

Parliamentary session: "Agenda 2030: promoting sexual and reproductive health and fulfilling commitments".

To be fulfilled, the SDG must be articulated with national, regional and local policies

On 14 February a meeting of the State, Basque and Catalan Parliamentary Intergroups on Population, Development and Reproductive Health was held in the Spanish Senate. This time the session for dialogue between parliamentarians, civil society organizations, representatives of state and regional governments, international organizations and experts had as its central theme "Agenda 2030: promoting sexual and reproductive health and fulfilling commitments".

The participants of the three intergroups were joined by 40 participants, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Esteban Caballero. The representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in Geneva, Catarina Carvalho. The General Director of Development Cooperation of the Catalanian Government and Director of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, Manel Vila i Montlló. The Director of Foreign Affairs of the Basque Government, Leyre Madariaga. The representative of Doctors of World, Emiliana Tapia, and the coordinator of the Family Planning Association of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands (APFCiB), Silvia Aldavert. The meeting was attended by Fernando García Casas, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Latin America; parliamentarians of all political groups; representatives of social organizations working for international cooperation for development, sexual and reproductive rights or health; representatives of the private sector in the field of sexual and reproductive health, or senior officials of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The Agenda 2030 must be translated into legislative work

As one of the main outcomes of the meeting, The representatives of the three parliamentary intergroups on population, development and reproductive health have agreed that to a large extent the implementation of the global development agenda and its 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) depend on legislative work at the national and regional level. The conviction that it is not possible to comply with the SDG without an articulation with the national and local political agendas has been present in the interventions throughout the session.

Agenda 2030 must coexist with other agendas that drive sexual and reproductive health and rights

Some of the participants have stressed that the implementation of the 2030 agenda requires an indispensable approach from multiple actors if progress is to be made in its implementation, because in fact development is a transversal reality. As Esteban Caballero, UNFPA representative pointed out, it is also key "the coherence between the international and the national scenarios," as well as the empowerment of local communities. In this regard, it is essential to be able to influence legislative frameworks in this regard. The UNFPA representative has emphasized that the 2030 agenda does not mean we should abandon other agendas and frameworks that have been working for years and whose contents are essential for the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its instrument in Latin America, the Montevideo Consensus.

The session has also served to build consensus around the need for governments to define national strategies and action plans for sustainable development based on SDG. It is important that they take into account, as the representative of IPPF, Catarina Carvalho stressed, that the European Union will define the regional indicators of the agenda in April of this year. Therefore, "parliamentarians must ensure that a plan of action for the ODS is established," and has encouraged the Spanish State to present the voluntary national report on the implementation of the 2030 agenda and to facilitate and promote the Participation of civil society in the review and compliance of SDG.