



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)  
An Inter-Governmental Organization  
Promoting South-South Cooperation



## Global South-South Development Expo 2022

Concept Note

# Thematic Solution Forum on SSTC for Reproductive Health and Population and Development

Sponsored by: Partners in Population and Development & UNFPA

Date & Time: 12 September 2022, 16:55 - 18:10  
Bangkok, Thailand



### *Panelists*

**Dr. Juan Antonio Perez III**

Under-Secretary for Population and Development,  
National Economic and Development Authority, **Philippines**

**Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai [tbc]**

Director-General, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, **Thailand**

**Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Lopes**

Deputy Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, **Brazil**

**Dr. Ashrafi Ahmad**

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **Bangladesh**

**Dr. Betty Kyadondo**

Director, National Population Council, Ministry of Finance, **Uganda**

**Patrick Mugirwa**

Officer-in-Charge, **Partners in Population and Development**

**Mr. Gao Weizhong**

Director-General, International Health Exchange and Cooperation Center, **China**

*Moderated by : Dr. Leila Joudane, UNFPA Representative, Philippines*

## Context



As health systems address the COVID-19 pandemic, resources were diverted away from essential sexual and reproductive health services and population and development programs, to deal with the outbreak. As such, it caused disruptions and long-term impacts to sexual and reproductive health services, including those for maternal health, as the world population reaches eight (8) billion. This impacts negatively on the international efforts to achieve the goals of zero unmet

need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and other harmful practices. While the pandemic has been a great burden to well-resourced countries, its impact to lower-income countries and in humanitarian settings is even worse.

As the world looks forward to recovering from this pandemic, it is crucial to invest more in reproductive health and population and development. If we fail to do this, we are left with the next generation of our population in poor health, thus harming the long-term socio-economic prospects of the nation. Investing in mothers and their children is investing for the nation's future.

This forum is focused on the policy and programmatic challenges faced by countries. Under the constraints of limited resources, how are countries coping with the huge demands of the pandemic response while keeping the sexual and reproductive health, population and development issues, sustained? At the UN, how can the UN leverage its comparative advantage to help governments prioritize issues and mobilize domestic financing in these critical areas. This South-South knowledge-sharing forum will discuss the policy framework in prioritizing population and development policy and programmes. It will talk about surmounting the budgetary constraints; more specifically, sharing experiences in deploying South-South and triangular cooperation for this purpose.

## Objectives

Building on the Expo's objective "to review and discuss development policies and capacity-building efforts, identifying impediments and remedial measures to be introduced through South-South and triangular cooperation methodologies at the national, regional and global levels," this solution forum aims to achieve the following:

1. Discuss the importance of prioritizing reproductive health and population and development policies particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery and the policy experiences in ensuring it.
2. Propose ideas for pursuing development financing for reproductive health and population and development even as countries face challenges in COVID-19 recovery.

3. Showcase innovative and effective capacity development efforts in the above-mentioned areas and how they are or can be achieved through SSTC.

We are pleased to welcome senior officials from like-minded countries sharing their experience and insights into successful policy and programme work leveraging SSTC for advancing the ICPD Programme of Action.

**For Inquiries:**

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## PPD - UNFPA; Joint Thematic Solution Forum at 2022 GSSD Expo

### Panel Members

#### **Dr. Juan Antonio Perez, III**



Dr. Perez has had over 37 years of experience in public and private sector health programs in the Philippines. He has headed the Philippines Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) since September, 2013 when he assumed the position as its Executive Director. He was promoted to Undersecretary for Population and Development in 2019 concurrent with his role as Executive Director of POPCOM. He has managed substantial programs for the Philippines Department of Health, USAID, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

#### **Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai**



Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai is currently holding a position of the Director-General of the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health. Prior to his current position, Dr. Wattanayingcharoenchai had served several positions in medical field since 1988 when he began his career as the Director of Sichomphu Hospital, Khonkaen. He had worked with the Department of Health as the Director of the 5th Regional Health Promotion Center during 2000 to 2002. He had held a position of Angthong Provincial Chief Medical Officer in 2003, and Roiet Provincial Chief Medical Officer in 2006. Dr. Wattanayingcharoenchai had worked at the Department of Medical Science as the Deputy Director-General in 2008. In 2010, he moved to the Department of Disease Control where he served as the Deputy Director-General. He had worked with Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health since 2013 as the Inspector General of Region 11, after that, he had become the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health in 2015. He had held a position of the Director-General of the Department of Disease Control for 3 years since 2017 until 2020, before he took the current position at the Department of Health. Dr. Wattanayingcharoenchai graduated from the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, in 1986. After that, he had pursued further education in medical field and received a

master's degree in Public Health from the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium in 1996. He also completed a master's in Business Administration from Khonkaen University in 1998.

### **Ambassador Luiza Lopes da Silva**



Ambassador Luiza Lopes da Silva has been Deputy Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) since July 2022. Graduated in architecture from the University of Santa Úrsula, in Rio de Janeiro, with a Masters in History from the University of Brasília, she began her diplomatic career in 1988. She became a first-class minister in 2017. In Brazil, she worked in the Fairs and Tourism Division, in the Asia and Oceania Department, in the Organization of American States Division, was deputy coordinator for combating transnational illicit acts. She was head of the Division of Brazilian Communities Abroad and of the Division of Consular Assistance, and also chief of the Consular Department and Brazilians Abroad. Outside Brazil, she was head of the Consular Section at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, in 2007, having previously worked at the Brazilian Embassies in Tel Aviv and Kuala Lumpur. She was a professor of the diplomats training course at the Rio Branco Institute (IRBr) and a member of the examining board of the IRBr higher studies course. Ambassador Luiza Lopes was a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE) in the Interministerial Group for Monitoring and Evaluation of the II National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. The Deputy Director of ABC received, in 2015, the Order of Rio Branco, Grand Officer. In the same year, she was awarded the Peacemaker Medal.

### **Dr. Betty Kyaddondo**



Dr. Kyaddondo is a population and public health specialist with over 20 years supporting national and field-based projects in reproductive health, HIV, gender, population and development. A medical doctor trained in demography and currently, the Director, Family Health at the National Population Council (NPC) in Uganda. Dr. Kyaddondo is a Collen Fellow of Oxford's Institute of Population Ageing and is leading the efforts geared towards getting Uganda on the trajectory to harnessing the demographic dividend. Previously Betty served as a Senior National Programme Officer for Uganda's UNFPA's Joint Programme on Population. She has coordinated the development and implementation of national and community-based projects through internationally-funded projects such as USAID, UNICEF, DFID, UNFPA, PAI, and the World Bank. Betty also coordinated the medical team at the AIDS Information Centre. Betty is a researcher

with Child Health and Development Centre, Makerere University and a part time Lecturer at Makerere University School of Public Health

### **Dr Ashrafi Ahmad**



Dr. Ashrafi has been a physician and administrator in the Bangladesh Civil Service since 1995. She completed a post-graduate degree in Public Health (with a major in Reproductive Health) and Business Administration focusing on Human Resource Management, and completed the highly competitive National Defense Course. She has been closely associated with Reproductive health activities of the her government as well as development partners. Dr. Ashrafi served as Program Director of Disability Detection Survey Program of the Government of Bangladesh and as the National Project Director of a UNICEF funded project called Child Sensitive Social Protection in Bangladesh, project. She is also the Partner Country Coordinator of the inter-governmental organization, Partners in Population and Development, and looks forward to supporting greater south- south and triangular cooperation in post Covid scenario among countries.

### **Mr. Patrick Mugirwa**



**Mr. Patrick Mugirwa** is a Development Economist by training, with special interest in reproductive health, family planning, population and development. He currently works as the Officer-in Charge of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) and at the same time as Programme Manager of its Africa Regional Office. He also worked as a Senior National Programme Officer with Uganda's National Population Council, where he spearheaded the development of the Government of Uganda/ UNFPA 5th Country Programme on thematic areas of reproductive health, population and development strategies. Since the early 2000s, Mr. Mugirwa's main interests have been in advocacy for reproductive health, population and development, in the context of implementation of ICPD PoA and achievement of SDGs. He has spearheaded numerous advocacy initiatives within Africa, leading the establishment of, and working with the

Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) and the Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN), since 2008. Mr. Patrick Mugirwa holds a post graduate diploma in Project Management from Maastricht School of Management, The Netherlands; as well as a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Economic Policy and Planning both obtained from Makerere University, Uganda.

**Mr. Gao Weizhong**



Mr. Gao Weizhong is the Director-General of the International Health Exchange and Cooperation Center of National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China. Previously he held positions in the former Ministry of Health, where he served as Division Chief in the Division of Food Hygiene in the Department of Health Supervision and in the Office of Policy Research in the Department of General Administration, and he was Division Chief and Deputy Director-General in the Department of Health Policy and Regulation, as well as a commissioner of the same department.

**MODERATOR**

**Dr. Leila Joudane**



Dr. Joudane currently serves as the UNFPA Representative in the Philippines. Prior to her assignment in the Philippines, Dr. Leila Saiji Joudane was the Country Representative of UNFPA Iran for four years, where she pushed for the integration of protection and response to gender-based violence, investing in youth and women to harness the Demographic dividend through a life cycle approach, among others, in UNFPA Iran's Country Program.

She also served as the UNFPA Assistant Country Representative in Tunisia for ten years. She led the country office's growth in partners and spearheaded developing the Arab region's first comprehensive law on gender-based violence. In addition, Dr. Joudane led the resource mobilization process and positioned the mandate of UNFPA within the UN system and the national stakeholders.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Dr. Leila Joudane was the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Family and Population, Ministry of Health in Tunisia. Dr. Leila Saiji Joudane is a medical doctor with a Master's Degree in the Management of Quality of Care in Faculté de Médecine de Tunis, in Sousse, Tunisia.