

Parliamentarians and advocates for health financing gathered in Kampala under the Network of

African Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH)

Inadequate domestic financing for health, coupled with inefficient utilization of available investments has remained one of the impediments to achieving UHC and SDGs among many African countries. While governments in Africa have committed and signed on to UHC frameworks including the Abuja Declaration and the Africa Leadership meeting (ALM) commitments, implementation of these commitments at country level remains uneven.



A cross section of participants from across Africa at the NEAPACOH meeting held in Kampala on 22 – 23 February 2023.

Dressed in red in the centre is the guest of honour; Uganda Minister of Health; Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng and on her immediate right is Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister for ICT in Uganda.

With this background, Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), in partnership with the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), PATH, Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Faith to Action Network and the Network of African Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH) organized the 2023 NEAPACOH meeting under the theme of; **“Achieving UHC and SDGs in the post COVID-19 era: The Role of Parliamentarians”**. with the following sub themes:

1. Towards achieving UHC and SDGs: The key imperatives;

2. Accelerating Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Information & Services for Adolescents and Young People;
3. Accelerating Domestic Health Financing for achieving UHC and SDGs in Africa;
4. Integrating Population, Health and Environment for sustainable development; and
5. Strengthening African leadership, stewardship and accountability for achieving UHC and the SDGs;

The meeting took place from February 22-23, 2023 at Speke Resort, Kampala- Uganda and drew participation of Parliamentarians government officials and Civil Society Organizations from **Benin, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Eswatini, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**

Presenters at the meeting included Minister of Health; Minister for ICT and National Guidance; and Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Planning) from Uganda. Others were from AFIDEP, PATH, Faith to Action Network, COMMAT, Makerere University, Marie Stopes Uganda, AfriYAN, African Parliamentary Network on Sustainable Development Goals, Afya na Haki Uganda, Amref Health Africa, ACHEST, East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat, National Population Commission Secretariat of the Gambia, TARSC/EQUINET among others.



Attentive participants during a plenary session on domestic financing for health.

This meeting provided space for capacity building and constructive discussions between and among African parliamentarians, including technocrats, researchers and civil society; deliberation on priority policy interventions, building of momentum for political will, national ownership and support in order to consolidate the gains made towards achieving



opportunity for sharing good practices and lessons learned in

Officers from AFIDEP and PPD ARO joined by some partners at the launch of the Domestic Health Financing Project

Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals; devise means for increasing domestic investments in health and for fostering effective utilization of resources for health with a focus on PHC and MNCAH in African countries.

The meeting provided

advancing achievement of UHC and SDGs including progress registered by countries on implementation of past NEAPACOH commitments; as well as providing space for facilitating networking with other regional implementers; and convening country, regional and international stakeholders and champions for advocacy, accountability, and collaborative learning.

During the meeting, a number of issues affecting attainment of UHC and SDGs came up,



including slow progress towards achieving commitments made, high Total Fertility Rate and Population Growth Rates; slowing down gains towards harnessing the Demographic Dividend, Limited resources for PHC interventions, Low uptake of FP services especially by the youth, Limited access to SRH information by young people, Low funding for UHC and SDGs, Role of CSOs in policy

implementation, Low involvement of young people in decision making, Inability to meet the Abuja Declaration target of 15% to health and low uptake of new technologies, among others.

The meeting generated recommendations including; designing of interventions that address Africa's population challenges of high TFR and high population growth rates. It devised means to steer reforms in Public Finance Management (PFM) to improve health

sector spending and conduct budget tracking for health sector to help reduce wastages and inefficiencies as well as need to sustain advocacy for more financing for health including establishment of policies and systems of mutual accountability to uphold people's fundamental right to health, sustain PHC investments, and keep improving population health and well-being.



Delegates shared progress in implementation of the commitments made at the 2019 NEAPACOH meeting and made new commitments towards accelerating attainment of UHC and SDGs. The achievements included 138% increase towards Government allocation for family planning commodities in Malawi from MK200 Million in the

previous year to MK475 Million in 2022/2023 Financial Year and the Gambia enacting a National Health Insurance Scheme in November 2021, in pursuance of Universal Health Coverage. A resolution (The Kampala Call to Action 2023) was presented and adopted by participants. The Call to Action is annexed.



NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF HEALTH MEETING.

“Building the Capacity of African Policy Makers for Achieving UHC and SDGs: The Role of Parliamentarians”

Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala-Uganda, 22nd -23rd February 2023