DRAFT

2012 INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS’ CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

**Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 May  2012**

*“We Parliamentarians pledge, as public advocates, legislators and policy makers, to carry out these actions and to systematically and actively monitor the progress we make in doing so. We further pledge to report regularly on this progress through parliamentary groups and to meet again in two years to assess the results we have made, both individually and collectively.”* ***2002 Ottawa Statement of Commitment***

 ** CONFERENCE OUTLINE**

**I. Justification**

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the international community agreed to allocate an annual sum of $18.5 billion by 2005, $20.5 billion by 2010 and $21.7 billion by 2015 for population and reproductive health programmes in developing countries. Two thirds of the target would be invested by developing countries themselves, with the remaining one third coming from external donors.

While both donors and developing countries achieved their 2010 target as set out in the ICPD, there remained serious gaps in population funding because of increased costs and other factors.

First, recent research shows that the funding targets set a decade ago in Cairo substantially underestimated the needs for reproductive health and especially for HIV and AIDS. To correct the situation, a 2009 report by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Commission on Population and Development estimated that the annual cost of meeting current needs for population activities was $64.7 billion for 2010, three times the original 1994 figures of $20.5 billion for the same year. Based on these realistic estimates, in 2010, it is clear that donors are allocating only one third of the required funds, and developing countries only one half of their obligations.

Second, funding for reproductive health, especially family planning, has suffered significantly partly because of a shift of population assistance to HIV and AIDS. Funds for reproductive health and family planning are not keeping up with the needs of an increasing number of couples of reproductive ages in developing countries. On the other hand, funds needed to address AIDS remain inadequate despite recent, large increases in funding for STD/HIV and AIDS.

Third, while developing countries are making progress in providing domestic resources for their population programmes, the least developed nations continue to depend almost entirely on external assistance. They will not be able to meet the needs of their populations unless donors increase their support.

Another important requirement for advancing the ICPD mandate is the creation and cultivation of an enabling environment in the domestic context, which can be realized by adopting and improving laws, policies and programmes that promote population and development. While, many laws and policies, have improved, we still have a long way to go. Also, even the implementation of existing laws and policies remains a challenge in many countries.

Today, more than 215 million women still lack access to a full range of family planning methods. About 358,000 women die each year from preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Population growth in developing countries is still contributing, along with high-resource consumption by affluent populations, to increasing stress on the global environment. It is obvious that much more needs to be done in the next two years in order to meet some if not all of the ICPD goals.

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution which extended the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014. With the world’s population hitting 7 billion this year and the growing needs of the largest generation of young people, the ICPD is more so relevant now than it has been before. There are an estimated 1.8 billion adolescents and youth in the world today, accounting for nearly a quarter of the world’s population. Just below 90 per cent live in developing countries and that proportion will increase during the next 20 years. Investing in the youth, their reproductive health and gender equality will help shape our future and put countries on a path to accelerated economic growth and equitable development.

Whether or not we can fill the gaps in funding and effective laws and policies; and whether or not we can achieve the ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, depends on the political will of governments in both developed and developing countries. The strong support of parliamentarians is critical to building and enabling this political will to achieve results the world needs.

**II. 2002 Ottawa, 2004 Strasbourg, 2006 Bangkok and 2009 Addis Ababa Conferences**

It is against this background that the first International Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD) was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 21 to 22 November 2002. The conference, held at the Canadian Parliament, brought together 103 elected representatives from 72 countries and territories, along with secretariats of national, regional and global parliamentary groups, panelists and resource persons, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The Ottawa conference also established, for the first time, a global system of regular monitoring and follow-up for parliamentarians. The conference was crafted to be the first in a series of conferences to be held every two years around the same themes, i.e. resource mobilization and creation of an enabling environment for population and development. The location of the conference would rotate between the Asia and the Pacific, the African, the Arab, the European and the Inter-American regions.

The second IPCI/ICPD was held on 18-19 October 2004, in Strasbourg, France under the auspices of the Council of Europe, which is Europe’s oldest and most representative political institution. It attracted 119 elected representatives from 82 countries and territories, including ministers and speakers of parliaments from both developed and developing countries.

The third IPCI/ICPD was held on 21-22 November 2006, in Bangkok, Thailand at the United Nations Conference Centre. The conference brought together over 300 parliamentarians, governments, non-governmental organizations and other participants from 100 countries.

At the Bangkok Conference participants took stock of the progress made so far by parliamentarians in advancing the ICPD agenda and come up with regional action plans to take their collective efforts to a next level.

The fourth IPCI/ICPD was held on 21-22 November 2009, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the United Nations Conference Centre. It brought together over 400 participants from 110 countries, including 155 parliamentarians from both developed and developing countries. The Addis Ababa Conference was significant for three additional reasons. First, it demonstrated that an increasing number of parliamentarians are working to advance the ICPD Programme of Action. Second, for the first time, civil society observers included members of the Youth Coalition, an international organization of young people (ages 15-29 years) committed to promoting adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive rights at the national, regional and international levels.

Finally, the conference was preceded by a high level meeting focusing on country efforts to improve maternal health—the fifth MDG. Sponsored by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the high-level meeting made clear that much more can and should be accomplished to save women’s lives and protect their health and well-being.

All four conferences generated tremendous results, with parliamentarians around the world making the Ottawa Strasbourg, Bangkok and the Addis Ababa Commitments a point of reference for their work in supporting the ICPD Programme of Action. Numerous parliamentary declarations and reports have been adopted at the national, regional and global levels in the past 10 years, which refer to or build on the four Commitments and their calls to action.

Since the Ottawa conference, UNFPA has served as the IPCI/ICPD secretariat responsible for monitoring progress and disseminating information to parliamentarians on a regular basis. It has set up and is running an email newsletter entitled Global Population Policy Update, which regularly reports on the progress made by parliamentarians and governments in fulfilling their commitments. The newsletter has served as a constant reminder that parliamentarians, governments and civil society are all working towards the common goal of realizing the ICPD agenda.

**III. 2012 Conference**

The 2012 IPCI conference comes at a very significant time for the ICPD mandate. With only two years before the Cairo agenda was expected to be complete, the conference will be an excellent opportunity for parliamentarians to recommit themselves to the unfinished agenda.

While, the international community undertakes the mandated operational review between now and 2014 at the national, regional and global levels, the 2012 IPCI conference will be an opportunity for parliamentarians to contribute to this exercise. They can consider strategic actions to be taken which will significantly reduce the gap between commitment to the ICPD and actual result. To this end, parliamentarians have the achievements of Ottawa, Strasbourg, Bangkok and Addis Ababa to build upon, as well as the 15-year review of the ICPD in 2009. Through this exercise, parliamentarians would be able to chart the way forward to speeding up the achievement of both the ICPD goals and the Millennium Development Goals.

The conference is expected to produce a forward-looking and action-oriented declaration that would build on the previous IPCI Commitments and provide for a way forward for ICPD implementation.

**Purpose**

To promote dialogue among parliamentarians from all regions of the world on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, with a view to achieving further commitment to collective action in the areas of resource mobilization and creation of an enabling policy environment for population and development.

**Hosts**

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) in collaboration with:

* Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
* Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD)
* Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG)
* Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)

**Organizers**EPF and UNFPA in collaboration with the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

## Sponsors

Denmark, European Commission, Switzerland, UNFPA, and others to be determined

# Date and Venue

24-25 May 2012

**Agenda**

Attached separately (still to be determined).

**Participants**

Approximately 400 participants are expected to attend the conference, including:

* Over 300 parliamentarians from all regions of the world
* Representatives from the national, regional and global parliamentary groups
* Panelists and resource persons (including ministers from donor and developing countries)
* UNFPA and IPPF
* Non-governmental organizations
* Representatives of Host Government

**Cost of Participation**

For parliamentarians and other invited guests, the cost of travel and other necessary expenses will be covered from the conference budget borne by UNFPA. Observers, including NGOs are asked to pay for their own travel costs.

**Steering Committee**

A steering committee consisting of two parliamentarians each from AFPPD, EPF, IAPG and PGA was established to prepare for the conference. FAAPPD is represented by a total of four parliamentarians from Africa and the Arab region. The first meeting was held in Panama City on 23 February 2011.

**Expected Outcome**

* A Statement of Commitment and Plans of Action that will spell out concrete actions to be taken by parliamentarians to further mobilize resources and create an enabling environment for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
* Expansion the IPCI/ICPD network of parliamentarians and cultivation of champion parliamentarians in every participating country and region for achieving both the ICPD agenda and the MDGs.