

# Roadmap/Declaration of African Parliamentarians participating in the “Africa Regional Consultative Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Development”

Johannesburg 3-4 December 2012

We, Members of African Parliaments working to promote the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in general and especially dealing with population and development, are gathered in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa on 3-4 December 2012, to discuss how to better prepare and network efficiently to meet the challenge of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, and the Japanese Trust Fund for Inter-Country NGO and Parliamentary Activities. This meeting comes as continuation of the initiative of the Delegation of African National Parliamentarians who met in Istanbul on 23 May 2012.

Aware that the creation of an enabling environment for poverty reduction and the improvement of the living conditions of the people are prerequisites to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (**MDGs**) and the objectives of the New Partnership for the Development of Africa (**NEPAD**);

Taking stock of the achievements of the parliamentarians networks at national as well as regional levels in promoting the ICPD Agenda, with important results in suggesting initiatives in population policies, harmonization in African legislation on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS;

Determined to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians in population and development issues for the implementation and monitoring of the ICPD Programme of Action;

Establish an *African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development* , which will enable us to meet our commitment to the goals of the **ICPD** Programme of Action held in Cairo in 1994, the MDGs in 2000 and **NEPAD** in 20011, **and reaffirm** our strong will to better engage in ICPD beyond 2014/2015 developmental processes;

Agree to form an *interim executive committee of 10 members*, with two from each of the 5 African Geographical sub-regions: central, eastern, northern, southern and western;

Note that a permanent secretariat of the Forum shall be hosted within a continental, sub-regional or willing national parliament, whose option will be explored by the interim executive committee in the coming months;

Acknowledge that significant progress has been made in the area of reproductive health with the contribution of parliamentary committees and networks established following the ICPD;

Acknowledge the key role that parliamentarians must still continue to play in formulating and enacting laws aimed at improving sexual and reproductive health, defining and implementing family planning policies and strategies, combating **HIV/AIDS**, promoting gender equity, enhancing the status of women, protecting and enhancing the status of children, especially of the girl child;

Acknowledge the critical role of parliamentarians, because of their status as the rightful representatives of the people and due to the power of their message to individuals and communities, in supporting various advocacy activities, which are needed to bring forth changes in attitudes and behaviour;

Acknowledge that parliamentarians have the mandate to adopt the national budget and therefore are in a position to advocate for increase in budgetary allocations to the health sector in general, and to reproductive health in particular;

Acknowledge the Johannesburg “Africa Regional Consultative Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Development” as a follow-up of the consultative meeting of African Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Istanbul (May 2012) and as succession support to the international parliamentary meetings on population and development which took place after the **ICPD**: Cape town (1997); Ottawa (2002); Ngor Diarama (June 2004); Strasbourg (October 2004); Bangkok (2006); Addis Ababa, (2009); and Istanbul (2012);

Aware that the “Africa Regional Consultative Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Development” should set the path for the African Parliamentarians on Population and Development to better engage in the ICPD beyond 2014, in order to act coherently, harmoniously and efficiently in advocating and ensuring good governance, creating the enabling legal context, assisting the governments of Africa to give appropriate priority in the sustainable development of the people of Africa, especially young people who make up more than 60% of the population; and in respect of gender equity and human rights approach.

Recognize the fact that our continent is still facing, among others, the following challenges:  
In terms of population issues:

- With 44 percent of its population under age 15, Africa is the youngest region of the world.
- Youth underemployment and unemployment is a major source of concern on the Africa continent
- Large numbers of former child soldiers and other brutalized young men have few sources of income or alternative plans for their future if no youth development policies and programmes are undertaken.
- Africa’s young people will be the driving force behind economic prosperity in future decades, but only if appropriate policies and programs are in place to enhance their opportunities and encourage smaller families.
- A cycle of positive outcomes can result from having a larger, better-educated workforce with fewer children to support—children who will in turn be more educated and employable, provided that institutions are strengthened and viable economic policies are in place.
- Almost 30 million people are still infected or affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Maternal mortality: 287,000 women around the world die every year in childbirth, the great majority of which (165,000) are African women;
- Total fertility rate: the highest total fertility rates in the world are found in Africa, reaching up to 7.8 children per woman in selected countries;
- Poverty: half of the population live below the poverty line of US\$1 a day;
- Refugees: the number of refugees in Africa is estimated to be 5 million and the persistence of conflicts and wars is not likely to reduce the flow of refugees and displaced persons;

## CALL TO ACTION

We therefore pledge to:

- Call for the use of the ICPD goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2015 as a target to measure progress towards achieving the MDGs, particularly those related to improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;
- Advocate for the strengthening of the institutional framework for reproductive health, family planning and sexual health by giving more authority to the institutions charged with these issues and by raising their levels in the government administration;
- Urge governments to position population issues within national development frameworks and present them as national priorities;
- Monitor the observance of good governance, so that the resources allocated to this sector by the State and local municipalities are managed with transparency and rigor;
- Strive to attain at least 10% of national development budgets and development assistance budgets for population and reproductive health programmes, as reaffirmed in the Istanbul Statement of “*Commitment -Keeping Promises – Measuring Results*” of 25 May 2012;
- Foster partnership with the international community, particularly through North-South and South-South inter-parliamentary cooperation to ensure that commitments made at Cairo concerning resource mobilization are met;
- Advocate for the fulfillment of the agreed target of 0.7% of GNP for official development assistance (ODA);
- Promote, by proposing laws or any other parliamentary initiatives, legal reforms aimed at improving reproductive health, family planning and sexual health;
- Promote the reproductive rights of women and adolescents, especially the right to access appropriate service and information on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies, STIs/HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;
- Strengthen the fight against AIDS and negative practices including gender discriminatory practices through legislative measures, advocacy, increase of resources and partnership with civil society;
- Support the integration of HIV/AIDS programmes with reproductive health programmes and ensure that they are implemented;
- Promote gender equality, in particular by fighting all forms of discrimination against women and girls;
- Promote gender equity in all decision making bodies; and ensure access to education for women and young girls
- Strengthen the capacity of the parliamentary networks and committees in the areas of parliamentary initiatives, resource mobilization, advocacy, monitoring of government activities and the running of the secretariat;

### Pledge

We, members of **African National Parliamentary Committees on Population and Development from 28 countries**, decide to establish a more efficient and sustainable “*African Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development*” (AFPPD) to better exchange and coordinate action in support of ICPD beyond 2014.

We therefore call on all the parliamentary partners and the United Nations Population Fund, to assist in achieving this goal before end 2013.

### Interim Executive Committee

1. Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi (Uganda, East Africa) Chair
2. Hon. Marie Rose Nguini Effa (Cameroon Central Africa) Vice Chair
3. Hon. Aurélien Simplicie Zingas (Central Africa Republic, Central Africa) Regional Rep
4. Hon. Highvie Hambulo Hamdudu (Zambia, Southern Africa) Regional Rep
5. Hon. Thandi Shongwe (Swaziland, Southern Africa) Regional Rep
6. Hon. Fanta Mantchiny Diarra Epse Sissoko (Mali, West Africa) Regional Rep
7. Hon. Jose Manuel Tavares Sanches (Cape Verde, West Africa) Regional Rep
8. Hon. Ahmed Babou Babah (Mauritania, North Africa) Regional Rep
9. **Hon. Mint Mohamed El Moctar El Ezze Mauritania /(holding for Tunisia Rep), North Africa, Regional Rep**
10. Hon. Betty E. Machangu (Tanzania, East Africa) Regional Rep

### Members of Parliament Consenting to the Declaration

S/N	NAME	COUNTRY
1	Hon. Highvie Hambulo Hamdudu	Zambia
2	Hon. Antonio Rosario Niquice	Mozambique
3	Hon. Alma A. Jervase Yak	South Sudan
4	Hon. Anton von Wietersheim	Namibia
5	Hon. Jean Ithorihigwa	Burundi
6	Hon. Fanta Mantchiny Diarra Epse Sissoko	Mali
7	Hon Paul Lackson Zacaria Chibingu	Malawi
8	Hon. Jean Bosco Muhungu	Burundi
9	Hon. Rajab Mbarouk Mohamed	Tanzania
10	Hon. Melval Dugasse	Seychelles
11	Hon. Sultane Jacqueline	Seychelles
12	Hon. Joseph MAGWANGA	Kenya
13	Hon. Bimoya Koumitcha	Togo
14	Hon. John Paulo Lako	South Soudan
15	Hon. Betty E. Machangu	Tanzania
16	Hon. Paula Kebirungi Turyahikayo	Uganda
17	Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi	Uganda
18	Hon. Konate Tiemoko	Burkina Faso
19	Hon. Nega Assefa	Ethiopia
20	Hon. Ahmed Babou Babah	Mauritania
21	Hon. Thandi Shongwe	Swaziland
22	Hon. Nguini Effa Marie Rose	Cameroon
23	Hon. Soares Ivone	Mozambique
24	Hon. Pierre César Edumbadumba	DRC
25	Hon. Grégoire Lusenge Kakule	DRC
26	Hon. Djibrilla Kaou	Cameroon

27	Hon. Mamothibe Chaule	Lesotho
28	Hon. Tlohand Sekhame	Lesotho
29	Hon. Jacob Ouedraogo	Burkina Faso
30	Hon. Jose Manuel Tavares Sanches	Cape Verde
31	Hon Bagatalia Arone	Botswana
32	Hon. Arlindo Nascimento Do Rosario	Cape Verde
33	Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa	Rwanda
34	Hon. Benjamin Ulenga	Namibia
35	Hon. Mint Mohamed El Moctar El Ezze	Mauritania
36	Hon. Marie Solange Pagonendji Ndakala	CAR
37	Hon. Aurelien Simplicie Zingas	CAR
38	Hon. Santosh Vinita Kalyan	South Africa