



Questions on the Future Role of the Commission on Populations 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)?**

First, the Commission should reinforce its mandate of arranging for studies on population and development related issues, trends and policies relating to a special theme which should be determined in advance as part of a multiyear work program, in the context of the whole work of ECOSOC/HLPF (refer to question3), and bearing in mind to align it with the ICPD PoA and a frame as the ODS and the 2030 Agenda, or another plan of action Member States would agree upon in the future.

Secondly, the outcome to be adopted by the Commission should be action oriented, linking the particular theme to be discussed and the population and development issues, as a mean to provide relevant guidance to advance in a specific area of the ICPD.

Thirdly, the CPD should promote a greater emphasis on the regional dimensions of the special theme providing more information, data and analysis for its consideration in the annual sessions.

Finally, the Secretariat should also promote the convening of expert meetings and informal technical briefings on the annual theme, for the experts from Members States to have all relevant information to duly engage in the CPD outcome negotiations.

- 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?**

As the sole intergovernmental body tasked with integrated consideration of population and development issues, and for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission has a key role to integrate the PoA of ICPD into the work of the UN.



In that regard the CPD should be a facilitating body for States to debate related issues and trends, promoting the generation of the necessary consensus as far as possible (refer to question3) on the important issues that the Commission addresses, in which there are still different approaches, which are causing deadlocks in various UN bodies. Also, the CPD should promote the creation of data and information in these fields.

- 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?**

Yes, it will be desirable. Regrettably, in the last 6 sessions (2015-2020), the CPD has been unable to reach 4 times the necessary consensus in order to allow the Commission to adopt an outcome. This shows us that the Commission needs to adjust its methods of work to carry out the discussion and adopt an outcome that allows us to advance in the mandate of the CPD of arranging for studies on population and development related issues, trends and policies as well as to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, as well as to contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We believe that the Commission should consider alternative methods of adoption when taking action on the draft resolution on the annual theme, when consensus is not feasible. The option of allowing Member States –including Members and non-Members of the CPD– to make general statements, including statements expressing reservations on elements of a draft resolution that has been adopted by consensus, either before or after action is taken, will facilitate the process. This, would enable that the outcome reflects the position and priorities of the majority and the delegation(s) which consider(s) a particular position is not duly reflected in the resolution negotiated to express their concerns while joining the consensus. The alternatives of Members of the Commission that are not sponsors of a draft resolution making statements explaining their position before or after adoption, and the Commission voting on selected paragraphs, could be also ways for the Commission to adopt an outcome which reflects the progress made by it.

Regarding the organizational matters, having multiyear work programmes, as officially should be, and as it's in the CSW and CSocD, will help to harmonize the discussions and work at the interior of the ECOSOC, creating a better environment for the debate for diverse issues taking into account the different dimensions of an issue.

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