

Press Release



United Nations Population Fund
Office for the Pacific

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA – because everyone counts.

Engaging parliamentarians to fulfill the promise of the Millennium Declaration

SUVA, FIJI, (29 June 2006) – The role of parliamentarians in advocating for population and development issues and in facilitating national and international commitments, is crucial, as they make decisions on policies and resource allocation in their countries. At the induction of Fiji Parliamentarians, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with Fiji Parliament Office and the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) will join forces to highlight the essential role of parliamentarians in advocating and facilitating the implementation of commitments made at the Millennium Summit in 2000. The induction programme for Fiji Parliamentarians, will take place on 29 June 2006, at the Warwick Hotel, in Korolevu.

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, Fiji along with 188 other member states of the United Nations, agreed to put the world on a more balanced, secure and sustainable path. They agreed on 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to free men, women and children from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty and diseases, to combat discrimination against women, degradation of land and illiteracy. The joint initiative of UNFPA, PPAPD and the Fiji Parliament Office, will reinforce and sustain the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and the momentum of the 8 MDGs.

The induction programme will examine the progress of achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals in Fiji, in the context of population and development and reproductive health. It will also highlight the role of parliamentarians in advocating and supporting the MDGs. To support their advocacy role, UNFPA will launch the *Advocacy Package for Parliamentarians*. The package will allow Fiji Parliamentarians to be well versed with the issues of the MDGs and to be fully engaged in their advocacy roles within the communities, and at national and international fora.

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