



## REPORT

### THIRD IEPPFD COUNCIL MEETING

# LISBON

26 – 27 MAY 2003



**IEPPFD**  
**Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPFPD) held its Third Council meeting in the Portuguese Senate on 26 and 27 May 2003 in Lisbon upon the invitation of the President of the Portuguese Parliament, Mr Joao Bosco da Mota Amaral, the Portuguese Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Portuguese FPA. Parliamentarians from over 20 European countries met and discussed resource mobilisation, creating an enabling environment and overcoming barriers and obstacles to implementation of the ICPD.

The meeting was opened by Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr Steven Sinding, Director General of IPPF who both called on European parliamentarians to take on the leadership in ensuring universal reproductive health. Hon. Satu Hassi, MP (Finland) and former Development Minister called for a 10% increase in European donor funding for population issues in 2004. Senator Janowska of Poland pointed to poverty and the retrograde positions of the Catholic Church which make implementing the ICPD Programme of Action a challenge today in Poland. Youth representatives of the main political parties in Portugal held session on the next generation of leaders, inspired by the RFSU model in Sweden. Ulla Sandbaek, MEP, IEPFPD Vice-President and EPWG Chair presented the conclusions of a recent field mission she led on behalf of the IEPFPD to Slovakia to investigate allegations of forced sterilisation of Roma women.

The IEPFPD Council welcomed the Polish, Lithuanian and Georgian Parliamentary Groups on Population and Development as new members and elected Ruth Genner, MP (Switzerland) as its new President. Parliamentarians from Portugal, Spain, France, the UK, Sweden, Lithuania and Turkey were elected onto the expanded Executive Committee and, in recognition of their commitment and devotion to population and development issues and working with European parliamentarians, inducted Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja, former IEPFPD President, and Stirling Scruggs, Director of IERD of the UNFPA, as Honourary Members of the IEPFPD. The IEPFPD Council adopted a Declaration reaffirming that the ICPD Programme of Action constitutes the very basis for progress on population, sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustainable development issues.

The meeting was attended by parliamentarians from 20 parliaments in Europe, representatives of the four other regional parliamentary networks in Asia, the Americas and Africa and the Arab World (AFPPD, IAPG and FAAPPD), UNFPA, IPPF, IPPF EN, the World Bank, the representatives of the embassies of Finland, Indonesia, Angola, the Holy See and NGOs from Spain, UK, Germany, France, Portugal and Turkey.

## INTRODUCTION

The Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPFPD) held its Third Council Meeting in Lisbon on 26 - 27 May 2003. Delegates from over 20 Parliaments across the wider Europe as well as representatives from the other three regional Parliamentary Groups – namely Asia, Africa and the Americas - gathered in the Senate Room of the Portuguese national Assembly at the invitation of the President of the Portuguese National Assembly Mr Joao Bosco da Mota Amaral, the Portuguese Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Portuguese FPA.

This was a watershed meeting in many ways. Firstly, it was the largest meeting held to date by the Forum and included the secretariats of many of the IEPFPD Member Groups as observers for the first time. It also marked an important progression for the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights within the ranks of Portuguese legislative decision makers. The invitation to hold the meeting in such auspicious surroundings was concrete endorsement of the importance of this issue to Portuguese Parliamentarians from across their political spectrum.

It was the first time that all Member Groups of the IEPFPD had had the opportunity to gather together since the International Parliamentarians' Conference held at Ottawa in November 2002 (IPCI/ ICPD 2002). The meeting thus afforded delegates the opportunity not only to take stock of IEPFPD's year, but to view it in a wider context of global Parliamentary activities and also to look towards ICPD +10 in 2004.

## DAY 1 26 MAY 2003

### **Introduction and Welcome to Third IEPFPD Council Meeting**

As Chair of the Opening session, **Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja**, MP IEPFPD President welcomed all delegates and particularly keynote speakers to the Council Meeting. Thanking the Portuguese Parliament for their gracious invitation, she highlighted the importance of the meeting particularly its significance as a pre-cursor to the run up to ICPD +10 in 2004.

This theme was carried on by the Vice President of the Portuguese Parliament **Hon. Leonor Beleza**, who took a political as well as a personal interest in the meeting given her background in implementing Portugal's family planning policies in the 1970's. She took particular care to praise the work of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and welcomed the attendance of Thoraya Obaid (UNFPA Executive Director) at the meeting.

Ms Beleza expressed her hope that MPs would continue and indeed increase their take up of their actions in relation to SRHR within their home countries and that in particular, European countries should work together on a regional level in order to move concretely towards achieving the set goals.

**Hon. Martins de Cruz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal** laid out the Portuguese socio-economic historical context for development and in so doing empathised with the objectives of the Portuguese Parliamentarian group on Population as well as the IEPFPD as the co-ordinating organisation for Europe.

**Mrs Thoraya Obaid** – UNFPA Executive Director – gave a clear overview of the challenges facing population and development. She sent a clear message to all delegates and thus to their respective governments as to why reproductive health and more particularly the Cairo PoA should be at the centre of any conceptualisation processes when formulating national socio-economic development programmes.

She made mention of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's statement that: "The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And this means stronger efforts to promote women's rights and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning."

She expressed her wish that in 2003 and onward, the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development will continue to push forward the common agenda of the UNFPA and the Forum in Europe and other regions. She stressed that the leadership of European Parliamentarians and Ministers is essential and that the UNFPA, for its part, will make every effort to provide the support that European Parliamentarians have come to expect, and to actively build on such partnerships. This was to be seen particularly in the run up to ICPD +10 in 2004 and beyond.

**Dr Steven Sinding** – IPPF Director General addressing the IEPFPD Council for the first time added his good wishes for the continued success of the Forum and of IPPF's active support to Parliamentarians across the wider Europe. He

reinforced Mrs Obaid's key messages regarding ICPD +10 having given a brief overview of IPPF's history in the field of family planning and then sexual and reproductive health, he focused on the partnership between IPPF and UNFPA since its inception in 1968 as well as IPPFs continuing and ever growing partnership with Parliamentarians across the wider Europe.

He then entered into detail on some of the points mentioned by Mrs Obaid which are particularly relevant to the IPPF priority areas; namely, adolescents, access to services reproductive health, HIV/ AIDS, advocacy and issues surrounding abortion. In particular he made a plea to governments to make a concrete link between HIV/ AIDs and reproductive health. He stressed that they are a part of the same behavioural issues which must be met together. Although we all acknowledge the importance of preventing and treating the spread of the HIV/ AIDs pandemic, Dr Sinding called on delegates to work towards changing the attitudes of their respective governments. Reproductive health issues should not be seen as a separate issue, but rather as an integral part of the development whole.

He made specific reference to the damage caused to the UNFPA's and IPPF's ability to achieve the ICPD PoA by the Bush Administrations attitude to funding reproductive health issues and particularly these two organizations.

On the subject of Cairo +10, Dr Sinding urged Parliamentarians not only to view it as a time to review and reflect on the previous ten years, but more importantly to reflect on the unfinished business of the truly transformative change that the ICPD augured and to decide how best to move forward. He called on Parliamentarians to take an active part in the European Commission sponsored IPPF Cairo +10 Round Table to be held in 2004 so that the outcomes of the Round table can have political ramifications further than the meeting itself.

The Portuguese UN Goodwill Ambassador, **Ms Catarina Furtado**, closed the first half of the opening session with the hope that new solutions will be found for the problems which caused her to become a UNFPA Ambassador. She told the gathered audience of her poignant experiences whilst representing the UNFPA in programme countries and how this has changed her personal outlook on life and the enormity of the situation particularly with regards to children and the reality of HIV/ AIDS within \$1 a day economies. Her main message to delegates was to help her to do her job

**Erika Terpstra MP (Netherlands)** asked Dr Sinding a topical question on IPPF's action taken on the European Convention – particularly the reference to God. The answer was provided by **Vicky Claeys (IPPF EN Regional Director)** who agreed to share the IPPF information.

**Chris McCafferty MP (UK)** raised the issue of the Vatican action to have as many countries within Europe to sign up to protocols which *inter alia* allow judges to withdraw from divorce cases and doctors to withdraw from abortion and other reproductive health issues. She pointed out that this could cause grave damage to human rights across Europe.

## Welcome from Privileged Partners

The **Hon. Ana Manso, MP (Portugal) Portuguese Parliamentary Group on Population and Development** welcomed delegates on behalf of the Portuguese Parliamentarians' Group and also welcomed the opportunity to be able to welcome representatives from the other regional Forums for the first time to the Portuguese Parliament.

Taking up her compatriots' points made earlier, she highlighted the fact that Portugal is a country with a rich history in SRHR activism and a country which owes the UNFPA a great debt. She stated that political rhetoric loses its impact when compared to the harsh realities presented when we actually visit programme countries and see the lack of basic health services and the conditions in the poorer economic areas. She stated that as politicians they accept that it is within their capacities to create legislation and increase resource mobilisation in order to work towards achieving the ICPD goals. She emphasised the need for reproductive health to be treated as a rights-based issue and to be integrated into all social programming giving examples from the Lusophone world.

She expressed the wish that by the end of the meeting, Parliamentarians would be able to say how many lives they would be able to save through reproductive health programmes in the developing world. She stated that it is not enough for us to be good, but that as Parliamentarians, it is up to us to uphold our Ottawa commitments and to monitor programmes, legislation and resource mobilisation to ensure that ten years after ICPD, real progress has been made.

The **Hon. Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, Senator (Thailand) AFPPD Secretary General** praised the evolution of the IEPFPD in such a short space of time since its establishment in 2000. She highlighted the flourishing partnership between the Asian Forum and the IEPFPD. She told delegates of the Asian Forum's committed support of the Japanese Family Planning Association even in the face of the down turn in the Japanese economy over the last year; pointing out that their contributions to the UNFPA had remained at the same levels.

She reported to delegates that the Asian Forum is currently carrying out a unique advocacy project with the support of the UNFPA which entails meeting all Asian Parliamentarians on a one-to-one basis. She also reported on projects in Cambodia and Vietnam. She made special mention of the Bangkok meeting (UNESCAP) where Asian Parliamentarians were able to successfully collaborate with European Parliamentarians to uphold ICPD principles in the face of the US delegation.

**Hon. Abdul Fattah Diab, MP (Egypt) Executive Committee Member FAAPPD** then expressed his appreciation to the UNFPA and the IEPFPD for all the financial and moral support shown to the African Forum and its members. He swiftly turned to the issue of resource mobilisation thanking various European Governments for filling the gaps created by the Bush Administration through its rigorous implementation of the Mexico City Policy. He then turned his attention to the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and discussed the importance of the African Forum's participation to ensure that population issues are at the nucleus of any viable plan to put African nations back on track to a healthy economic region.

The **Hon. Laura Carneiro, MP (Brazil) Executive Committee IAPG** followed. Having provided delegates with a brief overview of the history behind the establishment of the IAPG and their goals, she went on to discuss the IAPG's concentration on "integrated human rights"; viewing the human being as a whole

rather than as segmented elements. She explained the main priorities of the IAPG of seeking to strengthen the laws and policies related to population and development amongst legislators and to step up understanding of population issues in the wider context of development.

She then went on to set out the harsh realities of the situation in Brazil in particular and across the IAPG region. She talked of the millions of people living on less than \$1 a day. On a positive note, she told delegates of HIV/ AIDS legislation which has been passed in Brazil in particular. Her key message to delegates was that in order to solve the ills of the world, we must first treat mankind. Initiatives such as the Ottawa Conference (IPCI/ ICPD) provide an excellent opportunity for legislators to come together to exchange experiences and plan for the future. In Brazil, they have already set up a group dedicated to ensuring the implementation of the Ottawa Commitments. She finally urged delegates to continue to work together to "heal the man".

### **Challenges in meeting ICPD Goals and European Solutions**

**Chair:** *Senator Mary Henry (Ireland), IEPFPD Executive Committee*

The first thematic session concentrated on the two main themes of the ICPD; namely creating an enabling environment and mobilising financial resources to achieve the ICPD targets by 2010.

### **Creating an Enabling Environment**

**Mrs Vicky Claeys – Director of IPPF European Network** gave an overview of the policy environment across Europe and IPPF EN's partnership with European Parliamentarians. Basing her presentation on the 12 points of the IPPF Charter on sexual and reproductive rights, she focussed on activities and programmes which had had an impact during the course of 2002. In particular, she highlighted the controversial European Parliamentary Report on European reproductive health and rights drafted by Belgian MEP Anne Van Lancker, who is also a member of the EPWG on Population, Sustainable Development and Reproductive Health.

She also concentrated on IPPF EN's youth work over the course of 2002 and told delegates how one of their outreach projects has now produced a benchmark for governments across Eastern Europe dealing with the issue of discrimination and SRHR. She told delegates how the IPPF EN outreach programme to the Roma people of Bulgaria had received the European Union prize for excellence but has also now gone on to form the best practice model for other countries with Roma communities in the region.

Vicky Claeys' parting message to delegates was one of encouragement to Parliamentarians across Europe in the run up to ICPD +10 in 2004. She congratulated the IEPFPD for providing a focal point for European regional co-ordination, co-operation and sustainability in relation to SRHR.

She reminded delegates that in the run-up to ICPD + 10 their ability to co-ordinate their influence across the European region will be of paramount importance during the UN Economic Commission for Europe in January 2004 and other regional preparatory meetings. Finally, she hoped that when we gather for the 4th IEPFPD Council Meeting a year from now, her speech will be along the lines of how European Parliamentarians successfully used the tools provided to

strengthen their argumentation and ensure that not only no retrograde steps were taken with ICPD, but that progress has been made.

**Dr Gaye Erbatur, MP (Turkey)** provided a **case example from Turkey**. She gave a brief overview of the legislative framework for reproductive health in Turkey. She told delegates how the Cairo Agenda has greatly improved the way in which Turkish legislators have dealt with the issues surrounding women's rights in Turkey since 1994.

Her presentation covered the various structures which have been set in place since the 1960's at grass roots right up to policy making levels in Turkey. Dr Erbatur then went on to demonstrate with a comprehensive set of statistics how commitment to reproductive health within the basic health system has raised the general health of women and children in particular throughout Turkey. She further explained how the ICPD PoA has been implemented in Turkey in terms of improving women's rights and male participation. Although Turkey has come a long way, Dr Erbatur listed eight areas in which she felt Turkey could improve their record. These were

1. To achieve sustainability and decreasing regional differences of the reproductive health care services.
2. IEC activities should be strengthened to focus on adolescents, men, influential people and also the post menopausal period should not be neglected at community level.
3. Additional efforts are needed for action programs directed at improving the status and empowerment of women and their full participation in the development process,.
4. Additional efforts are needed to maximise the access and quality of reproductive health services and provide sustainability.
5. Encouragement is needed to have the NGOs and private sector involvement in the programme and have a role in mobilising community and family support in increasing access and acceptability of reproductive health services.
6. Additional efforts are needed to remove the medical barriers through under and postgraduate education.
7. Special efforts are needed to be made to strengthen the inter-sectoral collaboration.
8. To reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity the concept of safe motherhood needs to be well understood and fully implemented by hospital as well as primary health care level service providers.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

The **Hon. Satu Hassi (Former Development Minister, Finland)** took the floor next to discuss the issue of the **unmet need in donor resources** from a European as well as a Finnish perspective. She pointed out to delegates that although 18 of the 24 donor countries are situated within the European region, they have only managed to allocate 45% of the financial resources they committed to in Cairo. This is in stark comparison to the fact that all programme countries have managed to find the 66% of the total target within the allotted time frame.

She stated that although one might wish to find various external uncontrollable factors which have caused the sloth in donor countries honouring their commitments - such as the economic downturn in Asia and particularly in Japan over the past few years, the global shift in the policy environment spear-headed

by the Bush Administration most recently or the fact that other policy areas have reached the top of national agendas, or that there are just not sufficient national budgetary resources to accommodate the Cairo Commitments – the fact is that these are not good enough reasons.

She urged delegates to continue to push their respective governments in accordance with the Ottawa (IPCI ICPD 2002) Commitments to strive towards meeting their obligations under the Cairo Programme of Action. She left delegates with the challenge of coming back to the next IEPFPD Council Meeting to hear that each IEPFPD government has increased their contribution to the ICPD agenda by 10%.

**Senator Jan O’Sullivan (Ireland)** provided delegates with an overview of the current situation regarding **resource mobilisation in Ireland** and how the US Bush Administration’s stance has posed many challenges to an already delicate situation. She started off by explaining Ireland’s “population profile” to the audience.

Having made the point that although the link between the Catholic Church and State is ostensibly weakening, the conservative make-up of policy makers and population alike, makes Ireland extremely fertile campaigning ground for the reactionary elements emanating from the United States. She went on to describe the particular case of the opposition elements’ campaign to pressure the Irish Government into defunding the UNFPA in line with the US decision to do so in 2002.

Having detailed the main components of the campaign and listed the key opposition actors, she then recounted how the Irish All-Party Group was able to collaborate extremely effectively with the Irish Family Planning Association which produced a series of briefings to counter the opposition campaign. The ironic result of the opposition campaign was that it culminated in a very positive outcome for reproductive health resource mobilisation.

Ms O’Sullivan reported that campaign resulted in mobilising a very significant increase in Irish funding for UNFPA, resulting in a 38% increase on the 2002 contribution (2.54 million Euro). Ireland is now one of the most important contributors to UNFPA. In addition to the increase, the campaign resulted in greater awareness of UNFPA and the general role which sexual and reproductive health plays in development.

During the question and answer session which followed, **Ruth Genner MP (Switzerland)** picked up on Satu Hassi’s challenge and requested to know if when making the calculation for the 10%, had taken into account the funds already being given to the GFTAM for HIV/ AIDS? **Satu Hassi** commented in answer that she shares the view of **Ulla Sandbæk (MEP, Denmark)** that reproductive health supplies and services also holds the key to HIV/ AIDS prevention. It is at the reproductive health clinics that women will feel sufficiently secure to be tested for HIV and to be able to gather information on the subject.

**Erika Terpstra (MP, Netherlands)** saluted the Irish achievement in raising their national contributions to the UNFPA and reinforced Satu Hassi’s comment that lack of European contributions is a political choice. **Satu Hassi** agreeing with Erika Terpstra further commented that although SRHR is not the only the component in improving socio-economic conditions, it is certainly an integral element. There must be a balance in approaches by governments in the developing world.

### **The Next Generation of Policy-Makers**

*Chair: Victor Bernhartz, Young Leaders Programme Officer, RFSU*

The keynote address was delivered by **the President of the Portuguese Institute for Youth**. He told delegates how in Portugal youth associations form a class of citizenship in itself in Portugal. However, because associations tend not to be politicised, young people are not taking a sufficiently active role in the legislative decision making process. For senior politicians to tell young people to become a member of a political party should not be perceived by the young as a way of increasing voting figures, but also to get young people involved in solving the ills of society in Portugal.

He then went on to discuss the major role that can be played by youth associations. It is there that they first learn how to participate in civic life and democratic participation which will lead to habits of planning and responsibility. He felt that participation should be fostered first and foremost at local level to ensure a link with reality is maintained. As regards information, we should enable access to information on an equal footing regardless of social or geographical situation. Political parties should do their best to reach young people through ICT. The key message should be that they are contributing to the common good.

**Jorge Nuno, MP PSD, Jamila Madeira, MP PS, Joana Amaral, MP BE, João Almeida, MP CDS/PP and Bernardino Soares, MP PCP** then took the floor to discuss their vision for Portuguese politicians of the future. The key messages which emerged from the speakers were that we all need to be aware that we are living in an international closely linked environment. It is also important to understand that young people have many different interests which they follow passionately. It is thus important to offer an "attractive side" to partisan politics since this is where the true democratic decisions are made.

However, in today's society of global communications, it is equally important not to allow the media to set the agenda for young people on the political stage.

### **Conclusions of the first day**

**Natália Carrascalão, MP (Portugal) and Eugenio Castillo, MP (Spain)** presented their conclusions for the first day of the Council. The point was made that the topics treated on the first day are extremely significant to have an overall picture. **Natália Carrascalão** then went on to speak about her country of origin – East Timor – where she told delegates that the average person is living on \$0.50 a day. She reminded delegates that Parliamentarians are in privileged position to be able to play a pivotal role in realising the two main themes from Cairo ; namely creating an enabling environment and resource mobilisation. She also welcomed the support which the Portuguese government has given to these issues.

**Eugenio Castillo, MP (Spain)** then went on to summarise the themes of the day – women's rights, SRHR and family planning. When we think of SRHR we should think of working and co-operating together on national, regional and global levels in order to attain results.

## DAY 2 27 MAY 2003

### **Future Prospects for European Leadership to advance: the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development and sexual and reproductive health and rights**

*Chair: Hon. Ruth Genner, MP (Switzerland) IEPFPD Executive Committee*

**Keynote address** by Hon. Odete Santos, MP (Portugal)

Mrs Odete Santos addressed delegates on the general climate which has impacted on reproductive rights issues since Cairo. She detailed the impact on World events on women's empowerment issues; particularly focussing on the peace movement and how economic considerations have affected women's empowerment and education.

Her key message to delegates was that the key for human development is that we must go beyond narrow visions of society and of democracy.

#### **Defending the ICPD Programme of Action**

**Senator Marie-Claude Beaudeau (France)** presented the French situation to delegates and how Parliamentarians collaborate effectively with civil society. She explained to delegates that one of the main causes for France's inability to reach her Cairo commitments is due to a very opaque development aid system. Only too often is reproductive health added into a policy at the last minute with resources to match. As a result, France is continuously behind in terms of resource allocation even if a leading light in terms of policy environments. Moving on from there, she discussed why the current voting process for the development aid budget was so difficult to control in the French context; namely the fact that it is subsumed into the general external relations budget.

Senator Beaudeau then concentrated on what role French Parliamentarians have played and should play in ensuring that the French Government lives up to its Cairo commitments. She charted the history of the All-Party Group and the various interventions they have made since 1995 with examples such as her advocacy on behalf of the UNFPA. She also talked about the French representation at the Ottawa IPCI/ ICPD and the immediate follow-up they were able to give during the UN ESCAP meeting in Bangkok in December 2002.

Her parting thoughts were a call to delegates about seriously considering transnational co-operation on these issues on a regular basis.

The **Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP (UK)** presented the work of the UK All-Party Group on Population which has been in existence since 1979. With a staff of one full-time policy adviser and one part-time Administrator, she described how they were able to ensure a British presence at all key UN events related to population in 2002 and were key in the European co-ordination effort for the WSSD held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. In particular, she mentioned of their work on the national legislative platform on the WSSD with an Early Day Motion which was signed by 74 MPs on the link between reproductive health and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. She stressed that in general terms, this link was proving to be an extremely effective tool for argumentation since the link is undeniable.

The **Hon. Isabel Castro, MP (Portugal)** spoke to delegates on the unmet need in the Lusophone world. She explained to delegates that to talk about the Lusophone world, we must enter a different reality. She extended the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights to the reality of continuous conflict situations still being faced or only recently resolved in many of the Lusophone world.

She then provided data on the situation in the Lusophone world. She talked of how lack of clean water supplies locally, loss of bio-diversity, climate change, all of which have a direct impact primarily on women's health. She stressed that real aid is needed, not military aid from the Portuguese government.

**Hon. Ulla Sandbaek, MEP (Denmark)** reported on her participation on a study tour to investigate the **protection of human rights in Slovakia**. She explained the catalyst for the study tour had been the publication of a rather disturbing report published by a Slovakia-based NGO entitled "Body and Soul" which spoke of instances of coerced and forced sterilisation of Roma women, misinformation on reproductive health, racial segregation in maternity wards and verbal abuse by health providers.

An IEPFPD delegation of four MPs was invited to carry out an independent investigation. Following a series of visits and meetings at grass root as well as policy and governmental level, the team made the following conclusions and recommendations

- There was no evidence of genocide
- There is no government policy in place which encourages forced or coerced sterilisation
- Roma women often do not have adequate information to make choices
- Roma women are not always treated with respect
- There is a lack of communication between doctors and Roma women
- Information which was not made available to authors of Body and Soul was made available to MPs
- There are deplorable housing conditions

As such, the group was able to make the following recommendations

- Hospitals & gynaecologists must share responsibility in providing information
- Sterilisation regulation should be revised – providing clear indications on information needed to make decision
- Patients must be provided with information on any medical procedures they will undergo
- Draft comprehensive reproductive health law
- Clarify access to patient medical files
- Evaluate impact of laws on Roma
- Support training of Roma peer education

The session was closed by a presentation by **Mr Ivar Slengesol** from the **Parliamentary Network of the World Bank**. He told delegates that the World Bank is very keen to work with Parliamentarians around the globe. His key message was that the war on poverty can be won. The time for words has a place, but now is the time for action. His presentation dealt with two main issues; firstly, how the World Bank is dealing with the fight against HIV/ AIDS and reproductive health and secondly how they are working with Parliamentarians.

He set out the World Bank's work on SRHR which has reached \$400 million a year in spending. He put HIV/ AIDS in an economic frame and told delegates of the

World Bank's MAP programme which deals with HIV/ AIDS related project financing in the hardest hit countries in the developing world. He stressed the importance of political commitment and partnerships on national, regional and global levels.

He stressed the important role Parliamentarians have in the work with the World Bank. He then went on to tell delegates of the work of the PNoWB, particularly the meeting held in Athens with James Wolfenson. He also told delegates of the new "Implementation Watch" which is in the process of being established and will give Parliamentarians the opportunity to monitor policy developments.

### **Challenges in meeting ICPD Goals and European Solutions & ICPD +10: Discussion and presentations**

*Chair: Nikolay Gerasimenko, MP (Russian Federation), IEPFPD Executive Committee*

The Keynote address was delivered by the **Hon. Narana Coissoró, MP Portuguese Parliamentary Group on Population and Development**. He told the gathered guests that challenges to the implementation of the ICPD commitments are made even greater when expressed by Parliamentarians to Parliamentarians. Human rights are not just figures of political rhetoric. Nor are women's rights just a matter of aesthetics. Having set out the historical background to his first main points on Cairo and subsequent initiatives, he then talked about specific cases within the Lusophone world. Summing up, he urged Parliamentarians to act together and implement the very practical document that is the ICPD PoA.

### **Removing barriers to ICPD implementation**

**Mr Stirling Scruggs Director IERD, UNFPA** addressed delegates on the issue of the opposition movement to reproductive rights which has gathered momentum in Europe over the past year. He outlined their points of argumentation and pointed out that a number of these groups also showed themselves to be anti-women's rights and xenophobes.

He stressed that reproductive health and family planning should be, and is in the majority of countries, a matter of personal and informed choice. However, a number of opposition groups in Europe with the support of anti-choice elements emanating from the United States have been actively seeking to impose their views on European policy makers through to European citizens. In particular he explained the false allegations which had been levelled against the UNFPA concerning their activities in Kosovo, Peru and China and how they had all be disproved by independent investigations. Significantly, Stirling Scruggs was able to point out that in the case of China, although the original allegations had caused the UNFPA to lose their funding for the year 2002, an American delegation to China sent to investigate the allegations subsequently recommended that the Bush Administration fund the UNFPA as it is a "force for good".

Mr Scruggs thanked delegates for their representation at the Ottawa IPCI/ ICPD in November 2002 and formally announced that Europe would be the hosts for IPCI/ ICPD 2004.

**Senator Zdzislawa Janowska (Poland)** provided delegates with a case example of the impact of the opposition movement in Poland. She outlined the progress which Poland has already made in implementation the ICPD PoA and which government bodies and Ministries are involved she then outlined the three main areas of constraint facing advocates of the ICPD agenda namely, political, cultural and economic.

She told delegates that the Catholic Church still played a prominent if informal role in the legislative processes of Poland and this was to be particularly evidence in any policies concerning health and education, women's rights and children as a result of this, there have been considerable barriers in achieving the ICPD goal of empowering young people in particular to make informed choices concerning their sexual and reproductive health and rights

For the future, she hoped that European accession in 2004 would help to open the door to less traditional ideas and less reliance on the Church.

### *Closing Statements*

**Martyn Jones, MP UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development** began the closing session by outlining his long involvement with SRHR and particularly the UK All-Party Group.

He told delegates that the two days had been a landmark in the history of the IEPPFD. Never before has the Forum had such an active year and been so effective on national, regional and international stages.

All key note speakers in the first session reminded us of the gaps in funding and favourable policy environments. Steve Sinding put the issue very succinctly which we as parliamentarians can also relate to from our perspectives. These are the five key areas of advocacy, access, AIDS abortion and adolescents.

Throughout the last two days we have returned to these five topics with many speakers. We have had presentations from the decision makers of tomorrow who clearly understand the issues which affect primarily their peers across the globe.

Also, we have talked at length on resource mobilization and its intrinsic link with ensuring the maintenance of ICPD language. We have heard from the UNFPA, the Irish, French and the UK All-Party Groups on how we have counteracted opposition elements over the past year.

It is clear that going into the preparations for the ICPD +10 events next year there is still a lot of work to be done.

Our Declaration reflects this. We know there is a problem. And we know what the solutions are.

Let us take away with us the thought that this meeting has given us not only the opportunity to exchange views and experiences, but has also allowed us to plan for the coming months.

As Satu Hassi challenged us, when we gather together next year, I hope to hear that each of us has had positive input on our national stages. That we have all managed to secure an increase in our annual ODA specifically earmarked for reproductive health and population issues as a cross cutting issue.

**Hon. João Bosco da Mota Amaral, President of the Portuguese Assembleia da Republica** closed the meeting by thanking Ana Manso for working so hard to have the meeting in Portugal. she expressed her wish that the conclusions would be useful to further the work of the Forum. However, she also acknowledged that although dialog is healthy particularly between politicians, it is not unhealthy to have a divergence of opinion within a group.

It is our duty as Parliamentarians to urge our governments and work together on international platforms. It is important to recognise that not only Africa, but other regions are poverty stricken and to endeavour to do our best for the benefit of mankind as a whole

## **IEPFPD Lisbon Declaration**

### **IEPFPD Third Council Meeting**

**Lisbon 27 May 2003**

We the representatives of Parliamentary Groups on population and development in Europe and Parliamentarians committed to population and development meeting in the Portuguese Parliament on 26 and 27 May 2003 in the Third Council meeting of the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

- Strongly reaffirm the Programme of Action of the ICPD as the basis of progress for ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all the people.
- Consider that the ICPD PoA constitutes the minimum guarantees for ensuring SRHR and shall strive to maintain the PoA as is and to progress beyond it.
- Assert that resource mobilisation is a key priority for European Parliamentarians and pledge to strongly urge our respective governments increase funding to meet the unmet need in family planning and SRHR, specifically in light of the ten year mark of the ICPD.
- Recognise that creating an enabling environment remains a priority and commit to progress towards this at all levels, national, European and international, through exchange of experiences and best practice.
- Deplore that many obstacles still remain to the full Implementation of the ICPD PoA and therefore reaffirm our collective will to overcome these obstacles.
- Pledge to take up SRHR, population and development proactively in our work in Parliament.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### IEPFPD Website

[www.europartyvoices.org](http://www.europartyvoices.org)

### Regional Parliamentarian Group websites

AFPPD: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

[www.afppd.org](http://www.afppd.org)

FAAPPD : Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development

[www.faappd.org](http://www.faappd.org)

Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

[www.iapg.org](http://www.iapg.org)

PNoWB: Parliamentary Network of the World Bank

[www.pnowb.org](http://www.pnowb.org)

### Reference websites

[www.ippf.org](http://www.ippf.org)

[www.ippfen.org](http://www.ippfen.org)

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The IEPFPD would like to place on record its gratitude to the Portuguese Parliament, the Portuguese Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the APF (Portuguese FPA), particularly Alice Frade, Yasmin Gonçalves and Rui Marques, as well as the IPPF EN and UNFPA.