 Agenda.

Hon. Mr. Hiroyuki Nagahama (Japan) noted that parliamentarians must play a central role in ensuring accountability, transparency, and good governance, which are prerequisites to the global partnership envisioned in the ongoing discussions among JFPF and African and Asian parliamentarians, with APDA serving as a secretariat, and reported that JFPF, which has been working on building the partnership for the last eight years, has made a significant progress with the cooperation of the African Forum of Parliamentarians.

The speakers and parliamentarians, shown below, gave presentations from the national-, regional-, and global-level (G7/G20 countries) perspectives.



[National-level perspective]

- H.E. Lord Tu’ivakano, Speaker of the House (Tonga)

- H.E. Mr. Abadulla Gameda Dago, Speaker of Parliament (Ethiopia)
- Hon. Mme. Khayriniso Yusufi, Deputy-Speaker of the Parliament (Tajikistan)
- Hon. Ms. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament (Kazakhstan)

[Regional-level perspective]

- Hon. Mr. Chris Baryomunsi (Uganda), President of the African Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FPA)
- Hon. Ms. Ana Carolina Gaillard (Argentina), on behalf of the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG)
- Hon. Dr. Mohammed Magdy Saad Aly Morshed (Egypt), on behalf of the Forum for the Arab parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)
- Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien (Vietnam), Vice-Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
- Hon. Ms. Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė (Lithuania), on behalf of the European Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (EPF)

[Representatives from G7/G20 countries]

- Hon. Ms. Roberta Agostini (Italy)
- Hon. Ms. Oznur Calik (Turkey)
- Hon. Dr. Young-Ik Kim (Korea, Republic of)

In this session, it was resolved that the parliamentarians will commit to:

1. Address population issues such as gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment, investing in youth and active aging, and secure appropriate budgetary allocations toward the realization of UHC at the national level, including universal access to SRH;
2. Increase development assistance budgets for population and development while ensuring the target of 0.7% of GNI for ODA, as agreed at the previous International Parliamentarians Conferences on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD-PoA), and earmark at least 10% of those funds for realizing gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and SRHR;
3. Establish oversight mechanisms to facilitate good risk management and governance systems at the community, local, national, regional and global levels, by serving as catalysts in linking all levels in responding to any emergency situations, including public health crises;
4. Implement evidence-based policies reflecting the diversity of demographics and marginalized groups that exist in different countries, 'leaving no one behind';
5. Promote good governance in order to achieve global partnerships to address human security and sustainable development; and
6. Urge our governments to fulfill commitments taken at the international level toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Adoption of Parliamentarians' Declaration: Following on Session 5, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi (Chair of AFPPD and Chair of the GCPPD Drafting Committee) chaired the session for the adoption of Parliamentarians' Declaration. The draft prepared by the Drafting Committee late the night before was presented. After comments from the participants, the final text of the Parliamentarians' Declaration was adopted unanimously.

Closing Session: In the Closing Session following the adoption of the Parliamentarians' Declaration, H.E. Mr. Masaaki Yamazaki (President of the House of Councillors of Japan) declared the closing of the conference. H.E. Mr. Yasuhisa Shiozaki (Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan), Mr. Tewodros Melesse (Director-General of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)), and Mr. Arthur Erken (Director of UNFPA-DCS) delivered closing remarks. On behalf of JPPF, Hon. Mr. Ryuhei Kawada (Director of JPPF) thanked all participants. The mantle of the host country was handed over to Hon. Ms. Sandra Zampa of Italy, which will host the next year's conference.



The outcomes of the conference were translated on the same day. A press conference was held with the attendance of Hon. Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki (Chair of JPFP), Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi (Chair of AFPPD), Hon. Dr. Sharman Stone (Australia; Vice-Chair of AFPPD), Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi (Palestinian Authority; Vice-President of FAPPD), Hon. Mr. Chris Baryomunsi (Uganda; President of FPA), and Mr. Arthur Erken (Director of UNFPA-DCS). The Declaration was handed directly to H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, who were requested to include the outcomes of the discussions of the parliamentarians on the agenda of G7 Ise-Shima Summit.



The respective speakers of parliaments also paid courtesy visits to H.E. Mr. Tadamori Oshima (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan) and H.E. Mr. Masaaki Yamazaki (President of the House of Councillors of Japan) during their stays.

For more information about the conference, including the conference program, list of participants, the full text of the Declaration, and webcasts, please visit the following websites:

- Website: <http://gcppd2016.org/jp/>
- Program: <http://gcppd2016.org/jp/program/>
- List of participants: http://gcppd2016.org/jp/p_list/
- Declaration: <http://gcppd2016.org/jp/declaration/>
- Webcasts: http://gcppd2016.org/jp/recording_movie1/

* * * * *



Secretariat of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

TEL: (+81) 3-5405-8846

FAX: (+81) 3-5405-8845

E-mail: apda@apda.jp

Website: <http://www.apda.jp>