



**Partners in Population and Development (PPD)  
A South-South Initiative**

**The Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees of  
Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (SEAPACOH)**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

***By***

**Dr. Harry S. Jooseery  
Executive Director**

**Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, Uganda  
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Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Planning) & PPD Board Member

Dr. Blessing Chebundo, Chair SEAPACOH

Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Regional Director PPD ARO

Members of Parliament

Ladies and gentlemen

I wish in the first instance to thank wholeheartedly the Hon. Minister Matia Kasaija for sparing his precious time to be with us for the closing ceremony of this very important regional meeting that has been organized by SEAPACOH and PPD.

Hon. Minister the meeting has been a great success and I should applaud all the participants for their constant engagement, the quality of presentations and deliberations during the three days. We have addressed a variety of issues and challenges like Human Resource Development, Repositioning of Family Planning, Health Systems Strengthening, Financing for FP, Gender Mainstreaming, Drivers of Progress. Parliamentarians from 18 countries of Southern & Eastern Africa have shared their experiences and challenges in meeting SEAPACOH Strategic Plan. I have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of achievements that these countries have made since last year. However, Hon. Minister, the challenges are serious especially in the area of Family Planning.

Unmet needs for Family Planning in many African countries are still high. Maternal mortality is also a serious cause of concern and these were highlighted and thoroughly discussed during the very first session of this meeting.

Hon. Minister, participants resolved to address the challenges by:

- 1) Strengthening political commitment
- 2) Reinforcing financial resource base
- 3) Strengthening health systems
- 4) Reinforcing the capacity of SEAPACOH

- 5) Strengthening partnership and alliances building with PPD and other stakeholders.

PPD will continue to provide its support and assistance to Parliamentarians from the South to ensure that ICPD goals and MDGs are met, and that South to South cooperation is promoted as an effective modality for the attainment of these goals, including the realization of Maputo Plan of Action. PPD wishes to also to address emerging issues like food security, ageing population, migration and climate change. These are seriously impacting on the quality of our life and need to be addressed in concert with other challenges.

In early November this year, PPD is organizing an international conference in Pretoria on “**Population Dynamics, Climate change and Sustainable Development**” for Ministers, Parliamentarians and high government officials from 30 developing countries. We wish that our policy makers recognize the intrinsic linkage between climate change and population dynamics and initiate policies and actions that would promote sustainable development accordingly.

Ladies and gentlemen, this meeting has provided to us a wealth of information and we are glad to note the high level of commitment from Parliamentarians and I am convinced that with your support Hon. Minister, we will move forward positively. We have affirmed that FP & RH need to be repositioned as a development agenda. We have been acquainted with some countries in the South that have done very well in the repositioning of FP & its integration with HIV/AIDS which we want to document further and share with other countries in the South as lessons learnt.

I thank all the Parliamentarians for their very hard work during the 3 days we have been together and we are looking forward for concrete realization in the coming years. Thank you once again to the government of the Republic of Uganda for providing PPD and SEAPACOH its unrelenting support and assistance.

Thank you.