

Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health Meeting
Building the capacity of African policy makers for improved reproductive health and
family planning outcomes in the region: Challenges and opportunities
Kampala, Uganda 30 October 2018

Statement by Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa
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Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of Parliament of Uganda
H.E. Mr. David Bahati, State Minister of Finance, Government of Uganda
Mr. Alain Sibenaler, UNFPA, Representative in Uganda
Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director of AFIDEP
Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Director General, National Population Council of Uganda
Honorable Members of Parliaments
Heads and representatives of International and National Organizations
Respected Partner Country Coordinators
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government of Uganda for hosting this important meeting and for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful seven hills city of Kampala. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the organizers of this meeting, particularly, NEAPACOH, PPD/ARO, UNFPA, AFIDEP and IPPF/Africa Region for their efforts to make this gathering successful and our stay memorable. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be here today and address this August Audience to talk about Partners in Population and Development and the leading role it is playing to promote south-south cooperation in RH/FP, population and development.

I would like to invite you to watch the video about the 24 years' journey of PPD.

Honorable Members of Parliament
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

PPD strongly believes in the important role played by Parliamentarians in mobilizing and enhancing political commitment on development issues including health and they have also the power to decide and streamline the necessary financial support for health related programs. The theme of our meeting is about capacity building, one of the work streams for PPD and is essential for our policy makers and professionals to improve and retain the skills and knowledge needed to perform competently and up to date. Further, as per the Sustainable Development Goals 17, capacity building was included as important target, "enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and partnership". International commitments like ICPD, MDGs, SDGs 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063 were made for reducing inequality and promoting development in developing countries through different means and method.

To these global agenda, PPD member countries contributed through SSTC in improving reproductive health indicators and reducing maternal mortality rates in sub-Saharan African countries and in southern Asia using comprehensive interventions based on successful approaches shared and adapted to similar social and cultural environment. We have good examples to share from our African member countries working with other developing countries to reduce inequalities in health and achieve concrete results in short period of time and with minimum financial resources because South-South cooperation is doing more with less.

NEAPACOH is an excellent opportunity to initiate changes in African Countries in the fields of RH/FP, Population and Development through exchange of best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building within the framework of south-south cooperation and this is what PPD is promoting and stands ready to support and sustain.

African Parliamentarians are facing same challenges in northern, eastern, central, western and southern African countries: struggling for mobilizing more domestic resources to health programs. It is not an easy task taking into consideration country's priorities and needs. That's why RH/FP Must be a national priority with the political support at the top level of the decision and then resources and additional efforts will follow. The question is how we can make and maintain RH/FP a national priority?

There are good examples among African Countries and also in Asia and through south-south cooperation we can find practical and effective solutions. In this context, Inter region cooperation is also a way to bring solutions and I express the wish to see the next NEAPACOH meeting attended by Parliamentarians from Asian countries to extend this exchange and learn from other successful experiences in the other part of the globe. Inter-region south-south cooperation is what makes the uniqueness of PPD as an intergovernmental organization bringing Ministers of Health, finance, planning, population and senior governmental officials from 26 member countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to annually review their progress towards the achievement of global development agenda and face emerging issues in RH and Population at the International Inter-ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Population and Development on the occasion of its governance meetings

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We, African people, have great opportunities for African countries to develop national RH/FP programs through several bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms and also through TICAD, (Tokyo International Conference on African Development), FOCAC (Forum of China-Africa Cooperation) which all recognized the fact that resilient health system for universal health coverage lays the foundation for a healthy and productive population which contributes to inclusive growth. The Chinese South-South Cooperation Fund for development of African countries and "One Belt One Road Initiative" are the potential opportunities for Africa which need to be cultivated jointly and collectively. We need to extensively work with development partners on equal partnership programs for the benefit of our population.

The role of Parliamentarians is very important in this regard to strengthen political commitment on south-south and triangular cooperation. NEAPACOH has been actively engaged in promoting knowledge and experience sharing in order to repositioning reproductive health and family planning in Africa since 2008. SDGs 2030 has given us more space to work further together for creating stronger leadership and stewardship for implementation of agenda 2030. The role of NEAPACOH further can be expanded towards deepening South-South Cooperation in order to fruitful exchange of best practices among Africa and Asia regions and to achieve SDG's 2030. Partners in Population and Development (PPD) as leader of South–South cooperation in the areas of reproductive health, population and development can play more responsive role with the parliamentarians of Africa having better understanding and extend support to PPD on how we can effectively play our roles to face the challenges, to make targeted policy dialogue, identify innovative practices for the attainment of regional and global commitments and achieve the SDGs 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063.

Honorable Members of Parliament

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Before concluding, I wish to inform you that PPD and UNFPA have been working for establishing an international forum for promoting South-South and triangular Cooperation. A joint statement was adopted during our 23rd Board meeting held in Bali last month and both organizations expressed their commitment to strengthen political engagement to RH/FP, Population and development issues through capacity building and sharing of best practices.

I wish great success to our meeting and thank you for your attention.