

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2015/252 of 22 July 2015, in which it decided that the Commission on Population and Development should review the functioning of its methods of work at its forty-ninth session in 2016, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also the Council's resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995 and decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, as well as decisions 2004/2 and 2005/2 and resolution 2006/1 of the Commission on Population and Development on its methods of work,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, which called for the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and programmes of work of the functional commissions, and emphasized the need to strengthen the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and further recalling the Council's resolution 1981/83 regarding its instruction to its subsidiary bodies to rationalize their agendas and programmes of work, resolution 1982/50 recommending that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council be rationalized in order to enable them to effectively implement the mandates entrusted to them, and resolution 1983/163 regarding the integration or consolidation of documents that deal with related or similar themes with a view to rationalizing documentation, without negatively impacting their technical quality, as necessary,

Recognizing the key role the Council plays in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling the Programme of Action¹ of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation²,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which it was decided that the General Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and a revitalized Commission on Population and Development shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, in which the General Assembly decided to extend the Programme of Action and

¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

² General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session*, 1. Supplement No. 3 (A/S-21/5/Rev.1); and A/S-21/PV.9.

the key actions for its further implementation³ beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda,

Emphasizing the breadth of experience of non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation⁴ and the need to continue to promote their effective participation in and valuable contribution to the work of the Commission, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action¹ of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation², and the outcomes of its reviews, and notes the outcome documents of the regional review conferences, stressing that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region that adopted the particular outcome document;

2. *Also reaffirms* the primary mandate of the Commission, derived from General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, which stated that the Commission would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and international levels and would advise the Economic and Social Council thereon;

3. *Further reaffirms* the central role of the Commission in coordinating the review and assessment of the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, including addressing gaps and challenges to implementation;

4. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate, and that the Commission's contribution should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as their interlinkages between them;

5. *Decides* that the Commission will streamline its agenda and programme of work by consolidating agenda items, and by rationalizing related documentation and reports without negatively impacting their technical quality, with a view to enable it to effectively perform its mandate and to increase complementarity and avoid duplication;

6. *Decides also* that the Commission shall continue its current practice of selecting one special theme for each annual session based on progress, gaps, recurrent challenges

³ Resolution S-21/2, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

and evolving issues relevant to population and development based on the ICPD Programme of Action and the key actions to accelerate its further implementation, while also taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to fully implementing all its mandated tasks and contributing to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including by building synergies and in the context of its working methods, as appropriate, taking into account the thematic annual focus of the Council and of the High Level Political Forum under its auspices in accordance with resolutions 67/290 and 68/1 as part of a multi-year work programme;

7. *Decides further* to include under the item of the general debate two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD at global, regional and national levels, and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission;

8. *Encourages* all States, in their statements in the general debate, to give emphasis to national and regional experiences, achievements, challenges and lessons learned;

9. *Notes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors toward the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Key Actions for its further implementation and reaffirms that they should continue, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and with ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, to be given the opportunity to actively participate in the work of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with UNFPA and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to convene expert meetings and informal technical briefings on the special theme prior to the session;

11. *Requests also* the Bureau to make all efforts to improve the communication with the Member States by, inter alia, circulating the minutes of their meetings, in a cumulative form, to the members of their respective regional group within ten days after the meeting;

12. *Affirms* that the resolutions and decisions of the Commission will be negotiated, and that the outcome of the discussions on the special theme will continue to contain substantive and action-oriented recommendations for furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and encourages the Bureau to take the necessary steps in this regard;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional groups nominating their representatives as early as possible, but no later than the last day of an annual session, so that the election of Bureau members for the next session at the closure of the current session can

proceed on schedule, thereby facilitating the active participation by all Bureau members throughout the process of preparing the next session;

14. *Encourages* the regional commissions of the United Nations to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission, in collaboration, where appropriate, with other intergovernmental organizations, especially regional organizations, and other United Nations entities;

15. *Reaffirms* the complementary roles of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), within their existing mandates, in supporting the efficient work of the Commission;

16. *Decides* that the Commission may, upon request from Member States, further review its methods of work in view of the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.