

Parliamentarians for Global Action

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
& POPULATION
PROGRAM**

1993-1999 Report

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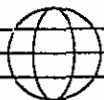
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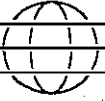
liamentary network, has worked to strengthen reproductive health programs at both the national and international level. Through its Population and Sustainable Development Program, PGA fosters the collaborative process among parliaments and their governments, NGOs and the international community through focused in-country programming that mobilizes parliamentary interest and action in advancing national ICPD agendas.



Program Convenors, Sustainable Development and Population Program: Above: Hon. Theresa Tagoe, MP (Ghana); at left: Dep. Ibrahima Fall (Senegal). Photos: Ms. Karyn Meyer.

Below: PGA's 2nd Annual Workshop, "Five Years After Cairo: Where are we now?" Dakar, Senegal, April 19-21, 1999. Conference participants visit a Senegalese Family Planning Clinic: Association for the Well-Being of the Family.





About PGA

STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) was established in 1979 by concerned parliamentarians from around the world to take joint action on global problems which cannot be solved by any one government alone. Today, Global Action is an international network of over 1300 individual parliamentarians who work collectively on a multiparty basis across a wide range of issues: Sustainable Development and Population, Empowerment of Women, International Law and Human Rights, Peace and Democracy, Economic Revitalization and Disarmament.

PGA includes in its membership a concentration of high-level politicians, including Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and Chairs of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Population, Health and Defense Committees. Many of PGA's members leave parliament for higher government posts such as the Presidency of Iceland, Presidency of Botswana, former Prime Ministership and Presidency of Trinidad & Tobago and Vice Presidency of the Dominican Republic. PGA includes only legislators from democratically elected parliaments within its membership, and thus brings to bear the full authority and mandate of their constituencies as well as a heightened responsibility to represent their interests. This strengthens PGA's legitimacy on policy matters vis-à-vis executive branches of government as well as civil society.

As an NGO of parliamentarians, PGA is able to cre-

ate effective partnerships with civil society groups, thereby enhancing the role of parliamentarians as the intervening link between civil society and executive authority. PGA's programs on women, peace and democracy, population and international law work in close cooperation with NGOs and leading research institutions in these fields.

Because of PGA's close working relationship with its members and contacts with leading NGOs, it is often able to bridge policy discussions and negotiations between governments and opposition groups. This unique position allows PGA to play an invaluable role in the successful implementation of policy initiatives.

PGA has had an extremely effective track record with inter-governmental agencies such as the UN Secretariat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNESCO, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and International IDEA. PGA's guiding principle of bringing the input of key players from both government and opposition, and its close working relationship with members serving on relevant parliamentary committees, makes it an invaluable agency for the negotiation and implementation of any successful policy.

PGA is an association of individual parliamentarians that is action-oriented with the specific programs under the political direction of a fifteen-member Board. This structure allows Global Action to effectively push policies at national, regional and international levels. The leadership also includes a

thirty-three member International Council which represents all the regions of the world. PGA works closely with the UN system through its UN Committee, an advisory body comprised of senior UN ambassadors, high-level UN officials, and some leading NGO representatives. The current Chair is Ambassador Hans Dahlgren of Sweden.

All of PGA's activities and interactions are coordinated by the Secretariat based in New York. PGA's Programs are directed by members of the governing body, in cooperation with the International Council. Executive Board Members also serve as Chairs and Vice Chairs for specific Programs and work closely with their respective Program Officers.

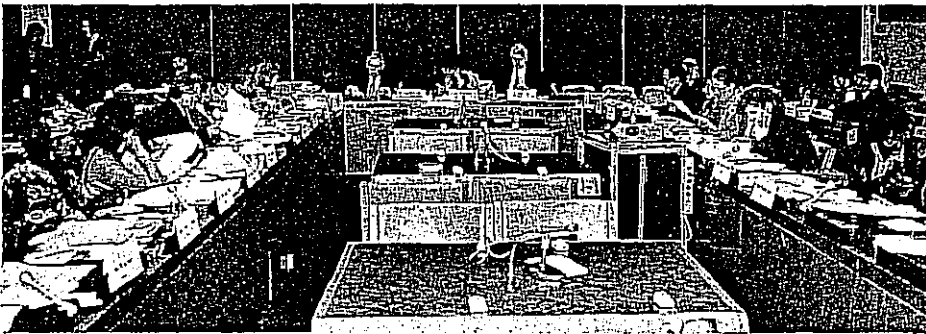
ABOUT THE POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Population and Sustainable Development Program works to advance gender equality and to ensure women's ability to control their own fertility, which it sees as the cornerstones of population and development-related programs. In its ongoing efforts to provide services for under-resourced parliamentarians in support of its programmatic endeavors, the Population Program briefs members of parliament on issues and developments relating to women and population, and collaborates with national and international NGOs and research institutes to serve as parliamentary resources, coordinating their assistance as needed. PGA also works closely with relevant government ministries to facilitate a consistent and coordinated approach to the country's population policy.

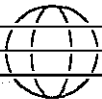
The Program activities include regional workshops with parliamentarians from West Africa and from donor countries, government officials, multilateral bodies and NGOs. These workshops provide timely opportunities for legislators to convene when information, communication and strategic alliances bear the greatest impact on potential legislative and policy changes. Because lack of information often hinders the creation of policies and laws addressing the particular needs of a country or locality, the Program organizes and coordinates regular national meetings with local NGOs, research institutes and government ministries to inform and update members of parliament on specific population-related issues in their country and their constituencies.

NGOs and research institutes play an important role in providing this information to decision-makers. These meetings help build stronger relationships with NGOs and research institutes, opening avenues for cooperation and advocacy on concrete issues. PGA helps facilitate these activities through the development of joint projects between members of parliament, NGOs, research institutes, local and national ministry offices which advance the ICPD *Programme of Action*.

Another major component of the Program assures that these activities are integrated with the parliamentarians' role as legislators. Thus, the project supports a thorough review of laws affecting reproductive health and rights, sexual health and rights, and family planning. In addition, the Program works closely with parliamentary committees and individual legislators to assist them in the implementation of commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. PGA partners with well-established, experienced legal and policy research institutes on this most important work.



ICPD PrepCom, April 1994.



The Population and Sustainable Development Program

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September 1994, was a watershed for global population and development initiatives. In an unprecedented move, government officials from 179 countries unanimously adopted a Program of Action. Pledging to reduce the consumption of resources, governments worldwide redefined the connections between sustainable development and population. Moving beyond focusing solely on fertility rates and demographics, the ICPD clearly articulated the necessity of recognizing that smaller families and slower population growths depend not on 'control' but on recognizing the value of women as an integral element of true development. It means access to reproductive health care, including a range of family planning information and services. Women and men must feel that the services available and the quality of care meet their reproductive health needs.

National governments, the international community, donors and non-governmental organizations were called upon to work jointly to foster broad implementation of these goals. Each sector has an important role to play in supporting national implementation of the ICPD, and effective collaboration among each of these sectors is imperative to ensuring lasting results.

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), an active

network of over 1,300 elected leaders from 99 countries, has been mobilizing the political will necessary to prepare for and implement the ICPD Program of Action since 1992. According to an ICPD document on the national reports submitted for the conference, "Political commitment is cited in the national reports as one of the most important ingredients for successful population-related interventions." PGA is committed to providing parliament members opportunities for the exchange of information and the sharing of resources.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

National governments remain the cornerstones of effective ICPD implementation. Yet, at the same time, national governments are struggling to compete in a global economy and provide education, housing, jobs and health care for growing populations. In addition, many countries are in the process of transitioning from some form of military control to a multi-party democracy.

Nascent democracies grapple with the issues of decentralizing the current power structure while recently created institutions, such as parliaments, are learning new roles in new political systems. Newly elected and unpracticed legislators are confronted with the tremendous challenge of translat-

ing the urgent issues of the day into strong and comprehensive policies, coordinating with other governmental bodies and NGOs and maintaining a high level of knowledge on a large range of topics.

While governments differ greatly in terms of their organizational structure, priorities, political stability and human and financial resources, they possess great potential strengths. These include national-scale infrastructure, the ability to have a large-scale impact, and the capacity to regulate. Typically, governments set standards that govern health service delivery, ensure minimum standards of care, regulate the private health sector, and undertake monitoring and evaluation. As the main health service providers in most developing countries, governments must play a central role in advocating, designing, subsidizing, and managing a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health for the ICPD to become a reality.

As noted above, governments also need to increase transparency with respect to information and decision-making, and to be more open to the involvement of NGOs in all stages of policy development. The involvement of NGOs in policy discussions should, for example, be institutionalized. In order to facilitate this process, governments can modify overhead limitations and bureaucratic procedures that constrain effective NGO participation. Although the size of national administrative and service delivery systems often make it difficult for governments to adapt existing services quickly, proactive leadership and commitment by national governments are essential to realizing the ICPD mandate.

As elective representatives of the people, legislators are a crucial resource in advancing the ICPD *Programme of Action* at the national level. PGA capitalizes on the interest and enthusiasm of member parliamentarians to strengthen national interest and commitment to implement the ICPD in these countries. PGA's Population and Sustainable Development Program assists members of parliament to implement the Cairo *Programme of Action* in their respective countries through their roles as

legislators, public opinion leaders, policy makers and representatives of their constituencies.

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

Parliamentarians have a strong capacity to influence and improve the lives of their constituencies in the area of reproductive health. On a purely legislative level, parliamentarians have an immediate and pressing role in working towards the eradication of discriminatory provisions which affect women, including those concerning reproductive health, family law, minimum age of marriage, guardianship, inheritance, land rights, and income. As representatives, parliamentarians can voice the needs of their constituencies regarding reproductive health issues in the national parliament, and approve laws and policies that respond to specific needs. Parliamentarians also act as monitors, ensuring that existing laws are observed and enforced, as well as voting to enhance the budgets of programs directed toward improving the status of women.

Parliamentarians can play a key role in altering institutional structures that affect women, such as creating programs within national health care and educational systems and ensuring access to credit and financial resources from financial institutions. As respected leaders of their communities, they have direct access to local authorities and can use their status as national leaders to promote and coordinate actions to be undertaken by central and local governmental institutions.

As national public figures, parliamentarians have an influential role in educating women and men on issues of reproductive health and gender equality in the law and its enforceability. Parliamentarians can also play a large role in supporting NGO advocates for reproductive health policies as well as women and women's groups. NGOs can likewise foster potential political candidates and provide a mechanism through which constituents can act collectively to make their voices heard politically.

THE ROLE OF NGOS—STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Since the ICPD, NGOs have played a critical role in the implementation of the *Programme of Action* both as political advocates and service providers. Through sustained advocacy, NGOs have advanced governmental commitments to reconceptualized understandings of reproductive health around the world. NGOs also provide a range of health and informational services, often reaching out to, and representing, underserved groups such as ethnic minorities and adolescents.

In addition, NGOs tend to address sensitive or controversial sexual and reproductive health issues ignored by governments and for-profit providers, such as gender-based violence, unsafe abortion and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. NGOs are able to pioneer, innovate, and serve as models, adopting programs when governments are constrained politically. Undoubtedly, NGO advocacy will continue to play a crucial role in ICPD implementation.

Currently, increased collaboration among NGOs and national governments is necessary to both broaden ICPD implementation efforts across sectors, and to foster an integrated approach to the issues of reproductive health, sustainable development and gender equality. Collaborative success will not only strengthen the efforts of each sector, but will also signal increased transparency and accountability as well as effective democratization within newly emergent democracies.

However, some governments still attempt to control and limit NGO activities and view NGOs as unwelcome competitors for donor funds. Within existing institutions, individuals often fear loss of control in the collaboration process and are unwilling to relinquish authority or reconfigure institutional systems. Governments and NGOs, especially women's groups, have historically distrusted each other and are unaccustomed to working together. At times the two advocate different, or even opposing agendas, and frequently interpret ICPD provi-

sions differently.

In forming partnerships with government, NGOs find it difficult to maintain autonomy, the ability to freely criticize and equal power within the partnership. Unresolved stereotypes, the lack of commitment to working together, volatile political climates, and lack of trust all operate as major constraints to effective partnerships between governments and NGOs.

Finally, developing partnerships and consensus-building are often expensive and time consuming. Expanding professional networks, arranging multi-sectoral meetings and conferences, preparing joint documents, and agreeing on complex issues requires commitment, continuity of leadership, flexibility, mutual respect, resources and time.

In many countries, NGOs still have no or extremely limited access to parliamentarians. PGA's Population Program harnesses the current parliamentary interest in Latin America and Africa in bringing NGOs as well as members of opposition groups to the table to address issues of reproductive health. The approach is demand-driven: PGA only works with parliaments that have demonstrated a genuine commitment to advancing the ICPD Agenda in their parliaments and in their communities. Interest must be shown by both the government and the opposition parties. This approach ensures a continuing commitment to the process from parliament regardless of electoral changes, and gives a greater sense of local ownership of the project. Building on its experiences in West Africa in which NGO-government meetings permitted NGOs to comment on draft laws and present relevant, necessary information, PGA plans to coordinate meetings between parliamentarians and members of community organizations and research groups to discuss reproductive health laws and policies in additional countries.

Through its efforts, PGA hopes to both expand NGO advocacy as well as government-NGO partnerships, particularly in countries where the political environment remains unreceptive to ICPD recom-



PGA members at the ICPD Conference, September 1994. L-R: Dep. Marie-Therese Zighuehi (Côte D'Ivoire), Hon. Emma Bonino, MP (Italy); Hon. Elena Poptodorova, MP (Bulgaria); Rep. Pat Schroeder (U.S.); Hon. Hawa Ogede, MP (Ghana); and Rep. Connie Morella (U.S.).

mentations. PGA also hopes to mobilize NGO-government alliances to develop joint advocacy strategies with respect to international and multilateral institutions active in the reproductive health field in order to influence key donors as well as broader policy agendas.

The project is developed to be a catalyst for collaborative work between the parliaments and their NGO communities. It is PGA's goal that, after three years of our active presence in a parliament, the foundation is laid for local NGOs, research institutes, donors and parliaments to work effectively together but independent of PGA support.

SECURING FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The international community and donors have important roles to play in supporting ICPD implementation. Chapters XIII and XIV of the *Programme of Action* identify the funds required to implement the ICPD, and spell out the financial responsibilities of both donor and developing countries in making reproductive services available to all those in need of them.

The *Programme* estimates that providing quality reproductive health services to those in need would cost approximately \$17 billion annually by the year

2000. At the conference in Cairo, the international community agreed that developing countries would finance two-thirds of these costs, and donor countries the remaining one-third. However, in 1996, donor countries contributed 35% of their commitment, while developing countries contributed roughly 70% of theirs.

In addition, a few donor governments account for 90% of the current spending: Denmark, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the US. Contributions from several of these countries are not commensurate with the relative size of their economies. Similarly, a few large Asian countries account for the bulk of domestic reproductive health spending, with negligible amounts being spent in Africa and Latin America.

Contributing responsibly requires commitment and consistency. While donors can and often do foster ICPD implementation, they can also impede it. Donor-driven policies and strategies that fail to balance local priorities with donor agency interests result in limited national "buy in" and unrealistic timelines for change.

At the same time, developing countries must give higher priority to reproductive health needs within national and health sector budgets. Finally, both donor and developing countries must focus resources on the most important reproductive

health needs, recognizing that priorities will differ from country to country.

As parliamentarians vote on the allocation of funds to population and reproductive health programs, PGA galvanizes its membership to enhance existing support for ICPD implementation. PGA's Population and Sustainable Development Program strives to keep ICPD commitments on national agendas, with the goal of enhancing contributions from both donor and developing governments to reproductive health programs. As noted above, in March 1999, PGA co-organized a workshop entitled, "Mobilizing Financial Resources for the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action" providing an opportunity for parliamentarians from donor and developing countries to review their financial commitment to the ICPD and future resource allocations.

PGA's member network includes parliamentarians from both donor and developing countries. By hosting delegations of parliamentarians which foster North-South alliances, the Program works to ensure that government contributions are informed by the realities of recipient nations and that the funds are committed to the areas of the highest need.

THE HISTORY OF PGA'S WORK ON THE ICPD

Active Participation in ICPD PrepComs II and III
Parliamentarians for Global Action became an active participant in the development of the ICPD in its earliest stages. Prior to the conference, PGA organized two parliamentary workshops in conjunction with PrepComs II and III to enable legislators to attend and actively participate in negotiations concerning the document. In many cases, the parliamentarians who participated in the PrepComs subsequently attended the Cairo conference as members of their countries' official delegations. The recog-

nized role of parliamentarians in Chapter XIII of the *Programme of Action* directly resulted from Global Action's work during PrepCom III. The document states:

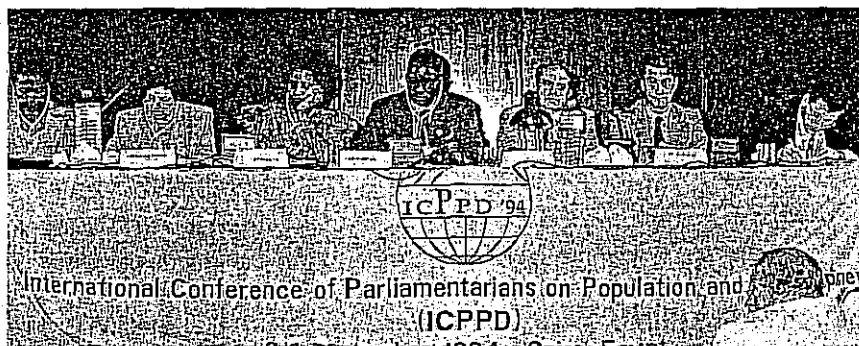
Members of National Legislatures can have a major role to play, especially in enacting appropriate domestic legislation for implementing the present Programme of Action, allocating appropriate financial resources, ensuring accountability of expenditure and raising public awareness of population issues. (Programme of Action, Chapter XIII, 13.3)

Direct Parliamentary Input into the Programme of Action

In 1993, PGA members presented two documents to the ICPD Secretariat suggesting specific language for inclusion in the Draft *Programme of Action*. More than 80% of the language offered by PGA members in their submissions was reflected in the final document.

Consensus on Abortion Language

Anticipating that abortion would be a controversial, divisive issue, Dr. Fred Sai, former President of the International Planned Parenthood Association and a leading figure at the Conference, urged PGA to focus its political network on achieving an acceptable consensus at the Second PrepCom (May 1993) in order to address the pressing health and mortality concerns which attend the abortion controversy. PGA brought together a diverse group of members—including Christian Democrats, Republicans, Socialists and Communists as well as representa-



ICPD Conference, September 1994.

tives from all major religions—to devise consensus language on abortion. PGA first achieved consensus language within a small working group, then offered the language to a wider group of PGA members. Finally, the agreed upon language was taken to the ICPD through individual PGA members as their countries' official delegations.

At Cairo, the inter-governmental working group on abortion was led by Pakistan's Health Minister and Parliamentarian Julius Salik, a Catholic. Backed by language addressing maternal health and mortality, agreed upon by all three major parties in Pakistan through their PGA representatives, Minister Salik was able to lead the working group to a consensus on abortion.

Strong Parliamentary Presence in the ICPD and ICPD +5

Immediately prior to the ICPD in 1994, PGA co-sponsored an International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development with four other parliamentary groups in Cairo. Approximately 300 parliamentarians participated in the gathering, and 30 PGA members remained to participate in the ICPD as part of their national delegations.

In similar fashion, in February 1999 PGA hosted a delegation of parliamentarians at the International Forum of Parliamentarians (IFP) at the International Forum for the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the *Programme of Action* of the ICPD (ICPD +5), including the only two US legislators who attended the ICPD Review at the Hague. Approximately 184 parliamentarians from 104 countries participated at the IFP to discuss implementation strategies. Mr. Alhaj Abdullah Salifu of Ghana reported on PGA's Pilot Population Program in West Africa as a model promoting collaboration between government and civil society, mutually enhancing the resources of both sectors. PGA's delegation to the IFP included Representative Carolyn Maloney (U.S.), Representative Cynthia McKinney (U.S.), Dep. Ibrahima Fall (Senegal), Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana), Mr. Alhaj



"Meeting ICPD Commitments," Population Action International and PGA Workshop for the 32nd Session on Population and Development in preparation for the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on ICPD +5, March 26, 1999. Top: Ms. Charity Ngilu, MP (Kenya); Middle: Dr. Nafis Sakik, Executive Director, UNFPA, and Dr. Maj-Britt Theorin, MEP (European Union); Bottom: Dr. Steve Sinding and Dr. Sarah Clark, David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

Salifu, MP (Ghana), Dep. Houada Kanoun (Tunisia), and Dep. Momar Lo (Senegal).

Mobilization and Coordination of Donor Countries
As a follow-up activity in support of the ICPD, in 1995, Global Action organized an international meeting of foreign aid committees at the United States Senate. Sixty members of parliament, representing thirty countries, discussed their role in

implementing the Cairo *Programme of Action* and the process of allocating development assistance for population programs.

Five years later, for the ICPD +5 in March 1999, in collaboration with PAI, PGA organized a workshop on "Mobilizing Financial Resources for the Implementation of the ICPD *Programme of Action*." Members of parliaments from developing and donor countries discussed their progress in resource mobilization and the need for increased compliance with ICPD's resource allocation goals.

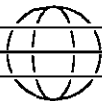
World Summit for Social Development

Reproductive health is not an isolated issue, but is critically connected to promoting sustainable development and advancing women's equality and political participation. With this approach, PGA was

actively involved in the World Summit (Copenhagen, March 1995). PGA organized parliamentary workshops for PrepCom III and during the conference in Copenhagen, focusing on the 20/20 Initiative and the political participation of women.

Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

PGA sent its own delegation to the Beijing Conference where its members functioned as both official governmental representatives for their countries and on behalf of PGA as an NGO. Thus, PGA was able to serve as a critical link between NGOs, whose participation was confined to the NGO Forum, and official government sessions. During the conference, PGA organized its largest parliamentary workshop with 65 participating members.



PGA's West African Population Program: 3-year Pilot Project

PGA has been active in the West Africa region since 1990, mediating political conflicts (Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo), and providing African parliamentarians with an opportunity to receive information about, and actively participate in, international negotiations in the field of reproductive health and sustainable development. As noted above, PGA facilitated the involvement of African parliamentarians in ICPD PrepComs II and III and enabled them to participate in the Conference at Cairo as national delegates.

PGA maintains an extensive network in both Anglophone and Francophone West Africa, composed of committed political leaders of multi-party democracies. Importantly, a large number of this network is comprised of women parliamentarians who embody the energy, determination and vision necessary to revitalize ICPD commitments throughout the region. Many of these women are members of independent or opposition parties. Many also come from rural areas where they maintain direct contact with the needs and concerns of their local constituencies. Women comprise almost 30% of PGA membership where the worldwide average of women parliamentarians is approximately 12%.

On the whole, however, West African parliaments have confronted limited political power and financial and human resources as obstacles to implementing strong integrated policy strategies in the fields of population and sustainable development. Language barriers and other legacies of colonial borders restrict political cooperation in the region despite the broad cultural affinities and similar political obstacles which transcend national borders.

Building on the ideas and concerns generated through the process of preparing for, and participating in, the Cairo Conference, in 1997 PGA initiated a pilot Population Program in West Africa. The

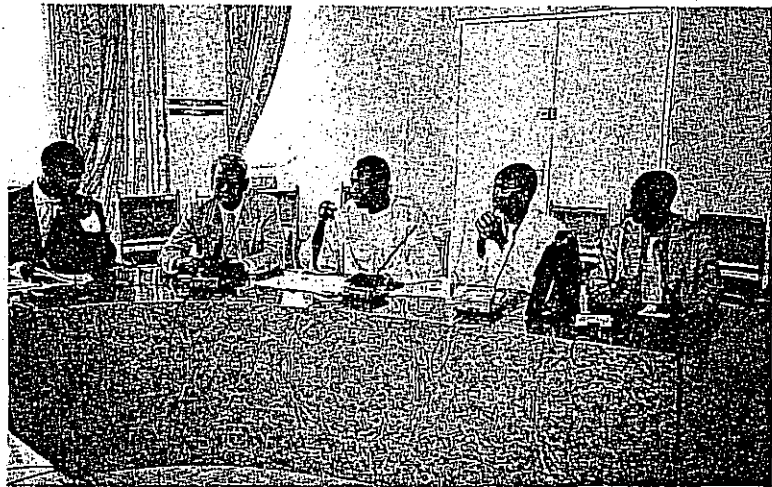


The Ghana PGA national group.

Program works to strengthen and enhance the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the ICPD in Ghana and Senegal and, at the same time, to bridge existing barriers of communication between Anglophone and Francophone Africa. These countries were chosen based on the interest of PGA's parliamentary members there, and because the situation in both countries is similar: infant and child mortality rates are high, public access to health centers in rural areas is limited, family planning services are not fully integrated into primary health care regimes, and policymakers and government officials had a low level of awareness about the inter-relationship between population and development.

The Population Program has worked with parliamentary caucuses to mobilize the political will needed to publicize and monitor laws already on the books, and to strengthen the work of the caucuses in a number of important ways. In the three-year pilot project, PGA engaged its Senior Advisor, Dr. Fred Sai, former President of International Planned Parenthood Federation, to conduct an assessment regarding the existing and potential roles parliamentarians could perform in meeting current needs in the fields of population and sustainable development in Ghana and Senegal. PGA then conducted a workshop bringing the Ghanaian and Senegalese parliamentary caucuses on population together for the first time. At the workshop, each caucus focused on the immediate steps needed to strengthen its institutional presence, such as: formalizing their committees, building coalitions with local and international NGOs and research institutions, and developing specific plans of action.

During the second phase of the project, both parliamentary committees made great strides in advancing their agendas. For example, the Ghanaian parliamentary caucus on population was formally recognized as a full committee of the parliament and amended existing laws and promoted the passage of new laws regarding the minimum age of mar-



A Senegal PGA national group meeting.

riage and child labor. In Senegal, the population network supported passage of legislation abolishing the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). In phase two, PGA organized another workshop "Implementing the ICPD Agenda: Five Years After Cairo, Where Are We Now?" in Dakar in April 1999. Key members of the two parliamentary committees attended with twenty-two West African population experts including grass-roots activists, leaders of international and local NGOs, law and policy professors and ministry officials.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting were the impacts of government decentralization of population policies, and the critical need to cooperate and partner with NGOs, government ministries and research institutes. Through this meeting, members of the parliamentary population caucuses were able to form links with NGO representatives in attendance, inviting them to the National Assembly for the first time and developing plans for concrete collaboration.

Parliamentary Fellowship Program

Parliamentarians from developing countries often face great obstacles in carrying out commitments to their constituencies because of the absence of fundamental resources such as an office, staff or basic materials. They struggle to maintain up-to-date information on which to base informed policy decisions, and to monitor the laws and activities of relevant governmental bodies and NGOs. At the

same time, government and development professionals from the industrialized world have much to gain from experiencing first-hand the achievements and challenges of governing a developing nation.

Phase three of the Project has seen the placement of two PGA Parliamentary Fellows, one in the Parliament of Ghana and the other in Senegal's National Assembly. These fellows facilitate PGA's work with the Population Committees: organizing MP meetings/seminars with NGOs and research institutes to provide information on population-related issues; working cooperatively with research institutes on legislative reviews pertaining to population; developing and implementing projects with NGOs, local government officials, national government ministries; and, fundraising for these activities through local multilateral agency offices and embassies within the host country. Often plagued by time constraints, members of parliament are unable to gather data or facilitate networking opportunities. Fellows have performed critical functions in these areas and have launched caucus programs into action. In Ghana, for example, the Population Caucus is now the most popular and active caucus in parliament, hosting regular meetings with civil society and government and developing and implementing advocacy activities with MPs in their constituencies, NGOs and local government offices.

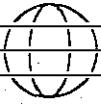
In both countries, there is an increasingly growing sense, by local NGOs and parliament, of ownership of the project. This can be seen by the increasing numbers of local NGOs that have shown an interest

in working with parliamentarians and that have developed projects that include parliamentary activities.

Parliamentary Fellows work directly with Population Committees in the national assemblies. PGA members arrange each Fellow's placement and act as a host sponsor for the Fellow for the duration of the Program. Depending on the needs of the parliament, Fellows are responsible for coordinating the ongoing work of the committee's Action Plan. In addition, Fellows act as liaisons and field staff for PGA's Secretariat.

Expansion

With the success and lessons learned through its pilot project in West Africa, PGA plans to expand its program to other countries in Africa, and to Latin America. At the outset of the Program, PGA will conduct a needs and assessment, keeping in mind lessons learned from the West Africa project, and maintaining sensitivity to current political situations. PGA will then plan strategic meetings within each region to kick-off a series of events that will work to strengthen parliamentary committees on population, foster their collaboration with civil society, and utilize key strategic ties to parliamentarians from donor countries and other members of the international community. Finally, PGA plans to place Parliamentary Fellows in the national assemblies or parliamentary committees within each country to assist with the tasks of fostering ICPD implementation.



Mobilizing US Legislators

ORGANIZATION OF PGA DELEGATIONS TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

PGA is committed to promoting parliamentary learning through direct dialogue between MPs. In particular, PGA has been focused on encouraging visits between the West Africa Program leaders and the U.S. Congress (as one of the donors not meeting their ICPD commitments), in order to promote awareness, understanding and personal commitment to population programs—on both sides. This has been a developing aspect of the Program.

During the spring of 1998, PGA staff laid the groundwork for two parliamentary delegations to U.S. Representatives through visits and telephone calls with the Legislative Directors and Chiefs of Staff of the members. The initial delegation consisted of Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana) and PGA Program Officer, Ms. Kristen Joiner. Hon. Tagoe met Rep. Cummings in Washington and developed a "Sister-Constituency" partnership with him, to encourage understanding of international issues in their constituents. The second delegation consisted of then PGA President, Mr. Moses Katjiounga, MP (Namibia); board members Ms. Theresa Tagoe, MP (Ghana) and Dep. Houda Kanoun (Tunisia); and PGA Secretary-General, Ms. Shazia Rafi, Projects Director, Ms. Ayaka Suzuki and Program Officer, Ms. Kristen Joiner.

The second delegation met with three key Representatives and one Chief of Staff who partici-

pated in President Clinton's trip to Africa: Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Donald Payne, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, and Mr. Horace Jennings, Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. In addition, the delegation attended a hearing of the House International Relations Committee (HIRC) on Trade with Africa. The hearing gave the President of PGA, Mr. Katjiounga, the opportunity to meet Rep. Cynthia McKinney, currently the ranking minority member of the HIRC. This meeting led to the participation of Rep. McKinney in PGA's delegation to The Hague Forum in February, 1999.

On October 4-6, 1999, PGA organized another parliamentary delegation to the U.S. Congress and hosted a congressional reception for U.S. Representatives, Senators and the U.S. Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering. The PGA delegation consisted of Dep. Ibrahima Fall (Senegal), Mr. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), Dip. Gabriel Ascencio (Chile), Cong. Javier Diez-Canseco (Peru), Sen. A. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), PGA Secretary-General, Ms. Shazia Rafi and PGA Program Officer, Ms. Christina Zampas. The delegation met with Representatives including Congressman Donald Payne, Congressman Bob Filner and Congressman James McGovern.

PGA's congressional reception was sponsored by The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and held at the Washington Home of Stewart Mott. The reception gave the opportunity for PGA members to

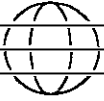
explain the work of the organization and to recruit more U.S. members. U.S. Senator Tom Harkin and Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney, Dennis J. Kucinich, Donald Payne, and Sue Kelly were amongst those in attendance. Senator Tom Harkin spoke to the attendees about the importance of

PGA's work, and he sees PGA playing a role in advancing this issue in the U.S. Congress.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has offered to sponsor a similar reception at PGA's next delegation to Washington D.C. in the summer of 2000.



PGA's Congressional Reception, Washington House of Stewart Mott, October 5, 1999, Washington, DC. L-R: Dip. Gabriel Ascencio (Chile); Amb. Thomas Pickering, U.S. Under Secretary of State; Sen. A. Raynell Andreychuck (Canada); Dep. Ibrahima Fall (Senegal); Sen. Tom Harkin (U.S.); Ms. Shazia Rafi, PGA Secretary-General; Cong. Javier Diez-Canseco (Peru); Mr. Aftab Shablan Mirani, MP (Pakistan); and Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana).



PGA Meeting Summaries and Declarations

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FOREIGN AID COMMITTEES OF DONOR COUNTRIES
October 18, 1995: United States Senate, Washington DC

As a follow-up activity in support of the International Conference on Population and Development, Parliamentarians for Global Action organized an international meeting of foreign aid committees at the United States Senate. The meeting gathered 60 members of parliament, representing thirty countries, to discuss their role in implementing the Cairo *Programme of Action* and to conduct a dialogue on development assistance for population programs. Mr. Murli Deora, MP (India), PGA's International President, chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants.

PGA organized the meeting to coordinate parliamentary activity from the donor community regarding the financial responsibilities assumed under the *Programme of Action* approved in Cairo in September 1994. This activity was undertaken as part of a series of actions designated to be an opportunity for legislators to discuss the specifics of what was agreed in Cairo in the area of international financial assistance.

By the end of the meeting, the participants formed a sub-network of legislators focused on resources mobilization. They agreed to undertake a series of activities, including informal delegations to meet other colleagues as political action towards the goals agreed at Cairo. The latter stressed the need

to encourage and support budgetary provisions to increase financial resources for development assistance, especially for population programs, and to enact legislation in support of such provisions. In addition, the participants agreed to focus their development assistance on capacity building efforts, enabling countries to develop in a sustainable and self-reliant manner.

Furthermore, they stated the need to promote the active participation of non-governmental organizations, community groups and local governments in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population programs and to seek new types of funding arrangements to make the most cost-effective use of the limited levels of assistance for population related activities from developed countries.

The parliamentary participants, representing nearly 30 countries and one hundred million constituents, pledged their commitment to undertake political action towards encouraging, supporting and approving budgetary provisions to increase financial resources for population and poverty alleviation initiatives. In particular they pledged to strive for 0.7% of GNP for ODA and 4% of ODA for funding population initiatives. They also committed to take action on encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources and the elimination of excessive con-

sumption patterns, and to focus development assistance on building capacity so as to enable countries to become self-reliant. The MPs also expressed support for greater coordination between multilateral agencies and donor countries in the planning of aid programs and for promoting the active participation of all civil society organizations and local governments in the development and implementation of population programs.

The participants also recognized the need for women to achieve economic equality. They acknowledged the need for countries to seek new types of funding arrangements to support increased resources; specifically they discussed debt relief. The MPs also committed to increase the level of awareness in the media and with their constituents about population and development issues and the ICPD agenda.

ACCRA WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING THE ICPD AGENDA December 4-5, 1997; Accra, Ghana

"Parliamentarians specifically have many important roles to play in helping to implement the Cairo agenda. First, they should be in the vanguard of the movement for poverty eradication and equitable development; they should know what reproductive health entails and advocate it vigorously. They should educate themselves about the critical realities of their countries and communities... They should hold the government to account to ensure that the relevant policies are made and implemented. They should canvass for the resources necessary. They should identify and if possible help remove legal barriers to progress in these fields and initiate or support appropriate and facilitating legislation. And, above all, they should mobilize their constituents for their own reproductive health care."

Dr. Fred Sai, Past-President, IPPF and PGA Senior Advisor

In order to bring together the Senegalese and Ghanaian parliamentary committees on population and development and develop an appropriate course of action, PGA and the Parliament of Ghana organized a workshop entitled, "Implementing the ICPD Agenda." The workshop, which consisted of 61 participants, including 51 parliamentarians representing eight different countries, was hosted by the Parliament of Ghana in Accra, Ghana.

KEY WORKSHOP EVENTS

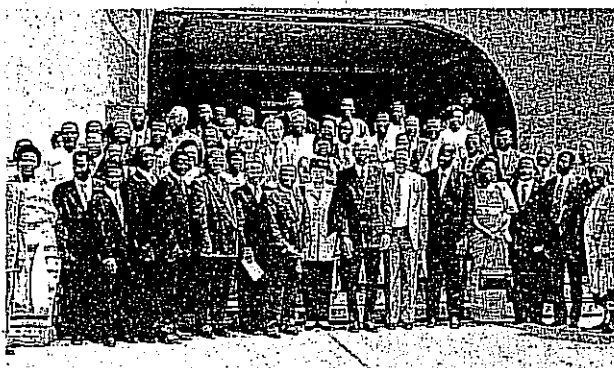
The workshop defined the role of the Ghana Parliamentary Committee on Population and Development and why there is a need for dialogue with other stakeholders.

Hearing the views and insights of a variety of stakeholders in the field of population emphasized to parliamentarians the strength and knowledge to be

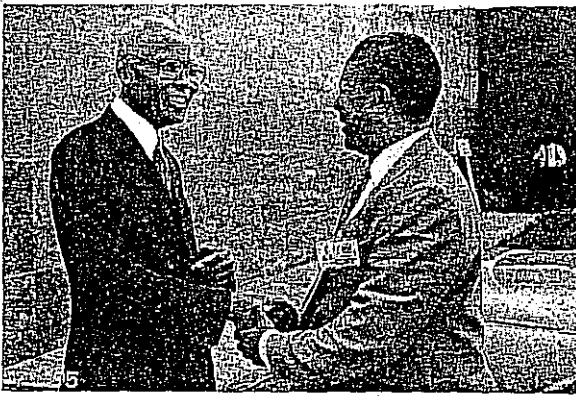
gained through the creation of partnerships. As a result, dialogue was initiated in several sectors.

A. The dialogue between parliament and civil society:

The workshop established a precedent for main-



"Implementing the ICPD Agenda" workshop participants.



L-R: Hon. Mr. Justice D.F. Avinan, Speaker (Ghana), Mr. Moses Katjuongua, MP (Namibia), PGA President 1998-99.

taining communication between the Parliamentary Committee on Population and Development and NGOs. It was decided that NGOs need to take responsibility for contacting newly-elected parliament members in order to educate members on their goals and areas of expertise. At the same time, it was emphasized that committee members need to remain informed of NGOs and their activities. In addition, a partnership was developed between Dr. Fred Sai and the parliament members. His experience and expertise provided the members with knowledge and insight on the history of the ICPD and the development of population-related issues on a global scale.

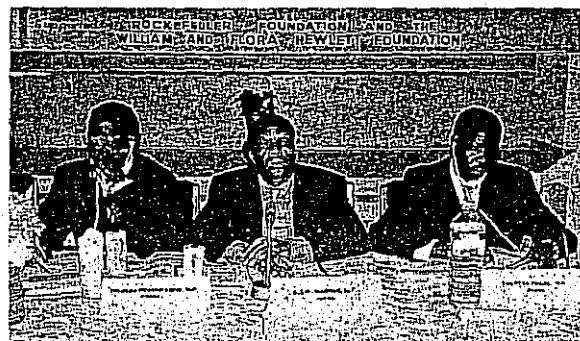
As an immediate follow-up activity to the workshop, Hon. Theresa Tagoe, a PGA International Councilor, held a forum in her constituency on population and other global issues and invited Dr. Sai and a series of experts from the Ghanaian community to speak. Dr. Sai observed that, "This is the first time I've ever seen a member hold a forum like this." Since the conclusion of the workshop, the Ghanaian parliamentary committee has invited Dr. Sai to act as an advisor in the development of their program.

B. The dialogue between the Parliamentary Committee on Population & Development and other inter-governmental bodies:

A firm partnership was established between the Arab-Africa Forum on Population and Development

and the workshop parliamentary participants. Hon. Moustapha Ka, the Chair of the Forum, delivered a message on behalf of the Forum and expressed his clear intention to bring the two groups together. The workshop concluded with a signed resolution to collaborate with the Arab-Africa Forum and other sister organizations. Presentations from the Ghanaian National Population Council and Parliamentary Committees on Health and Finance and Planning emphasized the links between their areas of work and the need for communication. In the exchange following the presentation by the National Population Council (NPC), the parliament members agreed to maintain regular communication with the NPC.

During the workshop it became evident that the Senegalese and Ghanaian parliamentarians had many questions in regards to population-related issues and much to share in terms of their own experiences. The parliament members repeatedly expressed their appreciation for the chance to communicate with their West African counterparts. The discussion intensified around the topics of female genital mutilation (FGM) and abortion. The issue of how to approach religious or traditional beliefs and customs was a central area of concern. These discussions highlighted the benefit of creating the opportunity for Africa-to-Africa exchanges. In this case it was particularly helpful to have the insights and experiences of the Deputy Speaker of the Ugandan parliament and several African NGO representatives. For example, the Ugandan Deputy



L-R: Dep. Momar Lo, Chair, Parliamentary Committee (Senegal); Hon. Alban Bagban, MP (Ghana); Dep. Ibrahima Fall, (Senegal), Convenor, PGA Program on Sustainable Development and Population.

Speaker, Hon. Betty Okwir, was able to describe the Ugandan experience with an innovative and successful program developed to discourage FGM. Specifically, the program gives uncircumcised girls a heifer as an incentive award for not having the operation.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The workshop concluded with several positive results (the following evaluation is a summary of the comments made in written evaluations and verbal interviews conducted after the workshop).

The Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana recognized the ad-hoc Ghanaian Parliamentary Committee on Population and Development and declared his intention to institutionalize the committee within parliament.

The workshop increased the political will and committed to act on these issues. It acted as a catalyst to unite the opposition and majority parties on a multi-partisan topic. The participation and engagement of NGOs illustrated the necessity of parliament and civil society working together on common concerns. The workshop initiated productive communication on a topic of regional concern between Ghanaian and Senegalese Parliamentary Committees on Population and Development.

WORKSHOP ACTION PLANS

The following action plan, which is based on Dr. Sai's keynote address, was developed during the final session of the meeting. The action plan emphasizes the Ghanaian committee, as the primary focus of this initial workshop was on Ghana. The group decided to hold a second workshop in Senegal in September in order to closely examine the situation in Senegal, monitor the progress of both committees and re-evaluate the situation in both countries. In addition, the committees will maintain contact and accountability with each other through communication with the PGA secretariat.

The Ghanaian Parliamentary Committee on Population and Development agreed that PGA, through their members, will assist the committee to:

- Educate themselves on the issues of population and development on a regional, national and international level.
- Establish a means to maintain the education level of the committee members.
- Establish a section of the parliamentary library devoted to population related issues.
- Contact and access information from other governmental and non-governmental agencies working in the area of population.
- Develop an informational bulletin on population-related issues and activities
- Identify 1 or 2 laws that require review.
- Identify 1 or 2 laws that require monitoring.
- Formulate strategies to influence the rest of parliament and the constituencies of the members on population-related issues.
- Formalize the committee structure.



TOP: L-R: Dr. Fred Sai, PGA Senior Advisor; Senator Raynell Andreychuck (Canada). BOTTOM: Workshop Opening Session. L-R: Hon. Jiff Mensah, Minority Leader (Ghana); Dep. Moustapha Ka, Vice-Chair (Senegal); Hon. Justice D.F. Annan, Speaker (Ghana); Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, First Deputy Speaker (Ghana); Mr. Moses Katjiuongua, MP (Namibia), PGA President 1998-99; Dr. Fred Sai, PGA Senior Advisor.

DAKAR PLANNING SESSION
September 11-12, 1998; Dakar, Senegal



*Dakar Planning Session:
Dr. Fred Sai, PGA Senior
Advisor, international expert
on reproductive health.*

PGA organized the "Dakar Planning Session" on September 11-12, 1998, in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting convened the key members of the Ghanaian and Senegalese parliamentary committees on population together with 22 West African experts, NGO leaders and ministry officials. Among other items, participants discussed progress in Ghana, the draft action plan of the Senegalese Caucus, involvement of the Women's' Caucuses, the decentralization process in Ghana, how to work with NGOs, and policy recommendations made by the experts. The group formed an organizational committee to coordinate the second program Workshop, "Five Years After Cairo: Where Are We Now?" in April, 1999 in Dakar.

KEY RESULTS:

- The Senegalese "Parliamentary Network on Population and Development" concluded that they had successfully completed their first stage of development: mobilizing support within parliament and formalizing their committee within the structure of the National Assembly. They identified their next stage of work: developing a plan of action and reaching out to and coordinating with civil society groups working on population and development.
- The Senegalese Network made a clear decision to reach out to the NGOs for their input on the Senegalese draft action plan.
- The Ghanaian Committee on Population and Development concluded they had established their committee within the National Assembly, but needed to focus on recruiting members and planning mechanisms to sustain themselves beyond their collaboration with the PGA Pilot Population Program.
- The Senegalese Network and the Ghanaian

Committee discussed at length the issue of decentralization in government. Ghana has recently put forth great efforts to decentralize and

had clear, concise examples of how Senegal could do the same. The Senegalese have identified decentralization as an integral issue in the advancement of population policies. The issue will be addressed in the Dakar Conference in February.

- Each expert, NGO leader and ministry official had the opportunity to make a 5-10 minute presentation to the parliamentarians of their current activities, goals and obstacles.

The Senegalese Network invited the NGOs, experts and multilateral organizations to the National Assembly, a precedent setting event for many of the NGOs. The Network formed a strong link with the following key groups:

- The local NGO community in Senegal, including two key associations of NGOs (COSEF: The Council of Senegalese Women and CONGAD: The Council of NGOs working in Development).
- Several international NGOs and multilateral organizations working on population and development, including The Population Council and UNFPA.
- The Women's Caucus in parliament.
- The academic community working on identifying and critiquing laws and policies that affect population issues.
- Government ministries involved in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.
- The groundwork was laid for the hiring of "Parliamentary Fellows" to act as

Administrative and Research Officers for the two committees.

- The communication links were further developed between Ghana, Senegal and PGA.

ADVANCEMENTS FOLLOWING THE DAKAR PLANNING SESSION

Senegal

1. created a diverse "Organizational Committee," with representation from the NGOs, multilateral agencies and ministries, to prepare for the 2nd Annual PGA Conference, held in Dakar in April, 1999. The organization of the work served the dual purpose of fulfilling necessary responsibilities, while building a sense of ownership other groups and members of parliament. The Committee met consistently from September 1998 to April 1999.
2. The Council of NGOs in Support of Development (CONGAD) committed to organizing and financing an exhibition of NGOs in the Conference Hall in conjunction with the workshop, "Five Years After Cairo: Where are we now?" In addition, CONGAD agreed to prepare a presentation on the subject for the conference.
3. The Senegalese Caucus on Population asked for a national review of population issues. The "Organizational Committee" for the Dakar conference asked Prof. Kamara, Department of Legal and Political Sciences, University of Saint Louis, Senegal, to prepare an overview of the current population issues in Senegal in regards to the work of NGOs, the policy framework, and the implementation of existing laws. Prof.



Dakar Planning Session: Members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Senegal.

Kamara coordinated closely with the MPs, concluded with specific recommendations for parliamentary activity and participated in a special session with the Caucus to discuss his recommendations and future plans.

4. The Senegalese Caucus began developing a partnership with the Regional Office of the Population Council in West Africa. The Population Council committed to making a presentation on their research findings in Ghana and Senegal at the Dakar Conference in April, 1999.
5. The National Assembly of Senegal debated and approved a proposal for a law against female genital mutilation in February 1999.

Ghana

1. In January 1999, the Ghanaian Caucus on Population and Development presented their "Plan of Action" to the Speaker of the Assembly, Hon. Justice D.F. Annan and received his approval. The presentation fulfilled the Speaker's challenge to the Caucus—made during his inauguration speech at the PGA conference, "Implementing the ICPD Agenda," in Accra, Ghana, December 1997—to present him with a clear plan of action.
2. During the fall of 1998, the Ghanaians drafted and voted to adopt a draft constitution for the Caucus on Population and Development. The adoption of a draft constitution is a significant step forward for the caucus in the achievement of their initial objectives.
3. During the fall of 1998, the National Assembly of Ghana approved an amendment to the 1960 Criminal Code to: 1) penalize indecent assault; 2) criminalize the customary practice of "ritual servitude;" 3) upgrade the penalty set for the crime of rape; and 4) upgrade the penalty for the crime of defilement.
4. In December of 1998, the National Assembly of Ghana approved a bill to reform and consolidate laws relating to children. The bill assures certain rights for children, regulates child labor and day-care centers and raises the legal age of marriage.

THE HAGUE FORUM February 8-14, 1999; The Hague, The Netherlands

The Hague Forum, which took place from February 8 through 14 at the National Congress Center, was the first of two international events organized by the UN to prepare for the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). On June 30 1999, the UN General Assembly was to hold a Special Session to review the implementation of the *Programme of Action* adopted at the ICPD in Cairo in 1994. The goal of the Forum was to evaluate the progress of governments in fulfilling the commitments agreed on at the ICPD. The thorny issues centered on how to approach adolescent sexuality and to what extent donor countries are meeting their financial commitments.

CONFERENCES HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HAGUE FORUM

The Hague Forum was held in conjunction with three conferences, as was the Cairo Conference. The International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review (IFP) took place at the States-General Parliament of The Netherlands on February 4, 5 and 6. The NGO Forum on ICPD Review and The Youth Forum on ICPD Review were held simultaneously in the National Congress Center on February 6 and 7. The three aforementioned events concluded with declarations that were given to the official Hague Forum to be incorporated into the final inter-governmental report.

PGA'S ROLE AT THE HAGUE FORUM

PGA was a member of the Steering Committee that organized the International Parliamentary Forum and led a delegation of 10 legislators to participate in the Parliamentary Forum. In addition, PGA was an official participant of the NGO Forum and the official UN Forum. Four PGA parliamentarians spoke at the Parliamentary Forum, two PGA MPs

spoke at the NGO Forum and one PGA MP participated in the official Hague Forum. Twenty-nine PGA members participated in the International Forum of Parliamentarians.

PGA's objectives were:

- To demonstrate the benefits of working on an intensive national level with the MPs in "partner" countries, in the manner PGA is working with Ghana and Senegal in the PGA Pilot Population Program in West Africa.
- To provide opportunities for MPs to share what they have learned.
- To further educate and sensitize the MPs on sustainable development and population issues through exchanges with MPs and NGOs.
- To encourage the implementation of what has been committed from respective countries, by asking MPs from those countries to make presentations on their progress in various areas.
- To reach consensus on the program of the upcoming PGA conference in Dakar with the leaders of the West Africa Population Pilot Project.
- To plan the PGA/PAI workshop to be held in conjunction with the UN Commission on Population and Development on March 26th, 1999.
- To develop partnerships and recruit new members.
- To explore replication prospects for the population program in other regions.

The PGA Delegation included: Ms. Houda Kanoun, MP (Tunisia); Ms. Theresa Ameley-Tagoe, MP (Ghana); Dep. Ibrahima Fall, MP (Senegal); Dep. Momar Lo (Senegal); Mr. Alhaj Salifu, MP (Ghana).

By participating in The Hague Forum, the leaders of the program were able to share their successes and challenges of implementing the ICPD with other MPs. At the same time, the leaders were able to

describe the structure of the program as an example of how parliamentarians can work with their counterparts and NGOs.

Two US legislators, Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney and Rep. Cynthia McKinney were also members of PGA's delegation. This was important as it furthered PGA's commitment of promoting parliamentary learning through direct dialogue between MPs. As a result of Rep. McKinney's participation in the Hague Forum, she agreed to co-sponsor a bill requesting funding from the U.S. Congress for UNGPA.

Also with the delegation was Dr. Salvador Urrutia, MP (Chile), a member of the Health Committee. Dr. Urrutia works closely with the women of the Chilean parliament to pass laws connected to the ICPD *Programme of Action*, such as the violence against women law.

The Chilean Congress has expressed much interest in the West African pilot population program. They would like PGA's assistance in initiating a national dialogue on sex education and teen pregnancy

within the Assembly and between the MPs and civil society. As the issue is quite sensitive and complex in Chile, the MPs believe that outsiders, such as PGA members from other countries, could support them in raising awareness of the topic without creating a backlash.

Two MPs from the Netherlands, Drs. Jan Hoekema, Vice Chair of International Council, PGA, and Drs. Bert Koenders completed the delegation.

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS (IFP) (FEBRUARY 4-6, 1999) AND THE NGO FORUM ON THE ICPD +5 REVIEW OF THE HAGUE (FEBRUARY 6-7, 1999):

PGA contributed to the organization of the IFP by acting as a member of the Steering Committee. PGA had a presence on the Steering Committee meetings in September 1998 (The Hague, The Netherlands) and December 1998 (Tokyo, Japan). The Parliamentary Forum took place simultaneously with the International Forum on "The ICPD +5" in The Hague in February 1999. PGA sent a ten-person delegation to The Hague Forum.

ICPD FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS MEETING March 26, 1999, United Nations, New York

The Parliamentary workshop on "Meeting ICPD Commitments" was held on March 26, 1999 in conjunction with the 32nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, which served as the preparatory committee (PrepCom) for the UN Special Session on the Five Year Review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +5). Organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and Population Action International (PAI), the workshop brought together 15 parliamentarians from fourteen countries, representing all regions of the world. Ten of the parliamentarians were also participating in the PrepCom as a member of their country's official delegation.

The goal of the workshop was twofold:

- To evaluate the primary issues facing parliamentarians in mobilizing resources to implement the ICPD *Programme of Action*
The ICPD estimated that \$17 billion would be required in the year 2000 to meet the cost of providing basic reproductive health care in developing countries. Financial commitments have not been fulfilled: in 1996 donor country contributions represented only 35% of the amount required, while developing countries met 70% of their target amount.
- To facilitate the inclusion of parliamentarians in the official delegations to the PrepCom
It is extremely important to involve parliamentarians in the process of reviewing the international agreements that they are instrumental in

negotiating. They are not only acquainted with the needs of their constituencies, but will also be required to approve the national resources that will support the implementation of such accords.

PARLIAMENTARY DECLARATION MARCH 26, 1999

Parliamentary participants reaffirmed the ICPD *Programme of Action* commitments and recognized the important role the UN and UNFPA play in promoting social development. They recognized the progress made in some areas of reproductive health, particularly in the development of national policies and programs to reflect the principles of the ICPD *Programme of Action*. They also acknowledged that, in some countries, the implementation of the *Programme of Action* has been weak due to the lack of political will to develop the appropriate strategies and mechanisms and to allocate the necessary resources. The participants expressed their deep concern at the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly among young people, the disparity between defense investment, the lack of contraceptive choices among vulnerable populations such as youth, refugees, displaced persons and immigrants, and unsustainable production and consumption patterns and use of the world's natural resources. The participants expressed concern about global economic issues and the impact the economy has on expansion of population programs. They committed themselves to work with all sectors of society to actively support the implementation of the *Programme of Action* and to ensure the allocation of human and financial resources to help meet the needs of all those who cannot access services for their own social and economic development and reproductive health needs. They committed themselves to good governance, transparency, accountability and to sharing information and experience at all levels.

STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD *PROGRAMME OF ACTION*

The participants approved the following recommendations for action: Under resource allocation,

they committed to act on supporting debt relief efforts domestically and internationally and to provide tax incentives that create an economic environment more conducive to investment and thus, to providing basic social and reproductive health services; to approve budget allocations consistent with the UN target of 0.7% of GNP towards ODA and 5% of that to reproductive health activities; and to support the 20/20 initiative of devoting 20% of donor countries' ODA and 20% of the budgets of the developing countries to the provision of basic social services. They agreed to work toward developing parliamentary coordinating bodies in their own parliaments that work on equitable financial investment in social development and that integrate all social development issues, including population and reproductive health. They will monitor government allocation of budgetary items in relation to population and reproductive health, and work with research institutes to encourage data collection related to these efforts. Participants urged UNFPA to improve their data collection system on ICPD-related government expenditures and to disseminate current country-level data on domestic expenditures.

On HIV/AIDS, participants agreed to urge their governments to give priority to cost-effective prevention efforts and to give proper attention to the treatment of infected persons and to push for the \$1.3 billion for HIV/AIDS assistance as set forth in the *Programme of Action*. On Adolescent/Youth Reproductive Health they moved to support the Youth Coalition on ICPD +5 amendments to Key Action 102-a, b, c: Report of the Secretary General. Finally, on coordination and partnership issues, they committed themselves to take action to support the ratification of all international agreements and instruments on ICPD-related issues; and to support NGOs advocacy efforts and to conduct work together to educate the public on public education campaigns. They also vowed to promote legislation to further the advancement of reproductive health rights and the status of women and to remove legal, regulatory and cultural barriers to health information while at the same time safeguarding the rights to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent.

DAKAR WORKSHOP: "IMPLEMENTING THE ICPD AGENDA"
FIVE YEARS AFTER CAIRO: WHERE ARE WE NOW? "
April 19-21, 1999; Dakar, Senegal

In order to bring together the Senegalese and Ghanaian parliamentary committees on population and development and develop an appropriate course of action, PGA and the Parliament of Senegal organized the 2nd Annual "Implementing the ICPD Agenda" on the theme *Five Years After Cairo: Where are we now?* The workshop, which consisted of 80 participants, including 32 parliament members representing five different countries, was hosted by the Parliament of Senegal in Dakar, Senegal on April 19-21 1999.

JOINT DECLARATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
FROM GHANA AND SENEGAL

The parliamentary participants of the workshop set forth a joint declaration. It recognized the importance of the implementing of the UN conferences programs of action and the need to increase the political will necessary to effectively implement the programs. The declaration stressed that in order to

achieve true sustainable there needs to be active participation and coordination from all members of civil society, government and the private sector. They committed themselves to cooperate and partner with all players, most importantly nongovernmental organizations. They also recognized two prevalent crises where sustainable development has had major setbacks: the HIV/AIDS crisis and the spread of armed conflicts in the sub-region and the disproportionate ratio of resources spent on military expenditures to that spent on social services.

They declared that MPs can play a critical role in implementing the ICPD *Programme of Action* at all levels: international, local and regional and committed themselves toward allocating the necessary human and financial resource to reproductive health and family planning services. They agreed to share information and resources with their international and regional colleagues.

STRATEGY FOR
IMPLEMENTING THE ICPD
PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The participants agreed to: Evaluate policy and legislation for their impact on reproductive health of men, women and youth, the status of women, the well-being of youth, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the environment; promote legislation to strengthen these areas and harmonize national laws with existing international conventions; create effective working relationships with NGOs



Dakar workshop participants tour the Exhibition of NGOs (set up by CONGAD). Second from left: Hon. Cheikh Abdoul Khadre Cissouthe, President, National Assembly (Senegal); Fourth from left: Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA.

and civil society, relationships based on mutual trust and respect; cooperate with civil society and local government on advocacy efforts to increase awareness of legislation and their implications for the welfare of the people and to mobilize financial and human resources; use gender disaggregated statistics in support of appropriating more government funds toward women's development; advocate for the financial support of particular activities in the field through prioritization of reproductive health in donor assistance plans; and work with all sister organizations in the region and subregion,

particularly the Forum for Arab-African Parliamentarians for Population and Development.



Dakar Workshop. L-R: Ms. Shazia Rafi, PGA Secretary-General; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA; Dep. Ibrahima Fall, MP (Senegal).



Dakar Workshop. Top: Ms. Waris Dirie, Goodwill Ambassador, UNFPA; Bottom: L-R: Dep. Aminata Tall, Vice President, National Assembly (Senegal); Dep. Moustapha Ka, Vice President, National Assembly (Senegal).

