



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires

**Fifth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation
of the ICPD Programme of Action**

Istanbul, Turkey
May 24-25, 2012

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) participated in the Fifth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action that took place in Istanbul, Turkey on May 24 and 25, 2012. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey organized this year's Conference.

The two-day meeting brought together around 300 Parliamentarians from 110 countries that reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and discussed their role in influencing a new international development framework that follows the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

PGA's Executive Committee members Dr. Donya Aziz, Member of Parliament (MP) from Pakistan, Dip. Minou Tavarez from Dominican Republic, and Ms. Irene Addo Torshie, MP from Ghana, and Dep. Fernando Lucio Giacobbo from Brazil, integrated the official delegation led by Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary-General of PGA. Twenty more legislators, PGA members as well, attended the meeting (please see the complete list as an annex).

Dr. Aziz represented PGA as a member of the Steering Committee of the ICPI/ICPD, while Ms. Irene Addo participated in the Drafting Committee, along with legislators from Ethiopia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Chile, Portugal, Switzerland, Jamaica, Palestine, Pakistan and UNFPA staff.

Delegates endorsed the ***Istanbul Statement of Commitment, Keeping Promises – Measuring Results***, which calls on Parliamentarians to pledge on specific actions and/or steps with regards to:

1. Mobilizing the necessary resources for the ICPD agenda
2. Strengthening parliamentary oversight in the implementation of the ICPD agenda
3. Awareness raising, advocacy responsibilities and actions for results in priority areas
4. Understanding and managing the politicization of the ICPD agenda
5. Building partnerships and networking for the ICPD agenda
6. Communication as a critical toll for forging shared understanding and cultivating public support on the ICPD agenda.

The ***Istanbul Statement of Commitment*** especially calls for the empowering of youth through access to quality education, sexual and reproductive health services, and to productive employment and decent work; promoting and protecting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through the adoption and implementation of all international conventions on the matter, such as CEDAW; and the strengthening of health systems to ensure high quality access to sexual and

reproductive health services and to enact legislation on monitoring and evaluation of programs and systematic data collection.

It is noteworthy that Parliamentarians pledged to systematically and actively monitor their progress through regularly reporting to regional parliamentary groups and agreed on assessing the advancement on the ICPD Programme of Action in two years, when the IPCI convenes again.

At the closing ceremony, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan delivered a thought-provoking address calling for solidarity among countries to combat poverty, conflicts and the lack of justice in the world and endorsed the *Istanbul Statement of Commitment*.

Dr. Osotimehin, on his part, concluded by highlighting that ICPD translates into dignity, respect and rights. He said ICPD is about human beings and offered legislators four elements to improve lives of their constituents:

1. Ensure a Committee on Population and Development;
2. Ensure the allocation of necessary resources;
3. Guarantee education to all women and girls; and
4. Strengthen parliamentarians' oversight functions to review and monitor governments are doing their tasks.

Finally, he encouraged legislators to go back to their countries and work on the ICPD agenda to demonstrate next time the IPCI meets.

PGA's Activities and Presence

Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary General of PGA, hosted a successful dinner for PGA members attending the Conference on the evening of May 23 at the Summit Terrace and Bar of the Conrad Istanbul Hotel. Dinner was attended by the following guests: US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-D), new PGA's members US Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky (Ill-D) and Ms. Souad Ben Abderrahim, MP, Tunisia, Senator Anita Raynell Andreychuk from Canada, Ms. Ivonne Gilli, MP, Switzerland, Ms. Fong Po Kuan, MP, Malaysia, and Executive Committee members, Dr. Donya Aziz, MP from Pakistan and Ms. Irene Addo Torshie, MP from Ghana.

On May 24, PGA's delegation held a meeting with Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, to present the [Tunis Plan of Action](#). This relevant Plan of Action was adopted by Parliamentarians that participated in the Parliamentary Workshop on Advancing Maternal and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality for member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Tunis, Tunisia on March 8 to 10, 2012.

Dr. Aziz, Convenor of the Sustainable Development, Health and Population Programme, US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Mr. Djibrilla Kaou, MP from Cameroon, Ms. Souad Ben Abderrahim and Mr. Wissem Yassine, MPs from Tunisia, and Ms. Ivonne Gilli, MP from Switzerland, accompanied Ms. Rafi. After presenting the Tunis Plan of Action, Dr. Osotimehin thanked Ms. Rafi and PGA for the continued and important work on assisting Parliamentarians to implement the ICPD and encouraged the organization and its members to carry on with these commitments.

Earlier that day, Ms. Rafi met briefly with His Excellency Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, and thanked him for their continued and vital core funding support to PGA as well as the active involvement of Danish members led by the Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Mogens Lykketoft and Mr. Jeppe Kofod to all our programs.

On May 25, Dr. Aziz and Ms. Rafi met briefly with Ms. Sandra Jordan, Senior Technical Advisor for Communications at USAID and Ms. Elizabeth Schlachter from the US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. Ms. Rafi introduced the organization and mentioned our work on advancing maternal and reproductive health for member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Ms. Jordan and Ms. Schlachter were presented with copies of the Tunis Plan of Action.

After the closing ceremony on May 25, Ms. Rafi approached Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to thank him for his continued support for Women's Empowerment and Health issues in member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and brought to his attention the Tunis Plan of Action as a relevant outcome of PGA's Parliamentary Workshop on these topics in the region.

Finally, on Saturday morning Ms. Rafi organized a tour of Beyoğlu, the most cosmopolitan part of Istanbul, guided by historians Paolo Girardelli and Vangelis Kechriotis, of Bogazici (Bosphorus) University. Our hosts showed the participants, among them Ms. Jamila Gilani, MP from Pakistan, hidden and little known sites representing the heritage of the non-Muslim Ottoman and Levantine communities, the encounter between Europe and Islam, the history of diplomacy and international relations.

Overall, the two-day Conference ended with a positive balance for PGA as it served to strengthen our partnership with UNFPA and give visibility to our organization to new-elected parliamentarians. PGA staff had the opportunity to meet with several parliamentarians from all over the world and introduced the organization. Among those new PGA members are US Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky (Ill-D) and Ms. Souad Ben Abderrahim, MP from Tunisia.

Additionally, it was relevant to meet UNFPA's staff from their regional offices and headquarters, and staff from the Asian, African, European and Latin American parliamentary groups on population and development for further collaboration.

ANNEX

List of PGA members attending the IPCI/ICPD

| PGA MEMBERS | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Africa | Participants | Country |
| Ms. | Sylvia SSINABULYA | Uganda |
| Ms. | Esaie GBANNE | Central African Republic |
| Dr. | Djibrilla KAOU | Cameroon |
| Mr. | Antonio Rosario NIQUICE | Mozambique |
| Ms. | Elizabeth ALPHA-LAVALIE | Sierra Leone |
| Ms. | Mariame TRAORE KEITA | Ivory Coast |
| Mr. | Mamadou DELY (new PGA member) | Ivory Coast |
| Mr. | Jacob OUEDRAOGO | Burkina Faso |
| Mr. | John Paul LAKO (new PGA member) | South Sudan |
| Ms. | Elizabeth Nyawal CHOL (new PGA member) | South Sudan |
| Ms. | Alma A. JERVASE YAK (new PGA member) | South Sudan |
| Mr. | Alidu Iddrisu ZAKARI (new PGA member) | Ghana |
| Arab States | | |
| Dr. | Sahar AL QAWASMI | Palestine |
| Ms. | Souad BEN ABDERRAHIM | Tunisia |
| Minister | Nouzha SKALLE (new PGA member) | Morocco |
| Mr. | Khalid SBIA (new PGA member) | Morocco |
| Asia | | |
| Ms. | Fong Po KUAN | Malaysia |
| Ms. | Fereshta AMINI (new PGA member) | Afghanistan |
| Europe | | |
| Ms | Yvonne Herta GILLI STOCKER | Switzerland |
| Latin & North America | | |
| Sen. | Maria Rosa DIAZ | Argentina |
| Sen. | Anita Raynell ANDREYCHUK | Canada |
| Ms. | Maria Antonieta SAA | Chile |
| Mr. | José BLANDON | Panama |
| Congresswoman | Carolyn MALONEY | USA |
| Congresswoman | Jan SCHAKOWSKY (new PGA member) | USA |
| Turkey | | |
| Ms. | Zeynep Karahan USLU | |