



African
Parliamentarians
Forum for
Population and Development



BULLETIN 1 March 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear esteemed colleagues,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the African Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA) bulletin! In this issue,

we highlight the impactful activities undertaken by our forum, including high-level African parliamentary dialogues and a study visit, all guided by a strategic plan.

Our journey has been one of collaboration and dedication. Together with our esteemed partners—the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)—we have championed the aspirations of our nations in achieving the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action. As members of parliament, we stand united in our commitment to better the lives of our people.

This publication serves as a beacon of awareness, illuminating the path toward sustainable development for Africa. Let us continue our collective efforts to ensure a controlled and healthy population—one that thrives in harmony with our environment. With optimism and resolve,

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

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CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

It is with immense pleasure that we witness the progress achieved by the African Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development as outlined in this bulletin. This milestone represents a significant step forward in addressing the key challenges affecting our continent.

On behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), we extend our gratitude and pride in being associated with this achievement. Supported by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), our partnership with the African Forum enables us to actively promote interventions related to population and development in Africa.

Together, let us continue to pave the way for a brighter future—one where proactive and coordinated actions lead to sustainable development for all. Warm regards,

Dr. Kiyoko Ikegami
Secretary General /
Executive Director, APDA



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 their countries to population programmes.

OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance advocacy of legislation and enforcement of laws on Population and Development.
2. Create and strengthen linkages that promote and popularize the population and development agenda.
3. Strengthening the institutional capacity of AFP to fulfill the promises made in this strategic plan.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

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2. Create and strengthen linkages that promote and popularize the population and development agenda.
3. Strengthening the institutional capacity of AFP in order to fulfill the promises made in this strategic plan.

SUMMARY

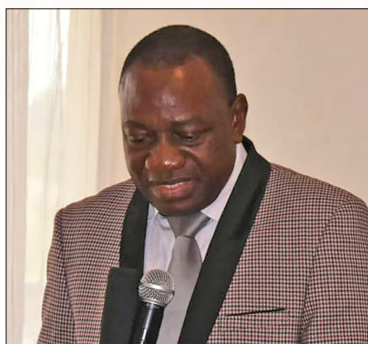
African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA) makes progress towards ICPD and AADP goals

The APFPD/FPA has been working tirelessly towards achieving the ICPD and AADP goals through various initiatives and interventions, as highlighted in their Bulletin 1. The forum has been collaborating with partners such as the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to promote proactive and coordinated actions for a better population and sustainable development in Africa.

In their strategic plan, the forum has identified key objectives such as enhancing advocacy of legislation and enforcement of laws on Population and

Development, creating and strengthening linkages that promote and popularize the population and development agenda, and strengthening institutional capacity to fulfill promises made.

The forum has also undertaken various activities such as a study visit to Uganda to exchange ideas and share experiences on population and development interventions, and hosting high-level parliamentary dialogues in Rwanda and South Sudan to renew aspirations towards the ICPD agenda.



The APFPD/FPA has elected new leadership, with Hon Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo from Ghana becoming the President

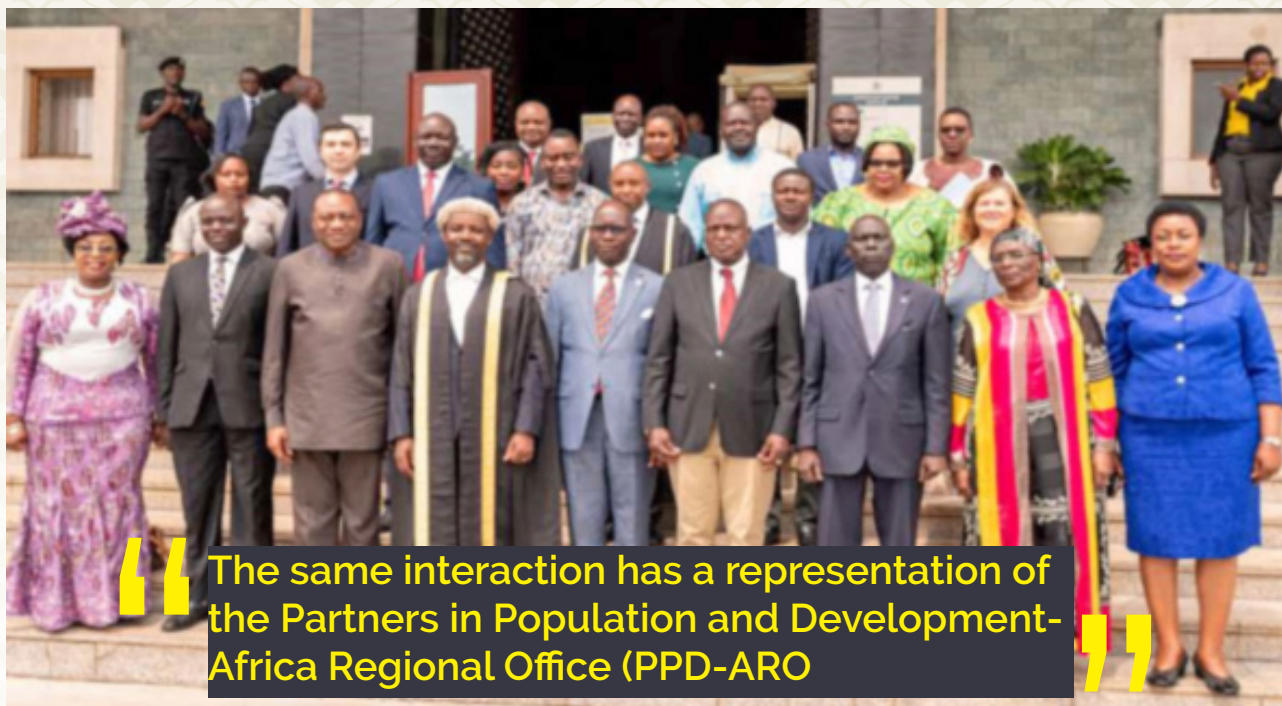


and Senator Fredrick Outa from Kenya becoming the Vice President. The forum continues to work towards achieving its goals and promoting the population agenda in Africa.



Excom Members of the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development.

AFRICAN FORUM ExCom BENCHMARKS ON UGANDA POPULATION INTERVENTION



The same interaction has a representation of the Partners in Population and Development- Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO

Executive Committee Members team conducted a study tour on Population and Development interventions in Uganda. The program was sponsored by the Asian Population and Development Association and hosted by the Uganda Parliamentarians Forum on Food Security Population and Development. The ExCom team comprised of Members of Parliament from South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Cameroon, and the Representative of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA).

The overall objective of the visit conducted from 1st to 2nd February 2024 was to exchange ideas, share experiences and follow up and emphasize the role of MPs in updating and aligning National Policies, Plans, and Strategic documents to

accelerate progress toward the ICPD, FP2030, and SDG commitments.

A series of activities were undertaken including:

Making a courtesy call to the office of the Speaker of Parliament which is in charge of guiding Parliamentary business that includes deliberations on domestication and harmonization of the aspiration of ICPD25 agenda, FP2030 among others.

Interaction with Government agencies dealing with Population activities. The agencies inform and implement Government plans, policies, and budgets on Population and Development issues geared towards a Population that contributes to the Development of the Country and ICPD agenda. These included the National

Planning Authority (NPA), the National Population Council (NPC), and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

The same interaction has a representation of the Partners in Population and Development- Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO)

The members also visited stakeholders that are involved in implementing Youth and Women intervention programs on Sexual and Reproductive Health. They shared models that Uganda has adopted in handling the needs of the mothers and young people that is targeted to achieve the desired Population structure.

In the interaction with the UNFPA Uganda team, it was agreed that a lot has been done between Parliamentarians, UNFPA, Local Governments,, and

Youth Forums to fulfill the ICPD agenda and one of the registered successes was the reduction of maternal mortality rate by 40%.

The role of government in enforcing Laws and Policies that promote Food Security was noted and required to be emulated in African countries. Public dialogue to understand population dynamics, and dissemination of relevant policies and laws.

Since parliament is the central place where strong political will is made,

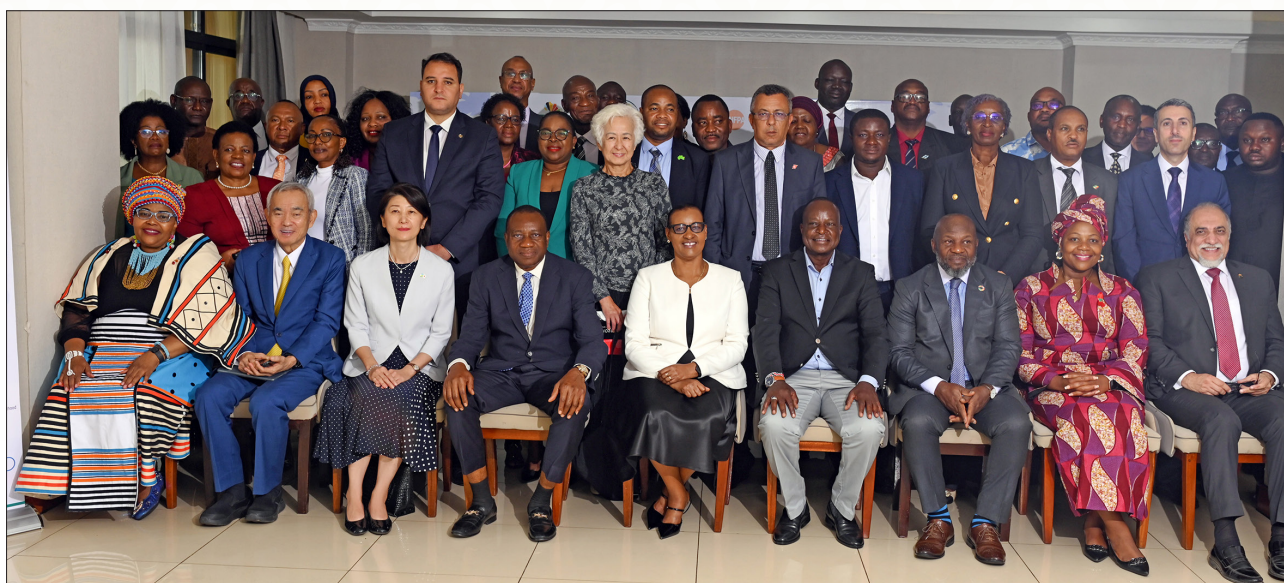
national ownership and support are built and maintained to consolidate the gains made in national development, ExCOM members met Rt. Hon Thomas Tayebwa, Deputy Speaker to inform him about the challenges and gaps in the implementation of the legal and policy framework which closing will lead to the attainment and achieving ICPD25 agenda.

ExCOM members also visited and interacted with stakeholders involved in providing sexual and

reproductive health services. Naguru Teenage and Health Information Centre and Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) are at the forefront in the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action (PoA) focusing on providing services in reproductive health to the young population which constitutes 75%.

The Entire exercise was concluded by the EXCOM MEETING of the Forum which considered a recap of the study visit and generated the tasks ahead. ■

RWANDA HOSTS THE AFRICAN AND ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' DIALOGUE TOWARDS ICPD30 AND AADP10



African parliamentarians have been encouraged to take bold steps in advocating and legislating for the attainment of the ICPD30 and AADP10 goals. The Call was made by Rt. Hon Mkabaliisa Donatille, Speaker, Chamber of Deputies for Rwanda while officiating at the opening of Africa and Asian Parliamentarians Dialogue towards ICPD30 and AADP10. The event was held in Kigali

from 24-26 October 2023 and organized by the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA) in partnership with the Parliament of Rwanda with support from the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) and the Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

The Kigali meeting aimed to review and renew aspirations toward the ICPD agenda and promote the integration of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) into national laws and policies, share and learn about initiatives, experiences, and tools that would effectively progress legislation and implement the ICPD and Maputo Programme of Action.

Participants noted the progress Rwanda has achieved as a country as it has been exemplary in implementing key population issues and that it would benefit members to learn what Rwanda has been doing in this regard. Rwanda has made significant strides in improving the health of its people including increasing access to and use of family planning contraceptive use which has increased from 17% to 53% in just one decade (from 2005 to 2015). All positive of the program are based on the strong foundation the government has built and nurtured. Since innovation is welcomed and program evaluation is considered essential, the outlook of Rwanda's family planning program is considerable. Concerning Rwanda, Hon Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo president of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, therefore noted that there has been progress in implementing the ICPD and AADPD agenda by different countries. He reiterated further that there was the need to generate a common voice from African countries to have our goals met while promoting the population agenda.

African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development held in Addis Ababa and Elected the ExCOM

The General Assembly held on June 23, 2022, is one among the many convergences where FPA met to re-energize parliamentary action on the implementation of the ICPD-PoA, review activities of the APFPD, and generate a way forward for the forum and also hold elections of the new leadership of the forum. Among the outcomes of the meeting was the collective commitment from all participants to advance the ICPD agenda and promote actions by Members of Parliament to ensure that the ICPD agenda is domesticated in their national

actions.



Dr. Farrukh Usumnov, on behalf of APDA, noted that APDA has been fully associated with the activities of the Forum including hosting the planning meetings and sharing of experiences between parliamentarians. He called upon members to be vigilant in keeping the vibrancy of the African Forum.

It was in the same meeting that the outgoing president Hon Marie Rosie Nguin Effa highlighted some of the achievements which included the 48 dialogues organized, 4 learning visits for the MPs including those from 15 countries from Africa conducted, the national parliamentary dialogue sessions co-organized and convened with the national assemblies among others. She thanked members for the support accorded to her during her term

African Parliamentarians on Population and Development elect new leadership.

Hon Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo from Ghana was elected President of the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (APFPD). The election took place in the General Assembly held on 23 June 2022 in Addis Ababa organized where Senator Fredrick Outa from Kenya became Vice President of the Forum. Other committee members elected were Hon. Dr. Zainab Gimba (Nigeria), Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir (Tchad),

Hon. Ndongo M.E.P. Doumbe (Cameroon), Hon. Hassan Omar (Djibouti), Hon. Pemmy Majodina (South Africa) and Hon. Sylvia Mthethwa (Eswatini).

The forum General Assembly also elected Commission members in the same meeting and the Commission for Finance and Administration includes Hon. Aboubakry Ngaide (Senegal), Hon. Aiya Isabel Meira Rita (Sao Tome), Hon. Muwuma Milton (Uganda) and Hon. Mathew Ngwale (Malawi). The Commission for Advocacy and Programs is comprised of Hon. Mariam Iro (Niger), Hon. Baikoua Timolesa (Central African Republic), Hon. Majur Babur Ajal (South Sudan), and Hon. Goodluck Kwaramba. The elected team is executing duties and carrying policy direction of the forum for a period of 3 years (2022-2025)

In his acceptance message, Hon Abdul-Rashid who took over the mantle from Hon Marie Rosie Nguin acknowledged the role of partners in promoting the population Agenda and the support to the forum. He called upon countries in Africa to take a keen eye on the ICPD and translate it to our home countries for the benefit of the people they represent.

Senator Fredrick Outa Appointed Kenya's Ambassador to Egypt



In the move to establish a new Government in Kenya, President William Ruto has made changes to the list of Diplomats. In the reshuffle that was made on 8th March 2024, Senator Fredrick

Outa Otieno (CBS) who doubles as Vice President of the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development was tasked to head the Kenyan Embassy in Egypt.

Senator Outa holds a long-serving history to the African forum and has always delivered with dedication and expertise. The forum is proud of this appointment and strongly believes that it can help to advance the population agenda to another level.

Congratulations Senator Outa

Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo The Climate Change Envoy (Africa)



The Clover Climate Alliance appointed Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo as special Envoy a post he served for 1 year from 9th February 2023. He was mandated to be part of the core team to mobilize, incentivize,

and empower economies to be carbon-neutral by 2030. He had the task of overseeing several initiatives to raise awareness and build an army of youth from Africa for Climate Change Action. In this, he was associated with parliamentarians and governments across Africa to minimize the negative impact of climate change on the continent. He was a strong advocate of sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security and environmental protection. The African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development is proud of the experience and expertise generated by the top leadership

HIGH-LEVEL PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING ON ICPD-POA HELD IN SOUTH SUDAN

Members of the South Sudan Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development have called for continuous advocacy and proposer legislation at all levels in the attainment of the ICPD Agenda.



The call was made by the Rt. Hon Lurmen Awerial Aluong, Deputy Speaker of the Revitalized Transitional Legislative Assembly in the high-level meeting held on 29th January 2024 at Imperial Plaza Hotel in Juba. The meeting was hosted by the South Sudan Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development and organized in partnership with the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),

Close to 60 MPs and 10 technical

staff from the Revitalized Parliament of South Sudan. MPs from Ghana, Uganda, and Kenya attended on behalf of the African forum. It was a platform to exchange ideas, dialogue and coordinate action for Parliamentarians to undertake different population activities and programs on population and Development. In line with the theme, "Working Together to Achieve the Commitments of the ICPD PoA," the meeting was further considered as an opportunity to dialogue and reflect on the key challenges, share knowledge and experiences of different countries, and chart a way forward.

The President, Dr. Abdul Rashid Pelpuo noted that called upon legislators not to take the issue raised in the ICPD Agenda for granted. He encouraged members to share experiences and success stories and ensure that people's lives change for the better. He called upon leaders to work for their people by addressing key challenges.

In the same meeting, Hon Majur Babur Ajal, Chairperson of SSPNPD reported that the South Sudan Parliamentarians

Network on Population and Development was inaugurated in 2018 to advance the ICDP agenda. With support from the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Reproductive Health Agency of South Sudan, the Network has been at the forefront in the mobilization of members to effectively deliberate on matters of population and development.

Senator Fredrick Outa, the APFPD/FPA Vice President called upon participants to identify, promote, and facilitate the formulation implementation of Population Policies and Programs Designed to achieve sustainable development in African states and also initiate Parliamentary activities aimed at implementing the provisions of international and regional instruments. The participants had the opportunity to share various country experiences on population interventions from Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya.

INSPIRING QUOTES

1. We rise by lifting others
2. Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

PHOTO GALLERY



Select Team for Planning and Constitutional Review in Dar-es-Salaam.



African MPs participating in the GCPPD 2023.



Delegates for the Kigali Meeting.



Participants in the High Level parliamentarians Meeting in Juba.



Study Tour in Kigali - Rwanda.



Participants for the High Level MPs Meeting in Cairo.



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