

SEAPACOH

Southern and East African Parliamentary
Alliance of Committees of Health



Partners in Population and Development
Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO)



German Foundation for
World Population (DSW)



United Nations Population Fund
(UNFPA)

2010 Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa:

“Repositioning Family Planning and Reproductive Health in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region: Challenges and Opportunities”

Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, 28-29 September 2010

Resolutions

The Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa, held in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda, 28-29 September 2010, gathered members of Parliamentary Committees responsible for health from 11 countries and regional bodies in Eastern and Southern Africa, with civil society and regional partners to promote information exchange, facilitate policy dialogue and identify key areas of follow up action to advance health equity and sexual and reproductive health in the region. The meeting was held as a follow up to review progress on actions proposed at the September 2008 and September 2009 Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The third high level Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa was on the theme of “Repositioning Family Planning and Reproductive Health in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region: Challenges and Opportunities” and was held at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort, Kampala, Uganda, from 28-29 September 2010. It was hosted by Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, the German Foundation for World Population (DSW). Participants were drawn from Parliaments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the East African Legislative Assembly.

Now therefore, we members of the Southern and East African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees of Health (SEAPACOH), note the issue of the untapped potential of how family planning can help countries achieve the MDGs;

Recognizing the poor progress on MDGs, as was discussed at both the July 2010 African Union Summit in Kampala, Uganda, as well as the September 2010 UN Summit in New York, USA, where it was agreed that more effort needs to be made to achieve the MDGs by 2015;

Noting that the country performance on MDGs 4 and 5 is poor and uneven, especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa region;

Aware that resources allocated for better reproductive health in Sub-Saharan countries are not adequate to achieve the goals of the Maputo Plan of Action;

Cognizant of the role of Parliamentarians in representation, legislation, appropriation and oversight for better utilization of public resources;

Appreciating the progress on the resolutions made in 2008 and 2009 by the **Southern and East African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees On Health (SEAPACOH)**, we, the members of SEAPACOH, hereby resolve to the following:

Commit ourselves to the realization of the MDGs, the Maputo Plan of Action and the Accra Agenda for Aid Effectiveness

Offer Leadership

- To ensure good governance in all matters of health;
- Continue providing stewardship on policy, legislation and budgetary oversight, including for reproductive health and family planning; and
- Ensure that family planning and population issues are integrated into national development strategies, including the poverty reduction strategies and action plans

Advocacy

- Promote family planning as essential to the achievement of all MDGs, especially MDG4 and MDG5, in partnership with civil society organizations and the media;
- Regularly issue public statements supportive of family planning to mobilize both political and popular support;
- Promote the Maputo Plan of Action through the momentum created by CARMMA and other national initiatives; and
- Promote gender equity

Financing

- Advocate for increased government resources to health to realize the Abuja target of 15%;
- Ensure accountability in public expenditures;
- Ensure a clear and separate budget line for family planning in national and district health budgets and ensure family planning is included in basket funding, where applicable;
- Establish an enabling environment for effective public-private partnerships for health; and
- Continue support for strengthening health systems

Strategies and Programmes

- Enhance partnerships with civil society organizations; and
- Learn from the best practices in countries in the region through South-South cooperation

Strengthening SEAPACOH

- Network within the region with health professionals and development partners, including civil society organizations for health;
- Improve regular and ongoing communications and sharing of information through technology (e.g. email, website, blog, forum);
- Undertake resource mobilization activities to support the implementation of the SEAPACOH Strategic Plan and ensure sustainability of the Alliance;
- Endeavour to improve on reporting of health data; and
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of these resolutions