



JPFP Newsletter

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

December 2025

Webinar: Impact of Social Media on Children and Young People

On 10 November, the webinar titled “Impact of Social Media on Children and Young People” was organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; JPFP Secretariat) with the support of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Plan International Japan, in collaboration with the Australian Parliamentary Friends on Population and Development (APGPD) and National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development of Nepal (NFPPD). Approximately 60 participants, including parliamentarians, experts, government officials, and representatives of civil society from 17 countries joined the webinar.

In the opening remarks, Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of AFPPD and Chair of JPFP, raised key concerns noting that while social media connects young people worldwide and offers important opportunities for learning and self-expression, it also entails risks such as psychological impacts, exposure to harmful contents, and negative effects on daily life. She emphasized the importance of evidence-based policies to ensure a safe digital environment for children and young people.

In Session 1, Hon. Dr. Carina Garland, MP and Co-Chair of APGPD, explained Australia’s “Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024”, which sets a minimum age of 16 for the creation and holding of social media accounts, noting that the measure aims to protect children’s healthy development while ensuring appropriate digital literacy. Professor Amanda Third, Co-Director of the Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University, highlighted risks such as young people migrating to more dangerous online spaces, differing parental perspectives, and the ease with which children can access harmful content even without registered accounts. She underscored the importance of feature-based regulations, ecosystem approaches involving parents, industry, and government, as well as strengthened international cooperation.

In Session 2, Professor Bipin Adhikari of Kathmandu University, Nepal, examined recent Gen Z-led protests. He explained that the government’s ban on 26 social media platforms, combined with growing frustration over corruption, economic inequality, and demands for digital freedom, triggered nationwide demonstrations. Platforms such as Instagram and TikTok played a central role in information-sharing and mobilization, ultimately contributing to the reversal of the ban, the collapse of the government, and the call for fresh elections. He also noted that Nepal’s current legal framework remains

insufficient, highlighting the need to strike a balance between privacy protection, democratic freedoms, appropriate regulation, and international cooperation.

In closing, Hon. Kamikawa reiterated the importance of continued parliamentary follow-up after the implementation of Australia's legislation, active information-sharing among participants, and reflecting young people's voices in policymaking.



Progress in Legal and Policy Development in the Arab Region: Tunisia

Since 2017, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) has been continuously working to strengthen collaboration among Arab and Asian parliamentarians and promote legal and policy development related to population and development issues. Significant progress has been confirmed in key laws, policy formulation, and institutional reforms in this field, according to surveys conducted by the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) among parliamentarians in several Arab countries. These achievements have been realized based on recommendations adopted at the Arab-Asia parliamentarians' meetings organized by APDA and FAPPD, through the dedicated efforts of participating parliamentarians and FAPPD's close coordination. The support provided by the Government of Japan underpinning these activities has been highly appreciated and acknowledged by the Arab countries.

Key Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Laws in Tunisia

- Family Planning: Free contraceptive access in public clinics as a women's right.
- Maternal Care: pre-natal and post-natal consultations included as part of public health services.
- STI/HIV Response: National campaign with free testing and antiretroviral treatment.
- Violence Against Women: Comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of violence, repeal of legal loopholes for rapists.

Other measures

- The National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan 2021-2030 was developed to guide the implementation of an integrated approach to SRH planning and programming over the next 10 years. It includes Target 3, which aims to ensure that more than 80% of adolescents and young people benefit from sexuality education. Target 3.1: “To ensure the regular delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programmes, adapted to different target audiences, in order to strengthen individual SRH-related skills”.

Strengths of Japanese Support from Tunisia's Perspective

- A long-term, sustainability-oriented approach emphasizing technology transfer and capacity building.
- Participatory and decentralized implementation involving local stakeholders.
- A strong emphasis on human capital development.
- Concessional financing aligned with Tunisia's national priorities.
- A strong reputation for transparency and reliability.



*In cooperation with Hon. Ezzedine Tayeb, MP Tunisia,
and Dr. Mohammed Al-Smadi, Secretary General of
FAPPD*

A Parliamentary Meeting on “Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality” Held in Morocco

On 29 November, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), in collaboration with the Parliament of Morocco, organized a parliamentary meeting under the theme “Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality” in Rabat, Morocco. The meeting was structured around three main sessions:

Women's Economic Empowerment

Discussions focused on enhancing women's participation in labor markets and entrepreneurship, supporting women-led enterprises, addressing the gender wage gap, and expanding the social and solidarity economy.

Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Parliamentarians reviewed relevant legislation and discussed the importance of support mechanisms for survivors, including shelters as well as legal and psychological services, while calling for public awareness campaigns to combat discriminatory social norms.

Women's Political and Leadership Participation

The session addressed increasing women's representation in decision-making bodies, supporting young women leaders through mentorship and training, and strengthening parliamentary collaboration with national institutions to promote the participation of women and youth in policymaking.

This meeting was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Japan Trust Fund (JTF), and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).



JPFP

Established in 1974, JPFP has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPFP, in concert with APDA, has created a network of parliamentarians on population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

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APDA

APDA since its establishment in 1982 has served as the secretariat of JPFP.

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Supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



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