

Denmark's reply to the Chair of CPD53's initiative to start a Member State led brainstorm on the Methods of Work for the CPD

**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)?**

- Aim for short and action-oriented resolutions that guide the Member States and the international community in advancing the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the outcomes of review conferences and the SDG's.
- The selection of annual CPD theme's should be focused on unique and specific areas in the ICPD PoA and the outcomes of review conferences cutting across to the SDG's which should make it easier for the Commission to provide action-oriented recommendations for furthering the implementation of the ICPD PoA and the SDG's.

**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?**

- Ensure that the discussions of the Commission is based on a strong evidence base, which includes a strong, non-politicized SG report on the annual theme.
- Important to continue the practice of convening expert meetings and informal technical briefings on the annual theme.

**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?**

- DK is in favour of an annual negotiated outcome but also agree that the Commission should be open to consider alternative methods of adoption when taking action, including by voting, considering the lack of an outcome documents in recent years.
- Avoid parallel sessions of the plenary debate and the informals to allow delegations to participate in both.
- The Commission should continue the practice of deciding on its annual theme two years in advance (as opposed to four years in advance as proposed). A time frame of two years increases the likelihood that the theme will be relevant and in tune with the current political reality.
- DK in principle supportive of the proposal to give due consideration to the regional dimensions in the annual sessions but would welcome additional reflections on how that would work in practice.
- Continue bureau of CPD53's practice of actively pursuing greater cooperation within the UN system in preparing sessions.
- Engage in a dialogue with civil society on how they can best contribute to the Commission's work.
- Secretariat support provided by DESA's Population Division and UNFPA whereas for the other functional commissions only one entity provides the secretariat support. Important to carefully consider the optimal division of labour between DESA's Population Division and UNFPA to ensure well-functioned secretariat.
- Consider adding a ministerial segment to the session in review years (to increase political awareness of the ICPD agenda).
- Consider introducing open informals, allowing NGOs and other interested stakeholders to participate as observers and recording on UN webtv. This should contribute to increasing accountability and ensure greater coherence between dynamics in the plenary debate and the informals.