



Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development

1. *Given that the Commission is the only intergovernmental forum focused on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the United Nations, how can we improve its work to better assist Member States and the international community at large in advancing the ICPD agenda while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?*

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations Organization represents an opportunity to evaluate the lessons learned within the framework of the Economic Social Council and, therefore, in its Functional Commissions. Therefore, it is a significant historical moment to make strategic changes that renew the multilateralism approach to face the challenges in economic and social matters in a more forceful and programmatic way.

Consequently, we consider that the priority themes chosen by the Commission annually should be more decisively oriented towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with the Decade of Action to achieve the *Sustainable Development Goals*.

2. *Population and development issues and trends, including drivers and impacts, have important implications for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and the achievement of the SDGs. What role can the Commission play in guiding Member States and the international community in responding to these issues and trends?*

In line with the previous question, Colombia believes that the issues of the Population and Development Commission must be more forcefully aligned with the drivers of change and the entry points defined in the Global Sustainable Development Report -GSDR- 2019¹ and aimed at accelerating the progress in relation to the 2030 Agenda, namely:

Levers

1. Governance
2. Economy and finance
3. Individual and collective actions
4. Science and technology

Starting points

- ⇒ *Human well-being and abilities*
- ⇒ *Sustainable and fair economies*
- ⇒ *Food systems and nutritional patterns*

¹ The Future is Now. Science for Achieving Sustainable Development.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/gsdr2019>.



- ⇒ *Energy decarbonisation and universal access*
- ⇒ *Urban and peri-urban development*
- ⇒ *Global environmental commons*

These cross-cutting actions have been prioritized by scientists as transformative measures that allow progress to be made at a faster pace in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In doing so, the Commission would be responding more broadly and in coordination to the challenges facing the planet, ensuring that it creates synergies with other initiatives of the United Nations System.

Hence, if the close link between science and the Commission's nuclear work and issues is considered, attention to prioritized measures is of special interest to revitalize the work of the Economic and Social Council and its Functional Commissions. In particular, we suggest ensuring that the priority issues addressed in the future take into account the concrete actions that countries should take to advance more rapidly in complying with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda.

It would also be important to pay attention to the GSDR's Call to Action component, section 4.1 on human well-being and capacity building, which lists cross-cutting and transformative actions that fully coincide with the Commission's work.

3. *In order to address the above questions and issues, would it be desirable or feasible for the Commission to adjust its methods of work (organizational aspects, substantive elements, outcome)? If so, could the practices and experiences of other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) provide any guidance?*

Considering the links between the topics addressed in the Commission on the Status of Women, we consider that an important option may be aimed at greater alignment between the annual themes of both scenarios. This would allow the discussions in both areas to be reinforced and complemented year by year, from the perspective of each of the Commissions.

On the other hand, Colombia believes that, in order to carry out more efficient exchange exercises, the resolutions presented within the framework of the Commission should be more synthetic and action oriented.

In effect, streamlining measures aimed at making the paragraphs of the resolution more concise and strategic would allow the member countries of the Commission to direct their efforts to create synergies and carry out more constructive negotiation processes. Furthermore, this will result in greater possibilities of avoiding unnecessary polarizations in the negotiating room and, thereby, reaching consensus.