



## **“Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks”-Part II**

13 February 2014

Uganda

### **Statement**

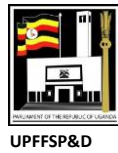
We, parliamentarians as representatives of 15 Asian, African and European countries, gathered in Uganda do commit ourselves to strengthening efforts to address population issues and set out a course of action to prioritize population issues on the national agenda and maximize aid effectiveness through this APDA-UPFFSP&D Project towards the 20-year deadline of the ICPD Programme of Action of 2014 and beyond.

#### **I. We reaffirm that:**

- 1) Population programmes are the foundation of national development; without stabilizing the population, sustainable development will not be achieved.
- 2) Population programmes facilitate environments conducive to human rights and allow people to make responsible choices for future societies.
- 3) Population programmes including sexual and reproductive health are managed through well-informed choices aimed at improving well-being of individuals, especially of those who live in poverty.
- 4) Population programmes enhance the status and empowerment of women, which contribute to creating social and economic development and eradication of poverty.
- 5) Population programmes are among the most cost-effective interventions which pave way to sustainable development.

#### **II. Based on these facts, we make the following policy recommendations:**

- 1) We urge respective governments to mainstream population programmes in the Post-2015 Development Agenda that will be adopted in 2015.
- 2) We parliamentarians commit to lobby in our respective parliaments to review, formulate and popularize policies and laws that promote sexual and reproductive health and population programmes to achieve sustainable development.
- 3) We strive to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health through strengthening the framework of Universal Health Coverage.
- 4) We urge respective governments to integrate Universal Health Coverage schemes into national development policies and implementing international assistance programmes as a principal instrument for population and development programmes.
- 5) We request national and international institutions including aid organizations to provide persuasive, evidence-based, concise data to be utilized to formulate policies and programmes, advocate fellow parliamentarians, and create support from the constituents.



- 6) We call for effective cooperation in the field of ICT for achieving Good governance, Transparency and Accountability.
- 7) For achieving the balance between population and food security, we need to promote proper sexual and reproductive health measures through the universal health coverage and the proper measures to strengthen resiliency of food security such as NERICA (New Rice for Africa).
- 8) We work towards promoting cooperation and coordination as well as sharing good practices at the national, regional and international levels. For this purpose, promoting collaboration with the Regional Parliamentary Fora on Population and Development to participate in the preparation process of IPCI in Stockholm is paramount.

### III. In closing:

- 1) In celebration of the success of the APDA-UPFFSP&D project, we express our thanks to the co-organizers, as well as to the Parliament of Uganda, the Government of Japan, UNFPA, IPPF and other partner organizations for supporting this project to prioritize population issues .
- 2) We acknowledge that Parliamentarians' roles, activities, and the platforms where they can work effectively are imperative in addressing population issues at the grassroots based on people's needs. Toward the ICPD 2014 and beyond, we commit ourselves to parliamentarians' activities to address population and development issues.
- 3) We implore international aid organizations' continued support and expansion of parliamentarians' activities such as this, considering the achievements that APDA has made to strengthen Asian and African parliamentarians' activities during the past more than 30 years.