

LEAD

May 19, 2014 4pm: Statements of Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Major Groups, UN Agencies, other stakeholders

ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

(Other Stakeholders)

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development recognises that parliaments, parliamentarians and civil society organisations (CSOs) have been instrumental in promoting human development, democracy and good governance and sustainability by working closely with the executive branch of their governments. With a strong focus on the Post 2015 agenda, parliamentarians and CSOs continue to play vital roles in accelerating progress towards ending inequality in the region.

We recognise that elected representatives at all levels through their legislative, oversight, budget approval and representation duties are key stakeholders in accelerating progress in ending inequalities, particularly by holding states accountable and ensuring that the poorest and the most marginalised and vulnerable in society will be at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda.

We urge that the Post-2015 agenda, its implementation mechanisms, targets and indicators will be fully aligned with international human rights laws, standards and principles. We will continue to promote accessible, inclusive and participatory governance and accountability mechanisms from global to local levels and increasing human rights protection, including through adequate investments for the enjoyment of all rights. We urge the protection of the civil rights of all individuals, by guaranteeing equality before the law and non-discrimination for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights.

Our parliamentarians will strive to ensure that appropriate measures to protect and promote equality, equity, social inclusion, absence of stigma, and accessibility within different intersecting identities – including age, gender, caste, religion, ethnicity, tribe, disability, language, sexual and gender identity, HIV status, migrant status and geographical locations, among others – are incorporated into laws, policies and programmes.

The Post 2015 agenda must include a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's rights to ensure the expansion of women's, participation, choices and capabilities.

Reaffirming that the right to sexual and reproductive health is a basic human right; recognising that universal access to comprehensive, integrated and high quality SRH information, education and services, with a particular focus on women and adolescents is integral to the socio-economic development of individuals and nations in the Asia and the Pacific region, we support the necessary policies and mechanisms to address harmful practices and forms of discrimination, including early and forced marriage, trafficking of women and children, as well as other harmful practices.

We urge a significant scaling up of efforts to halt the spread of HIV and other STIs to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV education and awareness, prevention, treatment, care and support, free of discrimination and bearing in mind gender perspectives, and the goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015, including by removing legal and policy barriers that impede access for key affected populations.

The Post 2015 agenda must address the structural causes of poverty, inequalities and deprivation within and between countries. National and international macroeconomic policies (fiscal, trade, monetary, financial flows) should be aligned, reformed or replaced to meet accessible and inclusive growth, human rights, social justice and sustainable development.

There is a need of setting up a global framework to ensure the right of migrant workers.

We note the unprecedented pace of population ageing in the region, and the need to prepare for its social and economic implications for individuals, families, societies and the global community, but with the right measures in place, there is a longevity dividend to be reaped by current and future generations.

We recognise the heightened social and economic risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) confronting the peoples of the Asia-Pacific, and take action to strengthen prevention and control of these diseases which have significant impact particularly on Pacific populations.

We urge that addressing climate change and ensuring access to reliable and affordable energy, particularly renewable energy, should be included as concrete targets of the post 2015 development agenda.

Reaffirming our commitment to the ICPD PoA in the area of migration to promote orderly migration flows and to address the needs of migrants, we urge dialogue and to establish cooperation between countries of origin and destination, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, as appropriate, to provide social protection to migrants, especially health care, including sexual and reproductive health rights and services; addressing the root causes of migration, specially those related to poverty; anticipating and preparing for migration related to climate change and disaster risk reduction in vulnerable coastal areas.

We call for a clear commitment to universal health coverage and universal access in relation to communicable and non-communicable diseases including sexual and reproductive health and rights as fundamental human rights.

We urge the prioritising of couples and individuals' access to contraception and information to make free and informed decisions about the number and timing of children, thereby preventing unintended and unplanned pregnancies, and reducing the need for abortion.

The role of parliament in the oversight of development processes must be strengthened, including by supporting capacity development as mentioned in the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

We recognise the need for mobilisation of domestic resources and effective ODA in terms of its quantity, quality, and accessibility. We emphasise that delivering fully on all ODA commitments by OECD/DAC is critical, including the target of 0.7% of GNI for ODA.

We call for development goals which are performance and delivery focused, limited in number, easy to relate to, global in nature and universally applicable to all, while adaptable to each country context. We also call on the UN to facilitate continued engagement of elected representatives and CSOs in consultation processes on Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, we resolve to ensure that acceleration of achievement of MDGs as well as the process of formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Post 2015 development agenda is participatory, accessible and inclusive, with various stakeholders, specially the poorest and the most marginalised.

AFPPD associates with the statement read by our CSO colleague earlier on behalf of the CSO Forum and the full civil society statement that will be made available to all of you.

Sources:

1. "Bali Declaration by Parliamentarians and Civil Society on the MDG Acceleration and the Post 2015 Development Agenda" Adopted on 26 March, 2013, Bali, Indonesia. Some 65 members of parliament/ legislature and 44 civil society leaders from 25 countries from Asia and the Pacific hereby adopt this Declaration, in presence of 10 parliamentarians from Africa and the United Kingdom as solidarity delegations, 4 civil society representatives from other regions and 58 representatives of development partner organizations.
2. "Parliamentarian Joint Statement for the Sixth Asian Pacific Population Conference" Bangkok, Thailand on 14-15 June 2013 for the Regional Parliamentarian Champions' Conference on Advocacy for ICPD Beyond 2014.
3. "Moana Declaration" by Pacific Parliamentarians, Suva, Fiji on 15 August 2013.
4. "Parliamentarian Joint Statement at the Sixth Asian Pacific Population Conference," Bangkok, Thailand, September 2013.
4. AFPPD Statement for the 47th Session of the Commission on Population & Development, April 8, 2014, UN, New York.