



Parliamentarians on ICPD+15

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

14 November
Istanbul, Turkey
Istanbul Hilton Hotel

Organized by

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

with the support of

UNFPA and Government of Japan

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Meeting background and objectives

The meeting “Parliamentarians on ICPD¹+15: Eastern Europe and Central Asia” was organized by Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in cooperation with European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) with the support of UNFPA and Japan Trust Fund (JTF). The meeting brought together members of Parliament who attended the ICPD+15 regional meeting for Eastern Europe and Central Asia organized by UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA RO) with the following objectives:

1. review national situation in relation to Programme of Action (PoA) ICPD from Parliamentary point of view.
2. map out action points for Parliamentarians, UNFPA as well as the Parliamentary networks, namely AFPPD and EPF in order to strengthen Parliamentary support to PoA ICPD+15 and to enhance support.

The meeting of Parliamentarians took place on 14th November from 9.00 to 14.00. There were 34 attendees, among them 22 Parliamentarians representing 13 countries from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Sessions objectives²

- a. **Panel Discussion 1:** Review of Regional Progress in achieving ICPD Programme of Action since Cairo, 1994

This session aimed to give overview of the developments in the region since Cairo, 1994 covering successes and challenges that countries faced.

- b. **Panel Discussion 2:** Enhancement of Parliamentarians’ involvement in ICPD +15 in the region: mobilizing political commitment

This session aimed to evaluate what has been the role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of ICPD PoA. What were the gaps? What were the successes? Where do the Eastern European and Central Asian Parliamentarians stand today?

- c. **Panel Discussion 3:** Roadmap of Parliamentarians’ involvement in the implementation of ICPD PoA +15

This session aimed to get participants brainstorm about possible action points in regards to greater involvement of Parliamentarians in the implementation of ICPD PoA.

Brief description of sessions

Welcome address **Hon. Aitkul Samakova**, Member of Parliament (MP) of the Republic of Kazakhstan, AFPPD Vice-Chair as well as **Hon. George Tsereteli**, Member of Parliament (MP), Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia and EPF President delivered welcome address on behalf of AFPPD and EPF. The two hosts have greeted the delegates, reminded them the objectives of this meeting and gave the overview of the agenda.

¹ International Conference on Population and Development was held in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt

² See appendices for more elaborate agenda

Brief report on the meeting “Parliamentarians on ICPD+15: Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

- Hon. Aitkul Samakova emphasized in her speech that Parliamentarians play one of the key roles in achieving MDGs, in the implementation of Beijing Declaration and ICPD PoA. She expressed her hope that this meeting will contribute to further improvement of Parliamentarians’ work within their respective countries.
- Hon. George Tsereteli have strongly outlined the importance of being more strategic and the importance of engaging with all stakeholders working on the issues of sexual and reproductive health and gender equality, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in order to implement ICPD PoA.

Opening remarks. Ms. Thea Fierens, Regional Director of EECA CA, UNFPA, in her opening speech stated it was essential to mobilize for MDG 5, “the mother of all MDGs.” She shared the story of UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Regional Office of UNFPA has been moving towards decentralization in the last few years. As a result, Central Asia office moved to Almaty, Kazakhstan. Further, she dwelled upon the role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of ICPD PoA. Her major message was that both Eastern Europe and Central Asia need more political will and political mobilization to realize ICPD PoA and to achieve MDGs. She called for greater international and interregional networking and knowledge-sharing; she called for counting every human being and every dollar that is being spent by governments, regional networks and donor agencies. She also reminded the importance of inclusive policy-making process especially in regards to youth. Finally, she touched upon the new challenges that we are facing today in achieving MDGs and implementing ICPD PoA, such as global financial crisis, which threatens to significantly cut funding of certain social programmes and climate change, which is becoming a priority issue for many governments (thus, also cutting funding from ICPD PoA, MDGs and Beijing Declaration).

Panel Discussion 1: Review of Regional Progress in achieving ICPD Programme of Action since Cairo, 1994 by Mr. Nikolai Botev, Sub-Regional Director EECA RO, UNFPA

The session was held in the form of a talk that was followed by comments, questions, and remarks. Mr. Botev offered his own review of the last 15 years since ICPD PoA.

Summary of Mr. Botev’s review: The context, into which ICPD PoA came into being was remarkable because it was soon after the fall of the Soviet Union. Since then the countries have been trying to stabilize their economic, political and social practices. In terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), if to look back, there were significantly more cases of abortion compared to today, contraceptives were not widely available, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs_ were rampant. Early 90s was also characterized in the region with decline in fertility, high level of maternal mortality. Since 90s, what we see today is a much more improved situation – maternal mortality reduced, contraception is more widely available, and people, in general, are more educated about SRHR. There are clear achievements. This was followed by comments and questions.

Major discussion points:

1. Economic crisis. Both regions stressed the impact that economic crisis might have on their work and budgeting for SRHR. There was a suggestion of coming up with a common statement to all Parliaments of both regions not to reduce budget allocations for SRHR. Mr. Neil Datta of EPF also drew attention to the fact that many countries of the region are characterized by economic growth, which makes major donors pull out of the region.
2. Parliamentarians from Central Asia touched upon the problem of (a) drug trafficking, (b) labour migration, (c) sexual exploitation of children and (d) the non-implementation of SRHR legislations in their respective countries.
 - a) In the opinion of Parliamentarians from Kyrgyzstan, drug trafficking directly affects SRHR of Kyrgyz population resulting in high number of persons with HIV/AIDS, especially young people. The neighbouring country Afghanistan is highly unstable and there has always been drug trafficking, however, for the last years drug trafficking has become a major challenge for governments, and, as a result, this is affecting not only Kyrgyzstan but the whole region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Drugs come into Europe via Central Asia.

- b) Many economically active citizens of Central Asia, including Tajikistan, migrate to neighboring countries, such as Russia. This offers new challenges in terms of ensuring reproductive health services and rights, reducing rates of HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality.
 - c) Sexual exploitation of children is a problem in Kyrgyzstan because of the lack of legislative support in preventing this phenomenon. Many people do not believe in the court system and they perform the so called “samosud,” which means that parents/family choose to punish by themselves the abuser rather than rely on the state court system. In connection to the issue of sexual exploitation, there is also culture of silence since Kyrgyzstan is predominantly Muslim society. This causes a challenge for policy-makers. In Tajikistan, one of the pertinent issues is labour migration, which is also affecting SRHR situation in the country.
 - d) There are SRHR legislations enacted in the countries of the former Soviet Union, however, these legislation are not being implemented in practice. An example given is Tajikistan.
 - e) Kazakhstan shared its law on SRHR and family. Article 15 of the legislation on family and marriage drew attention of fellow Parliamentarians. Article 15 states that marriage can be stopped upon the desire of a wife or a husband, however, if the wife is pregnant or the couple has a child who is not yet 1 years old, it is possible to get divorce only if the woman agrees.³ Fellow MPs thought this was in contradiction to the rights-based approach (in regards to the rights of the husband, and in situations of domestic violence, for example).
3. Eastern European Parliamentarians touched upon the issue of (a) Roma people, (b) domestic violence, (c) importance of youth-friendly services, involvement of religious organizations, (d) pedophilia and e) infertility and alcoholism.
- a) Roma people are the most vulnerable people today in Europe. Question of their integration stays high on the agenda of Eastern European Parliaments. Bulgaria mentioned that SRHR is still an issue for minorities in their country.
 - b) Lithuanian Parliament is also going to adopt a legislation that aims at prevention of domestic violence. Finland also enacted law that says that it is not only women’s’ responsibility to act on domestic violence but police has a responsibility to act on domestic violence if it sees that domestic violence is taking place in the household, even without victim’s application.
 - c) Ensuring youth-friendly services is essential to achieve ICPD PoA. However, in terms of fulfilling ICPD PoA, in Lithuania, for example, there is strong opposition from the Catholics or Conservatives in their attempts to mainstream SRH education. Moldovan Parliamentarian also raised the issue of cooperating with churches and what are the practices and tactics used by other countries. Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted law that improves access to condoms, youth-inclusive, protection of STDs.
 - d) In connection to child pornography, in response to Kyrgyzstan, Bulgaria mentioned the case of a fellow MP who was arrested on the basis of child pornography. However, despite the fact that this undermined the reputation of Parliament, it also gave an opportunity to enact a legislation that demands safe internet without child pornography. She also suggested it is essential to share most successful policies of child protection. Finland shared that Parliament is considering forbidding sex business in Finland. For pedophiles, there are special arrangements in prison to avoid mistreatment and abuse from other prisoners; they place them in separate cells.
 - e) The problems mentioned are also infertility, STDs, and alcohol abuse which results in the syndrome of alcohol in new-born children. The fertility drop also suggests major challenges that are to come in the near future. In order to avoid this problem it is essential to start working on this issue today. Today Finland has fertility rates rising due to policies enacted. For example, maternity leave policy has been improved and law forbids asking questions concerning child-bearing.

³ Закон Республики Казахстан от 17.12.1998 N 321-1

"О браке и семье", Раздел 2. Брак, Глава 4. Прекращение брака
Статья 15. Расторжение брака

1. Брак может быть прекращен путем его расторжения по заявлению одного или обоих супругов, а также по заявлению опекуна супруга, признанного судом недееспособным.

2. Расторжение брака без согласия жены невозможно в период ее беременности и в течение первого года жизни ребенка.

Brief report on the meeting “Parliamentarians on ICPD+15: Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

Observation: this session’s discussion showed that Central Asia and Eastern Europe are interdependent due to geography and shared history, and have been facing somewhat similar challenges. There is a need for greater cooperation and experience sharing.

Family planning association of Turkey (FPAT) has also emphasized the important role their cooperation with the government played in the promotion of ICPD PoA. FPAT in its work collaborated with all the major actors, such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Defense, NGOs working on the issue, public institutions and agencies. Due to advocacy work and lobbying from FPAT, the government reached out to NGOs and numerous laws have been adopted.

Some of the successes of this NGO/government cooperation are:

- a. Contraceptives were distributed free of charge.
- b. Funds were used appropriately.
- c. NGO/Government mutual support. NGOs made advocacy efforts on the implementation of health laws with health programs. In its turn, Government sought to build the capacity of NGOs to integrate SRHR.
- d. Decline in maternal mortality.
- e. Sexual education in schools, which is delivered through textbooks on health education. In Turkey, they do not call it “sexual education” due to cultural taboo.
- f. Domestic violence campaigns.
- g. Law on child pornography enacted. This law prohibits access to child pornography,
- h. Action plan on HIV/AIDS.
- i. Turkey today is also a donor, TIKA, aid organization. Thanks to the efforts of EPF TIKA released funds for SRHR.

Panel Discussion 2: Enhancement of Parliamentarians’ involvement in ICPD +15 in the region: mobilizing political commitment moderated by Hon. Mamadsho Ilolov, MP from Tajikistan

The session aimed to define where do Parliamentarians stand today in regards to ICPD PoA. Ms. Marina Davidashvili of EPF gave a presentation based on UNFPA survey published in 2006 that analyzed successes, challenges and the needs of Eastern European and Central Asian Parliamentarians in connection to ICPD PoA.

Summary of the survey: This UNFPA report was the result of the survey conducted among Parliamentarians from around the world, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Until 2006, major ICPD interest in Central Asia was HIV/AIDS, whereas in Eastern Europe major interests were gender equality and gender-based violence.

Major activities in promoting ICPD PoA in Parliament and government in both regions (also including other regions) were working with government agencies (43%), developing legislation (42%), providing information and raising awareness (33%), advocacy (30%), seminars/workshops (20%), hearings/reviews/reports (13%), and overseeing implementation (4%).

Successes were laws enacted, bills proposed, policies adopted and increased budget allocations. These successes in Central Asia focused on the issues of SRHR and HIV/AIDS. The issue of gender-based violence was least considered in Central Asia. In Eastern Europe the least prioritized was the issue of HIV/AIDS, however, the survey doesn’t give the data on the most successful issue the Parliamentarians from this region worked on.

Networking and cooperation: 33% of Central Asian Parliamentarians and 11% of Eastern European Parliamentarians work with regional groups, such as AFPPD, IAPG, FAAPPD and EPF. Most of the activities are global/regional meetings (62%); trainings (50%); exchanging information (36%); raising awareness (36%); national meetings (18%); study tours (8%); creation of group (3%); evaluation/accountability (1%); and, financial/material support (1%).

Major constraints in their work, according to Parliamentarians, are information gap (49%), lack of political will/support (43%), religious and cultural opposition (43%), financial/material (29%), procedural (22%), lack of institutional memory (8%), governance (8%) and lack of capacity (4%).

From regional groups Parliamentarians expressed the need for the following type of support: trainings/workshops (55%), information/raising awareness (41%), exchanging experiences (33%), global/regional/national meetings (33%), financial/material support (30%), evaluation/accountability (8%), technical support (7%), creation of group (6%), study tours (5%).

Brief report on the meeting “Parliamentarians on ICPD+15: Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

The presentation was further followed by a discussion with the following highlights:

- a) Financial crisis. All delegates paid special attention during this discussion to financial crisis. Due to financial crisis, they urged that it is important for governments and Parliaments to be strategic and practical. It is important to have monitoring and evaluation of every decision-making and budgetary allocation.
- b) Research projects to improve legislations and implementation of legislations. It is needed to have research projects on the national levels. For example, in 2002 within the Parliament of Tajikistan, committee on population and development has been established. In 2002, Parliament enacted legislation on SRHR, however, in praxis the legislation is not being implemented. In Armenia, there is SRHR legislation also, however, the major question how to practically implement and practice those laws. We have conferences/ meetings and the understanding is growing however challenges remain. Development demands new approaches since challenges modify themselves. Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions need overview - proper research needs to be performed to evaluate how to improve our legislations and how to implement them nationally.
- c) The need for implementation of international recommendations and establishing a Parliamentary control. There are many useful international documents that have been either ratified or not ratified by the governments. There is a need for Parliamentary control to see which issues have been raised in Parliaments and why and which issues remain unaddressed, in which countries and why.
- d) Reporting. Arranging seminars and conferences is one thing; however, it is also crucial to publish reports because published word remains. MPs change over the years, but if the subsequent MPs have a published report, this would be of more help to them to continue the work that we are doing today. In Romania, for example, the government has established a committee that is working on the report about social and demographic challenges in the country.
- e) Assessment of SRHR policies. It is also a good idea to make an assessment of RH policies in each country and send these to Parliaments/governments. If there is a report sent to ministers, president, etc. maybe they will start paying more attention to the issues MPs are working on.
- f) New wave of ICPD PoA advocates among MPs. We also need to see new faces committed to these issues. In this regard, it would be fundamental to involve young Parliamentarians into our meetings/conferences.
- g) Coordination and sharing is crucial. Georgia stressed that there needs to be more coordination and sharing among the countries of this region. We are connected and our issues are similar. Through sharing and coordination we can learn from each other and help each other. Sharing of best practices would be valuable.
- h) Language as a challenge to more effective advocacy. Despite the fact that ICPD turns 15 today there is still lack of knowledge in Parliament about ICPD PoA. This is partly also due to the culturally challenging language, the so called “UN language.” This makes advocacy work difficult. Everybody knows about Kyoto but few people know about ICPD.
- i) Full utilization of all tools and effective strategy. Parliaments have their own instruments to get the ministers on the agenda and Parliaments need to utilize these tools to its fullest. However, there is also call for being more strategic and more practical. There are many legislative acts but maybe we simply have a wrong strategy. We need new, more effective strategy. We have to be really practical.
- j) Joint meeting on a specific issue. It would be possible to organize a joint meeting of Central Asia and Eastern European countries about a certain issue/legislation.
- k) Working together with NGOs and funding NGOs. There needs to be greater cooperation between NGOs and Parliamentarians for the common cause. We are both advocates and we can help each other. NGOs to do their work need more funding from their governments, not only from donors.

Panel Discussion 3: Roadmap of Parliamentarians’ involvement in the implementation of ICPD +15 with Mr. Neil Datta, EPF Secretary

The session aimed to give the opportunity for MPs to brainstorm about possibilities to increase their involvement in the implementation of ICPD PoA. To draw the attention of Parliamentarians to the importance of working with the civil society, the organizers invited Prof. Hakan Şatıroğlu, President of the Turkish Association of Family Planning and Vice-President of IPPF European Network to highlight the case of Turkey in his presentation.

Brief report on the meeting “Parliamentarians on ICPD+15: Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

“The Role of NGOs in the Turkish Development Assistance – Mainstreaming SRHR”

Prof. Hakan Şatıroğlu stressed the importance of multisectorial approach, government cooperation with NGOs and vice versa, as well as the need for financial support for NGOs.

What is NGO and volunteer: NGO is a non-governmental institution, which is essential for democracy as a part of it, to express the voice of people, for the welfare of the population and to hold governments accountable. **A Volunteer** is an individual who works for free, to express the free will, to contribute, to motivate the people and government for influence, based on a system of values.

Role and importance of NGOs in civil society: NGOs are the institutions that use civil tools, to achieve mission developed by volunteers. Mission is designed according to the needs of society, based on knowledge and reality.

Role of NGOs in the “Implementation” of ICPD PoA: Within the framework of ICPD PoA, NGOs have played two major roles in its implementation: a) they worked for the recognition of ICPD PoA and especially SRHR through advocacy, mobilizing political will and resources; b) they also worked for the implementation of the program directly through education campaigns, providing health services, etc.

How a NGO works: NGO works through strategic planning, needs assessment, setting up priorities, creation of partnerships, design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Many NGO’s in Turkey have developed projects and have implemented them by establishing partnerships with international community and government/s. To name a few; Parliamentarians Initiative Project, to establish a Lobby Group on Population and Development as an example of partnership with policy-makers – first in Turkey; Peer Education Youth Project for Family Health, an example of community participation (Subcontract to Ministry of Health -UNFPA funded); HIV/AIDS, High Level Decision Makers Initiative, Establishment of National AIDS Commission, an example of cooperation decision-makers - first in Turkey (Government and NGO partnership-EU funded)

NGOs initiatives in relations to ICPD PoA: a) Kazakhstan: NGOs initiated development of law on RH/rights. Had working group with specialists, consultants. Proposal to government. Affected other countries. Kazakh medical organization is developing a strategy on SRH. B) Kosovo: NGOs supported the development of strategy for RH, now working on strategy for children and adolescents. Multi-disciplinary working group with civil society representation, now, situation analysis on rate of cervical and breast cancer c) Portugal: Long standing association (40 years). Combined work and collaboration inside and outside of association. Lead role in advocacy; change in abortion law. D) Israel: Working to improve situation of immigrants from Ethiopia. Work to influence community. Takes a long time, not spontaneous. E) Georgia: free clinic for IDPs, opened in 1998 and has become sustainable.

What were the benefits of Countries and Governments? a) Decrease of bureaucracy; b) Quick response to changing conditions and client needs; c) Found additional budgets; d) Reduction of expenditures by the governments; e) Work on some sensitive subjects; f) Mobilisation of the society (funding, getting services...)

The presentation was followed by discussion about the role of NGOs and Parliamentarians agreed with greater need to cooperate with NGOs. This, further, was followed by group-work which aimed to draw a map or come up with action points on how to enhance regional and national partnerships, future steps for Parliamentarians to take and necessary tools needed to be provided by Parliamentary networks, UNFPA and civil society (see next section for the list of action points).

Closing remarks: AFPPD and EPF thanked kind supporters of this event, UNFPA and Japan Trust Fund.

Roadmap or action points discussed (from two working groups)

1) Enhancing regional and national partnerships:

- Advocate for the ICPD PoA and MDG 5 within the international and regional cooperation agreements, such as Eastern Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

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- Enhance cooperation between Eastern European and Central Asian Parliamentarians.
- Enhance cooperation with other networks, such as IPU on the issues such as equality, women empowerment, etc.
- Organize an inter-regional Parliamentarians’ conference from Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2010-2011 in Kazakhstan on 1 specific item of PoA ICPD. Sharing knowledge and information.
- Organize a joint meeting of AFPPD and EPF in 2011 in Kazakhstan.
- Share best practices in relation to drafting and implementation of the legislation on reproductive health and rights.
- Share successful tactics in liaising and working together with religious institutions.

2) Future steps that Parliamentarians want to undertake:

- Involve more young Parliamentarians in ICPD related activities of regional Parliamentary networks, UNFPA and civil society organisations working on SRHR.
- Ensure that respective Ministers, responsible for Finance, Education, Health and Development are always invited to the national and regional conferences devoted to ICPD and related issues – in order to raise their awareness on the importance of the subject.
- When working with Ministers try to use “internal approach” – raise awareness within the Party that they belong to. Parliamentarians from this party will make sure that ICPD issues are raised during the party gatherings and conferences.
- Conduct conference on assessment of humanitarian SRHR situation in post-conflict areas.
- Design measures to ensure the implementation of SRHR legislation in the Republic of Tajikistan.
- Introduce and implement legislative act on commercial exploitation and violence against children and youth in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.
- Work on the Federal law on SRHR in Russian Federation.

3) Necessary tools to be provided by regional Parliamentary networks, UNFPA and civil society

- Explore the possibility of establishing legal database on good legislative practices – database of laws and policies on RH, gender equality etc. should be translated into English and placed on the internet for easy access.
- Conduct country surveys on impact assessment of certain legislation – to select best practices on achieving goals of ICPD PoA.
- Websites of the Regional Parliamentary Networks should feature contact data of all Members/Secretariats – to enhance easy accessibility and information exchange.
- For emerging donors – to conduct trainings on capacity building for state donor assistance, as well as Parliamentary oversight of governmental spending. To cooperate among Member Parliamentary Working Groups of EPF/AFPPD on i.a. best donor aid practices to ensure inter-country knowledge exchange.
- To establish an “Award for Outstanding Population and Development Achievements” to be awarded to Parliamentarians, other politicians, stakeholders and leaders.
- Evaluate efficiency of programmatic activities of regional networks, that is AFPPD and EPF.

Participants

There were 35 participants with 22 (10 female and 12 male) Parliamentarians representing 13 countries (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria (EP), Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, and 2 Parliamentary staff; 5 UNFPA staff from EECA RO; 2 Turkish NGO representatives (namely FPAT and IPPFEN, and 4 regional networks staff (2 from AFPPD and 2 from EPF).

Speakers, Chairpersons, and Facilitators⁴

Mr. Nikolai Botev is a Sub-Regional Director for Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECA RO), UNFPA

Mr. Neil Datta, EPF Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum (EPF)

Ms. Marina Davidashvili, Network and Knowledge Sharing Facilitator, European Parliamentary Forum (EPF)

Ms. Thea Fierens, Regional Director for EECA RO, UNFPA

Hon. Mamadsho Ilolov, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee on social problems, science and culture, Majlisi Milli Majlisi Oli (Upper Chamber of Parliament), Republic of Tajikistan, President of the Academy of Sciences of RT.

Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya, Programme Associate, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Hon. Aitkul Samakova, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, AFPPD Vice-Chair

Prof. Hakan Şatıroğlu, Turkish Association on Family Planning, Vice President of IPPFEN, Turkish Development Assistance – Mainstreaming SRHR

Hon. George Tsereteli, Member of Parliament, Democratic Republic of Georgia, EPF President

Conclusions

The meeting showed that there is an established political will in advancing ICPD PoA in the region. However, for their successful work, Parliamentarians need additional tools, such as various surveys, information and statistics to base upon for better argumentation and policy advance. The regional knowledge and best practices sharing were raised as one of the most important points, as the countries in the region do share the same past and similar challenges. Regional Parliamentary networks, UNFPA and civil society should explore the possibilities to assist Parliamentarians in providing these tools.

Follow-up needed from AFPPD and EPF

1. Send evaluation forms to the participants concerning the meeting and the ways to improve.
2. Present the current report to Executive Committees of respective regional networks.
3. Strategize concerning the implementation of action points from Eastern European and Central Asia Parliamentarians in terms of what is possible and how it is possible to implement those ideas into programmatic activities of the two networks.
4. Organize a joint meeting and plan joint activities (and, invite major supporters).

⁴ Alphanumeric order

Appendix A: Agenda

8:30-9:00	Registration AFPPD and EPF Secretariat (in front of the meeting room)	
9:00-9:10	Welcome address Moderator: Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya, AFPPD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Aitkul Samakova, MP, AFPPD Vice-Chair Hon. George Tsereteli, MP, EPF President 	
9:10-9:35	Opening remarks Moderator: Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya, AFPPD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Thea Fierens, Regional Director for EECA RO UNFPA 	
9:35-9:45	Group photo	
9:45-10:45	Panel Discussion 1: Review of Regional Progress in achieving ICPD Programme of Action since Cairo, 1994 Mr.Nikolai Botev, Sub-Regional Director EECA RO, UNFPA Q & A with Parliamentarians in attendance	Moderator: Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya, AFPPD
10:40-10:50	Tea Break	
10:50 – 11:50	Panel Discussion 2: Enhancement of Parliamentarians’ involvement in ICPD +15 in the region: mobilizing political commitment <i>Where does Eastern Europe and Central Asia stand in the Global Parliamentary Movement on ICPD – Results of the UNFPA Survey 2006</i> Ms.Marina Davidashvili, EPF Q & A with Parliamentarians in attendance	Moderator: Hon. Mamadsho Ilolov, MP from Tajikistan
11:50-13:00	Panel Discussion 3: Roadmap of Parliamentarians’ involvement in the implementation of ICPD +15 Role of NGOs in the –Turkish Development Assistance – Mainstreaming SRHR Prof. Hakan Şatıroğlu, Turkish Association on Family Planning, Vice President of IPPFEN Elaboration of Roadmap of future involvement of Parliamentarians in the implementation of ICPD + 15	Moderator: Mr. Neil Datta, EPF Secretary Facilitator: Ms. Marina Davidashvili, EPF Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya, AFPPD Notestaker: Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya
	Closing remarks TBD	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	

Appendix B: List of participants

Parliamentary Delegations:

Country	Name	Position
Armenia	Hon. Sukias Avetisyan	Member of Parliament
Azerbaijan	Hon. Malahat Ibrahimgizi	Member of Parliament
Bosnia&Herzegovina	Hon. Lazar Prodanovic	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Nermina Kapetanovic	Member of Parliament
EP (Bulgaria)	Hon. Antonina Parvanova	Member of Parliament
Finland	Hon. Janina Anderson	Member of Parliament
Georgia	Hon. George Tsereteli	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Rusudan Kervalishvili	Member of Parliament
Kazakhstan	Hon. Aitkul Samakova	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Darya Klebanova	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Serik Ospanov	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Ulan Kasymbekov	Assistant to MP
Kyrgyzstan	Hon. Askarbek Shadiev	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Almazbek Karimov	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Alisher Mamasaliev	Member of Parliament
Lithuania	Hon. Marija Pavilioniene	Member of Parliament
Moldova	Hon. Liliana Palihovici	Member of Parliament
Romania	Ms. Cristina Dumitrescu	Head of the Division for International Parliamentary Organisations Secretariat of APPG Romania
Russia	Hon. Nikolay Gerasimenko	Member of Parliament
	Hon. Saliya Murzabayeva	Member of Parliament
Tajikistan	Hon. Mamadsho Ilolov	Member of Parliament

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Hon. Mahmadrhim Karimov	Member of Parliament
Hon. Muzaffar Ashurov	Member of Parliament
Mr. Farrukh Usmonov	Senior Specialist

United Nations Population Fund

Country	Name	Function
Kazakhstan	Mr. Nikolai Botev	Sub-Regional Director EECA RO, UNFPA
Kazakhstan	Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova	Population and Development Programme Specialist for Central Asia, EECA RO, UNFPA
United States of America, New York	Mr. Karen Daduryan	Advisor, EECA RO, UNFPA
United States of America, New York	Ms. Thea Fierens	Regional Director for EECA RO UNFPA

Family Planning Association of Turkey-FPAT

Country	Name	Function
Turkey	Prof. Dr .Hakan Şatiroğlu	President of FPAT
Turkey	Dr. Semra Koral, MA, PhD	Vice-president of IPPFEN Executive Director FPAT

Organisers:

Country	Name	Function
Belgium	Mr. Neil Datta	EPF Secretary European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
Belgium	Ms. Marina Davidashvili	Network and Knowledge Sharing Facilitator EPF
Thailand	Ms. Thitirat Jenpanichkarn	Administrative Associate Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
Thailand	Ms. Maria Kardashevskaya	Programme Associate AFPPD