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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Population Fund**

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

8-10 May 2013
Bangkok

**REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE
SIXTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC POPULATION CONFERENCE**

**8-10 May 2013
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I. BACKGROUND

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at its sixty-sixth session, adopted resolution 66/12 of 19 May 2010 on “Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.” That resolution requested the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to convene the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.
2. At its sixty-eighth session, the Commission further adopted resolution 68/6 of 23 May 2012 on “Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014”. That resolution decided, *inter alia*, that the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference should be utilized as an intergovernmental platform for regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (ICPD beyond 2014).
3. In pursuance of the above mandates, the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Sixth APPC) would be convened by ESCAP, in cooperation with UNFPA, from 16 to 20 September 2013 in Bangkok.
4. To facilitate preparations by ESCAP members and associate members for the above-mentioned Conference, the secretariat, in cooperation with UNFPA, convened the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference from 8 to 10 May 2013 in Bangkok (hereafter referred to as the “Regional Preparatory Meeting”).
5. The Regional Preparatory Meeting was attended by 59 experts designated by the Seats of Governments of the following 27 members and associate members of ESCAP: Australia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. In addition, representatives from civil society, intergovernmental and international organizations, including the United Nations system, were in attendance. The list of participants is attached as Annex III to the Report.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

6. The objectives of the Regional Preparatory Meeting were to:
 - A. Review the initial findings of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 Global Survey for the Asian and Pacific region;
 - B. Identify key emerging issues related to population and development to be considered by the Sixth APPC;
 - C. Consider the first draft of a proposed outcome document for the Sixth APPC.

III. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. Opening statements were delivered by:

- Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP;
- Ms. Nobuko Horibe, Director, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, UNFPA;
- Dr. Narong Saiwongse, Deputy Director-General, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Royal Thai Government.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. The Regional Preparatory Meeting elected the following nominees of the respective Seats of Government to serve on its Bureau:

Chairperson: Dr. Badri Pokhrel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal

Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Hang Lina, Director-General, National Institute of Statistics, Government of Cambodia

V. AGENDA

9. The Regional Preparatory Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of Agenda.
4. Review of the regional preparatory process for the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.
5. Review of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 Global Survey: Initial findings for the Asian and Pacific region.
6. Identification of key emerging issues related to population and development in the Asian and Pacific region.
7. Consideration of the first draft of a proposed outcome document for the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of report of the Meeting.
10. Closing.

VI. REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE SIXTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC POPULATION CONFERENCE

10. The secretariat presented an overview of the regional and global preparatory processes leading up to the Sixth APPC, and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on ICPD beyond 2014. It presented the roadmap leading up to the Sixth APPC, which would be held from 16 to 20 September 2013. It also highlighted how the outcomes of the Sixth APPC would feed into the relevant global processes related to ICPD beyond 2014.

VII. REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT BEYOND 2014 GLOBAL SURVEY: INITIAL FINDINGS FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

11. The secretariat presented the preliminary key findings for the Asian and Pacific region of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 Global Survey, providing a background to the development, distribution and receipt of the Survey as well as the analysis of responses. The secretariat reported that it had received responses from 51 ESCAP members and associate members, representing a response rate of 90 per cent and covering 99 per cent of the population of the Asian and Pacific region. It was noted that the high response rate demonstrated the continued commitment of Governments in the region to population and development issues.

12. In terms of Government responses by subregion, the rates were as follows: East and North-East Asia (100 per cent); South and South-West Asia (100 per cent); South-East Asia (91 per cent); North and Central Asia (89 per cent); the Pacific (76 per cent). The secretariat expressed its gratitude to members and associate members for completing the questionnaires, noting that civil society organization experts had worked closely in many cases with national focal points to support timely completion of the questionnaire responses.

13. The secretariat highlighted the key findings from the Survey covering all its thematic areas in the context of progress, key gaps and reported barriers, and policy priorities for the subsequent decade, as reported by the Governments. The secretariat clarified that a final report would be prepared drawing from the Survey, country implementation profiles, national statistics and other high quality technical reports, which would be presented as an official background document for the Sixth APPC.

14. The Regional Preparatory Meeting expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the comprehensive and participatory nature of the Survey, indicating that, in particular, the section on policy priorities would serve to guide national policies. It further indicated the need to reflect, to the extent possible, on broader issues related to population and development. Some delegations indicated the need to highlight subregional specificities, including issues related to countries emerging from conflict. Other delegations referred to the cross-sectoral nature of the areas covered by the ICPD Programme of Action, and indicated the need to strengthen national coordination institutions and mechanisms in the area of population and development.

15. The representative of Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental organization, highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation

in implementing the ICPD beyond 2014 agenda, and the key role of intergovernmental organizations in that regard.

16. Representatives from civil society organizations, in their joint statement, emphasized the need to effectively use qualitative information from the Survey in the final report, and to align it with a human rights-based approach.

VIII. IDENTIFICATION OF KEY EMERGING ISSUES RELATED TO POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

17. An interactive round table was held on “Identification of key emerging issues related to population and development in the Asian and Pacific region”.

18. The roundtable featured the following panellists: (a) Mr. Adrian Hayes, Adjunct Associate Professor, Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University; (b) Mr. Rajat Khosla, Expert on sexual and reproductive health; (c) Mr. Ghazy Mujahid, University of York Centre for Asian Research; and (d) Ms. Bandana Rana, Regional Coordinator of South Asian Campaign for Gender Equality. The roundtable was moderated by Mr. Wasim Zaman, Executive Director, International Council on Management of Population Programmes.

19. The panellists highlighted the linkages between population dynamics and sustainable development, a human rights-based approach to addressing disparities in access to sexual and reproductive health, social integration and its implications for development, and the importance of addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment for ensuring full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

20. Experts from the following Governments shared experiences on key policies and programmes on population and development during the discussion: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan and Viet Nam.

21. Several key emerging issues related to population and development in the region were highlighted, including policy responses to take advantage of the demographic dividend, the role of international migration in the post-2015 development agenda, the need to comprehensively incorporate sexual and reproductive health into universal health-care schemes, the impact of sex-ratio imbalances, the growing incidence of poverty in urban areas, poverty alleviation as a pre-condition for social integration, and the importance of human security in post-conflict settings in relation to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

22. Government experts also emphasized the importance of adopting a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, as well as ensuring effective partnerships between Governments and all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OF A PROPOSED OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR THE SIXTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC POPULATION CONFERENCE

23. The Regional Preparatory Meeting considered document SDD/RPM/6th APPC 2013/WP.1 entitled the “Draft outcome document for the Sixth APPC”.

24. The secretariat informed the Regional Preparatory Meeting that the document had been developed on the basis of ESCAP resolution 68/6 of 23 May 2012 and feedback obtained from Governments through the ICPD Global Survey. It had also drawn from the outcomes of global thematic consultations related to population and development, including the post-2015 development agenda, and a regional consultation with civil society, which had been held from 28 to 30 March 2013.

25. The secretariat explained that the document contained four sections as follows:

- I. Preambular paragraphs
- II. Overarching Principles and Policy Directions
- III. Priority Actions
- IV. Modalities for implementation at the national, regional and global level

26. The Regional Preparatory Meeting expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the overall high quality and content of the draft outcome document.

27. The Regional Preparatory Meeting noted that the draft outcome document, once adopted, would serve as the Asian and Pacific regional input to the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

SECTION I: PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS

28. The Regional Preparatory Meeting considered the content of “Section I: Preambular paragraphs” and made the following suggestions for change:

General comments:

- (a) Australia:
 - i. Include an additional preambular paragraph recognizing the vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities.
 - ii. Include, when mentioning the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, explicit references to the results of subsequent review conferences.
- (b) India:

Include an additional preambular paragraph recognizing the special needs of persons with disability.
- (c) Afghanistan:

Include an acknowledgment of the unique challenges faced by post-conflict countries and fragile states.

PP2:

- (a) Islamic Republic of Iran:
Include “and its annex” after the phrase “*Recalling* the ICPD Programme of Action Adopted in Cairo in 1994”.
- (b) Australia:
Include references to the Beijing Platform for Action and reviews of ICPD.

PP6:

- (a) Russian Federation and Islamic Republic of Iran:
Delete the entire paragraph.
- (b) Australia and United States of America:
Expressed support for retaining PP6 and for maintaining forthcoming language on sexual orientation and gender identity.

PP9 bis:

Russian Federation:

Add a new paragraph referring to the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (based on GA resolution 65/277 adopted in 2011).

PP11:

Islamic Republic of Iran, with support by Azerbaijan:

Delete “all conventions, treaties and protocols” unless they are specified.

PP12:

Russian Federation:

Include “care” as follows: “particularly in the areas of increased access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and reduced maternal and child mortality;”

PP13:

- (a) Japan, with support from Pakistan:

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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