



KAMPALA CALL TO ACTION

NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF HEALTH (NEAPACOH) MEETING - 2018

“Building the capacity of African policy makers for improved reproductive health and family planning outcomes in the region: Challenges and Opportunities”

Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, 30-31 October 2018

Link to meeting documents: <http://www.partners-popdev.org/aro/programs/regional-networks/>

African Parliamentarians agree on the 2018 Kampala Call to Action

The meeting of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) that was held on 30th-31st October 2018, adopted the **Kampala Call to Action**, whose core principles are; improved reproductive health and family planning for sustainable development. The two days' gathering was organized under the auspices of NEAPACOH and hosted by Parliament of Uganda and Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) and other stakeholders under the theme of; ***"Building the capacity of African policy makers for improved reproductive health and family planning outcomes in the region: Challenges and Opportunities."*** The objectives of the meeting pointed to; sharing progress on implementation of the country commitments that were made during the 2017 annual NEAPACOH meeting, build the capacity of policy makers to contribute to enhanced accountability, and stewardship for the implementation of health commitments in the region; and developing country-specific commitments for the subsequent year. As part of capacity strengthening, a pre-meeting session was held on 29th October, to share the findings of the State of African Women Report, which provides insights on the extent of implementation of the Maputo Protocol at the regional and national levels. Emphasis was put on the need to promote information exchange, and identification of key areas of follow up action to advance Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Maternal and Child Health programming on the continent.

The Kampala Call to Action made recommendations under six key thematic areas namely; **Leadership, Legislation, Advocacy, Financing, Strategies and Programmes**, as well as Strengthening NEAPACOH institutionally. The recommendations stressed accelerating and outlining key actions to promote RH/FP, Gender Equality as well as Population and Development. Participants came from 26 countries among whom members of parliament from 15 African countries as well as development partners, researchers and members of CSOs from 11 other countries. The official opening ceremony was presided by the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, **Speaker of Parliament of Uganda**. Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Uganda's **Minister of State for Housing**, gave the key note address. Hon. David Bahati, **Minister of State for Finance**, Planning and Economic Development presided the closing ceremony.

The meeting attracted several other high profile participants including; Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Director General of National Population Council of Uganda, Mr. Alain Sibenaler, UNFPA Uganda Country Representative, Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director of African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), and Hon Ruth Labode, chairperson of NEAPACOH and Zimbabwe Parliamentary committee of health. Equally present and among key speakers were Prof. Francis Omaswa, Executive Director, African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST), and Prof Yoswa Dambisya, Director General, ECSA Health Community. Other participants and presenters were researchers and experts from Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA), AFIDEP, the RightByHer Campaign, IPPF ARO, Palladium, African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), and the Kenya National Council for Population and Development. Among others, the meeting noted SRHR/FP and Maternal Health as areas remaining critically important for sustainable development in Africa and hence the need to continue positioning them high on the continent's development agenda.

KAMPALA CALL TO ACTION

We the delegates representing Parliaments from 15 African countries¹, as well as representatives of development partners, Civil Society and other stakeholders representing various countries from Africa and beyond²; who gathered at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, from 30-31 October 2018, at the Meeting of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) under the theme of **“Building the capacity of African policy makers for improved reproductive health and family planning outcomes: Challenges and Opportunities;”**

Appreciating the Parliament of Uganda and Partners in Population and Development (PPD), through its Africa Regional Office, (PPD ARO) and all the partners,³ for hosting the meeting which enabled Parliamentarians to interface with experts, researchers, civil society voices and development partners;

Recalling the commitments made at the International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD) Plan of Action adopted in 1994, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the UN in September 2015, and at several NEAPACOH meetings in the area of reproductive health, family planning, population and development;

Concerned by the slow progress in implementation of the foregoing commitments on health at regional and international levels, especially the Maputo Protocol and Maputo Plan of Action as well as the renewed commitment towards comprehensive Primary Health Care as espoused by the Astana Declaration of October 2018;

¹ Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe

² Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Tunisia, United Kingdom, USA and Zambia

³ Support was received from organizations including National Population Council (NPC) of Uganda; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP); International Planned Parenthood Africa Regional Office (IPPFARO); The RightByHer Campaign, Africa Population and Health Research Center (APHRC).

Acknowledging the strategic value of NEAPACOH to promote knowledge sharing, through the exchange of best practices, facilitation of policy dialogue and identification of innovative practices to the attainment of national, regional and global goals on reproductive health, population and sustainable development through South- South Cooperation;

Realizing the value of NEAPACOH in strengthening the capacity of policy makers to increase their knowledge and facilitate decision making for enhanced accountability, leadership and stewardship for the implementation of reproductive health and family planning related commitments in the region;

Reiterating the fundamental principle that family planning is both a right and an investment through which our countries will realize the demographic dividend, and thereby realize the aspirations of the SDGs for ending poverty by 2030 as well as to universally promote shared economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection, in the spirit of leaving no one behind;

Mindful of the critical role of parliamentarians in representation, legislation, budget appropriation and oversight for all national processes towards the achievement of national, regional and global development goals and targets, including the SDGs;

Noting that progress has been slow in most countries on implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development five years later (AADPD+5); yet reproductive health and family planning remain critically important for the sustainable development of the African continent;

Appreciating the crucial role of continuous research, evidence, reporting and monitoring as critical for promoting the role of parliamentarians in advocating for reproductive health and family planning issues in the region;

Appreciating the contributions of development partners, Civil Society Organizations, youth and faith based organizations, the private sector and other key stakeholders to support reproductive health, family planning and population programmes;

Recognizing that there is more to do to address the unfinished agenda on health, including SRHR, in addition to emerging challenges like Tuberculosis, HIV AIDS, cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the renewed focus on comprehensive Primary Health Care;

Emphasizing the importance of harnessing the Demographic Dividend as a critical window of opportunity for accelerated growth and transformation if focus is put on investing in the adolescents and youth as engines of growth; as well as alignment of national legislation, policies and resource allocation for SRHR and Education;

Now therefore adopt this Kampala Call to Action as a basis for human capital development and sustainable growth development as the core principle.

We accordingly call for:

Country Leadership to:

1. Continue providing leadership and stewardship on policy, legislation and perform budgetary oversight for reproductive health and family planning.
2. Accord highest priority to integration of reproductive health and family planning into national development plans and strategies across sectors.
3. Promote and support general awareness on reproductive health and family planning in addition to the emerging killer and non-communicable diseases.

Effective and harmonized legislation to:

1. Support a policy environment that ensures greater accountability and oversight of the implementation of reproductive health and family planning programming.
2. Support initiatives for strengthening human resources for health including adequate human resource for health, financing and skilling.
3. Initiate, support and enact laws that lead to the realization of UHC and PHC where SRH is integrated.

On Advocacy

1. Issue public statements supportive of RH/FP to mobilize both political and popular support.

2. Support and monitor implementation of Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and development, SDGs, Maputo Protocol and Maputo Plan of Action as well as other regional and international commitments that address issues of gender equality, population, and harmful practices such as FGM and child marriages.
3. Advocate for investments in young people with a focus on education especially for the girl-child, health, participation in decision making, skilling, job creation in view of harnessing the Demographic Dividend.

On Financing

1. Advocate for increased gender- responsive government resource allocation and other domestic spending towards reproductive health and family planning programming.
2. Ensure improved oversight and accountability in public expenditures and track RH/FP resources using clear indicators.
3. Advocate for increased funding and technical support for promoting South-South cooperation in Africa for improvement of maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and sexual reproductive health services.

On Strategies and Programming

1. Collaborate with political and other leaders to optimize and/or strengthen their capacity to advocate for FP and population health issues.
2. Ensure the continuous monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health and family planning programmes, using robust systems, informed by clear indicators.
3. Promote South-South sharing of innovative good practices on maternal, new born, child and adolescent health including RH and FP.
4. Support the drive against child, early and forced marriages and teenage pregnancy and advocate for initiatives that protect and keep pregnant girls in school.
5. Promote and strengthen partnerships, including public-private partnerships in promoting RH/FP information and services.
6. Support the implementation of a comprehensive mechanism and multi sectoral and shared approach for monitoring the implementation of commitments made at NEAPACOH and at other regional and international fora.

On Strengthening NEAPACOH

1. Design and deliver a sustained capacity building programme for parliamentarians and parliamentary committees to increase their knowledge of the linkages between RH/FP and development.
2. Expand opportunities for increasing evidence use by parliamentarians.
3. Undertake South-South study tours to different regions for best practices sharing and learning lessons for replication in country contexts.

On all the Partners

In their respective niche and areas of strength to support NEAPACOH in the implementation of this call.\

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<http://www.partners-popdev.org/aro/>

Annex I: Country Commitments;

(Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe).

Annex II: Meeting Report

Annex III: Full list of participants by country.