

Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries

Report of the Launching and First Meeting

23–24 October 2013

Beijing, China



Launching of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries, 24 Oct 2013, Beijing, China

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Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

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Cover Photo Description

Seating in the Front Row (Left to Right)

Dr Boniface Omuga K'Oyugi, Senior Lecturer, Population Studies and Research Institute, University of Nairobi, Kenya, H.E. Bongsi Maria Ntuli, Hon. Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa H.E. Mr Matia Kasajja, Hon. Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of the Republic of Uganda and Board Member, PPD, Dr Joe Thomas, Executive Director, PPD, Dr John Beard, Director, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization, Dr Betty Kyadondo, Head of Family Health Department Population Secretariat (POPSEC), Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Uganda and PCC, PPD, Mr Charles Oisebe, Deputy Director, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya and PCC, PPD, Mr Shafqat Jawaid Sheikh, Director General, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (NHSRC), Pakistan, Dr Islene Araujo de Carvalho, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization, Mr Charles Zirarema, Director, Population Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Uganda

Standing behind (Left to Right)

Mr Patrick Mugirwa, Program Officer, PPD Africa Regional Office, Mr Peter Arisi Nyakwara, Assistant Director in Charge of Communication Advocacy, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya Mr George A Kichamu, Director, Technical Services and Acting Director General, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya, Miss Esther Cofie, Head, Population and Development Unit, National Population Council, Government of the Republic of Ghana and PCC, PPD, Mr Adama Diarra, Director- General, National Solidarity Fund Ministry of Social Development Solidarity and Ageing People Government of Mali, PCC, PPD and Commissioner, Global Commission on Ageing, Mr. Saikou Trawally, Director of Population Affairs National Population Commission Secretariat, The Gambia and PCC, PPD, Mr Stephen Kwankye, Executive Director, National Population Council, Government of the Republic of Ghana, Board Member, PPD, Mr Alhaj Zakari Umaru, Commissioner, National Population Commission, Nigeria, Ms Ntombenhle Skweyiya, Head of the Office of the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa, Mr Zakir Hossain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and PCC, PPD, Mr. Bassey Okon Akpanyung, Director, National Planning Commission, Nigeria, Dr Munyaradzi Murwira, Executive Director, Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council, and PCC, PPD Mr AUSM Saifullah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of Bangladesh, Dr Mahbubur Rashid, Coordinator, Global Commission on Ageing, Mr Jacques van Zuydam, Chief Director Population and Development, Department of Social Development, South Africa and PCC, PPD, Mr Hu Hongtao, Commissioner, Department of International Cooperation, National Health and Family Planning Commission of China and PCC, PPD Mr Faniran Sanjo Oladepo, Assistant Director (Multilateral), National Planning Commission, Nigeria and PCC, PPD, Mr Abdul Habib Eimal Latif, Adviser to Minister, Ministry of Public Health, Afghanistan, Dr Nazrul Islam, Program Manager, PPD

“Countries with an ageing population need policy responses to support the elderly so as to remove barriers to their full participation in society while protecting their rights and dignity”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 68th Session, United Nations General Assembly, 2013 (A/68/202)

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AOB	Any Other Business
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Center
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African State
Ex-com	Executive Committee
GOPFP	General Office for Population and Family Planning
HE	His/Her Excellency
IAGG	International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MC	Member Countries
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIPAA	The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MNCH	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NHSRC	Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination
NIHORT	National Institute of Population Research and Training
NPC	National Population Council
PCC	Partner Country Coordinator
POPSEC	Population Secretariat
PPD	Partners in Population and Development
RIPS	Regional Institute for Population Studies
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TORs	Terms of References
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organization

Preface

According to the United Nation's projections, by 2050 there would be more people worldwide who are over 60 years than there are children under 14 years. About 80% of them would be living in developing countries. The global total is expected to rise from the current 810 million to more than 2 billion by 2050, with the most rapid increase taking place in developing countries. Twenty-five member countries of PPD constituted 48.6% of the over 60 years world population in 2012, and the proportion is projected to increase to 57.1% by 2050. Almost all of the member countries of PPD would have more than 10% of their population over 60 years by 2050.

With this background, PPD, in technical partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), established a 'Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries (the Commission). Her Excellency Ms Bongsi Maria Ntuli, Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa, launched the Commission on 24 October 2013 in Beijing, China. The goal of the Commission is to enable gender, equity and rights-based policies and programming that would improve the quality of life of the ageing population in developing countries, including the 25 member countries of PPD. The first meeting of the Commission was held on 23 October 2013 in Beijing, China. This has led to an action plan and recommendations for the PPD Board to respond to the challenges, and seize the opportunities brought by the ageing population.

This report presents the background and rationale for establishing the Commission, launching news, and action plan and recommendations of the first meeting of the Commission held in October 2013 in Beijing, China.

On behalf of PPD, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting the launching and the first meeting of the Commission along with the Annual PPD Governance events in October 2013. I acknowledge the support and commitments of the PPD Board Members, Partner Country Coordinators, and Senior Government Officials of PPD member countries in launching the Commission. I would like to thank the Commissioners, resource persons of the Commission and other participants for their expert contributions made at the first meeting of the Commission. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr John Beard and Dr Islene Araujo de Carvalho of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Mr Naoyuki Kobayashi of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the commitments they made during the events to support the Commission

Dr Joe Thomas
Executive Director
PPD

Executive Summary

According to the United Nation's projections, by 2050 there would be more people in the world who are over 60 years than children under 14. The global total is expected to rise from the current 810 million to more than 2 billion by 2050. It would be the developing countries who would have about 80% of that population. A preliminary analysis of the situation of ageing in PPD partner countries indicated that the 25 member countries constituted 48.6 % of the world population over 60 years in 2012 and the rate is projected to increase to 57.1% by 2050. Nearly all of the member countries of PPD would have more than 10 % of their population over 60 years by 2050. Only 2 PPD member countries fall within the first 50 rankings of the Global Age Watch Index, calculated based on income security, health status, employment, education, and enabling environment for older people. Moreover, there is lack of data on policy and program gaps, and a non-conducive environment for older persons in the context of the Madrid Plan of Action in developing countries. There is also lack of data on the ageing population, particularly disaggregation based on age groups, sex, education, economic and social status.

With this background, PPD, in technical partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) established a 'Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries. Her Excellency Ms Bongsi Maria Ntuli, Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa launched the "Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries" in the presence of His Excellency Mr Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of the Republic of Uganda, Board Member, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) and H.E. Dr David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health And Child Welfare, Government of Zimbabwe, Board Member, (PPD) on 24 October 2013 in Beijing, China.

The goal of the Commission is to enable gender, equity and rights based policies and programming that would improve the quality of life of the ageing population in developing countries including the 25 member countries of PPD. The Commission consists of 15 Commissioners and 5 resource persons who are reputed leaders in their respective fields and public life, and representing PPD member and other developing countries.

The first meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing was held on 23 October 2013 in Beijing, China. Dr Islene Araujo de Carvalho, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization (WHO) chaired the meeting. The meeting, attended by 6 Commissioners, 2 resource persons of the Commission and 8 observers, had 12 absentees – 9 Commissioners and 3 resource persons of the Commission. The outcome of the meeting was a call to action and recommendations for the PPD Board to respond to the challenges, and seize the opportunities brought by population ageing.

Overview of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries

1.0 Introduction

Achieving longer life expectancy at birth was one of the major goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994, Cairo, Egypt. Since then, considerable progress has been made to realize the goal. Currently, the population aged 60 years or over is growing at a faster rate than any other age group. The reality is similar in almost all countries of the world. Declining fertility rates and increased life expectancy contributed to the increasing rate of the ageing population. Improvements in health care, nutrition, sanitation and economic well-being have also contributed to the rapid increase in the ageing population, particularly in developing countries.

United Nations already projected that by 2050, there would be more people worldwide in the age group of over 60 years than children aged under 14 years. Alarmingly, about 80% of these older persons of the globe would be living in the developing countries. The global total of older persons is expected to rise from the current 810 million to more than 2 billion by 2050 with the most rapid escalation predicted to take place in developing countries.

Ageing is taking place all over the world, but with a different pace in different regions. The statistics of 2012 reveal that in Asia, 11% of the population was over 60 years. On the contrary, this population was a mere 6% in Africa and 10% in Latin America. Projections forecast that, by 2050, the rates would have increased to 24 % in Asia, 10% in Africa and 25% in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Twenty-five member countries of PPD¹ constituted 48.6% of the world population of over 60 years in 2012. This proportion is projected to increase to 57.1% by 2050, and by then also almost – all of the member countries of PPD would have more than 10% of their population over 60 years (Appendix A, Status of Ageing Population in PPD Member Countries). The Global Age Watch Index calculated based on income security, health status, employment, education, and enabling environment for older people identifies only 2 PPD member countries² that fall within the first 50 rankings.

One of humanity's greatest achievements is that people are living longer. To date, more than 180 million older persons live in poverty in developing countries and their rights and needs are not adequately addressed. For the developing countries, – especially those that are currently still in the process of preparing relevant policies and programs, – the growing number of the ageing populations is posing a major challenge for the existing health system, social security, employment and societal safety nets.

¹ Bangladesh, Benin, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe

² China and Thailand

In many countries, financial barriers often make it almost impossible for older persons to obtain essential medical and other health-related care. Older persons who are poor and living in rural areas have limited or no access to required health care and social protection.

It is rather unfortunate that ageing is often looked at very negatively and branded as a burden to society and resources. However, what is overlooked is that ageing population presents not just challenges, also opportunities. Many older persons make major contributions in their families with responsibilities of caring and rearing, sharing of experiences and knowledge from the repository of wisdom they have nurtured over the years to grandchildren, and finally socially and economically by participating in paid and unpaid labor.

The World Health Organization's initiative on championing a life course approach to healthy and active ageing (<http://www.who.int/ageing/en/>) is commendable, and deserves attention of the governments across the globe. The contributions of the ageing population can be enhanced by measures taken to help them to remain active by improving their health and functional status.

1.1 Scope of the Global Commission on Ageing

While increasing of longevity is a positive indicator of social, economic and technological development, the ageing population is also raising concern in developing countries. This is because of the inability and limited resources to provide social protection, health care and income security for the growing numbers of older citizens. The opportunities and challenges of ageing must be addressed by appropriate policies, budget lines and program implementation.

In the ICPD beyond 2014 and Post 2015 Development Agenda consultations, ageing has emerged as an area which has attracted global attention to ensure sustainable developments. Even though the consultations recognized ageing population as vibrant and essential contributors to the development and stability of society, the questions posed were: “What more can and should be done to utilize their potential?” “What would be the relevant recommendations to put the needs and contributions of older persons as an integrated part of the sustainable development agenda?”

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) recognized population ageing as a development issue and recommended that the developing countries have to put strategies, policies, legislation and programs in place to achieve the development goals. The second review and appraisal of the MIPAA (E/CN.5/2013/6) revealed, that ageing and older persons continued to be viewed and acted upon in policy silos e.g. health, pensions, social care etc. from a welfare-based based angle, when a rights-based approach has been recommended to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights (A/68/167) to realize the potentials.

While global attention on population ageing is rapidly increasing, it is becoming more evident that existing responses are disjointed and outdated. Both the MIPAA and the WHO Active ageing policy frameworks are over 10 years old. It also appears that the policy and program challenges on ageing in the developing countries (Global South) are different from developed countries. Member countries need more up-to-date guidance to help them prioritize actions in a rapidly changing world. Moreover, there is identified lack of data on policy and program gaps and situation of older persons in the context of MIPAA in developing countries. There is also lack of data on population ageing particularly disaggregated by age groups, sex, education, economic and social status.

Against this background, PPD, in technical partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), established the 'Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries'. The goal is to enable gender, equity and rights based policies and programming that would improve the quality of life of the ageing population in developing countries, including the 25 member countries of PPD. The Commission consists of 15 Commissioners and 5 resource persons (Appendix B, Biographies of the Commissioners and Resource Persons) who are reputed leaders in their respective fields and public life, and representing PPD member and other developing countries.

A major activity of the global commission will be to:

- Conduct country assessments on ageing population, health and social protection.
- Identify policies, programs, gaps and best practices in developing countries.

The findings will be used to:

- Design advocacy strategies to inform policy development to ensure better economic security, health, dignity and well-being in old age.
- Help policy makers to formulate a gender, equity and rights informed policy framework.
- Define the strategies, roadmaps and action plans to address the opportunities and challenges of ageing population.

1.3 Goal of the Commission

The Commission has the goals to:

- Enable gender, equity and rights based policies and programming that would improve the quality of life of ageing populations in developing countries.
- Inform policy development in low and middle income countries including the 25 member countries of PPD.
- Identify opportunities for South-South Cooperation and exchanges.

Launching of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries

2.0 Launching of the Commission on 23rd Oct 2013, in Beijing, China

Her Excellency Ms Bongsi Maria Ntuli, Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa launched the “Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries” in the presence of His Excellency Mr Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of the Republic of Uganda, Board Member, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) and H.E. Dr David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health And Child Welfare Government of Zimbabwe, Board Member, (PPD) on 24 October 2013 in Beijing, China.

In her launching address, H.E. Ms Bongsi Maria Ntuli mentioned that the population aged 60 years or over is currently growing at a faster rate than any other age group, and by 2050 there would be more people worldwide in the age group over 60 years than children aged under 14 years. Her concern was about the 80% older persons of the globe who would be living in developing countries, with the estimate being over 57% in the 25 member countries of PPD. She mentioned the importance of preparedness and how to improve the ability of developing countries to provide social protection, health care and income security for the growing numbers of their older citizens. She mentioned that South Africa has some good policies and programs for older persons and how to promote active ageing.



Launching of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries, 24 Oct 2013, Beijing, China

From left to right:

Mr. Peter Arisi Nyakwara, Assistant Director, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya, Mr. Charles Oisebe, Deputy Director, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya and PCC, PPD, Mr. Hu Hongtao Commissioner, Department of International Cooperation, National Health and Family Planning Commission of China and PCC, PPD, H.E. Bongsi Maria Ntuli, Hon. Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa, Dr. John Beard, Director, Department of

2.1 Launching meeting discussions

In his speech H.E. Dr David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, Honorable Minister, Ministry Of Health and Child Welfare Government of Zimbabwe, Board Member, (PPD) emphasized:

- Active ageing and the importance of exercise, good nutrition while being both mentally and physically active.
- Not promoting old age homes instead keeping older persons within families.
- Need for appropriate policies and programs to address the problems.
- Not to be scared of the problems.
- Utilizing the opportunities of ageing population and turn them into Demographic Dividends.

H.E. Mr. Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of the Republic of Uganda, Board Member, PPD mentioned:

- Older persons should live in dignity.
- There is recognition of older persons within the population policy in Uganda.
- There is provision of a modest social pension for the ageing population in Uganda.
- There is advocacy for formulation of an Upper Chamber in the Parliament in Uganda where older people from diverse disciplines would be members and share their wisdom and experiences.



From left to right: Launching of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries, 24 Oct 2013, Beijing, China

H.E. Bongi Maria Ntuli, Hon. Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa, Dr John Beard, Director, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization H.E. Dr David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, Hon. Minister, Ministry Of Health and Child Welfare Government of Zimbabwe and Board Member, PPD and Dr Joe Thomas, Executive Director, PPD

Dr John Beard, Director, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization mentioned:

- There are several misconceptions on ageing. For example, ageing is an issue of the developed world, ageing is a problem etc.
- The challenges of ageing while also identifying the opportunities associated with it.
- There would be 1.6 billion older persons over 60 years and 400 million older persons over 80 years in low and middle income countries by the mid of this century (100 million in China alone).
- Ageing is a development issue, and older persons are incredible human resources for socio-economic development.
- The need for caution in utilizing the resources of older persons
- Not to marginalize older persons
- The importance of skill, resources, innovative approaches and capacity of South-South Cooperation to address the challenges of ageing and utilizing the opportunities for development.
- That response to ageing is not necessarily to be driven by the experiences of North or what the North did.
- By 2030, there would be more older persons in Sub-Saharan Africa than either Western or Eastern Europe.
- That the HIV epidemic left millions of older persons, who no longer have children to support them in Sub-Saharan Africa. He termed them as orphan older persons.

Mr Stephen Owusu Kwankye, Associate Professor, Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) at the University of Ghana, Ghana, and Board Member, PPD and Commissioner of the Global Commission on Ageing talked on:

- The wisdom that the older persons bring into society.
- Being cautious about the breaking down of the traditional public support system, and peace and livelihood of older persons in Africa.
- The evolvement of a mechanism for not only living longer but to be able to contribute a more healthy and comfortable life.
- Ghana launched the National Ageing Policy in 2010 recommending many facilities for older persons.
- The challenges of implementing the policy and the recommendations.
- The need for the Global Commission on Ageing to work on policies and programs for older persons with exigency.

- The importance of experience sharing through South-South Cooperation among the member countries to make progress.
- The importance for mobilizing resources for pushing the agenda forward.

Mr George Alusa Kichamu, Director Technical Services and Acting Director General, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya, and Commissioner, Global Commission on Ageing, mentioned:

- The importance Kenyan Government has given to older persons by including ageing in the national population policy.
- There is a provision for supporting older persons with money and health care in Kenya.
- The need for more program and policy advocacy on ageing and on the initiatives of the ageing commission.
- The issue of migration associated with ageing population

Mr Hu Hongtao, Commissioner, Department of International Cooperation, National Health and Family Planning Commission of China and Partner Country Coordinator, PPD stated:

- There is a law in China that punishes children if they don't take care of their older parents.
- The absolute need for South-South Cooperation to address issues of ageing population.

Dr Shafqat Jawaid Sheikh, Director General, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (NHSRC), Pakistan talked on:

- Some good practices on ageing (e.g. geriatric medicine, health services for chronic illnesses, facilities with passports, identity cards, etc.) of Pakistan and willingness to share those practices with other countries.
- The recent law proposed in Pakistan for social protection of older persons.

All the dignitaries at the launching ceremony congratulated and thanked PPD for its timely initiative to establish the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries. They also thanked the World Health Organization (WHO) for its commitment to provide technical support to the Commission.

They urged the donors, UN agencies, private sectors and foundations, regional groups, Northern countries, PPD member countries and other developing countries to support the Commission in fulfilling its role in guiding the developing countries to address gender, rights and equity based social protection, health care and income security of the growing ageing populations.

Dr Joe Thomas, Executive Director, PPD who moderated the launching ceremony of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries thanked all the dignitaries for their commitments to support the activities of the Commission.

PPD Board Members and PPD Partners Country Coordinators, Senior Government Officials of PPD member countries, Commissioners and Resource Persons of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries, Dr Islene Araujo de Carvalho, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization and other dignitaries comprised the delegates that were present during the meeting.

First Meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries

3.0 Meeting proceedings and recommendations

The first meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing was held on 23 October 2013 in Beijing, China. (Appendix C, Meeting Minutes of the first meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing). Dr Islene Araujo de Carvalho, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization (WHO) chaired the meeting. The agenda of the meeting included discussions on:

- Terms of References (ToRs) of the Commission and Commissioners
- Protocol on country assessment
- Work plan
- Fund raising strategies.

Dr Mahbubur Rashid, Coordinator, Global Commission on Ageing at PPD, facilitated the discussions. The meeting was attended by 6 Commissioners and 2 resource persons of the Commission and 8 observers. Nine Commissioners and 3 resource persons were not able to attend the meeting.



First meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing held on 23 October 2013 in Beijing, China

From left to right:

Dr Mahbubur Rashid, Coordinator, Global Commission on Ageing, Dr Islene Araujo de Carvalho, Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization, Dr Gibson Mhlanga, Principal Director-Preventive Services, Ministry of Health and Child Care Government of Zimbabwe and Commissioner, Global Commission on Ageing, Mr ADAMA Diarra, Director- General, National Solidarity Fund Ministry of Social Development Solidarity and Ageing People Government of Mali, PCC PPD, and Commissioner, Global Commission on Ageing and Mr PHAM VU HOANG, Director, Centre for Population Research, Information and Documentation, General Office for Population-Family Planning (GOPFP), Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Commissioner, Global Commission on Ageing).

The meeting discussed very meticulously all the agenda items and made the following action plan and recommendations for the PPD Board to respond to the challenges, and seize the opportunities brought by ageing population:

a) Resources mobilization must be the first priority.

Recommendations:

- Board to set up an executive working group to develop a resource mobilization strategy.
- Convene a Partners (Donors dialogue) meeting, inviting the Northern countries, BRICS countries, platforms such as APEC and ECOWAS, private sector and foundations, and draft a concept note for resource mobilization.
- Resource mobilization strategies also include matching grants between PPD and member countries.
- Encourage countries with more resources available to volunteer to pilot interventions, and show case to other members.

b) On the roll out of the interventions at country level

Recommendations:

- PPD to initially set up a country Task Force on Ageing and Health, led by the local government, and coordinated by the responsible PPD office and WHO country office.

c) The scope of the policy work should be carefully defined.

Recommendations:

- Use as reference the Madrid Plan of Action, however with a focus on health, social security and participation of older adults.

d) The two main country based interventions of the Commission are the Country Assessment, and the Policy dialogues.

Recommendations:

- Both can be national, bi-country or regional activities depending on the different realities.
- Situation analysis report should be aimed to identify priorities policies/interventions for implementation in selected countries.
- Since countries have different realities, each policy recommendation must be tailored to the reality and needs of the respective country.
- Establishment of a technical working group of experts coordinated by WHO and PPD in order to develop the methodology for the Country Assessments/Situation Analysis.
- Assessment tool to be produced as a result of this work, so the data can be harmonized across different settings

e) The initial project implementation schedule is 24 months, and potentially 30 months in accordance to review.

- f) PPD board to grant seed money to start implementation of the initial activities of the Commission



Participants of the first meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing

From left to right:

Mr Keshav Desiraju, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Government of India, Mr Naoyuki Kobayashi, Deputy Director-General, Human Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr AUSM Saifullah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of Bangladesh and Mr George A. Kichamu, Director, Technical Services and Acting Director General, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Kenya

Appendixes

- A: Status of Ageing Population in PPD member countries
- B: Biographies of the Commissioners and Resource Persons
- C: Minutes of the First Meeting of the Global Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries

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