



PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT





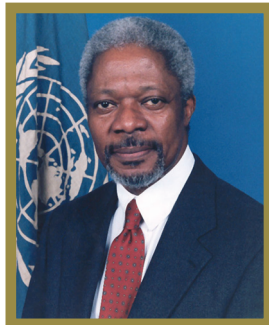
Publisher:
Parliamentary
Assembly of
Bosnia and
Herzegovina
Parliamentary
Group for
Population and
Development

For the publisher:
Milorad Živković,
President of the
Group

Editor-in-chief:
Dr Zijad Hasić,
Secretary of the
Group

Photographs:
XY and
documentation
of the Group

Sarajevo, 2006



“The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And that means stronger efforts to promote women’s rights, and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning.”

Kofi Annan, Bangkok, 16 December 2002
(5th Asian and Pacific Conference)



The Parliamentary Group for Population and Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a voluntary, informal group, based in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, composed of the parliamentarians from all the levels of the legislative authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our group was established with a view to address the issues related to the protection of reproductive health, particularly of young people, promotion of the healthy way of living, implementation of the Law on Gender Equality, demographic and medical aspects of the development of the population, but what triggered its setting up were the invitations of the non-governmental sector and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) to establish the co-operation.

Shortly after forming the Parliamentary Group (on 24th of February 2004), we took part at the meeting held in Ankara (on 4th of April 2004), at which our application for membership was accepted, whereby we became a full-fledged member of the IEPFPD (Inter-European Parliamentary Forum for Development and Population).

Concerning the recent activities of the Group, it is worth mentioning that we held press conferences on the occasion of the World Population Day (11 July 2004/2005) and the World AIDS/HIV Day (1 December 2004), organised a Public Hearing dedicated to AIDS/HIV (on 20th of May 2005), developed the activities that in the end led to the adoption of the Ottawa Document (Action Plan of Cairo declaration) in both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, strongly advocated in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina meeting the formal requirements for application with the Global Fund of the UN for receiving the means necessary for combating AIDS/HIV and TBC, visited NGOs in five cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Fourth IEPFPD Council meeting, 1-4 April 2004, Ankara

in order to get an insight of the conditions in which they work, referred the Cairo document to the parliamentary procedure, etc.

Currently, we are continuously conducting the activities related to the Ottawa document, working on the implementation of the provisions of the Law on Gender Equality, and doing the preparatory works for the upcoming census.

In the next period, in addition to continuing we the above activities, we intend to strengthen the links between our Group and NGOs and IEPFPD (we have sent an official invitation to the Executive Board of IEPFPD to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina and meet with our Group) and take active part in the implementation of the Strategy for Combating HIV/AIDS by creating linkages between non-governmental and governmental sector.

In light of the fact that the Parliamentary Group for Population and Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina is open for new members, we would like hereby to invite all people of good will to join us in our common struggle against poverty and all forms of discrimination of human beings, for the purpose of ensuring healthier and better life for all, particularly for the coming generations.

President of the Parliamentary Group for Population and Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Milorad Živković, MD, M.S. in Medicine



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH,
 AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
 TEXTS REGULATING THE MATTER

Sexual and reproductive health of the population of a country represents a very important issue to which the state bodies must dedicate a lot of attention. It comprises very complex social activities, which encompass biological, medical, social, psychosocial, cultural, and other important aspects of human life. Dealing with these issues implies the existence of universal human rights based upon inalienable freedom, dignity and equality of all human beings.

Ensuring the enjoyment of these rights implies the state authorities, specialised bodies and agencies, non-governmental organisations, and all other players who strive to promote these rights have to address numerous challenges. These challenges include:

- raising the awareness of the population and obtaining international and national support for protection of these rights;
- continuous dissemination of knowledge concerning the effective actions by which to raise the level of sexual and reproductive health;
- development of joint activities between the groups for human rights, women's rights, gender equality and other groups, for the purpose of providing acting synergy of action

in - the area of implementation of sexual and reproductive rights;

- definition of concrete activities to be undertaken by the executive authorities, non-governmental organisations, and other entities, for the purpose of promoting these rights.

Sexual and reproductive health has proven to be of such significance for both the individual states and for the world as whole, that the international community (most frequently the Organisation of the



United Nations) passed a number of extremely significant **international conventions, declarations, and other international regulatory norms**. The most significant among them are:

- The Convention and Protocol on the Status of Refugees,
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination of Women (CEDAW 1979),
- The Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989),
- IV World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1995), Platform for Action and Beijing Declaration,
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UN 2000 (189 nations were present),





- the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women,
- The International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994),
- The International Pact on Civic and Political Rights,
- The International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- The documents from the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001),
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and related documents,
- Documents from the 1st

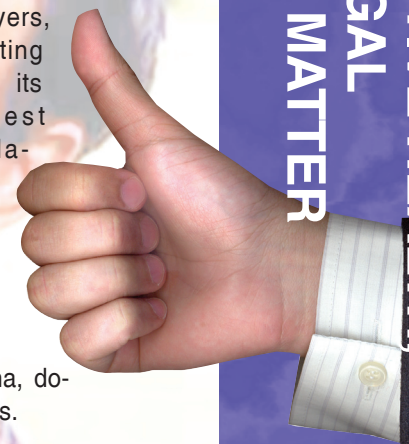
International Parliamentary Conference on ICPD, Action Plan, Canada, 2002,
- Documents from the 2nd International Parliamentary Conference on ICPD, France 2004.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member state of the Organisation of the United Nations, and a country that has accepted the above-mentioned international instruments.

In order to be able fully and expeditiously to implement these documents, Bosnia and Herzegovina should induce to action all its agencies, bodies and players, starting from its highest legislative body, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, down to its individual citizens.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH,
AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
TEXTS REGULATING THE MATTER





ORGANISATION,
GOALS AND
ACTIVITIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the major part of these documents; yet however, it has not done much in terms of their implementation. We intend to pass the necessary laws and other regulatory standards that will set in motion the executive authorities, and thus ultimately create the conditions to ensure a healthy life and sound reproductive behaviour in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Recognising that the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina should play an active role in setting the standards in the area of most significant issues related to sexual and reproductive health throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on **24 February 2004** a group of MPs launched an initiative for instituting a Parliamentary Group for Population and Development, which at the end resulted in the establishment of such group. The Parliamentary Group for Population and Development is composed of the representatives of both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and legislative bodies of the Entities (Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and People's Assembly of the



Republika Srpska). **The goals** of this Parliamentary Group include the carrying out of important activities in the field of sexual and reproductive health, and in particular:

- Identification of the topics of common interest for the population, sustainable development and reproductive health;
- Promotion of knowledge and awareness related to reproductive health and the rights deriving from this social activity;
- Identification of the ways as how to proceed working jointly on these issues;
- Involving Bosnia and Herzegovina in international processes the aim of which is to find quality solutions for these issues;
- Establishing activity plans for implementation of the Cairo principles, and the principles from the Beijing Declaration related to poverty reduction, for the common benefit of all the states;
- Enhancing the coordination by co-operating with the UNFPA, IPPF and other organisations from the non-governmental sector, for the purpose of identifying the programmes of activities; and
- Promoting the establishment of inter-party groups in other national parliaments.

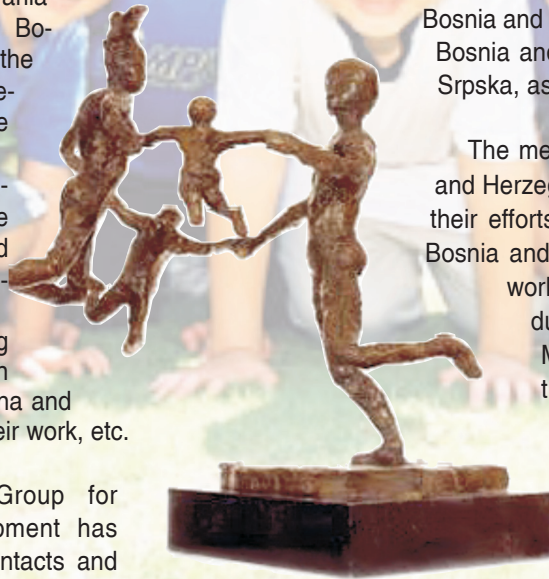


The goals of the Parliamentary Group for Population and Development are in harmony with the goals of the International Forum for Population and Development. This group has been a member of the Forum since 1994.

Since its establishment up to this date, the Parliamentary Group for Population and Development has undertaken numerous activities, aimed at asserting reproductive health, of which the most significant have been the following:



- The members of the Group took active part at the meetings of the International Forum in Tbilisi, Strasbourg, Dublin, Edinburgh, etc.;
- We observed the important dates of relevance for the issues in question, such as the December the 1st - the World HIV/AIDS day, July 11th - the World Population day, and similar;
- Together with the Committee for Gender Equality of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we organised a round table dedicated to combating HIV/AIDS;
- We gave our assistance in duly applying with the Global Fund for funding the combat against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis;
- We submitted to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina the Resolution on the implementation of the Ottawa Declaration;
- Together with the sponsors, we translated the Cairo Documents and referred them for ratification and adoption;
- We visited the existing information centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina and gave our support to their work, etc.



The Parliamentary Group for Population and Development has established numerous contacts and entered into close co-operation with

many international and domestic organisations and agencies, as well as with many governmental and non-governmental organisations that promote healthy relationships in the area

hiv/aids



of reproductive development and population, of which the most important ones were UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP/UNV, WHO, WB, Care International, Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gender Centre of the Republika Srpska, as well as with many other entities.

The members of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina recognised the need personally to commit their efforts and to involve the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in creating an institutional framework for quality implementation of sexual and reproductive rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The MPs will strive to create standards to ensure throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina higher level of the quality of life, mutual respect, gender equality, the enjoyment of the right to confidentiality, privacy, safety, personal choice and access to information related to population development issues.