



# Parliamentary action for the universalization of the right to health

CHANGE  
HEALTH  
RIGHTS  
SOLIDARITY  
LEARNING  
RESPONSIBILITY  
DIALOGUE  
COMMITMENT  
EXPERIENCES  
ACCOUNTABILITY

The Spanish Parliamentary Intergroup on Population, Development and Reproductive Health is a network of parliamentarians with different political affiliation who are sharing the same interest and commitment regarding the situation of sexual and reproductive health, human rights, sexual and reproductive rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the developing world.

Together they participate in activities that establish the dialogue with diverse social actors and the knowledge exchange, and promote parliamentary actions to improve and increase the steps of the Spanish Government in international cooperation in health and sexual and reproductive health. Its efforts are aimed at advancing progress on the SDGs and the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit in 2019 to advance the implementation of the points of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action.

For further information, please contact us at [intergruposalud@sedra-fpfe.org](mailto:intergruposalud@sedra-fpfe.org) or visit [www.intergruposalud.org](http://www.intergruposalud.org)

## SPANISH PARLAMENTARY INTERGROUP ON POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In 1994, an international agreement was adopted in Cairo by which the international community committed to make all necessary efforts in order to universalize the access to sexual and reproductive health as well as the free and full exercise of sexual rights. The Cairo Action Plan recognises the importance of counting with appropriate legal frames to promote, ensure and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights. Therefore, involving parliamentarians in this effort was an essential issue.

The 2019 Nairobi Summit on Population and Development, which brought together participants from 150 countries, assessed policies and actions over the past 25 years to advance implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action and promote concrete commitments to achieve the "three zeros":

- > Zero unmet need for contraception
- > Zero preventable maternal deaths
- > Zero violence against women and girls

Engaging parliamentarians in this collective effort was essential to fulfilling the signed agreements. However, these and other commitments have yet to be fulfilled. The 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators of the 2030 Agenda, which address the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental), provide the global framework for development policies in the coming years. In many of the advances, international development cooperation has played a key role. Parliamentary action will therefore continue to be crucial."

### Our history

In 1998, the Parliamentary Intergroup on Population, Development and Reproductive Health was born in Spain. Since then, dozens of members of parliament and senators have worked in this body, thus enriching its work and being agents of change and improvement in reproductive health cooperation policies.

Numerous parliamentary questions have been registered to follow up on the fulfilment of commitments and measure progress, and non-legislative motions have been promoted and laws or budgets have been amended. It is also part of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF), a meeting space for parliamentarians from 27 countries to share and coordinate initiatives, and the Global Parliamentary Alliance, focused on achieving the SDGs, improving health and defending and expanding human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.



## Our work

Some of the activities organized by Intergroup are:

- **Regular meetings:** Parliamentarians and members of the technical secretariat of the Intergroup meet on a regular basis to organise their work, exchange information and plan future actions
- **Meetings with experts:** National and international experts on relevant areas regularly meet members of the Intergroup to offer information and training on key issues regarding health and cooperation or sexual and reproductive health.
- **Training sessions and international conferences:** Whether in the Spanish State or abroad, parliamentarians working in the Intergroup attend trainings and conferences aimed both to improve their knowledge and experience and to influence decision



- **Study visits:** The Intergroup members travel to developing countries to see first-hand the state of the issue, to observe and understand the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the communities as well as the access to services and the exercise of rights and, finally, to exchange information and proposals with parliamentarians of other countries, government representatives and ministers, and members of the local civil society.
- **Publications:** In addition to "Parliamentary Brief", our regular printed publication, the Intergroup counts with the website [www.intergruposalud.org](http://www.intergruposalud.org) and publishes and distributes material on relevant issues for the parliamentary work on health and cooperation.

## SPANISH FEDERATION OF FAMILY PLANING

### REGIONAL INTERGROUPS

The decentralized cooperation in the Spanish State means that a great variety of activities and programmes aimed to promote the development of the most vulnerable communities of the world are decided, budgeted and developed at a regional or municipal level. Regional Parliaments are responsible for approving budgets and monitoring governmental action in their regions. For this reason, SEDRA-FPFE and its member associations have promoted the creation of the regional Intergroups of the Catalan and Basque parliaments, which have become a benchmark in their territories and whose members also take part in activities organised at a national level.

Imagine a world where all women can refuse to have unprotected sexual intercourse; where all of them have access to family planning and none of them dies at childbirth. Imagine a world where all girls complete their schooling and none of them marries while still being a child. The day we do not need to imagine this anymore because such a world has become true, we would have done a great step towards development.

The Parliamentary Intergroup on Population, Development and Reproductive Health in the Spanish State carries out its work thanks to the support and commitment of a large group of institutions and individuals. To all of them, thank you.



-  More information at [www.intergruposalud.org](http://www.intergruposalud.org)
-  If you would like to receive more information and subscribe to the newsletter, please send a message to: [info@intergruposalud.org](mailto:info@intergruposalud.org)

In accordance with the Organic Law on Data Protection, your data will be included in a file belonging to SEDRA-FPFE only to send you the newsletter. You can rectify or cancel your subscription by sending your request to:

[intergruposalud@sedra-fpfe.org](mailto:intergruposalud@sedra-fpfe.org)

## WHAT IS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH?

The sexual and reproductive health of a person is a general state of physical, mental and social well-being. It entails the capacity of enjoying a satisfactory and safe sexual life and of having children, as well as the freedom to decide whereas to do it or not, when, and how often.

Sexual and reproductive health and the rights related to it include, among others, the access to information, advice, education and communication services regarding contraception and reproductive health; prenatal education and care services; a safe childbirth and postnatal period; health care for new-borns; access to safe and modern contraception methods and information; treatment of sexually transmitted infections and comprehensive sexual education.

In order to promote and ensure sexual and reproductive health of the communities, it is essential to have accessible and solid health systems, to ensure the participation of women in the decision-making processes regarding sexual and reproductive health services, and to provide preventive and care services in matters of gender-based violence, among other issues.

## Sexual and reproductive health in the world

- Nearly half of the world's population lacks sufficient access to basic health services.
- Some 217 million women who want to use safe and effective family planning methods are unable to do so.
- Some 830 women around the world die every day from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth.
- Maternal mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean is among the top three causes of death among adolescent girls aged 15-19 Impoverished.
- Universalizing family planning would reduce the number of unplanned births from 74 million to 22 million per year. In addition, maternal mortality could be reduced by 67.
- More than 200 million women and girls are currently undergoing some form of female genital mutilation.
- 33,000 child marriages take place every day despite being banned almost everywhere in the world.
- Nearly 70% of the world's people living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa.



\*Fuentes de datos: OMS, Guttmacher Institute, UNICEF, UNFPA



SEDRA-FPFE is the technical secretariat of the Parliamentary Intergroup on Population, Development and Reproductive Health. [www.sedra-fpfe.org](http://www.sedra-fpfe.org)

## SEDRA-FEDERATION OF FAMILY PLANNING

SEDRA-Federation of Family Planning (SEDRA-FPFE) is a non-religious and independent non-governmental organisation, made up of individuals and family planning associations in various regions and a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), a large network that links us with similar associations in more than 140 countries around the world. We also work in collaboration with many other national and international entities.

### Our commitment

SEDRA-FPFE, formerly State Federation of Family Planning, works since 1987 for the promotion, defence and free exercise of sexual and reproductive health and rights of everybody, with special attention to women and young people.

We at SEDRA-FPFE believe that everyone in the world should have the same rights to make decisions about how and when to have or not to have children, and should be able to access quality health services that guarantee safe births and deliveries. We believe it is essential that all young people everywhere in the world have access to the safe, quality contraceptive methods they need to be able to develop a safe and fulfilling sexuality, free from risks or unplanned pregnancy.

With these maxims in mind, we work with education and care programmes in and care programmes in Spain, and we are committed to long-term global change, promoting policies and official commitments with developing countries that bring us closer to developing countries that bring us a little closer a little closer to the world we want.

### SEDRA-FPFE and the Intergroup

SEDRA-FPFE and the Intergroup  
Since its constitution, SEDRA-FPFE has acted as the technical secretariat of the Parliamentary Intergroup on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, a role it plays from its international area, organising activities such as seminars, study visits or meetings with experts, developing and distributing materials and providing technical advice on reproductive health and rights



More information:  
[www.sedra-fpfe.org](http://www.sedra-fpfe.org)