



Inter-Parliamentary Union



Bangladesh Parliament



World Health Organization

Multi-Country Seminar on Parliaments and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health

Dhaka, Bangladesh
30-31 July, 2013

Draft Provisional Agenda

Monday 29 July

Arrival and Registration of Participants

Tuesday 30 July

SESSION 1: OFFICIAL OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

9 –9.30 a.m.

Welcome remarks

- Address by the Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament
- Remarks by WHO representative
- Remarks by IPU representative

SESSION 2: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH – GLOBAL TRENDS AND ENTRY POINTS FOR PARLIAMENTS

9.30 – 10.30 a.m.

This session will set the stage for the seminar, highlighting recent trends in women's and children's health and the main processes for accountability

Trends and accountability mechanism for women's and children's health, *Countdown to 2015*

Technical presentation followed by plenary discussion

10.30 – 11 a.m.

Coffee Break

SESSION 3: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

This session will review parliamentary practice, the contribution of parliaments and identify further actions parliaments can take to strengthen accountability for women's and children's health. Good practice based on experiences and challenges will be shared.

11 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. The IPU resolution on women's and children's health
Demanding accountability for resourcing health: The case of Uganda
Developing solidarity to ensure accountability: The case of Bangladesh
Ensuring protection of women's health rights: (preventing early marriage case study),

Presentations followed by plenary discussion

12.45– 2 p.m. **Lunch**

SESSION 4: IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH OVERSIGHT- FOCUS ON RESOURCING

This session will build on previous sessions by focusing specifically on the resourcing of women's and children's health. Effective budget appropriation by parliamentarians depends on accurate information regarding actual levels of spending and results achieved against resources spent. This session will focus on accountability for results and resources for women's and children's health, highlighting the different components of the accountability process, from situational analyses, planning, costing and budgeting (including the creation of fiscal space) to expenditure tracking.

2–4.15 p.m. Strengthening parliamentary action on accountability for results and resources

Technical presentation followed by plenary discussion on experiences of parliamentarians and group work

4.15 – 4:30 p.m. **Coffee Break**

4.30 – 5.45 p.m. Report back to plenary and discussion

5.45 –6 p.m. **Day 1 wrap-up and close**

Wednesday 31 July

9 – 9.15 a.m. Aligning parliamentary roles with accountability for women’s and children’s health - Summary of Day 1

SESSION 5: STRENGTHENING COUNTRY-LEVEL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HEALTH

The Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health identified the country level as the most critical point of intervention in improving accountability. This session will review the recommendations of recent commissions on women and children’s health and hear about progress being made by countries on implementing these recommendations. The session will then seek to identify ways in which parliamentarians can contribute to these efforts.

09.15 – 12 noon Implementing the recommendations of commissions on women’s and children’s health

Presentation followed by plenary discussion and group work/panel on the possible contribution of parliamentarians to country efforts

10.30 – 11 a.m. **Coffee Break**

12 noon -1 p.m. Report back to plenary on the contribution of parliamentarians

1– 2.30p.m. **Lunch**

SESSION 6: ADDRESSING EMERGING CHALLENGES TO PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

This session will provide an overview of the challenges facing parliamentarians as identified over the two days and identify possible responses and resources to promote further actions by parliamentarians on women’s and children’s health

2.30 – 3.30 p.m. Summary of key challenges encountered by parliamentarians and possible responses- a panel (3 MPs and 1 partner organization)
Resources for parliamentarians - presentation on various resources available and how MPs can access them
Role of partners and global solidarity

SESSION 7: NEXT STEPS

3.30 –4.30 p.m. Presentation, discussion and adoption of seminar outcome document

4.30 – 5 p.m. Closing ceremony