

**Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly**

As written

Statement

by

Shin Sakurai

Chairman, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

&

Secretary General, the International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review (IFP)

at

Preparatory Committee

For UN Special Session of the General Assembly for Population

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Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Kofi **Anan**, Our esteemed Secretary General,
Dr, **Nafis Sadik**, Executive Director of **UNFPA**,
Distinguished government representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak before the august assembly. Let me first of all congratulate you for organize the preparatory committee meeting immediately after UN **Forum(CPD)**.

I speak today in the capacity as the Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and also as the Secretary General of the International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review (IFP) that took place last month in The Hague, Netherlands.

AFPPD, the oldest regional parliamentary forum on population and development was established in 1981. Since then we **Asian** parliamentarians who represent sixty per cent of the world population have worked together to play a pioneering role in mobilizing parliamentarians for population issues.

In support of ICPD in Cairo in 1994, AFPPD organized the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD). Since then in collaboration with other regional Forums we convened parliamentarians' conference to provide population input at each United Nations conferences. As elected representatives we deliberated on the issues of population and sustainable development and adopted with consensus, the statements.

Throughout these parliamentary conferences we have been consistent in our advocacy that the issue of population lies at the heart of all other global issues. It is because we believe that as politicians our primary responsibility lies in ensuring human dignity and survival.

The International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review held in The Hague had the participation and earnest deliberation of two hundred and ten legislators **from** one hundred and three countries.

Indeed the **IFP** Hague Declaration is a summary of the **fruits** of our activities. Recognizing, in particular, the importance of improving reproductive health and empowerment of women in the resolution of population problems, and the need for further mobilizing resources in the fields of population and reproductive health, the

Hague Declaration calls on the governments to increase budget allocation to the problems of population. Furthermore, in order to expand the catalytic role of parliamentarians towards governments and civil society, and to expand our population and development related activities on a global scale, we decided to enact laws in our countries, make decisions on budget allocation and impact policy-making process.

The contents are reflected in *the Report of Secretary General (Draft)* to be presented to the Special Session on Population of the General Assembly scheduled from June 30 to July 2. We support *the Report of Secretary General (Draft)* and stand committed to working harder towards the resolution of the population issues.

There is one thing more we wish to state. The shortage of food and **fresh** water resources, that are essential to support human life, are threatening our very survival. As clearly stated in the Third Chapter of the Programme of Action, any commitment to population must be made within the context of the global environment, food and water resources. As elected representatives of our peoples we also wish to make a strong case of this point.

I call on the distinguished representatives of the governments and officials of the UN specialized agencies to draw together our wisdom to solve the population problems so that our children's generation may inherit our unique planet.

We share our lives on this earth. We are living in a global world in which we can no longer discuss domestic issues without considering their international consequences. Our international society has committed to honoring international agreements and conventions. Have they kept consistency with long term perspective of population issues? International agreements and conventions reflect various positions and interests of the parties. We who are involved in population and sustainable development believe it is necessary to revise international rules, including those on food trade and environmental issues, to represent not short term interests but **from** a long term perspective consistent with the character of the population problem.

I urge respective governments to seriously study how best to cope with the future implied by the gravity of the population issue.

Our deliberations and conclusions are well reflected in *the Report of Secretary General (Draft)* but we will distribute a copy of the Hague Declaration which we hope you will read as it represents the consensus of the elected representatives of the people from all parts of the world. I urge you to reflect it in the resolution of the General Assembly.

In order to ensure the **future** of humankind, let us all of us, the youth, **NGOs**, governments and parliamentarians work together with undaunted will and courage.

Thank you for your attention.