ACTIVITY REPORT

IPCI

OTTAWA 2018

ICPD

22 - 23 OCTOBER
SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS’ CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION
REPORT OF THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN’S CONFERENCE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Organisers
The Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

Hosts
The Parliament of Canada
The Government of Canada
The Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG)

Sponsors
Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
The Government of Germany/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
The Government of Sweden
The Government of Switzerland
UNFPA

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1. OTTAWA STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT
ALL REGIONS, ONE VOICE

We the Members of Parliament from all regions of the world, met in Ottawa, Canada, on 22-23 October 2018 to participate in the seventh International Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Implementation (IPCI) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which comes at a significant time amidst preparations to mark the 25th Anniversary of the 1994 ICPD Cairo conference.

We note that while progress has been made by our countries towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the ICPD, challenges remain to implement fully the Programme of Action and achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030.

We are concerned that despite the gains made in the past 24 years, these gains have not been experienced equally by all, and that there is a rising inequality within populations where a considerable number of people continue to live in conditions of extreme poverty, without the fulfillment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We recognize that the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, leads to a country’s social and economic progress.

DECLARATION
We recall and commend the positive contribution of parliamentarians towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the ICPD, including the work done by previous IPCI Conferences(1).

We advocate for the full implementation of the ICPD promise of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, as affirmed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as vital to deliver the vision for a world where preventable maternal deaths, and perinatal, infant and child mortality, are a thing of the past, where unmet need for family planning is met, where gender-based violence and harmful practices do not exist, where young people can live healthy and productive lives, where stigmatization and discrimination have no place in society and where reproductive rights are promoted, respected and protected.

We see the continued implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action as essential to achieving the SDGs, in that they emphasize the centrality of human rights in producing equitable development outcomes so that nobody is left behind.

We stress the urgent need to end preventable maternal death, fulfill the unmet need for family planning, end gender-based violence, and all harmful practices.

We stress the fact that many women and girls, everywhere, particularly those with disabilities and those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of gender and sexuality, and are still subject to discriminatory laws, policies and harmful practices and recognize the debilitating effect of sexual harassment on young women preventing them from realizing their full potential.

We believe that there is no progress and no achievements under wars and conflicts and therefore enhancing peace, ending occupation and respecting international law are essential towards implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and achieving the SDGs.

We express profound concern over the backlash against the progress made by States, international and regional organizations and civil society, to respect, protect and fulfill all human rights, and recognize that these retrogressions can be linked to political or religious interpretations which oppose the struggle against gender-based discrimination and equal rights.

We recognize that climate change is a common concern of human kind and that the increasing
challenges caused by its impact on population and development, where women, children and persons with disabilities are the most vulnerable. We are therefore committed to the 2015 Paris Agreement that includes the right to health, the right to development, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and young people.

We recognize the unprecedented number of people affected and displaced by humanitarian emergencies, which are increasing in scale and severity that continue to overwhelm humanitarian response capacities. There is an urgent need to strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety mechanisms, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to address access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, which remain significantly under-funded in crisis settings.

We Parliamentarians, consistent with the principles of the ICPD are determined to play our role as legislators, as follows:

1. HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL - PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

We commit to ensure that the rights of all individuals are respected, protected and fulfilled as set forth in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, and subsequent international human rights treaties, without distinction of any kind, in order to fully extend the principles of equality, dignity, non-discrimination, participation, and universality, to all generations;

Enact laws, policies and programmes to prevent and punish hate crimes without distinction of any kind, and take active steps to protect all persons from discrimination, stigmatization and violence, including gender-based violence, and to amend laws, policies and programmes that violate human rights and discriminate on the basis of gender, sexuality and ethnicity;

1. Ottawa Statement of Commitment
All Regions, One Voice

**Enact laws, policies and programmes that respect, protect and fulfill** the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals, including through the adoption of a human rights-based approach that works towards realizing the accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality of a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health services and information;

**Advocate for actions beyond the health sector** to change social norms, laws and policies, to uphold human rights, in particular the most crucial reforms that promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to have full control over their bodies and lives in line with the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

2. **Promoting World Changing Transformative Results for Achieving ICPD and SDG Goals**

We commit to end Preventable Maternal Death – No woman should die giving life;

**Respect, promote, protect and fulfill the right to health** by advocating for provision of universal health coverage, including sexual and reproductive health that is accessible, available, acceptable, affordable and of good quality, including services for medical emergency obstetric care, increasing the number of midwives, skilled birth attendants, and family planning services;

**Work with governments to further reduce abortion-related complications and deaths** by providing non-discriminatory universal post-abortion care; to remove legal barriers preventing women and adolescent girls from access to safe abortion, including revising restrictions within existing abortion laws, and ensure the availability of neutral and fact-based information about abortion, and safe, good-quality abortion services, where legal, in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls;

**Take measures to prevent adolescent pregnancy and unsafe abortion**, including through comprehensive sexuality education, addressing harmful gender norms and stereotypes, ensuring the delivery of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and demand-driven access to a range of family planning services and modern methods of contraception;

**Advocate our governments to provide adequate resources** to strengthen nutrition and health systems and infrastructure to ensure access to quality basic health care, including for sexual and reproductive health services;

3. **Fulfilling the Unmet Need for Family Planning**

We commit to ensure the rights of all individuals to comprehensive, family planning services and guarantee access to safe, modern methods of voluntary contraception as part of an inclusive and integrated package of sexual and reproductive health services and information, which is central to gender equality, women’s empowerment and sustainable development;

**Advocate for accessible and affordable family planning services** as part of universal health coverage for women and men who want to plan their families and still do not have access to modern methods of family planning services, education and information;

**Enact laws and policies for access to safe and modern methods of contraception**, including in emergency situations, and ensure that family planning services and information becomes a part of humanitarian response in emergencies, where women and girls, especially refugees and displaced persons, are affected by crises such as armed conflict, war and occupation, or natural disasters, where they are at increased risk of sexual violence;

4. **Ending Gender-Based Violence and All Harmful Practices**

We commit to advocate for the enactment or ratification of global and regional legal frameworks, such as the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which combats gender-based violence
OUR PLEDGE

We the parliamentarians from all regions gathered in Ottawa pledge to:

Continue to implement previously adopted declarations of IPCI conferences and ensure that legislation, policies and programmes are developed and strengthened, and that adequate and predictable funding is made available to advance further the ICPD Programme of Action, as we move forward with resolve in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

(GBV), including in humanitarian settings, revise laws that exonerate perpetrators of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence within the framework of strengthened legislation to end impunity in conformity with international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

Adopt legislation, policies and measures that prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based and sexual violence, including within and outside of the family, within communities, internet and online-based, in conflict and post-conflict situations and humanitarian emergencies and ensure that the survivors of such violence have access to a full range of support services, including sexual and reproductive health services, emergency contraception and legal counsel;

Adopt comprehensive legislation to eliminate all harmful practices, including child and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation, and further enact laws to raise the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years;

Support development of policies and programmes that provide awareness-raising, education and training to families, local community and religious leaders, political leadership, educational institutions, and the media, on the consequence and negative impact of harmful practices on the lives of young people, as well as education for men and boys on gender equality and respect for women, in line with internationally agreed resolutions and commitments;

5 ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to promote and advocate for universal access, including in fragile situations, to quality and inclusive education for young people at all academic levels that is learner-centered, adopts a lifelong learning approach, and promotes sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development as further affirmed in the United Nations Youth Strategy, Youth 2030;
1. OTTAWA STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT
ALL REGIONS, ONE VOICE

**Advocate for and support policies** that keep girls, including married girls and pregnant girls, in school at all levels of education without discrimination, and ensure admission or re-entry to school after giving birth;

**Support and promote effective policies and programmes** that provide young people with skills for employment or entrepreneurship, and to strengthen efforts to create decent work consistent with international conventions;

**Promote and advocate for accessible quality health care for youth and adolescents**, including sexual and reproductive health services, and remove legal and social barriers to sexual and reproductive health services, information, and comprehensive sexuality education containing prevention of STIs, including HIV and AIDS, and early detection and treatment of cervical cancer, and ensure access to a wide range of modern methods of family planning, including emergency contraception;

**Support policies and programmes** that harness the demographic dividend through enhancing the capabilities of young people to contribute to social and economic development and innovation;

**Support and promote young people** as catalysts for peace and security and humanitarian action, and their participation in decision-making, recognizing the positive contribution of young people to peace and security, prevention of violence, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian action;

**Advocate for provision of adequate funding and investment** in preparedness and resilience-building including for local communities, and ensure that funds for sexual and reproductive health services are sufficiently earmarked in humanitarian and development budgets, and that monitoring mecha-

**Work with Governments** to address gender-based violence and sexual violence in humanitarian crises and in refugee camps, with access to a wide range of services, including post-rape treatment, sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support and legal support;

**TIMELY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

**We commit to promote and advocate for strengthened national workforce capacities** to swiftly respond to humanitarian emergencies and provide high-quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, as well as through the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP);

**Support policies and programmes** for providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian emergencies, and to ensure that sustainable sexual and reproductive health services and supply chains are strengthened and to build resilience into national health systems from relief to development;
nisms are established to track funding and investments for sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian settings;

7 FINANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICPD

We commit to advocate for the allocation of appropriate resources in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development which provides a comprehensive framework for ensuring that investments are long-term oriented so that growth is inclusive and sustainable and creates an enabling environment for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action;

Advocate for increased development assistance budgets for population assistance, in particular for those in vulnerable countries, and ensure the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance is met as agreed at the previous International Legislators’ Conferences on the Implementation of the Programme of Action;

Advocate for at least 10 per cent of national development budgets and development assistance budgets, for sexual and reproductive health programmes, including family planning and reproductive health commodities, and the prevention of STIs, including HIV and AIDS;

Advocate for innovative mechanisms and approaches, including innovative financing, that are rapidly changing the development finance landscape and create opportunities to scale up contributions of all sources of financing towards the full implementation of the ICPD and in achieving the SDGs;

8 STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY ACTION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT

We will continue to work with our parliaments to ensure stronger political commitment for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and to use our role as parliamentarians to keep Governments accountable to the commitments made in Cairo and for achieving the SDGs by 2030;

Ensure effective review of policies and programmes and work with our respective governments to promote and facilitate active participation of all constituencies including non-state actors, in order to guarantee effectiveness, transparency, rule of law, and improved governance at the local, national, regional and global levels;

Utilize the knowledge and expertise of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and youth groups, in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies and programmes for achieving the goals of access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights;

Hold our respective States accountable for the establishment of appropriate and transparent governance institutions and mechanisms that ensure effective participation, without any form of discrimination, of women and young people in public debate, in planning, decision-making in all policy and programme phases, in particular on matters that affect them directly;

Strengthen parliamentary cross-party networks at local, national, regional and global levels, to facilitate exchange of best practices, and strengthen the effectiveness of parliaments and to achieve IPCI Commitments.
2. INTRODUCTION
16 YEARS OF MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR ICPD


The 2018 ICPI Conference presented a unique opportunity for policymakers from around the world to come together to discuss population and development issues and to build upon the commitments made at previous ICPI conferences.

During the two-day conference, over 100 parliamentarians met in Ottawa for the purpose of keeping the ICPD issues alive and relevant, taking stock of the progress of the ICPD Programme of Action, and strategically positioning these issues as a central part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Taking place from 22-23 October 2018, the ICPI Conference was jointly organized by the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), and Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights. Further support was provided by the Government of Sweden, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Germany/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The conference follows the success of the six previous meetings, all of which resulted in bold statements of commitment from parliamentarians to further the ICPD Programme of Action. In Ottawa, parliamentarians were invited to renew their commitment to implement ICPD’s visionary recommendations and decide on ambitious and concrete actions to move them forward.
16 YEARS OF MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR ICPD

OTTAWA 2002
The first ever IPCI Conference brought together over 100 elected representatives from 72 countries and territories. The conference established a global system of regular monitoring and follow-up of the ICPD Programme of Action for parliamentarians. The 2002 Ottawa Statement of Commitment recognized population issues as “indispensable in achieving the Millennium Development Goals”.

STRASBOURG 2004
In 2004, 119 parliamentarians from 82 countries and territories, including ministers and speakers of parliaments from both developed and developing countries, convened in Strasbourg, France. Importantly, the adopted Statement of Commitment made reference to parliamentarians’ “responsibility to uphold the right of individuals to decide the number and spacing of their children, to empower women and to eliminate all forms of violence against them”.

BANGKOK 2006
Parliamentarians, government officials, non-governmental organizations and other participants from over 100 countries attended the 2006 IPCI Conference. Outcome document commitments included “creating enabling environments for sexual and reproductive health issues” and advocating for them to be prioritized within national budgets.

ADDIS ABABA 2009
Parliamentarians in Addis Ababa pledged to exercise their oversight responsibilities, break the silence around gender discrimination and promote sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. The Statement of Commitment built upon the Addis Call for Urgent Action for Maternal Health, the outcome document from the High Level Meeting on MDG 5, which preceded the 2009 IPCI Conference.

ISTANBUL 2012
The 2012 IPCI Conference brought together more than 200 lawmakers representing 106 countries. Taking place in tandem with national, regional, and international reviews of the ICPD Programme of Action, parliamentarians underscored the centrality of ICPD commitments to national efforts to reduce poverty and social and economic inequality. It also highlighted the opportunity to influence the Post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure the vision, principles, objectives and goals of the ICPD Programme of Action were advanced through the process.

STOCKHOLM 2014
The 2014 IPCI meeting took place just weeks after the adoption of resolution 65/234 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, extending the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014. The Stockholm Statement of Commitment called for renewed political support for ICPD goals and objectives with special attention to the recommendations from regional ICPD reviews and global thematic meetings on youth, human rights and women’s health.
early twenty-five years after Cairo, the ICPD Programme of Action remains a landmark agenda for reproductive health and rights. Adopted by 179 countries, the ICPD Programme of Action highlighted the vital importance of gender equality and women’s empowerment in population policy and human development, and it laid out a 20-year Programme of Action with over 200 recommendations to guide progress across five goals. The ambitious plan represented a turning point in the population and development discourse, shifting it to a more people-centred and human rights-based approach.

In 2015, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations and its 193 member states. The 2030 Agenda reaffirms the ICPD Programme of Action and includes an explicit focus on key areas including gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and health and well-being at all ages.

Almost five years past the original 20 year deadline, the ICPD Programme of Action has still not been realized. While commitment remains strong among parliamentarians and governments, new challenges have arisen, significantly altering the global sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) landscape.

Politically, the global sexual and reproductive rights landscape has experienced increased resistance and pushback due to rising conservatism, fundamentalism, and populist movements. While some regions are experiencing advances and increased access to SRHR, others face regressive laws and new barriers. One example includes the re-introduction and expansion of the Mexico City Policy (also known as the Global Gag Rule) by the United States in January 2017, which prohibits the use of federal funding to any foreign organizations that provide abortion services, information or referrals, or take part in any advocacy related to abortion.
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences (Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes (Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages)

In addition to these barriers, the global community is facing environmental degradation, climate change, increased inequality, and an unprecedented number of humanitarian crises displacing millions of people. Along with these challenges, the 2018 Ottawa IPCI Conference comes at a time of increasing urgency to respond to the current political discourse on sexual and reproductive rights and the upcoming 25th anniversary of the ICPD. The 2018 IPCI Conference emphasized the need to integrate the ICPD Programme of Action into Agenda 2030 in order to advance global commitment and progress.

It is in this context that parliamentarians set about reviewing achievements, identifying gaps, and charting a clear direction to the fulfillment of the ICPD Programme of Action and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
OUR ANCESTORS HELD THIS WORLD IN TRUST FOR US AND YOU HOLD IT IN TRUST FOR YOUR CHILDREN.”

T. Sharp Dopler
Indigenous Elder
The 2018 IPCI Conference was opened by CAPPD Chair, the Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry, MP, who welcomed parliamentarians to Ottawa. In her introduction, Dr. Fry spoke to the continued importance and relevance of the ICPD Programme of Action. While she acknowledged that we have undoubtedly made progress in some areas, she noted that much remains to be done - citing examples such as the lack of universal access to SRHR, high numbers of female genital mutilation (FGM), weak infrastructure, the use of rape as a weapon of war, and discrimination based on sexual orientation. She also noted emerging issues including the growing number of refugees and displaced people and increasing rates of HIV transmission in some regions. Dr. Fry challenged parliamentarians to demonstrate the political will required to address these issues and called for an impactful and bold series of commitments to be made.

The opening ceremony also included a formal welcome address from the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Canada’s Minister of International Development and La Francophonie. Minister Bibeau spoke to the progress and headway made by the international community, but noted the need to mobilize resources and make structural changes to promote SRHR and gender equality. This is where parliamentarians come...
in, she said, “It is the job of parliamentarians to facilitate strong legislation and participatory development”.

Referring to Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), the Minister stressed the need to defend the rights of women and girls, and to champion the right of women everywhere to have control over their own bodies, to decide how, whether, and with whom to have children. She also spoke to the importance of working with and listening to communities and civil society in order to confront persistent and dangerous cultural norms. She urged parliamentarians to recognize women, girls, and LGBTQ2I individuals as advocates and powerful agents of change, stating: “Promoting women and girls in all of their diversity is key to ensuring that no one is left behind”.

In closing, the Minister stressed the need for everyone to be involved in driving this progress - arts and sports communities, indigenous communities, civil society, and global leaders alike. Finally, she emphasized Canada’s commitment to these issues and the need to seize the opportunity at hand, at the IPCI Conference and at the upcoming Women Deliver 2019 Conference.

**4. Opening Ceremony**

**Importance and Relevance**

Because we now face resistance to hard-won advances, parliamentary commitment is more important than ever to dismantle barriers and create an enabling environment for gender equality and SRHR. We need to support women’s rights at every level: not only because it is the right thing to do, but because evidence shows that everyone benefits when we do.”

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of International Development, Canada

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**Acknowledging First Peoples and Traditional Territory in Canada:**

Land acknowledgements are formal expressions of respect and gratitude to indigenous people in Canada, recognizing their unique and continued relationship with the land on which we live and work. Ottawa, Ontario, the location of the 2018 IPCI Conference, is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people.

Land acknowledgements are now recognized as a vital component of meetings, conferences and events that take place in Canada, contributing to efforts to establish healthy and reciprocal relations between Indigenous populations in Canada (which includes First Nations, Metis and Inuit people) and settlers - a key aspect of reconciliation.

Indigenous Elder, T. Sharp Dopler was invited to address parliamentarians attending the IPCI Conference. A member of the Ottawa Indigenous community and of Cherokee/Sauk/Fox and Irish descent, Sharp is recognized as a Traditional Knowledge Keeper and carrier of Ceremony in the Ottawa community.

Sharp identifies as a Two-Spirit person - an indigenous umbrella term predating LGBTQI terminology, representing those who possess both a masculine and feminine spirit. Sharp led a traditional smudging ceremony, burning sage and cedar to purify and cleanse the space to create a positive learning environment.
The next speaker to take the podium was the Honourable Indira Huilca Flores, Peruvian MP and Chair of the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG). MP Flores spoke to the progress made since the first IPCI Conference in 2002, noting that it has been slow and unequal.

Speaking to the context in Latin America, she touched on advances such as lowered maternal mortality rates and the work of parliamentarians in Guatemala and El Salvador, where legislation on child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) has been introduced, in Chile, where abortion has been partially decriminalized, and the many other countries fighting to improve laws for women.

However, MP Flores warned parliamentarians that we run the risk of losing these advances, citing surges in unplanned teenage pregnancies, high maternal mortality rates among indigenous women, and deaths caused by unsafe abortion. Other challenges she identified included political crises, natural disasters, and the rise of counter-movements that resist progress. She closed her address by rallying parliamentarians to mobilize resources and to take a decisive role in order to realize Agenda 2030.

“WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO ADVANCE TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVE IN A WORLD FREE OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION, AND WITH FULL ACCESS TO THEIR RIGHTS.”
The Honourable Indira Huilca Flores
MP, Peru, Chair, IAPG

Fitting to the ICPD commitments, Sharp also spoke about their Two-Spirit identity and the marginalization faced by those who do not fit within sex and gender norms. They stated: “I defy my sexual orientation and gender identity - we are more than that as human beings. We all have a place in the circle. Sexual and gender diverse people like me have existed in every culture around the world, even though many continue to be in denial about that.”

Sharp closed by singing a song to invite our ancestors to help parliamentarians carry out the important work of addressing inequalities and helping to realize human rights.

“DON’T JUST BE AN ALLY – BE AN ACCOMPLICE. EXPOSE YOURSELF TO THE SAME HAZARDS THAT WE ARE EXPOSED TO JUST BY OUR VERY EXISTENCE. ACCOMPLICES HELP TO GIVE VOICE. LISTEN.”
T. Sharp Dopler
Indigenous Elder
The 2018 IPCI Conference next welcomed **Dr. Natalia Kanem**, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, to give a keynote address. Dr. Kanem praised Canada for its Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), the global leadership it has shown, and the country’s continued investment in SRHR, stating that, “Canada is showing all of us what it means to walk the talk.” She continued in thanking parliamentarians for their individual commitments to the ICPD Programme of Action and for holding governments accountable. While 2019 will be 25 years since Cairo, it will also mark the milestone 50th anniversary of UNFPA, which has worked tirelessly to advance the power of choice around the world.

“WE’RE HERE BECAUSE WE’RE NOT ONLY COMMITTED TO HOLDING FAST TO CAIRO, BUT CONTINUING TO ADVANCE IN ENSURING SRHR FOR ALL.”
**Dr. Natalia Kanem**
*Executive Director, UNFPA*

Dr. Kanem highlighted our progress; fewer women are dying in childbirth, more people have access to contraception, and more girls are able to stay in school. However, she did not shy away from our shortcomings; more than 200 million women and girls still can’t access contraception, 99 million unintended pregnancies each year, 830 deaths a day from complications in pregnancy and childbirth, and tens of thousands of girls being married off each week - we should be outraged, she said. Dr. Kanem further encouraged parliamentarians to channel this outrage into action at the IPCI Conference.

Dr. Kanem also emphasized the important role of data and evaluation, especially as we seek to meet the targets of zero unmet need for family planning, zero maternal deaths, and zero incidents of sexual and gender based violence (including harmful practices against girls such as FGM and CEFM). Only through censuses and numbers can we reach those left behind, using evidence to support policymaking.

“WE NEED YOU TO HOLD STEADFAST, ESPECIALLY TO PREVENT THE MOST VULNERABLE REGIONS OF THE WORLD FROM GETTING SWEPT UP IN THE POLITICAL HEADWINDS THAT THREATEN TO ROLL BACK THE PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE MADE.”
**Dr. Natalia Kanem**
*Executive Director, UNFPA*

In closing, Dr. Kanem spoke about the need for inclusive development, especially in providing young people with both the space and support to lead. She encouraged parliamentarians to invest in young people’s leadership and to use data and evidence to advance the ICPD Programme of Action. Utilizing the Ottawa IPCI Conference and strengthening our networks is a step in the right direction.
YOU HAVE POWER IN YOUR HANDS AS PARLIAMENTARIANS: THANK YOU FOR USING IT TO PROTECT THAT PRECIOUS MANDATE THAT WE SHARE. ALL PEOPLE DESERVE NO LESS. LET US USE THIS GATHERING TO CHART THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS PROGRESS, NOT RETROGRESSION.”

Dr. Natalia Kanem
Executive Director, UNFPA

The final speaker to take part in the conference opening was Arthur Erken, Director of the Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships at UNFPA. Tasked with outlining the purpose of the conference, Mr. Erken first noted the historical and continued role of parliamentarians in these issues, being both key actors in establishing ICPD and now in seeing the agenda through.

Speaking specifically to the IPCI Conference, Mr. Erken urged parliamentarians to take advantage of this opportunity to meet, take part in dialogue, and establish a way forward to implement the ICPD Programme of Action. He also highlighted the two areas which he believes parliamentarians are best positioned to address: resource mobilization – making sure there are budgets to support our agenda, and creating an enabling environment for policy and legislation that would bring us closer to our goals.

AS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS AND CHOICE OF ALL PEOPLE.”

Arthur Erken
Director, DCS, UNFPA

Five years past the initial ICPD deadline, Mr. Erken expressed concern over our slow progress during a time in which the ICPD agenda is being challenged as never before. “I would have never thought that the consensus that we had agreed upon at that time is still being challenged 25 years later”. However, Mr. Erken
also offered motivation, pointing to the strengthened and re-energized women’s movement, as witnessed through the SheDecides movement. He concluded:

"THE CHALLENGES ARE IMMENSE, BUT WITH YOUR WISDOM, COMMITMENT, AND DEDICATION, WE WILL BE ABLE TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD ON BEHALF OF FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY SUCCESSFUL MEETING."

Arthur Erken
Director, DCS, UNFPA

ARThUR ERKEn’S CHALLENGE TO IPCI DELEGATES:

• Reaffirm the validity and relevance of the ICPD Programme of Action, bolstering strong political will to fight to meet the agenda;
• Build financial momentum to advance the ICPD Programme of Action as an indispensable part of Agenda 2030 and on order to achieve our targets;
• Reinvigorate and energize the SRHR movement - recognizing the strong opposition, the reproductive rights agenda must be equally bold and strong.

IPCI 2018 STEERING COMMITTEE

The IPCI steering committee was established and tasked with preparing for the 2018 conference. The committee was made up of IPCI host country representatives from the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), as well as representatives from the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF), the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), and the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG). The committee was also supported by the UNFPA and relevant host country representatives.

2018 Steering Committee Members:

IPCI Host Country:
Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry, MP, Canada, Chair CAPPD
Senator Marilou McPhedran, Canada, Canadian IPCI Steering Committee
Hon. Irene Mathyssen, MP, Canada, Canadian IPCI Steering Committee

Africa:
Hon. Marie-Rose Nguini-Effa, MP, Cameroon, FPA Chair
Hon. Paul Chibingu, MP, Malawi, FPA Vice-Chair

Americas:
H.E. Hazel Brandy-Williams, MP, Minister of Health, St. Kitts and Nevis
Hon. Delia Bac, MP, Guatemala
Carla Rivera-Avni, Executive Director, IAPG

Asia:
Hon. Teddy Baguilat Jr, AFPPD Vice-Chair
Hon. Viplove Thakur, MP, India

Arab World:
Hon. Dr. Sahar Fahed Alqawasmeh, MP, Palestine, FAAPD
Hon. Professor Hala Abou-Ali, MP, Egypt, FAAPD
4. OPENING CEREMONY
IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE

DRAFTING THE OTTAWA STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The drafting committee consisted of two representatives from each region. Working with all IPCI delegates, the committee of parliamentarians worked throughout the conference to draft strong language building upon past IPCI Statements of Commitment and guiding progress towards the realization of the ICPD Programme of Action and Agenda 2030.

2018 Drafting Committee Members:

Africa:
Hon. William Kwasi Sabi, MP, Deputy Minister for Evaluation, Ghana
Hon. Goodlucky Kwaramba, MP, Zimbabwe

Americas:
H.E. Hazel Brandy-Williams, Minister of Health and Gender Affairs, St Kitts and Nevis
Hon. Macarena Gelman, MP, Uruguay

Asia:
Hon. Kirit Solanki, MP, India
Hon. Ann Sudamalis, MP, Australia

Arab World:
Hon. Sahar Alqawasmi, MP, State of Palestine
Hon. Sawsan Majali, MP, Jordan

Canada/ Hosts:
Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry, MP, Canada, host of IPCI 2018, Chair CAPPD
Senator Marilou McPhedran, Canada
Hon. Irene Mathyssen, MP, Canada

Europe:
Senator Petra De Sutter, Belgium
Hon. Dovilė Šakalienė, MP, Lithuania

Secretariat:
Ms. Salma Hamid, Special Advisor for Political Affairs, UNFPA
5. Plenaries

Plenary One: Where Have We Come From?

The conference featured a series of panel discussions which aimed to foster open dialogue and lively interactions among the participants.

The First Plenary Panel

The first plenary panel focused on ‘Where have we come from?’

Co-Chairs:
- Baroness Jenny Tonge, United Kingdom
- H.E. Frederick Stephenson, MP, Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Keynote Address:
- Rachel Snow, Chief Population and Development Branch, UNFPA

Reflecting on where we’ve come from and the significance of Cairo, Rachel Snow, Chief of the Population and Development Branch at UNFPA, brought us back to 1994. Calling it a “point of resistance”, she set the scene: the international decade on women had closed in 1985, bringing women together nationally, regionally, and globally in a pre-internet age. There was growing awareness of the half a million women dying every year in childbirth, with groundbreaking data on reproductive morbidities released by the Lancet in 1992. In 1994, just one country had laws in place banning FGM (the Central African Republic) and only one in five women used contraception in the least development countries. It is in this context that ICPD took place, signaling a monumental shift towards health and rights.

“Anxiety about the population bomb had been pushing family planning programmes, often as vertical services, in many countries in the world, with very little regard for the health or rights of women. Part of what Cairo enabled was a resistance to those policies and a reflection on what women actually needed.”

Rachel Snow
Chief Population and Development Branch, UNFPA

Delegates at Cairo changed the narrative, bolstering the voices of civil society and leading to the prioritization of family planning. Finally, data was being gathered and recognition was being given to the links between education, health, violence against women, and access to contraception.

In conclusion, Snow noted that while those who feared the population bomb were still vocal, and continue to be so today, the shift to family planning rooted within a broader agenda of women’s rights had begun. “When we reflect on where we were in 1994, Cairo changed laws, policies, opportunity - but most importantly, it changed the discourse.”
Panel discussion featuring:
Africa:

Americas:
- Sen. Martha Lucia Micher, Mexico

Arab:
- Hon. Hala Abou Ali, MP, Egypt

Asia:
- Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP, Indonesia

Europe:
- Hon. Ulrika Karlsson, MP, Sweden, President, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)

The first conference plenary brought together parliamentarians from different regions of the world to speak to what has been achieved since ICPD in their respective countries and regions. The representative from Cameroon started off the panel answering the question: what has changed for the better? The Honourable Marie-Rose Nguini-Effa spoke of the recognition and emphasis put on equity and equal rights in her country and the importance of women advocates in battling against the challenges in accessing reproductive health. She also noted the regional structures that have worked to advance the ICPD Programme of Action goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health, highlighting the guiding framework of the revised Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030. She stressed that there is much to be done - abortion is highly restricted, people are jailed for their sexual orientation, and FGM is still common. While referencing a lack of political will to tackle these issues, she noted that small changes are happening.

Senator Martha Lucia Micher next shared her views on the nonlinear progress taking place in Mexico. Referring to skyrocketing teenage pregnancy rates, and barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health, including abortion, she says they still have far to go. She also shared the positive examples from her country, such as Mexico City's legalization of abortion up to twelve weeks and the creation of legislation on femicide, thanks to intense advocacy. With a strong feminist movement and a new government coming into power in December, the Senator shared her hope that the politicization of women’s bodies would come to an end.

“AFRICAN STATES, INCLUDING CAMEROON, HAVE PLEDGED TO MEET THE 88 COMMITMENTS OF THE ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION FOCUSED ON RIGHTS-BASED POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE DIGNITY AND EQUITY, HEALTH, GOVERNANCE, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS.”
Hon. Marie-Rose Nguini-Effa
MP, Cameroon, President, African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA)

Speaking to the Egyptian context, the Honourable Hala Abou Ali shared the legislative and constitutional changes that have been made in support of sexual and reproductive rights and in combating child marriage - the highlight being their new Constitution. Endorsed in 2014, the Constitution
includes non-discrimination and equal opportunity, protection of women against all forms of violence, the criminalization of all forms of torture, and the affirmation of bodily integrity, which is useful in combating FGM and child marriage. However, MP Abou Ali stressed the need to address poverty and inequalities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services. This includes the urban/rural divide and infrastructure disparities. Sharing her opinion on what is needed, MP Abou Ali highlighted the need for cultural change and more data.

Representing Indonesia, the Honourable Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah spoke to achievements including free contraception and the introduction of a Child Protection Bill to prevent child marriage. She raised the issues of the geographical challenges and population size in Indonesia, which is over 260 million. She also shared her frustration with turnover of parliamentarians in government. While progress is made, she finds that every five years new parliamentarians have to be educated on ICPD and why it is important.

Participant Comments:
- Legislation is not always enough – cultural change needs to accompany it. External political pressure can also be a useful tool.
- Budget re-allocation is needed – away from military and war and towards gender equality and health.
- In order to stand-up against conservative resistance to SRHR, we must find a way to mobilize different movements (youth, environmental, women’s, etc.).
- Importance of women’s representation and parity in politics and the ways this can be achieved (quotas on ballot, enforcement at party-level e.g. nominations, addressing harassment and political violence), while also recognizing parity does not necessarily mean equality – does not mean parliamentarians will respond to or defend women’s need.

The Honourable Ulrika Karlsson began her remarks by stating that SRHR is the cornerstone to human rights in Sweden. She continued on to share the journey her country took to get to that point, including intense efforts to establish support for midwives, access to safe and legal abortion, and parental leave, among others. The results? Better economic growth, improved health, a happier population, and high fertility rates. She encouraged policymakers to take these results back to their countries. “If you can’t talk to the heart, talk to the brain – it’s good for the economy to do this. And it’s stupid not to.” Finally, she encouraged parliamentarians to be brave and courageous, and to support one another in this journey.
Jessica Leeder is the Atlantic Canadian bureau chief of the Globe and Mail, one of Canada’s leading national newspapers. In September 2018, Jessica went from news reporter to news story when she decided to share her experience accessing abortion on Canada’s east coast.

A mother of two, Jessica had experienced post-partum depression and depression during both her pregnancies. When she became unexpectedly pregnant, she knew she wanted to end the pregnancy.

**WHEN I BECAME UNEXPECTEDLY PREGNANT EARLIER THIS YEAR, I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO HAVE AN ABORTION. MY STORY IS NOT THE TORMENT OF MAKING THAT DECISION – THE TORMENT WAS RELATED TO ACCESS.**

*Jessica Leeder
Journalist, The Globe and Mail*

In her province of Nova Scotia, there had been a series of recent changes intended to make access to abortion easier. However, the toll-free line set up to guide people seeking abortion told her to call back when her pregnancy was further along - the demand was too high and doctors couldn’t keep up. And while medical abortion through the “abortion pill” had been recently introduced, doctors in her province would not prescribe without an ultrasound to rule out ectopic pregnancy. Here, she was met with more bureaucracy and barriers: the hospital would only perform ultrasounds at eight weeks gestation. Further, the wait times for ultrasounds in her province ranged from weeks to month. Unless it was an emergency, she would have to remain pregnant and wait.

**HAVING TO BEG FOR AN ABORTION MADE ME FEEL SHAMEFUL, POWERLESS, AND ASHAMED TO BE CANADIAN.**

*Jessica Leeder
Journalist, The Globe and Mail*

When she had exhausted all of her options, Jessica decided that she couldn’t wait. She bought a plane ticket, paid for a hotel room, and headed to a Toronto-based clinic that could provide the procedure right away. While she was finally able to access the healthcare she needed, the whole ordeal got her thinking: “If it was so difficult for me – a woman who never takes no for an answer, with a fully supportive husband – how much more difficult must it be for others?”

Jessica’s story received a huge response - hundreds of people contacted her, sharing their own experiences and challenges accessing abortion. Despite living in Canada, a land of free healthcare and decriminalized abortion, people are facing barriers at all levels. Jessica’s experience shined a light on just a few of these barriers, highlighting the vast health access disparities across provinces and regions.
Lastly, Jessica’s story brought up the important but often ignored issue of mental health. Throughout the entire process, not once did a health provider ask about it. “We need to better integrate mental health into reproductive health”, she urged.

In closing, Jessica stressed that the failure to address issues of access to abortion is causing harm to women. Speaking to the room of policymakers and elected officials, she asserted, “If accessibility is the policy goal, there is still much work to be done”.

USING TWITTER TO ADVANCE A GOOD CAUSE

Michele Austin, Head of Government, Public Policy and Philanthropy at Twitter Canada, spoke to parliamentarians about how they can use Twitter to build support for an issue. 99% of Twitter is public and accessible, making it a great tool to share information and advance your cause.

Key Takeaways:

- The Twitter audience is an important one: four out of five journalists use Twitter, two out of three influencers, and 71% of all millennials.

- To be successful on Twitter, Michele shared some tips:
  - **Discoverability** - Help people find you by retweeting often, using hashtags, and seizing on key moments through trending topics.
  - **Optimize** your profile through some of these suggestions: use hashtags; draft a clear, concise and accurate Twitter bio; pin important tweets to the top of your profile; use emojis; integrate videos into your tweets (preferably with subtitles); keep your content short and sweet; stay current.
  - **Interaction** - build community by interacting with other Twitter users.

THE SECOND PLENARY PANEL

The second plenary panel focused on ‘Where are we now?’

Co-Chairs:

- Senator Marilou McPhedran, Canada
- H. E. Delma Thomas, Minister of Social Development, Grenada

Keynote address:

- Professor Alaka Basu, Cornell University, Commissioner on the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Following on the heels of the breakthrough Guttmacher-Lancet Commission report, “Accelerate Progress - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All”, Professor Alaka Basu opened the second plenary to help answer the question, “Where are we now?”. Professor Basu is one of sixteen commissioners who worked on the landmark report, which compiles critical data and provides an expanded, more integrated definition of SRHR.
**The Commission Decided It Was a Good Time to Acknowledge New Research Findings and to Push Aside the Curtain of Sensitivity, Which Is Too Often Used to Endorse Patriarchy and Masculinity**

Professor Alaka Basu  
*Cornell University, Commissioner on the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*

Speaking to the paradigm shift from population and development to SRHR and development, Professor Basu noted that while advancements have been made, it has also been hindered by setbacks, attacks, and inequality. It is within this shifting context and in the lead-up to ICPD+25 that the Commission felt it was the right time to take stock of the SRHR landscape. By bringing numbers and evidence to these issues, the report can be seen as a guiding tool to support changes in the laws and norms that prevent us from moving forward.

**Panel discussion featuring:**
- H.E. Chris Baryomunsi, *State Minister for Housing, Uganda*
- Hon. Brenda Austin, *MP, Argentina*
- Hon. Wafa’ Saeed Yacoub Bani Moustafa, *MP, Jordan*
- Hon. Ann Sudmalis, *MP, Australia*
- Sen. Catherine Noone, *Ireland*

Stemming from Professor Basu’s presentation on the Guttmacher-Lancet report, the panelists were asked about priorities in their respective countries and regions, as related to the report findings. H.E. Chris Baryomunsi of Uganda spoke about the minor gains made in addressing barriers and restrictions to sexual and reproductive health in his country. However, he noted that regionally, inequality across the continent remains a challenge, as well as social and religious resistance to these changes.

The Honorable Brenda Austin shared the experience in Argentina where the issue of femicide sparked the feminist movement, eventually leading to the opening of the debate on abortion within their parliament and a very near-win in legalizing abortion in August 2018. Citing the groups in the street as “a constant source of encouragement” for those working to advance SRHR, MP Austin also spoke about the power and importance of sharing individual stories, in addition to data, to help your cause.

The parliamentarian from Jordan, The Honourable Wafa’ Saeed Yacoub Bani Moustafa, talked about the many obstacles and challenges to SRHR plaguing her country. While reforms have been made to laws and the penal code, at the cultural level, patriarchy remains strong. There is little access to sexual education, they’re seeing an increase in communicable diseases, and many laws continue to prevent women from owning property or entering the labour market.

In Australia, the economic arguments for SRHR have proven to be very powerful, explained the Honourable Ann Sudmalis. Investing in these issues is “common sense and common cents”! Preventing domestic violence remains a priority in her country and has fueled a nationwide campaign. She highlighted the challenge of addressing domestic violence in indigenous communities, where colonial institutions such as the judicial system, cannot be part of the solution.

The final parliamentarian to share their experience was Senator Catherine Noone of Ireland who spoke about her country’s two and a half year process leading to their abortion ban being overturned and the “right to life for the unborn child” being removed from their constitution this year. Despite fear that raising the issue would bring added negative attention to sexual and reproductive health issues, policymakers undertook the intensive work, both politically and personally, to successfully see the process through the parliamentary system.
THE THIRD PLENARY PANEL
The third plenary panel focused on ‘Putting women and girls first for humanitarian action, peace and development’

Co-Chairs:
• Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir, MP, Chad
• Hon. Irene Mathyssen, MP, Canada

Intervention:
• Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director for the Arab States for UNFPA Based in Cairo

Representing the Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) of the UNFPA, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, spoke to the urgent need to protect women and girls in humanitarian settings from all forms of violence. In Syria, for example, the majority of refugees are women, children and elderly people, with needs that we are still just discovering. It is within these fragile situations that children are dropping out of school, incidents of sexual violence are high, and rates of child marriage are on the rise.

Referencing the UNFPA’s 2018 State of the World Population Report “The Power of Choice”, Dr. Shabaneh highlighted the important role of choice in humanitarian settings. While contraception may not seem like a priority or life-saving intervention to some, in situations where sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war and life has been upended, these are essential services as well as rights. Dr. Shabaneh ended by encouraging legislators to prioritize these issues: to keep girls in school, to challenge cultural and social norms, and to work together towards gender equality.

Keynote Addresses:
• Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for International Development and La Francophonie, Canada
• H.E. Dr. Diene Keita, Minister for Cooperation and African Integration, Guinea
• Hon. Khamis Atieh, MP, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Jordan

Canada’s Minister for International Development and La Francophonie, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, delivered a stirring speech on the autonomy...
and agency of women and girls in humanitarian settings, and the need to listen and respond to their needs. The Minister called on parliamentarians to make humanitarian responses gender-responsive and more effective by investing in sexual and reproductive health services, and by including these populations in decision-making processes. While acknowledging that this can seem challenging, she encouraged parliamentarians to share best practices, to gather data and identify gaps, and to innovate.

Speaking about her experience in Bangladesh meeting with Rohingya women refugees, she stressed the diverse needs of these populations, including the need for psychosocial support, safe spaces to process trauma, and opportunities to gain skills and play an active role in their communities. She urged parliamentarians to work together to identify key actions and commitments to foster more gender-responsive humanitarian action.

"WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR ENGAGEMENT IN SRHR IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS, INCLUDING WITH ALL DONORS AND ACTORS. IT IS OUR DUTY AS PARLIAMENTS.

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister for International Development, Canada"

Co-chair, the Honourable Issa Mardo Djabir of Chad, supported this call and shared an example from his home country, where displacement and conflict in the Lake Chad area has led to infrastructure challenges and barriers to access to social services.

H.E. Dr. Diene Keita of Guinea next spoke to IPCI delegates about the need to better integrate humanitarian action and development. She shared photographs and portraits from various humanitarian crises and fragile settings she has visited, depicting survivors of rape, child marriage, early pregnancy, crumbling infrastructure and more. Recognizing the high costs of services and commodities in these settings, Dr. Keita called for increased funding and greater cooperation between donors and local governments.

Speaking honestly and openly to parliamentarians, Dr. Keita urged them to ask hard questions, to advocate, and to share the Ottawa Statement of Commitment to reach ICPD targets. “Parliamentarians need to advocate - all the time, in corridors, wherever possible. Go into the field and see these realities, know these situations. We cannot hide behind ignorance”.

The Honourable Khamis Atieh next shared the unique situation of Jordan, a country that has borne the brunt of the Syrian refugee crisis, receiving over one million refugees at huge health, security, and financial costs. With refugees now representing 20% of their population, Jordan is experiencing massive stress on its infrastructure and resources. MP Atieh talked about the stress this situation puts on his governance and asked the international community for support, for resources to help them shoulder these costs, and for political solutions to help put an end to war and bloodshed.

Having heard from the diverse group of speakers, the Honourable Irene Mathyssen, co-chair, once again highlighted the need for action and resolution that moves beyond the basic necessities of food, water and shelter. She concluded by calling on parliamentarians to take these discussions forward and to find solutions to these unprecedented challenges.
5. Plenaries

Plenary four: Where are we going? Challenges that still lie ahead

The Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry, Chair of Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD)

Panel discussion featuring:
- Hon. Jamal Kassim Ali, MP, Tanzania
- Hon. Paola Vega, MP, Costa Rica
- Hon. Sammy Gemayel, MP, Lebanon
- Hon. Fahmi Fadzil, MP, Malaysia
- Hon. Hannah Sarkinnen, MP, Finland

The Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry kicked off the fourth plenary session by outlining some of the unique issues that the global community currently faces, including backlash and resistance to SRHR gains, unprecedented levels of conflict and displaced people, climate change, and persisting issues such as HIV and AIDS. Co-chair, the Honourable Alando Terrelonge of Jamaica added that we face major challenges in addressing vulnerability and ending gender-based violence.

They posed a number of questions to the panel of parliamentarians, asking them to reflect on the potential impact that improved SRHR could have on women and girls in their region. Coming out of the IPCI Conference, what messages will they take back to their countries?

The panel discussion included the Honourable Jamal Kassim Ali of Tanzania, who identified the need for international rules and protocols to be followed. By enforcing good policies and laws and building strong institutions, gender equality can be achieved. He shared the example of Tanzania’s Land Act of 1999 which ended longstanding laws denying women access to property or land. How do we make changes to laws and policies? Advocacy, says MP Kassim Ali.

The Honourable Paola Vega of Costa Rica shared the challenges that she faces in her country, which includes a strong anti-choice movement fueled by religious fundamentalism. Countering this conservative wave though, is a growing movement supporting safe and legal abortion. She underlined the importance of translating materials and messaging into accessible forms, with awareness of the differing levels of illiteracy, especially among rural populations.

Lebanese parliamentarian, the Honourable Sammy Gemayel, noted the undeniable progress of women’s human rights in recent years, but maintained that many obstacles persist. Referring to women’s political participation, he referenced the need for gender quotas in parliament to address the current numbers - with just 6 of 128 seats being held by women. He also called for support from the UNFPA and international NGOs to act as neutral actors to help shift political discourse in conservative countries and provide technical support where needed.

"PARTNERSHIP IS INSTRUMENTAL IN TIMES WHERE WE SEE BACKLASH EVERYWHERE."
The Honourable Hannah Sarkinnen MP, Finland
The Honourable Fahmi Fadzil, noted that Malaysia has just experienced its first change in government in sixty years, creating an opportunity for legal and institutional reforms. He spoke about the need for education and capacity-building among lawmakers at all levels. Where there is no vernacular equivalent for “SRHR”, promoting these issues can be a challenge, so there is a need to use local vocabulary to communicate ideas effectively. Coming out of the IPCI Conference, MP Fadzil says his biggest takeaway is the need to practice deliberate democracy, following the lead of Ireland and Australia to move progress along.

Finnish Member of Parliament, the Honourable Hannah Sarkinnen, stressed the need for increased partnerships and non-partisan cooperation both globally and nationally. She encouraged parliamentarians to set up parliamentary groups on population and development in the countries where they don’t yet exist. In Finland, one challenge that persists is the high cost of contraception, to which she has put forward a bill calling for free contraception for people under 25. MP Sarkinnen also called for partnership and collaboration with civil society and private industry.

Participant Comments:

• Regional networks are incredibly important in establishing priorities and coordinating strategies. Contexts are often more similar allowing for sharing of best practices.

• Men and boys must be engaged from an early age (in school). Without men as allies, we will not see progress.

• Greater accountability to IPCI Statements of Commitment needed – how can we carry out monitoring to hold one another accountable? Point people to monitor and report?

• Importance of exposing opposition groups – tracing the money to see who funds them, naming and shaming, using data and evidence to discredit them.

• The need to address the issue of the lack of political will. Parliamentarians are concerned about re-election and that does not promote bold policymaking. “Maybe it requires committing political suicide – if so, let’s do it!”

USING FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM TO ADVANCE A GOOD CAUSE

Facebook representative, Sharon Yang of the Politics and Government Team, joined the conference to talk about using Facebook and Instagram as a policymaker. She provided practical tips to optimize and make the most out of the platform and excel at digital storytelling.

Strategies for Success:

• Embrace trends. This includes the shift to mobile, and moving beyond text to photos, videos, and virtual and augmented reality.

• Set up a Facebook page (as opposed to a profile). This will allow you to have a limitless number of followers, it will provide you with analytics and insights, and it allows you to assign administrators to help manage your page.

• Create authentic and meaningful content. Be real, interactive, timely (be current and informative), and active (tweet frequently with varied content). This might include “behind the scenes” content, selfies, live videos (Facebook Live, Instagram stories).

The session concluded with important comments from parliamentarians regarding online abuse and safety. For women politicians, and especially for those advocating for SRHR issues, online harassment is a growing issue with many policymakers becoming the targets of threats and violent language. Parliamentarians strongly encouraged Facebook to better address this abuse to make the platform safer for all.
### Social Media Corner

**Reactions from Around the World**


**Samy Gemayel**
@samygemayel

#### Thank you my Parliamentary Colleagues for continuing to work for the achievement for the ICPD Programme of Action and #SDGS @MCLAUDEBIBEAU IPCI2018

**Action Canada**
@actioncanadashr

#### ‘I want to save girls from being cut’ @rohbi15 told the IPCI2018 Conference during a standing room only meeting today. You could hear a pin drop during her testimony.

**Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus**
@JoankaSW

#### ‘Over 80% of contraceptive funding is out of pocket for women in low and middle income countries’ - @ADDICOG MYIPCI IPCI2018

**Aminata B. Wurie**
@misswurie

#### Young People & Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Glad to be invited to speak at the IPCI Conference alongside ACTIONCANADASHR and address parliamentarians across the globe on the 2 billion opportunities that exist when investing in young people’s CSE. #IPCI2018 #ICPD25 #YC

**Teddy B. Baguilat**
@TeddyBaguilatJr

#### Now that we’ve done the talking, let’s walk the talk...will help push anti-child marriage law in PH. #IPCI2018 #NOTOCHILDMARRIAGE @PLCPD1989

**Roslyn Dundas**
@roslyndundas

#### Congratulations to all IPCI Conference - great dialogue and strong call to action for women and girls and human rights #IPCI2018 #AUSPOL

**pernille fenger**
@pernillefenger

#### Thank you to President @EPF_POP_DEV @ULRIKA_UPPSALA for her tirelessly work to advance #SRHR for world’s most valuable women & girls. #IPCI2018

**@ITNOYDfilm**
@ITNOYDfilm

#### ‘This is what a feminist looks like’

**Pernille Fenger**
@pernillefenger
6. Diving Deeper

Highlights from the Breakout Sessions

The breakout session format was designed to take advantage of the vast experience and expertise of IPCI attendees. Eight sessions were offered over the two-day conference, allowing parliamentarians to hear firsthand from experts in the field, civil society, and their peers, and encourage more in-depth discussions.

Staff from UNFPA acted as rapporteurs in these sessions and have reported back with the key messages, discussions and takeaways:

**Breakout Session 1: Two Billion Opportunities: Young People and CSE**

**Presenters:**
- Frederique Chabot and Britt Neron, Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- Aminata Bintu Wurie, Executive Coordinator, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

**Co-chairs:**
- Hon. Nicolette Henry, Minister for Education, Guyana
- H.E. William Kwasi Sabi, Deputy Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation, Ghana

The purpose of this breakout session was to unpack the benefits of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and share best practices on national laws and policies. Civil society presenters including health educators and youth advocates, shared what quality sexual education looks like and explained the needs and rights of youth populations. Finally, the session examined the role parliamentarians can play in strengthening CSE curricula and creating accountability in CSE delivery.

**Issues & Discussion:**
- CSE is most impactful when school-based programmes are combined with community interventions e.g. condom distribution, youth friendly services.
6. Diving Deeper
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

“...WE CANNOT FIGHT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE OR ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY WITHOUT COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION.”
The Honourable Catarina Marcelino Rosa da Silva
MP, Portugal

• CSE should be age appropriate, embedded within a human rights approach, include gender equality, culturally relevant and appropriate, promote critical thinking, promote universal human rights, including the rights of children and young people, evidence-based.

• There are many barriers to implementation that need to be addressed: lack of programme coordination between levels of government, lack of dedicated funding, etc.

• Curricula should be up-to-date and responsive to today’s issues, e.g. include content about impacts of social media.

• Challenges in addressing taboos and social barriers; making CSE compulsory.

Best practices from around the world:

• Thailand’s new adolescent pregnancy law aims to ensure CSE is compulsory and that pregnant adolescent girls can remain in school.

• Lithuania has had success including NGOs and youth in the process. Creating space for NGO engagement has helped with implementation, e.g. in providing support to teachers.

Proposed Actions:

• UNESCO’s International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE) provides strong evidence to support CSE that can be used to inform policy work.

• Use the weight and expertise of healthcare providers, NGOs and youth to promote change. Stakeholder participation (especially young people) is key!

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: FUNDING SRHR IN AN SDG WORLD

Presenters:

• Jennifer Daves, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
• Gifty Addico, Chief, Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA

Co-chairs:

• Hon. Isabelle Diks, MP, The Netherlands
• H.E. Hazel Brandy-Williams, MP, Minister of Health, St Kitts & Nevis

Ensuring that funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is included in development financing architecture is critical to fulfilling the unmet need for family planning and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. This session explored different sources of funding and brainstormed ways to tap into new streams of funding to fill gaps in SRHR. How can parliamentarians play a unique role as those who hold the purse-strings of governments?
Issues & Discussion:

- Rights-based family planning is an engine for socioeconomic growth and a best buy for development, but there are significant challenges for funding, including increasing constraints around donor funding and high out-of-pocket payments by women.

- Increasing domestic financing for family planning should be a priority, especially contraceptives, including from government, private sector and the public, while simultaneously increasing efficiency for the use of family planning resources.

- There is a need for continued donor support to countries that are building their health systems and transitioning towards sustainable financing for family planning.

- There are many challenges in providing SRHR services in fragile and humanitarian contexts - we need to consider funding to reach crisis-affected populations.

- There’s a need for up-to-date information and data on SRHR issues, linking family planning to economic benefits, to support advocacy and accountability.

- Policies to improve access to services by adolescents, and other marginalized populations, is a starting point in removing financial barriers to accessing family planning.

Proposed Actions:

- Parliamentarians have a key role to play in advocating for national budgets and accountability for full expenditure of allocations for family planning. They can provide support for facilitative import laws and regulations for contraceptives, and for policies supporting the private sector to provide affordable contraceptives.

- Parliamentarians and partners in countries need to advocate for and make the case for family planning in sectors beyond health in order to identify opportunities for funding, e.g. Green Climate Fund.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3: COUNTERING RESISTANCE TO SRHR

Presenters:

- Neil Datta, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
- Alison Drayton, Director of Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, LACRO, UNFPA
- Senator Catherine Noone, Ireland

Co-chairs:

- Hon. Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus, MP, Poland
- Hon. Dr. Sahar Fahed Al Qawasmeh, MP, Palestine

After decades of steady progress on women’s rights, the early-2000s saw the opposition to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), or the anti-choice movement, become increasingly visible at the international, regional and national levels. This session explored ways to oppose the proliferation of anti-choice movements and tackle the root causes at the political level. To do so, presenters spoke about their experiences with anti-choice actors and shared best practices on how parliamentarians can lead the way in securing human rights in the face of hostile forces.
6. Diving Deeper
Highlights from the Breakout Sessions

Issues & Discussion:
• At the international level, anti-choice organisations have played a key role in constructing a coalition of conservative states, which promote an agenda that undermines democracy.

• The opposition are increasingly framing anti-SRHR messaging within a life, family and religious context. E.g. Instead of being against abortion or same-sex marriage, they focus on the importance of the family and traditional values, messages that resonate well among conservative groups.

• It was suggested that in order to reach a wider audience, the SRHR community needs to become better at crafting and communicating a narrative. Increased networking and outreach is needed in response to growing conservatism among young people. Online organising and mobilisation with fact-based information targeted at youth could be an important approach.

Proposed Actions:
• Following recognition that Parliamentarians play a critical role leading the way to secure human rights in the face of hostile and powerful forces, it was agreed that solidarity, sharing of best practices, and support for one another is crucial in advancing SRHR.

• “Follow-the money” was one of the key strategies that came out of discussion on ways to unmask the actions of the opposition. Tracking the money that finances opposition activity can provide transparency and encourage people to take action.

• Use the democratic process to deepen the conversation - over time people can be provided with evidence and become more educated on the issues, e.g. increased public understanding of the serious consequences of lack of access to safe abortion in Ireland.

#MYIPCI: Youth Social Media Ambassadors

For the 2018 IPCI Conference, three youth social media ambassadors were invited to take part and share their perspectives on the conference. Identifying as students and activists with interest in sexual and reproductive rights, the three young people had the opportunity to interview parliamentarians to learn more about their work to advance SRHR.

Melissa, Avery and Rayne did a great job creating social media content and posing compelling questions to IPCI delegates. While there are few young people represented in government, our social media ambassadors demonstrated that young people not only care about these issues - they are also ready to engage!

GOOD MORNING ET BIENVENUE À TOUS! WE ARE YOUR YOUTH SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADORS @RAYNEYDAES, MELISSA AND AVERY! LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING OUR INSIGHTS AT #IPCI2018! FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY AT #MYIPCI IPCI @IPCI_Conference
6. Diving Deeper
Highlights from the Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 4: Leaving No One Behind: Inequalities in the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Context

Presenters:
- Sandeep Prasad, Executive Director, Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- Dr. Holly Graham, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Co-chairs:
- Dan Vandal, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Jane Philpott of Indigenous Services, Canada
- Hon. Teddy Baguilat, MP, The Philippines

The SDGs call on us to ensure ‘no one is left behind’, a commitment that will require that inequalities are addressed through the implementation of integrated, adequately resourced and rights-based laws, policies and programmes. This breakout session included a discussion on diverse and intersectional identities, and how identities and experiences can affect individuals’ ability to access sexual and reproductive health services, and fully exercise their human rights. The panel shared their knowledge (as advocates, policymakers, and service providers) and discussed ways parliamentarians can contribute to better health outcomes.

Issues & Discussion:
- Policies often reflect the needs of the majority and the individual attitudes and perceptions of policymakers. New methods should be adopted to listen to and address the needs of minorities and vulnerable groups.
- Stronger understanding of power, privilege, stigma, discrimination, and inequality would help create better policy. The concepts should also be included in school curricula.
- In looking at access to services, structural inequalities must be addressed. For example, for indigenous people in Canada, health access and outcomes cannot be viewed separate from colonialism and the direct and intergenerational trauma rooting from it.
- Empowerment, choice and well-being are critical to improved access and health. We must remove laws and policies that may be creating barriers for minority groups.

Proposed Actions:
- Addressing inequalities should be a community-driven approach that offers a comprehensive and holistic response to complex issues. Legislation should reflect this.
- Parliamentarians should enhance their understanding of minority groups and the discrimination they face in their countries in order to improve policy making.
- Social programmes to support young people transitioning into adulthood should be developed and supported with an adequate budget.
- Parliamentarians should encourage support for education, cultural trainings, culturally sensitive healthcare, and the building of community capacity.
- Data and evaluation should be culturally-sensitive in order to better inform policy development.
6. Diving Deeper
Highligts from the Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 5:
Contraception: Human Right & Critical Tool for Women’s Empowerment

Presenters:
• Dr. Jennifer Blake, Canadian Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
• Gifty Addico, Chief, Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA

Co-chairs:
• Hon. Pam Damoff, MP, Canada
• Hon. Manavi Isabelle Djigbodi Ameganvi, MP, Togo

Led by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SOGC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) this session included hands-on demonstrations of a range of modern methods of contraception and the latest technologies related to contraceptive use. Discussion centred around the underlying systemic and structural barriers which prevent access to demand-driven contraceptive use, and what strategies parliamentarians can employ to eliminate these barriers.

Issues & Discussion:
• Contraceptive choice and options are important as everyone has unique needs - some methods are self administered, while others required a skilled provider, cost is also a key factor.

• Barriers to accessing contraceptives affect almost all of the SDGs and have significant impact on GDP and reducing maternal mortality. Therefore financing contraception goes beyond the health sector.

• A consistent and assured supply of contraceptives is critical to functional family planning services.

• There is a huge family planning funding gap - most significant costs for contraception are being borne by poor women themselves (out of pocket expense).

• Even when budgets are allocated by governments, funds are often not being channeled to contraception.

Best practices from around the world:
• In Malawi, more resources have been allocated to family planning and this investment is tracked closely. MPs formed a committee to track expenditure to ensure that 100% of funds are spent on contraception.

• Parliamentarians from the South Pacific worked with colleagues in New Zealand to share best practices on increasing access to contraception for young people.

Proposed Actions:
• Parliamentarians should work to repeal laws, policies, practices that restrict access to services; increase family planning budgets; ensure that contraception is considered part of primary care; promote private sector support.

• Improved data (e.g. disaggregated) should be collected to improve services and options for diverse populations.

• Parliamentarians can improve accountability - e.g. by creating sub-committees to monitor budgets.
BREAKOUT SESSION 6:
MATERNAL HEALTH – NO WOMAN SHOULD DIE GIVING BIRTH

Presenters:
- Anna af Ugglas, Programme and Implementation Manager, Laerdal
- Anneka Knutsson, Chief of Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch, UNFPA
- Dr. Abram Agossou, Director of Mother and Child Health, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Togo

Co-chairs:
- Hon. Karen Vecchio, MP, Canada
- Hon. Delia Bac, MP, Guatemala

This session included a discussion on global trends in maternal mortality and strategies for ending preventable maternal mortality. Presenters shared research and experience and commented on the role parliamentarians can play in ending preventable maternal mortality. An innovative approach being used to strengthen the skills of healthcare professionals in preventing maternal and newborn deaths was shared through a demonstration and Togo shared their experiences as a case study.

Issues & Discussion:
- Under Agenda 2030, the target is to lower maternal mortality to 70 per 100,000 live births. However, at the current rate it will take until 2067 to achieve this.

- The leading causes of death include infection, hemorrhage, obstructive labour, and unsafe abortion. Indirect causes include: poverty, gender inequality, pre-existing medical conditions, and delays in care (seeking, reaching and service provision).

Proposed Actions:
- There must be an integrated approach that includes all service providers, e.g. central role of midwives in the provision of integrated SRHR information and services.
- Political will together with national coordination mechanisms is needed.
- Increased investment and continues commitment: official development assistance for maternal health is down 11% from 2017.
- Increase in human resources and a focus on quality of care is required; there is a need for hands-on and peer training, as well as emphasis on team training in preventing maternal and newborn deaths.
- Ongoing training and support should be provided to midwives, including accreditation/professional status and ensuring fair salaries and incomes. Parliamentarians should advocate for the implementation of midwifery programmes and national budget to support this.
BREAKOUT SESSION 7: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY FOR ALL. ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Presenters:
- Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director ESARO, UNFPA
- Robhi Samwelly, FGM survivor and Executive Director, Hope for Women and Girls, Tanzania

Co-chairs:
- Hon. Aida Ismailova, MP, Kyrgyzstan
- Hon. Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Canada

Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world and can lead to sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and death. The session brought together human rights activists and practitioners to uncover the root causes associated with harmful practices, discuss efforts underway to address practices such as child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and female genital mutilation (FGM), and the role of parliamentarians in eliminating them.

Issues & Discussion:
- Harmful practices are rooted in structural inequalities and are poverty-driven - they therefore need to be addressed through many different avenues.
- To promote the abandonment of FGM, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights and gender equality. They must also address the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences.

Best practices from around the world:
- Robhi Samwelly shared her experience undergoing FGM and the work she has done to support girls and young women fleeing FGM, including establishing a safe house, education, and working closely with communities. Her work can be seen in the documentary film: “In the Name of Your Daughter”.

Proposed Actions:
- Parliamentarians should advocate for commitment, action, accountability to ending harmful practices. The issues need champions who visibly speak out and advocate for these issues.
- Government should improve accountability measures: e.g. follow-up, monitoring, peer review monitoring process, tracking expenditures.
- Push for increased budgets to address these issues, and support holistic and multi-sectoral approaches.
- Generate evidence on the magnitude of FGM - data, numbers to support projections of who is at risk.

“WE CAN PASS LAWS, BUT UNLESS WE STAY IN TOUCH WITH THOSE ON THE GROUND, WE WON’T GET THE RESULTS WE NEED”
The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Canada
Adopting the Ottawa Statement of Commitment:
The Drafting Committee took the stage, and led by Dr. Hedy Fry, the final text was read and discussed with all parliamentarians. While feedback and comments had been given throughout the two day conference, there were some outstanding issues that warranted discussion. This included negotiations on language regarding LGBTI people and how (and if) “LGBTI” should be integrated into the text. While some countries were insistent on explicitly naming discrimination against LGBTI people, others argued that because it was not included in the original ICPD Programme of Action text, and because countries are at different points regarding LGBTI rights, new language could put implementation at risk. Following a lively discussion, it was decided that discrimination “on the basis of gender and sexuality” would be included in Paragraph 5.

Other changes included new language on the need to increase the number of midwives, language highlighting the vulnerability of refugees and displaced people to sexual violence, and the inclusion of online harassment and gender-based violence on the internet.

Following these negotiations, the parliamentarians voted to adopt the Ottawa Statement of Commitment - a forward-looking and bold declaration addressing the urgency and importance of the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The statement recognizes the 25th anniversary of the ICPD and calls for a renewed political commitment towards its realization, especially within the current political discourse on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

“We advocate for the full implementation of the ICPD promise of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, as affirmed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as vital to deliver the vision for a world where preventable maternal deaths, and perinatal, infant and child mortality, are a thing of the past, where unmet need for family planning is met, where gender-based violence and harmful practices do not exist, where young people can live healthy and productive lives, where stigmatization and discrimination have no place in society and where reproductive rights are promoted, respected and protected.”

OTTAWA STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT HIGHLIGHTS

• Enact laws, policies and programmes for the enforcement of laws and policies to respect and protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals;

• Promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to have full control over their bodies and lives;

• Advocate for the provision of universal health coverage, including accessible and high quality sexual and reproductive healthcare;

• Adopt legislation to eliminate all harmful practices, including child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and further enact laws on raising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years;

• Work with governments to reduce abortion-related deaths by providing non-discriminatory universal post-abortion care;

• Remove legal barriers that prevent women and adolescent girls from access to safe abortion;

• Advocate for increased development assistance budgets for population assistance, in particular for those in vulnerable countries, and ensure the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance is met;

• Advocate for at least 10 percent of national development budgets and development assistance budgets, for sexual and reproductive health programmes, including family planning and reproductive health commodities, and the prevention of STIs, including HIV and AIDS.
Following the adoption of the Ottawa Statement of Commitment, Robert Greenhill, Executive Chairman of Global Canada, led the group through an activity where parliamentarians drafted notes to their future selves, encouraging and congratulating themselves for carrying out the urgent work of the ICPD Programme of Action and Ottawa Statement of Commitment.

The commitments were written on postcards, which will be sent to parliamentarians at a future date - a reminder of their commitment to act.

Some of the messages shared with the group included:

- A commitment to increase official development assistance (ODA);
- A commitment to convince parliament to review and approve a new midwifery law and increase the number of midwives to meet country needs;
- A commitment to open midwifery schools within their country.
Closing Statements:
Final remarks were delivered by the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau who thanked the organizing partners, parliamentarians, and civil society members for their participation and commitment to these issues. She closed by underlining the importance of the network of parliamentarians and once again pledging Canada’s commitment to the realization of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Arthur Erken of the UNFPA once again took the stage to congratulate the parliamentarians on adopting a strong statement. Mr. Erken shared a story of a young child who lost his mother due to inadequate access to reproductive health and ended with an important reminder: “This is not just about words, this is real life, real people. Let’s work to make a better world”.

Chair of the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, the Honourable Huilica Flores of Peru was the last speaker of the conference. MP Flores challenged parliamentarians to get to work to ensure that the Ottawa Statement of Commitment does not just remain as words on paper. She also emphasized the importance of finding commonality and building consensus in parliamentary spaces. Hinting at ICPD+25, she closed the conference stating, “Cairo was historic, but we have to recognize that we are in 2018 - we have the opportunity to listen, hold hands, and recognize that we need to move forward further.”
### ANNEX I. **Glossary**

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFPPD</td>
<td>Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development</td>
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<td>CAPPD</td>
<td>Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development</td>
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<td>CEFM</td>
<td>Child, early and forced marriage</td>
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<td>EPF</td>
<td>European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development</td>
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<td>FAPPD</td>
<td>Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female genital mutilation</td>
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<td>FIAP</td>
<td>Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy</td>
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<td>FPA</td>
<td>African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development</td>
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<td>GAC</td>
<td>Global Affairs Canada</td>
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<td>IAPG</td>
<td>Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development</td>
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<td>ICPD</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994, also known as the “Cairo Consensus”</td>
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<td>ICPD+25</td>
<td>25 anniversary of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQ21 / LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited, and intersex people</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)</td>
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<td>MNCH</td>
<td>Maternal, newborn, and child health</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental organizations</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the “Global Goals” or “Agenda 2030” (2015-2030)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health and rights</td>
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<td>STIs</td>
<td>Sexually transmitted infections</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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## ANNEX II. CONFERENCE AGENDA

**22-23 October 2018**

### MONDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>CANADA ROOM</td>
<td>ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION, SECURITY</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>CANADA ROOM</td>
<td>OPENING CEREMONY, Welcome address: Baroness Jenny Tonge, United Kingdom.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development, Canada</td>
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<td>• Hon. Hedy Fry, MP, Chair, Canadian Association on Population and</td>
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<td>Development (CAPPD)</td>
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<td>• Hon. Indira Huilca Flores, MP, Chair, Inter-American Parliamentary</td>
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<td>Group on Population and Development (IAPG)</td>
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<td>10:00 - 10:20</td>
<td>IPCI GROUP</td>
<td>PHOTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 - 10:40</td>
<td>CANADA ROOM</td>
<td>COFFEE BREAK</td>
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### Purpose of the Conference:
Arthur Erken, Director, Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA - ‘Agreement by acclamation on IPCI office bearers’

### Where have we come from?

**Moderators:**
- Baroness Jenny Tonge, United Kingdom.
- H.E. Frederick Stephenson, MP, Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Keynote address:**
- Rachel Snow, Chief Population and Development Branch, UNFPA

**Panel Discussion:**
Example(s) of how respective region or country has made progress since IPCI 2014 in terms of laws, policies and funding

2. Americas: Hon. Martha Lucia Micher, MP, Mexico
3. Arab: Hon. Hala Abou Ali, MP, Egypt
4. Asia: Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP, Indonesia

### Q&A

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 - 13:40 CANADA ROOM

**The power of a personal story** by Jessica Leeder, The Globe and Mail

13:40 - 14:00 CANADA ROOM

**‘Using Twitter to advance a good cause’** by Michele Austin, Head of government, public policy and philanthropy at Twitter Canada

14:00 - 15:30 COFFEE BREAK IN TRANSIT/IN BREAKOUT ROOMS

**SIMULTANEOUS BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

Cross-cutting themes
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Each breakout session will be comprised of three segments:
1. Interactive learning session;
2. State of the art presentation;
3. Discussions on way forward.

**CANADA ROOM**
**Breakout session 1:** Young people and Comprehensive Sexuality Education

**Co-chairs:** Hon. Nicolette Henry, Minister for Education, Guyana, and H.E. William Kwasi Sabi, Deputy Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation, Ghana

**Interactive:** SexEd crash course by Frederique Chabot and Britt Neron, Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

**Resource person:** Aminata Bintu Wurie, Executive Coordinator, Youth Coalition for SRR

**Rapporteur:** Kamma Blair, Programme Specialist APRO, UNFPA

**Languages:** EN, AR

**LE SALON ROOM**
**Breakout session 2:** Funding SRHR in an SDG world

**Co-chairs:** Hon. Isabelle Diks, MP, The Netherlands and H.E. Hazel Brandy-Williams, MP, Minister of Health, St Kitts & Nevis

**Interactive:** App quiz on funding needs

**Resource persons:** Jennifer Daves, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Gifty Addico, Chief, Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA

**Rapporteur:** Pernille Fenger, Chief, Copenhagen Liaison Office, UNFPA

**Language(s):** EN, FR

**LANTERN ROOM**
**Breakout session 3:** Countering resistance to SRHR

**Co-chairs:** Hon. Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus, MP, Poland and Hon. Dr. Sahar Fahed Al Qawasmeh, MP, Palestine

**Resource persons:** Neil Datta, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), Alison Drayton, Director of Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, LACRO, UNFPA and Sen. Catherine Noone, Ireland
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Rapporteur: Jennie Greaney, Communications Specialist, Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA

Languages: EN, ES

O’BORN ROOM
Breakout session 4: Inequalities

Co-chairs: Dan Vandal, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Jane Philpott of Indigenous Services, Canada and Hon. Teddy Baguilat, MP, The Philippines

Interactive: Power walk

Resource persons: Sandeep Prasad, Executive Director, ACSRR and Dr. Holly Graham, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Rapporteur: Marta Diavolova, Partnership Adviser, EECARO, UNFPA

Languages: EN, RU

15:30 - 16:45 CANADA ROOM PLENARY II
‘Where are we now?’

Moderators:
• Sen. Marilou McPhedran, MP, Canada
• Hon. Ayana Webster, MP, Trinidad and Tobago

Keynote address:
• Prof. Alaka Basu, Cornell University, Commissioner on the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Panel Discussion:
What still needs to be done in own country or respective region related to findings of the Lancet Commission

1. Africa: H.E. Chris Baryomunsi, State Minister for Housing, Uganda
2. Americas: Hon. Brenda Austin, MP, Argentina
3. Arab: Hon. Wafa’ Saeed Yacoub Bani Moustafa, MP, Jordan
4. Asia: Hon. Ann Sudmalis, MP, Australia
5. Europe: Sen. Catherine Noone, Ireland

Q&A

16:45 - 17:00 PLENARY WRAP UP - DAY 1

17:30 - 20:00 IPCI OPENING RECEPTION

Hosted by the Parliament of Canada with the Canadian Association of Midwives as guest collaborating organization.

TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2018

8:45 - 09:00 VIDEO RECAP OF DAY 1

9:00 - 10:00 CANADA ROOM PLENARY III

‘Putting women and girls first for humanitarian action, peace and development’

Moderators:
• Hon. Irene Mathyssen, MP, Canada
• Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir, MP, Chad

Intervention:
• Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director, ASRO, UNFPA, including 3 min video

Keynote addresses:
• H.E. Dr. Diene Keita, Minister for Cooperation and African Integration, Guinea
• Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for International Development, Canada
• Hon. Khamis Atieh, MP, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Jordan

Wrap up remarks by co-chairs

10:00 - 11:30 CANADA ROOM PLENARY IV

‘Where are we going? Challenges that still lie ahead’
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Moderators:
- H.E. Alando Terrelonge, MP, State Minister for Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports, Jamaica
- Hon. Hedy Fry, MP, Chair of Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD)

Keynote testimonial

Panel Discussion:
3. Arab: Hon. Sammy Gemayel, MP, Lebanon
4. Asia: Hon. Fahmi Fadzil, MP, Malaysia
5. Europe: Hon. Hannah Sarkinnen, MP, Finland

Q&A

11:30 - 13:00 COFFEE BREAK IN TRANSIT/IN BREAKOUT ROOMS

SIMULTANEOUS BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Three transformational goals
Each breakout session will be comprised of three segments:

1. Interactive learning session;
2. State of the art presentation;
3. Discussions on way forward.

O’BORN ROOM
Breakout session 5:
Contraception a human right & critical tool for women’s empowerment

Co-chairs: Pam Damoff, MP, Canada and Hon. Manavi Isabelle Djigbodi Ameganvi, MP, Togo

Interactive: Demo on contraception (UNFPA)

Resource persons:
Anneka Knutsson, Chief of Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch, UNFPA and Dr. Abram Agossou, Director of mother and child health, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Togo

Rapporteur: Kamma Blair, Programme Specialist APRO

Languages: EN & FR

LANTERN ROOM
Breakout session 7:
Human rights and security for all - Ending harmful practices and gender-based violence

Co-chairs: Hon. Aida Ismailova, MP, Kyrgyzstan and Hon. Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Canada

Interactive: Movie trailer ‘In the name of your daughter’

Resource persons: Julitta Onabanjo, Regional Director ESARO, UNFPA and Robhi Samwelly, FGM survivor and Executive Director, Hope for Women and Girls, Tanzania

Rapporteur: Marta Diavolova, Partnership Adviser, EECARO, UNFPA

Languages: EN & RU

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH
With a poster exhibition of Canadian civil society in the foyer

14:00 - 14:30 CANADA ROOM

‘Using Facebook and Instagram to advance a good cause’ by Sharon Yang, Facebook Canada

14:30 - 15:30 CANADA ROOM PLENARY V

‘Discussion and Adoption of the Ottawa Statement of Commitment’

Moderator:
• IPCI Drafting Committee Chair

Presentation of the work of the IPCI Drafting Committee

Discussion of the Draft Statement of Commitment

Adoption of the Ottawa Statement of Commitment

15:30 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 - 17:30 CANADA ROOM CLOSING CEREMONY

Keynote speech:
• Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for International Development, Canada

Empowering Moment – Postcards
• Robert Greenhill, Executive Chairman, Global Canada

Closing remarks:
• Arthur Erken, Director, Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA
• Hon. Indira Huilca Flores, MP, Peru, Chair, IAPG
• Hon. Hedy Fry, MP, Canada, Chair, CAPPD

19:00 - 21:00 IPCI FAREWELL DINNER - CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Cultural performance
Open to all Participants

*** With the support of the Governments of Canada, GIZ (Germany), Sweden, Switzerland and the UNFPA.
## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

### Andorra
Hon. Rosa Gili Casals, MP

### Antigua and Barbuda
Sen. Shawn Nicholas

### Argentina
Hon. Brenda Austin, MP

### Australia
Hon. Ann Sudmalis, MP

### Austria
Hon. Petra Bayr, MP

### Azerbaijan
Hon. Shahin Ismayilov, MP

### Belgium
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