

**2017 NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF HEALTH  
(NEAPACOH) MEETING**

**“Building the capacity of African policy makers for reproductive health and family planning: Challenges and Opportunities for Parliaments to enhance Reproductive Health/ Family Planning”**

Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, December 13 – 14, 2017

**KAMPALA CALL TO ACTION**

We the delegates representing our parliaments from 16 countries of Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Senegal, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe; as well as representatives of development partners, Civil Society and other stakeholders engaged in Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Maternal and Child Health programmes who gathered here at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, from December 13 – 14, 2017, attending a meeting of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH) on the theme **“Building the capacity of African policy makers for reproductive health and family planning: Challenges and Opportunities for Parliaments to enhance Reproductive Health/ Family Planning”**.

**Appreciated** the Parliament of Uganda and Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) for hosting the meeting. **We further appreciated** the support from partners: National Population Council (NPC) of Uganda; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP); International Planned Parenthood Africa Regional Office (IPPFARO); East Africa Health Policy Research Organization (EAHPRO); Population Services International Uganda (PSI-U); and Marie Stopes Uganda (MSU) for organizing the meeting.

**Recalled** our commitments made at the International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD), Plan of Action adopted in 1994, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the successor SDGs adopted at the UN in September 2015, and our own NEAPACOH commitments in the area of reproductive health, family planning, population and development, made over the past years.

**Acknowledged** the strategic value of NEAPACO to promote information exchange, facilitate policy dialogue and identify innovative practices to the attainment of national, regional and global goals on reproductive health, population and sustainable development through South- South Cooperation.

**Recognized** the MDGs successor SDGs adopted by the international community at the UN in September 2015 aimed at ending poverty by 2030 as well as to universally promote shared economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection and the role of parliamentarians be it, representation, legislation, budget appropriation and oversight for the achievement of the SDGs.

**Noted** that reproductive health and family planning remain critically important for the sustainable development of the African continent and hence observed that it is essential to continue positioning them high on the continent's development agenda.

**Appreciated** the crucial role of research and evidence in the delivery of parliamentary core functions;

**Appreciated** the progress made by our countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action over the past 23 years, as well as commitment to support RH/FP programmes and create an enabling environment for their implementation and recognized that there is more to be done to address the unfinished agenda, unmet needs and emerging challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Further appreciated** the efforts of development partners, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, faith based organizations, private sector and other key players to support reproductive health, family planning and population programmes.

**Emphasized** the importance of demographic dividend as a critical window of opportunity for improving equitable population, health and socioeconomic development, if focus is put on investments, and appropriate alignment of national legislation, policies and resource allocation, for adolescents and youth.

**Adopted a “Kampala Call to Action”** on December 14, 2017 based on sustainable development as the core principle. The Kampala Call for Action recommends the following:

#### **On Leadership**

1. Continue providing leadership and stewardship on policy, legislation and budgetary oversight for reproductive health and family planning
2. Champion and undertake actions that enable increased use of evidence in decision making
3. Accord highest priority to institutionalize investments in RH/FP by integrating RH/FP programmes into national development plans across sectors
4. Promote and support RH/FP general awareness activities in the constituencies and at all levels in the country

#### **On legislation:**

1. Support a policy environment that ensures greater accountability and oversight of the implementation of RH/FP programmes.
2. Continue initiating debate on the floor of parliaments and pass bills that support universal access to health including RH and FP services
3. Initiate and support laws and policies that operationalize task sharing for improved service delivery of RH/FP issues
4. Initiate and support a conducive and facilitative policy and legal framework for community health workers to operate.

### **On Advocacy**

1. Regularly issue public statements supportive of RH/FP to mobilize both political and popular support;
2. Lobby for inclusion of RH/FP activities in government priorities and keep them high on the agenda
3. Advocate for investments in the young people with a focus on education, health, skilling, job creation to enhance the demographic dividend.
4. Advocate for increased and well-motivated health workforce

### **On Financing**

1. Advocate for increased government resources to the health sector, including HRH;
2. Advocate for increased government resource allocation towards reproductive health and family planning programmes.
3. Ensure accountability and efficiency in public expenditures and track RH/FP resources;
4. Advocate for separate and dedicated budget line for family planning in national and sub national health budgets.
5. Ensure the full engagement of our political leadership, national and local governments to ensure that our RH/FP programmes are adequately funded by domestic resources, innovative global financing, and continuous engagement of development partners.

### **On Strategies and Programmes**

1. Collaborate with political and other leaders and optimize their capacity to advocate for FP and population issues;
2. Participate in monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health and family planning programmes
3. Promote south – south sharing of innovative good/promising practices for promoting RH/FP, population and development.

4. Support the drive against child marriages and teenage pregnancy and advocate for initiatives aimed at keeping the girl child in schools. – French version
5. Support initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of key government units responsible for coordination and implementation of RH/FP and population programmes.
5. Promote and strengthen partnerships, including private-public partnerships in promoting RH/FP , population and development
6. Promote a multi-sectoral approach to integration of SRH/HIV/FP Programmes at national and sub national levels.

#### **On Strengthening NEAPACOH**

1. Institutionalize NEAPACOH in African parliaments.
2. Strengthen funding mechanisms for the implementation of NEAPACOH strategy.
3. Institute a feasible mechanism for sustained country-level support to committees for all member countries.
4. Design and deliver a sustained capacity building programme for NEAPACOH members.
5. Expand opportunities for increasing evidence use by MPs involved in NEAPACOH.

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