Reproductive Health and Family Planning: Contribution of parliamentarians, challenges and opportunities
Functions of Parliament

- Legislation
- Oversight and budget scrutiny
- Representation
Functions of Parliament

Legislative Role

• Introduce, scrutinize, and review legislation to ensure that the key RH/FP issues are reflected in national policies.
• Ensure that the necessary enabling legislations are in place.
• The legislative process should be used to create a framework for monitoring progress towards achieving the goals.

Oversight Role

• Oversee and monitor policy implementation to ensure the Government, individual ministries and other stakeholders are held to account for implementation of commitments they made in relation to RH/FP.
Functions of Parliament

Budget Scrutiny and Approval Roles

• Key is advocating for adequate, efficient and transparent allocation of resources at all level.

• Ensuring that budgets prioritised and represent peoples needs and aim to make progress towards the new development goals.

Representation Role

• Representing the views of their constituents in Parliament

• Providing constituents with information key issues nationally and in Parliament

• Provide representation of all sectors of society through ensuring that all have a voice and participate in decision making process.
Key summary of contribution and processes

- ICPD MAPUTO
- SADC- Mahe Declaration
- EAC- EALA
- TICAD (TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT)

Mahe Declaration
SRHR Draft Bill now before parliament
Health included in Blueprint
*(Domestication of commitments and Accountability)*
Challenges

• Commitment to RH/FP issues
• Inadequate knowledge or understand of RH/FP and linkages
• Growing opposition to RH/FP
• Actual roles or mandate of MPs vs expectations
• Competing priorities of MPs
• Resources
• Diversity in requirements across countries for MPs
Opportunities

• Regional and international instruments
• New frameworks like SDGs recognise role of parliament
• Increased understanding of roles by several stakeholders
• Willingness to learn from MPs and willingness by stakeholders to strengthen capacity of legislators
• Existing of Networks and other structures e.g NEAPACOH, PAP