

# BULLETIN2025

**“Theme: keeping the promise for Africa”**



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## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Salutations from the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA).

On behalf of the Forum, I am honored to share with you second the (2nd) edition of our Parliamentary Newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter presents to you the rich experiences and lessons learned by the forum during the course of the past year.

The Forum convened several high-level Parliamentary meetings in Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania and undertook a study visit to Ghana.

The meetings highlighted the numerous Population and Development opportunities on the African Continent and the need for strategic investments to ensure that Africa reaps from its population.

I am happy to note the strong partnerships on the part of parliamentarians and partners across Africa and with the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) as well.

The partnership and support generated from Development partners including the Government of Japan, as well as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is noted with gratitude.

I urge you to take advantage of the rich lessons in this bulletin. They will greatly enhance the policy and legislative efforts by the different African Countries that are Members of the Forum and even those that are yet to join the Forum to create the Africa we want.

## VALUES

The forum believes that all members will ensure integrity, equality and gender sensitivity and bear a strong sense of accountability and transparency particularly to population programmes.

## OBJECTIVES

Enhance advocacy of legislation and enforcement of Laws on Population.

Create and Strengthen linkages that promote and polarize the population and development agenda.

Strengthening the institutional capacity of APFPD to fulfill the promises made in the ICPD.

Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo  
President, APFPD/FPA



African  
Parliamentarians  
Forum for  
Population and Development



From  
the People of Japan



# Message from the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)



## On behalf of APDA,

I extend our warmest congratulations on the publication of the second edition of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) Newsletter. We are pleased to witness the continued progress of FPA in promoting key policies and activities related to population and development, in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In February 2025, we celebrate the success of the recent Tanzania meeting under the leadership of the President, Honorable. Pelpuo, which demonstrated the commitment of parliamentarians to addressing pressing population issues. The discussions and insights from this meeting reinforce our shared mission and the importance of collaboration between regions.

Additionally, we also appreciate the important initiatives in Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Ghana. With support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), our partnership continues to thrive through Joint activities and knowledge-sharing, and strategic policy making to build a future that is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

We believe that through continued collaboration, we can build a more inclusive and sustainable future. Congratulations once again.

We look forward to working closely with FPA to make a lasting impact.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kiyoko Ikegami

**Secretary General / Vice-Chair of the  
Asian Population and Development Association  
(APDA)**



H.E Mahmoud Ali Youssou

## African Union Elects A New Chairperson

H.E Mahmoud Ali Youssou, a Foreign Affairs Minister from Djibouti was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union.

H.E. Mahmoud emerged winner after getting 33 votes, beating Raila Odinga from Kenya who was his closest competitor.

The Chairperson will be deputized by H.E. Selma Malik Haddadi from Algeria. The two leaders were elected and sworn in at the 38th Ordinary session of the Assembly that took place on the 15th and 16th February

**Congratulations to the team!**



# 2024 WORLD POPULATION DAY MESSAGE FROM THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo,  
President of African Parliamentarians  
Forum on Population and  
Development

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Africa and the world at large as we mark the World Population Day 2024. This year's event is celebrated under the global theme *'Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient and Equitable Future For All.'*

It is also worth noting that this event is marked while the world is making 30 years of implementation of the decisions made at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) meeting that was held in Cairo in 1994. Congratulations to the countries and leaders who have made the ICPD agenda a priority in their development plans and have resulted in population development and improved livelihoods. In spite of the successes that have been documented by different countries, Africa is still grappling with varied population challenges, including unemployment, limited access to social services, and backward socio-cultural practices negatively impacting on population development.

I would like to implore leaders, partners, and stakeholders to take advantage of this day to;

1. Create more awareness on key population challenges affecting our people.
2. Advocate for improvement of service delivery.
3. Empower communities demand for better services as their right.
4. Ensure heavy investment in youth empowerment. I wish you fruitful celebrations.

## APFPD/FPA EXCOM Undertakes a Study Visit to Ghana



EXCOM Team  
in Ghana for  
a study visit

In a move to enhance understanding and collaboration on Population and Development issues, Executive Committee (ExCom) members of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) undertook a study visit to Ghana from November 14-15, 2024. The delegation comprised of Hon. Sylvia Mthethwa (Eswatini), Hon Elise Pokossy Doumbe (Cameroun), Hon Majur Babur Ajal (South Sudan), Hon Akol Anthony (Uganda) and Hon Ojara Martin Mapenduzi (Uganda). They were accompanied by Mr. Wamala Musa Buyungo the APFPD/FPA Coordinator.

The Delegation was hosted by the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus chaired by Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo who is the President of the African Forum. The delegation visited development partners in Ghana that included the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); The National Planning and Development Commission; The International Institute of Population Studies; Population Council; Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) and; women in Law and Development in Africa (WOLDAF). Ghana was selected as a learning point given the success indicators registered by the country's population interventions and also because Ghana has been proposed to host the Headquarters of the African Parliamentary Forum. The study visit is part of the interventions by the APFPD supported by the Asian Population and Development Association in a move to popularize the ICPD Plan of Action.

# Tanzania Hosts Asian-African Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development



Participants during the study

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) in conjunction with the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) and the Tanzania Parliamentary Association on Population and Development (TPAPD), convened an Africa-Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on February 24-25, 2025 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting title is *"The Role of Parliamentarians in Harnessing Population Data to Foster Inclusive Social and Economic Development."*

The Dar-es-Salaam meeting provided a platform for participants to engage in dialogue to highlight opportunities for collaboration to harness population data and therefore, develop solutions to overcome challenges facing populations in Asia and Africa. The Dar-es-Salaam meeting was also aimed at facilitating Parliamentarians with knowledge and skills to enhance actions on legislative and policy issues around AADPD and ICPD PoA and support advocacy on emerging population issues in their respective countries. The Dar-es-Salaam meeting concluded with a Declaration that aimed at 'accelerating progress towards the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. While in Dar-es-Salaam, delegates visited Temeke Referral Hospital as part of the learning visit. Tanzania Hosts Asian-African Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development

Amongst the issues agreed upon in the meeting were:

- \* To continue mobilizing countries to work for implementation and popularization of the ICPD agenda.
- \* To keep tracking progress
- \* Share key lessons.



## President of the International Youth Parliament Delivers Hope to Young People



H.E Promise Nwadigos,  
**President International Youth Parliament.**

The African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and development is pleased to share with you the words of encouragement by: H.E Promise Nwadigos, the President of the International Youth Parliament.

H.E Nwadigos urged young people to collaborate, participate in decision making and take advantage of technology and innovation to develop their respective countries and Africa as a whole.

He noted the heavy challenges Africa has faced characterized by coup d'etats, conflict, increased foreign influence in investment and infrastructure, social exclusion and discrimination due to ethnic sentiments, gender and sexual discrimination; It has become difficult for many young to tackle the challenges they face.

Additionally lack of political participation and representation in decision-making spaces is also a major obstacle for the youth in Africa. The challenges we face as young Africans will not disappear overnight. It is time for the African leaders to tell themselves the truth and be good leaders, unite, heal, and rebuild our continent.

Active participation of African youth in the issues that matter to them will make the communities they dream of more inclusive and participatory. We are witnessing legislators trying to build a foundation for the youth. Young people from all walks of life who are members of the International Youth Parliament have stepped up to create change to make things better. I'm filled with hope that better days to come are on the way. There is need for more collaboration between IYP and all countries to move Africa forward. Our leadership remains steadfast and committed to fostering integration and development across Africa. I encourage the legislative bodies to raise and champion Climate Change initiatives, I urge young parliamentarians to align with the IYP 2024 Technology Incubation Project to facilitate the hitherto hindered movement of young people, goods, and services, and fostering wealth creation. The project is poised to start skill training among youth across Africa by creating innovative solutions that empower our communities.

## Partners Converge in Bangladesh For ICPD30 Global Dialogue On Demographic Diversity And Sustainable Development.

Leaders, partners and key stakeholders in population activities held a global meeting in Bangladesh to review the ICPD30 status. The main objective of the meeting was to assess the implementation of the ICPD Agenda at country level and also design a way forward for improved livelihoods. The ICPD30 Global Dialogue on Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development which took place on May 15-16, 2024, had over 200 participants from around the world.

The two-day event co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh, Bulgaria and Japan was meant to address emerging demographic trends and the importance of upholding rights and choices

Discussions were centered on the following key thematic areas;

- 1. Demographic change and sustainability;**
- 2. The future of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights;**
- 3. The Future of Population Data;**
- 4. ICPD and Climate Action;**
- 5. Safe Digital Future.**

The conference emphasized the promotion of data and analysis in the formulation of policy and implementation of population programmes. In addition, it was highlighted that addressing countries' demographic challenges requires tackling labor challenges and ensuring the sustainability of pensions and long-term care for the aging population.



## Ethiopia Establishes a Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development

The African Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA) has been at the forefront in promoting the ICPD Agenda by encouraging member countries to enhance efforts that ensure that the ICPD aspirations are domesticated.

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), supported a High-Level Parliamentary Dialogue and study visit in Ethiopia.

The engagements were intended to reflect on the progress of the country in relation to the ICPD agenda, highlight the key population challenges and propose action points for population interventions.

Hon. Dessalegn Wedojo, the Chairperson of the Planning and Budget Committee in the Parliament of Ethiopia noted the unfinished tasks that included inequalities in access to opportunities; wars and insecurities; limited access to education and health care.

Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, who spoke on behalf of APDA called upon leaders to address population challenges by encouraging domestication of ICPD POA and working in collaboration with Civil Society Partners. The meeting was concluded with the establishment of the Ethiopian Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development. Hon Milikyasa Ayele was elected as the Chairperson of the Forum.



*Participants of the High- level Parliamentarians Dialogue in Addis Ababa -Ethiopia*

## South Sudan moves for legislation on Nursing and Midwifery

South Sudan Parliamentary Network on Population and Development scored a landmark victory after enrolling the 300th member of the network. This implies the network constitutes over 2/3 of the entire Parliament of South Sudan. The increased enrollment is as a result of the high-level parliamentary dialogue hosted in Juba by the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPFPD) in February 2024. This was revealed during the orientation workshop on population and development issues on Wednesday 7th November 2024.

The meeting was officiated by the Rt. Hon Nunu Kumba, the Speaker of the Revitalised National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan who called upon members of the network to be more vigilant in mobilizing communities for population programming. A total of over 208 MPs participated in the orientation meeting where the major focus was on Sexual and Reproductive health interventions. Among the key interventions agreed upon in the meeting was the resolution to present and pass the nursing and midwifery bill 2024 in the next Parliamentary Seating.





*APFPD President after an interaction with Thevar- Arab Youth League*

The African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) and the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Food Security, Population and Development (UPFFSPD) jointly organized and convened a series of population development activities in Kampala, Uganda in February 2025. The series of activities included a high-level parliamentary meeting on Population and Development and field visits to selected partners. The activities took place from February 21 – 23, 2025.

The high-level meeting that was held at the Parliament of Uganda in Kampala was presided over by the 3rd Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Rukia Isanga Nakadema and included participation of Members of Parliament from the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Food Security, Population and Development and key partners in population and development from the; Office of the Prime Minister; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); National Planning Authority (NPA); Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU); Reach A Hand Uganda (RAHU). The Minister of Employment, Youth and Jobs in the Government of Ghana, Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Pelpuo, who is also the President of the APFPD represented the Executive Committee Members (ExCom) of the APFPD in this meeting.

The three-day activity which was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), in cooperation with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), included a high-level Parliamentary meeting, a site visit to the African and Arab Youth Council (AAYC), a visit to Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) and Reach A Hand Uganda (RAHU), and visits to ecotourism sites in Jinja.

Key outcomes of the meeting included consensus by Members of Parliament on the following matters;

- All programmes should be guided by the National Development Plan (NDP) IV and the Sustainable D development Goals.
- Need for review of existing legal and regulatory frame works to provide an enabling environment for emerging population and development issues.
- Responsive budgetary appropriation towards population development needs. This was in respect to the matter that had been raised on the issue of taxation on sanitary products, which members had agreed was both prohibitive and gender blind.
- Monitoring and evaluation should be improved in order to ensure efficient utilization of resources.



*High Level Parliamentary Dialogue in Uganda*



## The Maganu/Marula Festival in Eswatini; Using Culture to Promote the Rights of the Women.

The Maganu Festival, also known as the Marula Festival, is a significant cultural event in Eswatini, deeply rooted in the traditions and history of the Swazi people. The festival has been celebrated for generations as a way of honoring the marula harvest and showing gratitude for nature's abundance. During the event, the first fruits of the marula tree, and the initial batch of marula brew are served. This practice symbolizes respect, unity, and the deep spiritual connection between the Swazi people and their natural environment.

The festival has been formalized into an annual national event held between February and March. Today, it remains a key cultural celebration, attracting thousands of Swazis and tourists across the world, and take part in festivities that honor both heritage and the continued relevance of traditional practices in Eswatini. – Culturally, the festival reinforces the values of unity, respect, and identity among the Swazi people.

The monarchy plays a central role in the event, with the King and the Queen Mother presiding over the festivities, which reflects the nation's deep respect for traditional leadership. The Lutsango regiment, a revered group of Swazi women, is responsible for harvesting the marula fruit and preparing the traditional brew. This highlights the significant role of women and girls in Swazi society, particularly in preserving cultural traditions.

The event is not just about the marula brew but also serves as a living platform for the transmission of oral history, traditional music, and dance, allowing younger generations to learn about and appreciate their heritage. Through these performances, storytelling, and communal activities, Swazi customs are reinforced, and culture remains strong and relevant. Beyond its cultural significance, the Maganu Festival also contributes to Eswatini's economic and diplomatic landscape. The marula tree and its byproducts, including marula oil and various cosmetic and beverage products, have created economic opportunities, particularly for women-led enterprises and small businesses.

Their Majesties have declared a Public Holiday in honor of this milestone and the appreciation of Women Leadership. The festival is, more than just a celebration; it is a symbol of Eswatini's enduring traditions, national pride, and ability to integrate cultural heritage with economic and social growth.



*Women Empowerment in Maganu festival.*



*Hon. Sylvia Mthethwa.*



## \*DOMESTICATION OF ARTICLE 14 OF THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL IN CAMEROON\*

On March 27, 2025, a plenary session was held at the National Assembly to debate the \*Domestication of Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol in Cameroon\*. This debate was initiated and coordinated by the Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare (CAMNAFAW) with the support of its partners, to highlight the problems that women and girls face in terms of sexual and reproductive health.

Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol is particularly important in the Cameroonian context, where the challenges related to the health of young girls and women remain worrying. It provides that: \*States parties shall ensure that the right to Sexual and Reproductive Health is respected and promoted\*; and authorize therapeutic abortion in cases of rape, incest; fight against harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation.

The implementation of this article of the Maputo Protocol is of paramount urgency for Cameroon, where decision-makers must take concrete measures to enable girls and women to flourish fully, not only to improve health and well-being, but also to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



**Hon. Elisie Pokossy Doumbe**

Although the ratification of the Maputo Protocol by Cameroon represents a significant step towards the protection of women's and girls' rights, it remains hindered by cultural and ethical resistances. However, given the importance of domesticating Article 14, the Cameroonian government, through recommendations in the final declaration, reaffirms its commitment to work towards the integration of the provisions of the protocol into national law.

\*Honorable Elise POKOSSY DOUMBE\*

## Victory Conner

**FPA Congratulates Our Executive Members of African-Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development on Their Appointment as Ministers**

**Honourable Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpou, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment in Ghana**

**Honourable Pemmy Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation in South Africa**

*Congratulations!*



**APFPD/FPA Scores high in Ministerial Appointments in Ghana and South Africa**



# OBITUARY

## In Remembrance of the Late Hon Aboubacry Ngaide (Senegal)

Hon. Aboubacry Ngaide was a simple, calm, Kind-hearted individual whose actions attested to this. He always kept his composure and a calm demeanor whenever he engaged in conversation with anybody.

“My brother, my sister,” were his introductory words whenever he communicated to a colleague. The late Hon. Aboubacry Ngaide initiated many projects for his people; supported many needy people and orphans he supported for education, and he dreamed that all People should have a secure and sustainable life. Reading and research was part of his lifestyle and he always carried a pocket French-English dictionary.

His family, the people of Senegal, and Africa have a duty to carry on his dream as we pray for his soul to rest in peace.  
APFPD.



*The Late Hon. Aboubacry Ngaide*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

1. The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), 20-22 August 2025, TOKYO, JAPAN
2. Asia and Africa Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, LUSAKA ZAMBIA (DATES TO BE DECIDED)
3. The World Population Day, 11th July 2025
4. African Youth Festival (2025), 21- 27th May 2025, KIGALI RWANDA.



The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) Yokohama 20th- 22th August 2025



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