



## The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

# NEWSLETTER

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### Inter-Regional Parliamentarians' Meeting on ICPD25 in Djibouti:

#### APDA/JPFP Contributed to the Establishment of Djibouti's First Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the secretariat of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), and the National Assembly of Djibouti jointly organized the *"Inter-Regional Parliamentarians' Meeting on ICPD25"* in Djibouti City, Republic of Djibouti, on 23-24 February 2019.

The meeting, building upon the results of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 held in November 2019, was organized to discuss parliamentarians' roles in the implementation of the Nairobi Commitments and future activities as the first inter-regional collaboration programme between the African and Arab regions. This meeting was attended by some 50 people from 13 countries<sup>1</sup>, including African and Arab parliamentarians, representatives of UN agencies, specialists, and representatives of NGOs.

At the opening ceremony, an address of the organizer was read on behalf of H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Former Prime Minister of Japan, Chair of the APDA and Honorary Chair of JPFP. In the address, H.E. Fukuda thanked those concerned for their cooperation, commended the founding of the Djibouti Parliamentary Group on Population and Development for which APDA/JPFP activities supported, and expressed a hope that this meeting would stimulate parliamentarians' activity in this area. H.E. Koji Yonetani, Ambassador of Japan to Djibouti, made an opening address, in which he noted Japan's contribution to achieving the ICPD25 commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms. Frederika Meijer, Deputy Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO), gave a speech on behalf of UNFPA and H.E. Mohamed Ali Houmed, President of the National Assembly of Djibouti, declared the meeting open.



In the meeting sessions, specific measures were discussed on how to achieve the ICPD25 commitments in a way that is tailored to regional characteristics and the necessary role of parliamentarians was confirmed. The "Roadmap" that was adopted at the meeting affirmed that the implementation of the Nairobi Commitments is vital to achieving the SDGs. It also acknowledged the importance of efforts to revitalize the regional parliamentary fora in the Africa and Arab regions by the participating national committee members and called on UNFPA to financially support such undertakings.

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<sup>1</sup> Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe

Participating parliamentarians expressed their sincere appreciation to the organizer, APDA, as well as for the continuous support from the Japanese government and UNFPA for parliamentarians' activities on population and development. Moreover, the initiative of Hon. Hassan Omar, the first President of the Djibouti Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (GPPD), in establishing GPPD, the first organization of its kind in Djibouti, received praise from African and Arab colleagues as an excellent example of parliamentary activity in tackling these issues. Hon. Omar has regularly participated in APDA's inter-regional parliamentary projects since 2016.

On the second day (24 February), the participants first visited the Djibouti Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Center. At the center, participants were impressed by the fully-equipped modern facilities and the explanation of the medical insurance system that only requires patients to pay around half of their costs. The next visit was the National Nursery, which is run through personal support of the First Lady. It accepts infants



including those of refugees from neighboring countries and offers general services such as education. Some staff were previously in care at the nursery. The participants praised the efforts that Djibouti has been making and also expressed their appreciation for Djibouti's hospitality during the event.

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**Inter-Regional (Africa and Arab) Parliamentarians' Meeting on ICPD25**  
**Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti**  
**24 February 2020**

We, Africa and Arab Parliamentarians, participating in the Parliamentarians' follow up meeting on ICPD25 in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, 23-24 February 2020;

Being mindful that the implementation of the Nairobi Commitments on ICPD25 will be vital if we engage in the development that is sustainable for our regions,

We welcome the holding of this Meeting, the first collaboration between African and Arab parliamentarians' working on implementation of ICPD25 commitments, focusing on the concerned issues. We express our view of the importance of this Meeting, both for achieving sustainable development in African and Arab countries and for the advancement of the SDGs through inter-regional exchanges.

Taking into account the results, challenges and recommendations of the regional reviews of ICPD25 commitments we agreed to the followings:

- 1- Acknowledge importance of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 and its commitments;
- 2- Acknowledge that population constitutes a society and that without completing the ICPD25 commitments, the SDGs will not be achieved;
- 3- Acknowledge that, despite progress made, the ICPD's programme of action remains unfinished business in the regions and note that challenges to full implementation of the Programme of Action, including newly adopted ICPD25 commitments and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 are still prominent;
- 4- Reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development agenda 2030 and the ICPD25 in the African and Arab regions, and the role of UNFPA in support of the implementation of ICPD agenda as a guide for governments to formulate their population policies and programmes;

- 5- Recognize that population issues will not have substantial progress without social and economic development under the concept of sustainable development, which addresses environment as indivisible component,
- 6- Call upon UNFPA to continue work for the full implementation of ICPD25 commitments and leverage this momentum to develop policies and mobilize financial support to secure consensus to achieve full implementation of the Nairobi commitments on ICPD25.

**In line with our role as parliamentarians, we commit to:**

- Continue to advocate for the full implementation of the ICPD25 commitments promise of gender-based violence and youth empowerment, as affirmed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Define the ways to implement ICPD25 commitments at the national level;
- Advocate to change social norms, laws and policies, to uphold human rights, in particular the most crucial reforms that promote gender equality and empowerment of women, girls and youth;
- Deepening parliamentarians' understanding on population and sustainable development will be crucial for every country's development. Parliamentarians should promote cooperation between regions in order to further invigorate their work, and they should actively advocate their parliamentary colleagues through their country's national committees;
- Establish, as per country specific bylaws, a parliamentary structure that focuses on Population and Development in countries where it doesn't exist;
- Contribute, as a member of national committee, to revitalize the regional parliamentary forum;
- Requests UNFPA country offices to cooperate with National Committees for implementation of ICPD25 commitments.

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