

Progress Made by Parliamentarians in Implementing the Programme of Action
of the International Conference on Population and Development

2006 Global Survey

Cairo to 2015 The Road to Success

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. BACKGROUND

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, 179 countries agreed that population and development are inextricably linked, and that empowering women and meeting people's needs for education and health, including reproductive health, are necessary for both individual advancement and sustainable development. In 1999 on the fifth anniversary of ICPD, governments reiterated their firm commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and called for increased efforts to achieve its full implementation by 2015.

At the tenth anniversary of Cairo in 2004, the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action was hailed as an essential element for the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the 2005 World Summit, countries endorsed this commitment to ICPD at the highest political level, when heads of state resolved to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, promote gender equality and end discrimination against women. Based on the outcome of the Summit, the 61st session of the General Assembly agreed to incorporate universal access to reproductive health as a new target to measure progress in implementing the MDGs.

Parliamentarians are a critical link for the successful implementation of ICPD. National parliamentary groups on population and development have been active since the 1970s; by 2000, almost 100 countries had a national group or committee devoted to population-related issues.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) works directly with these groups, and has been providing active support to the four regional umbrella networks that coordinate and support the work of the national parliamentary groups: the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG), the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD) and the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF). UNFPA has also been working closely with Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a global organization with a strong focus on population and sustainable development.

In 2002 in Ottawa, Canada, the four regional parliamentary groups and PGA hosted the first International Parliamentarians'

Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD). At the Ottawa Conference, parliamentarians and ministers representing all regions of the world decided to focus on two most important concerns: first, creating an enabling legislative and policy environment, and second, mobilizing national and international resources. In Ottawa and at the second IPCI/ICPD in Strasbourg, France, in 2004, parliamentarians adopted strong Statements of Commitment pledging concrete action to address these two important themes. In 2003, UNFPA, as the permanent secretariat for IPCI/ICPD, began to issue an e-newsletter, *UNFPA Global Population Policy Update*, to keep parliamentarians informed about recent developments regarding ICPD-related laws, policies and funding decisions.

At its meeting in Tokyo in October 2005, the Steering Committee for IPCI/ICPD decided that the third IPCI/ICPD, to be held on 21-22 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand, should take a closer look at the progress made by parliamentarians since Cairo on implementing ICPD. The main reason for this decision was that, while there has been steady progress on creating an enabling environment, the reproductive health situation in developing countries had not changed significantly since 1994. Statistics in critical areas such as maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and access to family planning had remained essentially unchanged. Population assistance had increased overall, but the proportion

going to HIV/AIDS treatment had risen at the expense of other areas of reproductive health, particularly family planning. Although virtually all countries had adopted ICPD-related laws and policies, implementation had not kept pace.

The first two IPCI/ICPD meetings set important goals. The Steering Committee decided it was time to take a closer look at parliamentarians' successes and constraints, to help chart the way forward. The Steering Committee accepted UNFPA's recommendation to conduct a survey of parliamentarians, to document their efforts and analyze their impact. In collaboration with a population law expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, and national and regional parliamentary groups on population and development, UNFPA conducted the survey between April and August of 2006, obtaining responses from parliamentarians in 103 countries and one regional institution¹. The results give a sense of their perceptions of the current situation, the opportunities and the challenges.

II. WHO WE ARE

In all, 322 parliamentarians from 104 countries and institutions participated in the survey: 269 parliamentarians from 85 developing countries, and 53 parliamentarians from 18 donor countries and the European Parliament.

In developing countries, 52% of the parliamentarians responding to the survey were

¹ The European Parliament was the regional institution that participated in the survey. From here on, it will be counted as one country for the sake of analysis.

men and 48% were women. They were evenly divided between those over and under the age of 50. The largest group of respondents was between the ages of 40 and 50. A little over 60% of parliamentarians were affiliated to parties that controlled parliament. A total of 42% of respondents from nearly half of the developing countries belonged to an all-party parliamentary group or committee devoted to population-related issues—many of them formally established within their parliaments.

In donor countries, the respondents were predominantly women (72%), with an average age somewhat older than that of developing country respondents. A total of 59% were members of the ruling party, and 85% belonged to an all-party parliamentary group on population-related issues.

Overall, it appeared that ICPD issues are important to a wide range of age groups and political parties, as well as to both genders. However, countries in several sub-regions did not fully utilize the mechanism of an all-party group on population-related issues. *(See chart on page 11)*

In both developing and donor countries, two professions, education and medicine, stood out among the parliamentarians' backgrounds. This was not a surprise, given that health is central to many ICPD issues, and that educators are more often attuned than other professionals to social problems and the specific difficulties faced by children, adolescents and women.

PARLIAMENTARIANS SHARED MANY OF THE SAME INTERESTS, WITH GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, HIV/AIDS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS TOPPING THEIR LIST.

III. WHAT WE CARE ABOUT

Respondents rated many of the same ICPD issues among their highest priorities. Topping the list were gender equality and women's empowerment, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health and rights—three issues at the heart of the ICPD agenda.

However, a number of differences emerged when these interests were correlated by region. Donor-country parliamentarians took a more proactive role in advancing sensitive aspects of the ICPD agenda, by defining reproductive health and rights to include “sexual rights,” supporting abortion rights, and placing priority on overturning the United States' restrictions on family planning funding.

In developing countries, interest in reproductive health and rights was highest in most of Africa and lowest in Asia. Interest in gender-based violence was highest in Latin America and Eastern Europe and lowest in Central and South Asia and the Arab States. Parliamentarians in most of Asia were more

interested in HIV/AIDS than any other regions, while those in Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Arab States showed low levels of interest. Some of these disparities reflect the neglect of important issues in certain regions or differing perceptions of prevalence and risk.

Women were much more likely than men to point to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's education, and more than twice as likely to mention gender-based violence. Men were more likely than women to mention development issues and demographic concerns among priority issues. References to reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and health were much more comparable.

IV. WHAT WE DO

There was a notable difference between donor- and developing-country responses to questions about working with other parliamentarians and government agencies.

In developing countries, three responses were most frequent: 42% of parliamentarians replied that they had developed legislation, and an equal number stated that they had worked with government agencies in various ways; 33% responded that they raised awareness of, or provided information to, other parliamentarians.

It was expected that working to enact legislation would be the most often mentioned, because this is parliamentarians' primary role. However, donor-country respondents cited engaging in advocacy (65%) and participat-

ing in hearings and drafting reports (45%) more frequently, and developing legislation (30%) less often. This is perhaps because most donor countries have already addressed much of the ICPD Programme of Action through legislation, and parliamentarians' focus is on lobbying to increase their countries' official development assistance (ODA) in this area.

Asked to describe experiences working with individuals and groups outside government to advance ICPD issues, a majority of developing-country respondents mentioned working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. In donor countries, almost all the parliamentarians reported working with these groups.

Both developing- and donor-country respondents mentioned information and raising awareness about ICPD issues as the activities most useful in promoting an enabling environment and mobilizing resources. More than twice as many parliamentarians pointed to this as vital to their work than to any other activity.

V. OUR SUCCESSES

The primary work of parliamentarians is reviewing and adopting legislation, including budget appropriations. They also approve policies formulated by the executive branch of government, and endorse resolutions and statements on topics of importance. With regard to ICPD issues, parliamentarians were personally

involved in enacting 250 laws in 77 countries; proposing 157 bills in 63 countries; and approving 67 policies in 35 countries.

Laws enacted

Developing-country respondents were involved with the enactment of 217 laws in 68 countries, more than half of which dealt with gender equality and women's empowerment, gender-based violence and reproductive health and rights. The remainder related to a wide range of issues, including children; social

issues; human rights; family issues; youth and adolescents; HIV/AIDS; education; health, and population and development.

These laws correlated well with the two ICPD issues in which parliamentarians had expressed the greatest interest: gender equality and reproductive health and rights. However, they reported relatively few laws on HIV/AIDS compared to their interest in the issue, and far more gender-based violence laws than their interest would indicate.



Johnette Iris Stubbs/UNFPA

Teenage students listen intently to student volunteers teaching about reproductive health, HIV prevention and contraceptives.

This may indicate that it is easier to build broad support for laws prohibiting gender-based violence, or at least sexual violence, than it is to achieve consensus on a sensitive and complex issue like HIV/AIDS, which challenges deeply held cultural and religious views and implicates a wide range of health, education, criminal and sexual issues. It may also reflect a lack of political will to face the pandemic.

Donor-country parliamentarians listed far fewer laws, bills and policies; only half the donor countries reported having been involved in the enactment of laws, as opposed to 68 of the 85 developing countries. They were more likely to report on their work towards increasing ODA for ICPD issues than on internal developments in their own countries. Many donor countries had already enacted legislation to implement ICPD in their countries.

Donor-country parliamentarians mentioned most often laws prohibiting gender-based violence, including female genital cutting (FGC), trafficking and domestic violence (ten laws), followed by reproductive health and rights (nine laws), including laws to increase access to abortion and laws to approve the use of emergency contraception. Other laws dealt with a wide variety of ICPD issues.

There were regional disparities in laws enacted by parliamentarians. In Africa, the number of laws per country relating to gender equality was higher than average, and gender-based violence lower than average. Countries in Asia enacted a higher number of laws

than average on gender-based violence and on HIV/AIDS. Eastern European countries enacted a lower number of gender equality and HIV/AIDS laws, and the Arab States a lower number of laws on gender equality, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health and rights. In Latin America and the Caribbean countries, there were a higher number of laws than average relating to those three areas and gender-based violence. Some of the regional disparities may be the result of stricter constraints in some regions on confronting certain sensitive issues. Others may be ascribed to different perceptions of available opportunities or to strategic choices about the best way to advance the ICPD agenda.

Bills proposed

Parliamentarians from 58 developing countries stated that they had been personally involved in work on 152 separate bills: the main topics were gender-based violence; gender equality and women's empowerment; reproductive health and rights, and HIV/AIDS. Laws enacted mainly related to the first three: almost four times as many bills as laws involved HIV/AIDS. This difference reinforces the conclusion that parliamentarians have found it difficult to achieve consensus on HIV/AIDS legislation. Five donor countries mentioned five bills among them.

Policies Adopted

Parliamentarians reported approving far fewer policies than laws or bills. In most countries, policies are the province of the executive branch rather than parliament. Parliamentarians from 32 developing

countries reported personal involvement in the approval of 64 policies, most of them on gender and population. The prevalence of population policies was expected, since most countries choose policies rather than laws as the vehicle for comprehensive population-related measures. HIV/AIDS and health were the policy categories next most often mentioned. Parliamentarians from only three donor countries mentioned their involvement in the approval of population-related policies.

Increased Budget Allocations for ICPD Issues

Parliamentarians from 44 developing countries noted that they had been successful in increasing ICPD-related budget allocations. The relatively smaller number of developing countries reporting budget increases compared with those reporting enactment of laws may reflect the lack of resources in poor countries, or the lack of political will to prioritize funding for ICPD.

In contrast, parliamentarians from 14 out of 19 donor countries reported success in increasing budget allocations for ODA. Parliamentarians described increasing the overall ODA, as well as assistance in such specific areas as HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and issues affecting women and their health. Parliamentarians

from six countries specifically mentioned increases in their governments' contributions to UNFPA, including one country which doubled its contribution.

VI. OUR PARTNERS

In addition to working with parliamentary colleagues, government agencies, local groups and individuals, many parliamentarians have collaborated with international partners.

In developing countries, the most important partners were UNFPA (73%) and the four regional parliamentary groups on population and development, AFPPD, IAPG, FAAPPD and EPF (50%). Support

from these organizations has taken many forms, including meetings and conferences at national and international levels; training on a wide variety of matters, among them advocacy and drafting legislation; the exchange of experiences among parliamentarians of various countries; the provision of information, and study tours.

Among donor countries, 68% of parliamentarians reported working directly with UNFPA and 72% with their regional parliamentary group. Activities were quite similar to those mentioned by developing-country parliamentarians, but donor-country par-

THE RELATIVELY SMALLER NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REPORTING BUDGET INCREASES COMPARED WITH THOSE REPORTING ENACTMENT OF LAWS MAY REFLECT EITHER THE COUNTRIES' LACK OF RESOURCES, OR A LACK OF POLITICAL WILL TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR ICPD.

liamentarians were much less likely to have participated in training and much more likely to have taken part in study tours.

The highest rates of collaboration with regional groups by far were among Asian and donor countries. The percentage for Latin America and the Caribbean was about average; for Eastern Europe and the Arab States far below average and for Africa slightly below average.

When asked about their most important activities with UNFPA and the regional groups, parliamentarians from developing countries pointed to training and workshops, including training on how to be effective advocates for ICPD issues and on how to craft effective laws. Donor-country parliamentarians stressed the importance of meetings, which enabled them to interact with parliamentarians from developing countries, and the importance of study tours, where they could see firsthand what countries needed and how they used ODA.

VII. OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Constraints in working with other parliamentarians and government agencies

Among major constraints, 46% of developing-country respondents said other parliamentarians and government agencies lacked basic information and understanding about ICPD issues (46%). Almost as many respondents listed lack of political will or support (41%) and active opposition from

parliamentarians and government officials, including religious or cultural opposition (41%). Other constraints related to the operation of government, including lack of resources; difficulties with bureaucratic procedures; and lack of institutional memory.

Parliamentarians in donor countries most often cited lack of political will and support (59%), followed by active opposition, including religious and cultural opposition (36%), and lack of information (32%). A number of parliamentarians specifically noted a resurgence of conservative religious groups. Despite generally liberal attitudes among most donor countries towards ICPD, there is a lack of interest as well as significant and growing opposition.

Constraints in working with outside groups and individuals

Asked to describe major constraints in working with outside groups and individuals, respondents from both developing and donor countries mentioned the same types of constraints as working with the government, except that both groups more frequently reported active opposition. Some developing-country parliamentarians referred to conflicts between NGOs and government agencies, and poor coordination among NGOs.

Strategies to overcome constraints

The survey asked parliamentarians to discuss what strategies they have used to try to overcome these constraints. The most common answer by far was providing information or raising awareness about ICPD issues. The

other two most frequent responses were building networks, partnerships and coalitions, and engaging in advocacy. These strategies appeared to be the most appropriate to deal with the constraints identified.

Obstacles to the implementation of laws and policies

Respondents identified three major problems in the implementation of laws and policies: lack of resources, including lack of infrastructure (51%); lack of awareness of laws, including the fact that laws are not available in vernacular languages (50%); and lack of will to implement

laws and policies including for reasons of religious and cultural opposition and lack of political will (47%).

VIII. TOOLS WE NEED

Three questions asked parliamentarians about what they needed to advance the ICPD agenda.

When asked to describe how the regional parliamentary groups and UNFPA could best help, parliamentarians wanted more assistance in the areas they found most effective: train-



Richard Stanley/UNFPA

Faces of success during the Nigerian 'fistula fortnight'.

ing and workshops, including advocacy and work on laws, declarations and plans; information and raising awareness; building networks and partnerships and exchanging experiences; national, regional and global meetings; and financial and material support.

The second question asked what parliamentarians needed to improve their work. This time, relatively few parliamentarians referred to meetings, seminars and conferences; many more mentioned financial and material support. The question did not mention UNFPA and regional group activities, so responses may reflect more accurately than answers to the previous question parliamentarians' views about their essential needs. The responses indicate that most parliamentarians, in developing and donor countries alike, have limited resources to carry out their work. Parliamentarians also frequently cited the need for more support in information and awareness-raising. They needed short, simple brochures and advocacy materials with good arguments for their work with government officials, other parliamentarians, the general public and the media.

The final question asked parliamentarians to describe what was most needed to advance the ICPD Programme of Action globally. Many parliamentarians expressed the need for stronger global mechanisms to monitor implementation and the need for increased parliamentary interaction. Many others discussed the Programme of Action in the context of the MDGs, arguing that one could not be achieved without the other.

IX. CONCLUSION

Recommendations for the future are:

1. Encourage interaction with other parliamentarians at national and regional levels

The survey found regional disparities in parliamentarians' membership of national all-party groups on population and development. UNFPA and the regional groups may want to assist in creating or revitalising national population and development groups.

In addition, countries in some regions have a relatively low level of contact with regional groups. **The regional groups may want to increase their efforts to involve parliamentarians from underserved countries.**

2. Link the ICPD agenda to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provide better monitoring of country progress

Parliamentarians pointed to two important needs to advance the ICPD Programme of Action globally. One was the need to link the Programme of Action and the MDGs. **UNFPA may want to explore ways to work with parliamentarians to publicize the 2005 World Summit outcomes and the commitment to attain universal access to reproductive health by 2015.**

The other most important need was for stronger global mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action and to support parliamentary interaction. **UNFPA may want to explore ways to**

support better monitoring of developments in each country and reporting on how parliamentarians had honoured their commitments.

3. Meet the overwhelming need for information

Parliamentarians repeatedly referred to a lack of information and awareness as the greatest obstacle to their work with other parliamentarians and government officials, and the greatest constraint that they faced in general. They also said that providing information and raising awareness was the activity most important to their work and the area in which they most needed assistance. **UNFPA and the regional groups may want to increase their efforts to promote understanding of ICPD issues among parliamentarians, policymakers, civil society and the general public, through the provision of simple information and advocacy materials and training in their use.**

4. Provide strategies to overcome religious and cultural opposition

Respondents described active opposition, including religious and cultural opposition, as the greatest constraint they faced when working with individuals and groups outside parliament. This was a particularly serious problem in South America, Eastern Europe and in donor countries. This may reflect the political power of the religion in Latin America and the recent growth of religious beliefs and conservative attitudes against ICPD issues in Eastern Europe. Despite the generally liberal attitudes against ICPD issues in donor countries, there is significant opposi-

tion. **UNFPA and the regional groups may want to explore additional ways of helping parliamentarians counter this opposition.**

5. Developing-country parliamentarians need more training, while donor-country parliamentarians benefit from meetings and study tours.

When asked to name the most important regional group activity, developing-country parliamentarians described participation in training and workshops on how to be effective advocates for ICPD issues and on how to draft legislation, declarations and plans. **UNFPA and the regional groups may want to provide more such training for developing-country parliamentarians.**

Donor-country parliamentarians stressed the usefulness of meetings and study tours. Parliamentarians benefit from meetings, conferences and seminars where they can share their experiences and learn from others. They also pointed to the enormous impact of study tours on their own understanding of ICPD issues and their motivation to advocate for increased population assistance.

6. Enact more HIV/AIDS laws

Despite the importance parliamentarians placed on HIV/AIDS, relatively few reported success in enacting HIV/AIDS-related laws. This result indicated the difficulty of achieving consensus on laws involving such a controversial and complex issue as HIV/AIDS, which challenges deeply held cultural and religious views and which implicates a wide range of health, education, criminal and sexual issues.

Although models of HIV/AIDS legislation exist, most are recent and there is not much evidence on which approach is most effective. **Given the severity of the AIDS pandemic and its impact on other aspects of the ICPD agenda, UNFPA and the regional groups may want to assist parliamentarians to find the most effective ways to advocate for, develop and enact HIV/AIDS legislation.**

7. Address regional disparities in enacting ICPD-related laws

The survey found some disparities among the regions as to laws adopted on ICPD-related issues. For instance, countries in Asia were much more likely than average to have adopted laws on gender-based violence and on population and development, and less likely to have adopted legislation on reproductive health and rights. Some of these regional disparities may be ascribed to specific constraints in some regions against confronting certain sensitive issues.

UNFPA and the regional groups may want to strengthen their support to parliamentarians to overcome regional constraints and adopt appropriate legislation.

8. Increase developing countries' budget allocations for ICPD

Donor-country parliamentarians have been relatively successful in increasing ODA allocations for ICPD, but fewer parliamentarians in developing countries have been able to mobilize domestic resources for ICPD implementation. This may reflect the lack of resources in poor countries, or the lack of political will to prioritize funding for ICPD issues. **UNFPA and the regional groups**

may wish to strengthen their support to developing-country parliamentarians in creating separate budget lines for ICPD-related issues and allocating more resources to them. They may also wish to encourage donor-country parliamentarians to make further efforts to mobilize resources for the Programme of Action, especially since growing amounts of ICPD funding are going towards HIV/AIDS treatment – which, while critically important, was not part of the original ICPD agenda.

9. Increase gender awareness and gender balance

Responses to the survey showed that men were far more likely than women to be interested in development issues and demographic concerns than in gender equality and gender-based violence, and less likely to have been personally involved in legislation on the latter. Second, far more women pointed to active opposition as a constraint, and a significant number specifically stated that they had encountered opposition from men. Third, the ratio of female to male parliamentarians responding to the survey was higher than average in donor countries and Latin America and the Caribbean and lower than average in Africa, Asia and the Arab States. **UNFPA and the regional groups may want to promote information and advocacy to increase gender awareness and gender balance.**

10. Strengthen the implementation of laws and policies

Only 53 out of all 322 respondents mentioned problems in implementing ICPD-related laws

and policies, indicating perhaps that most parliamentarians do not consider implementation part of their responsibilities. This is a serious problem, because failure to act on legislation is a significant obstacle to reaching the goals of the Programme of Action.

UNFPA and the regional groups may want to place greater emphasis on the oversight function of parliamentarians, to ensure that laws promoting the ICPD agenda are fully implemented.

11. Increase financial and material support from UNFPA and the regional groups

Parliamentarians from both developing and donor countries pointed to financial and material support as one of their greatest needs. In developing countries, this reflects the limited resources parliamentarians have for their work; many are working in new democracies without strong traditions of supporting parliamentarians' efforts to achieve social progress. In donor countries, parliamentarians are finding it difficult to attract funding for their own advocacy activities. **UNFPA and the regional groups may want to increase financial support to parliamentarians for the activities they have found most useful.**

IPCI **iCPD** **Regional Outcome of the 2006 Global Survey on Parliamentarians' Activities on Population and Development**

	Africa		Asia and the Pacific		Arab States		Latin America and the Caribbean		Eastern Europe		Donor Countries	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Participating countries	28		22		9		16		10		19	
Gender	57%	43%	52%	48%	64%	36%	40%	60%	50%	50%	28%	72%
Party affiliation	Ruling	Opposition	Ruling	Opposition	Ruling	Opposition	Ruling	Opposition	Ruling	Opposition	Ruling	Opposition
	67%	33%	66%	34%	63%	37%	53%	47%	58%	42%	59%	41%
Members of a national parliamentary group/committee	63%		50%		16%		27%		32%		85%	
Has contact with a respective regional parliamentary group	44%		71%		31%		57%		11%		72%	
Personal/iCPD issues of interest	1. Reproductive Health and Rights		1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		1. Reproductive Health and Rights		1. Reproductive Health and Rights	
	2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		2. Reproductive Health and Rights		2. Reproductive Health and Rights		2. Reproductive Health and Rights		2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
	3. HIV/AIDS		3. HIV/AIDS		3. Development		3. Development		3. Development		3. HIV/AIDS	
<i>Low priority issues of concern as compared to the other regions</i>	N/A		N/A		HIV/AIDS		HIV/AIDS		HIV/AIDS		N/A	
Laws enacted	1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (17)		1. Gender-Based Violence (9)		1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (4)		1. Gender-Based Violence (16)		1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (5)		1. Gender-Based Violence (10)	
	2. Gender-Based Violence (11)		2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (9)		2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (9)		2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (14)		2. Gender-Based Violence (5)		2. Reproductive Health and Rights (9)	

	Africa	Asia and the Pacific	Arab States	Latin America and the Caribbean	Eastern Europe	Donor Countries
<i>Less often enacted laws</i>	3. Reproductive Health and Rights (9)	3. Reproductive Health and Rights (6) 4. Population and Development (5)		3. Reproductive Health and Rights (13)	3. Social Development (5) 4. Reproductive Health and Rights (3)	HIV/AIDS
	HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS
Increase in funding for ICPD or overall development assistance	17 Countries	9 Countries	5 Countries	5 Countries	7 Countries	14 Countries
Important activities for promoting ICPD issues carried out with the regional groups and UNFPA	1. Training	1. Attending Meetings/Conference	1. Attending Meetings/Conference	1. Attending Meetings/Conference	1. Attending Meetings/Conference	1. Attending Meetings/Conference
	2. Receiving Information	2. Receiving Information	2. Networking/ Sharing Experiences	2. Networking/ Sharing Experiences	2. Training	2. Receiving Information
	3. Attending meetings/Conferences	3. Training	3. Receiving Information	3. Receiving Information		3. Study Tours
	4. Networking/ Sharing Experiences		4. Training	4. Training		
Constraints (within parliaments/governments)	1. Lack of Political Will	1. Lack of Information	1. Procedural Problems	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	1. Lack of Political Will
	2. Lack of Information	2. Lack of Political Will	2. Lack of Financial and Material Resources	2. Lack of Information	2. Lack of Information	2. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)
	3. Lack of Financial and Material Resources	3. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	3. Lack of Information	3. Lack of Political Will	3. Lack of Political Will	3. Lack of Information
<i>Outside obstacles</i>	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	1. Lack of information	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)	1. Active Opposition (religious and cultural)
	2. Lack of Financial and Material Resources	2. Lack of Interest	2. Lack of Institutional Coordination	2. Lack of Information	2. Lack of Information	2. Lack of Information
	3. Lack of Information		3. Lack of Financial and Material Resources			3. Lack of Interest

	Africa	Asia and the Pacific	Arab States	Latin America and the Caribbean	Eastern Europe	Donor Countries
Needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training 2. Information and Activities to Raise Awareness 3. Financial and Material Support 4. Networking/ Sharing Experiences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and Activities to Raise Awareness 2. Meetings/ Conferences 3. Training 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training 2. Information and Activities to Raise Awareness 3. Networking/ Sharing Experiences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and Activities to Raise Awareness 2. Training 3. Meetings/ Conferences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training 2. Meetings/ Conferences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and Activities to Raise Awareness 2. Financial and Material Support 3. Training 4. Networking/ Sharing Experiences

Observations

- Regional disparities in the parliamentarians' membership in a national parliamentary group/committee on population-related issues may indicate a need for the creation of such groups in certain countries.
- The regional parliamentary groups on population and development are: the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPP), Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG) and the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD).
- The relatively low levels of parliamentarian contact with the regional groups in some regions may indicate a need for greater regional group activities.
- Interest in HIV/AIDS was low in the Arab, Latin American and the Eastern European regions, and laws on the subject were difficult to pass in all the regions due to their controversial and complex nature, even though many were proposed.
- More than half of the laws that developing country parliamentarians mentioned as having been personally involved in related to gender equality and women's empowerment, gender-based violence and reproductive health and rights. The remainder related to a wide range of issues, including children, social issues, human rights, family issues, youth and adolescents, HIV/AIDS, education, health and population and development.
- Donor country parliamentarians listed far fewer laws, bills and policies than developing country parliamentarians, and far more accomplishments in terms of increased budgets.
- Parliamentarians from 43 developing countries noted that they had been successful in increasing budget allocations for ICPD issues. The relatively smaller number of developing countries reporting budget increases in comparison with those reporting enactment of laws may reflect the lack of resources in poor countries, or the lack of political will to prioritize funding for ICPD issues.
- When asked about the most important activities they had engaged in with the regional groups and UNFPA, many parliamentarians from developing countries pointed to training and workshops, including training on how to be effective advocates for ICPD issues and on how to craft effective laws. Donor country parliamentarians stressed the importance of meetings and study tours.
- Opposition is listed as a major constraint in every region which may account for the dearth of laws on HIV/AIDS and may also account for the lack of political will of other parliamentarians and government officials to go forward on this issue.
- Most regions listed information and training as critical areas of need.

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This summary is also available in print and electronic format in Arabic, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish and is accessible on UNFPA's website: www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/overview.htm

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