



International Parliamentarians' Forum on ICPD30: Sustainable Water Resources and Demographic Resilience for the Interest of Youth Declaration

10 June 2024
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Preamble

This “Parliamentarians’ Forum on ICPD30: Sustainable Water Resources and Demographic Resilience for the Interest of Youth” was hosted in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 10 June 2024. The meeting was co-organized by the Parliament of Tajikistan (Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

The meeting brought together more than 450 participants from parliaments, governments, international organizations, youth organizations and academia, involving 15 countries, to share and discuss good practices in policies, legislation and programmes on demographic shifts, aiming to address gender equality, investing in youth, water scarcity and climate change. It focused on policies, systems, and services that could strengthen investment in youth and eliminate gender inequality, including through empowering women and girls and engaging young people in decision-making processes.

Statement of Commitment

In line with our role as parliamentarians, we:

A) Reaffirm our commitment to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as pathways to achieve an equitable future for all;

B) Advocate for governments to use population data and analysis, including disaggregated data, to analyze, anticipate and adapt to demographic changes, to design evidence-based solutions tailored to specific national contexts in order to ensure demographic resilience. Whether in high or low fertility contexts, experience around the world has shown that solutions work best when they are people-centered, human capital-oriented and expand people’s choices;

C) Commit to building resilient individuals, communities and societies, and investing in emergency preparedness, anticipatory actions, and targeted disaster risk reduction plans. This includes prioritizing the protection of women, girls and adolescents, migrants, minorities and refugees in all their diversity in all ages, and other groups in vulnerable and marginalized situations during emergencies, including those relating to climate change. We actively support youth leadership in promoting peace, conflict prevention and in humanitarian action;



D) Recall that ‘leaving no one behind’ is the key principle of the SDGs, and that more resilient and sustainable health systems, as part of ensuring universal health coverage, are critical to achieving the SDGs and a key element of addressing demographic challenges;

E) Highlight the importance of promoting women’s empowerment, including by increasing women’s access to employment and services, addressing unpaid care work, and ensuring that policies address and redress gender inequalities;

F) Work with national parliaments to address harmful social and gender norms that limit the potential of women, girls and adolescents in all their diversity, and other groups in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including through strengthened engagement of men and boys and the mobilization of community activists, faith-based organizations, and traditional and religious leaders;

G) Highlight the importance of young people's empowerment and participation by ensuring the development and strengthening of public policies to accelerate human capital investments supporting young people to attain their highest potential through access to education and decent work and social safety packages;

H) Promote enabling environments that eliminate discrimination against young people and empowers them to make informed decisions about their lives and bodies;

I) Recognize the invaluable contributions of young people, women and girls to address the impact of climate change, and the need to leverage their experiences in disaster recovery and climate strategies keeping in mind that young people, in particular girls, are vulnerable to being disproportionately affected by climate change;

J) Reaffirm that we parliamentarians and policymakers must pay careful attention to the needs and rights of all people, including women and young people everywhere, especially in disaster zones;

K) Take affirmative action to develop a model or common legislation that places solidarity with the young people at the center with respect to their rights;

L) Recommit to working with all stakeholders, including development partners: civil society; local, national, and regional governments; the private sector; multilateral organizations; national parliamentary bodies and regional and global fora on population and development; to implement the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda;



Our pledge

We, parliamentarians from different countries gathered in Dushanbe, pledge to:

- **Advance legislative action:** Develop and expand the legislative and policy framework for strengthening demographic resilience to the target climate changes, that is comprehensive, based on evidence, and centered on people and their rights and needs
- **Support gender equality and youth empowerment:** Support for the initiatives that empower women and young people and promote gender equality as part of efforts to build human capital and foster inclusion as key elements of demographic resilience strategies
- **Enhance Climate and Water Resilience:** Collaborate on developing policies and strategies to address climate change and water scarcity, leveraging the contributions of young people in resilience-building efforts.

These commitments will help achieve the ICPD Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering a resilient and equitable future.