

**Memorandum of Understanding
between the
Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth
of Independent States
and
the United Nations Population Fund,
Eastern European and Central Asia Regional Office**

The Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the CIS (further referred to as the IPA CIS), represented by the Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council Ms. Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko, and the UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND Eastern European and Central Asia Regional Office (further referred to as “UNFPA EECARO”), represented by its Regional Director Ms. Thea Fierens,

mindful that the main purpose of the CIS is to promote cooperation in the political, economic, environmental and humanitarian spheres building on the universal principles and norms of international law, and that one of the main objectives of the UNFPA is the promotion of the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity, and the support to countries in using population data for national policies and programs to reduce poverty and improve demographic situation,

being guided by the 1995 Convention on the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of CIS and by the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, and the Millennium Development Goals of 2000;

recognizing that commitment to the norms of international law in the development of national legislation may be crucial for ensuring stable social and economic development of the CIS Member Nations and their welfare, as well as for the process of harmonization of national laws in the CIS Member Nations;

wishing to contribute to the social and economic potential of the CIS, building upon the many years of population programs and projects implementation in various countries,

have agreed on the following:

Article I

The purpose of this MOU is to unite efforts of the IPA CIS and the UNFPA EECARO to create conditions for efficient law-making and policy development with

a focus on reproductive health, gender equality, population and development in the CIS Member Nations.

Article II

The IPA CIS and the UNFPA EECARO will make joint efforts to identify and inform decision-makers on the issues of population and development, including issues related to the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and Millennium Development Goals of 2000, in particular MDG5, at national, regional and international levels.

Article III

To achieve the purpose of this MoU, the IPA CIS and the UNFPA EECARO shall:

- apply UNFPA experience in matters related to population dynamics, reproductive health and gender equality to raise awareness in the CIS countries;
- discuss population dynamics, reproductive health, gender equality at the meetings of the IPA CIS Permanent Commissions and the IPA CIS plenary sessions;
- support the exchange of experience and legal information among the CIS Member Nations on the implementation of policies related to population, reproductive health and gender equality;
- share information of mutual interest, including information on the ongoing activities and future plans, and exchange invitations to participate in events and conferences;
- facilitate the dialogue among law-makers and governments, businesses and the broader public of the CIS Member Nations through joint projects and events organized by the IPA CIS and the UNFPA EECARO.

Article IV

1. Cooperation under this MOU shall be subject to the following principles:

- free will and common interests of both Parties;

– priorities for cooperation within joint projects, accountability framework and operational adjustment of the Parties' actions under the present Agreement shall be subject to consensus of the Parties;

– joint initiatives shall include activities related to the development of model legislation on the above mentioned thematic areas for the CIS Member Nations, and promoting the ratification of international treaties on population dynamics, reproductive health and gender equality. The joint initiatives shall also seek to promote the incorporation of model legislation into the national laws of the CIS Member Nations. The scope of cooperation shall include international conferences and workshops, effective information exchange, efficient communication between members of national parliaments of the CIS and other countries of the world, research and advisory services, joint publications and training. The Parties may wish to broaden the scope of their cooperation as they deem necessary.

– the Parties may wish to implement joint projects on the basis of additional agreements reflecting the terms of participation of the Parties in such projects as well as expenses borne by each Party.

Article V

1. The MOU shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties.
2. This MOU may be changed and amended by written agreement of the Parties.
3. The Agreement may be terminated by any Party after six-months of its entry into force with a prior written notice to the other Party.

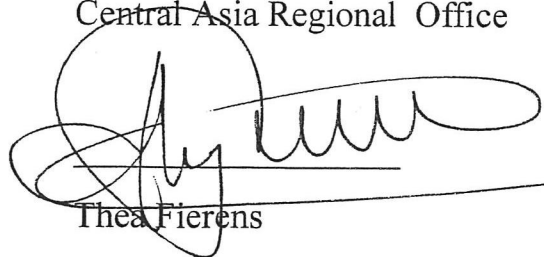
The representatives of the IPA CIS and the UNFPA EECARO have signed this MoU in the city of St. Petersburg on the 17th of May 2012 in four certified original copies in English and Russian, each having equal legal effect.

Chairperson of the Interparliamentary
Assembly of Member Nations of the
Commonwealth of Independent States



Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko

Regional Director of the United Nations
Population Fund Eastern European and
Central Asia Regional Office



Thea Fierens