

Response of the Arab Republic of Egypt
To questions on the 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 its international community at large in advancing the ICPD agenda while contributing to the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

- The CPD is the is the only intergovernmental forum that focusses on the implementation of the programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the United Nations. The CPD is a part of a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism, which follow up the implementation of the ICPD.
- In light of the above, the CPD has the adequate mandate and terms of reference to fulfill its tasks. Importance should be given to focus on the main role of CPD, which is the implementation of the ICPD Programme of action as the major consensual bases achieved by the member states in this regard.
- Any deviation from the consensus achieved by member states as stipulated in the ICPD Programme of Action will affect the CPD to fulfill its mandate and role.
- Lack of agreement in previous sessions of the CPD was not a result of the problems arising from any deficiencies connected to the role or methods of work of CPD. It was due to attempts to include in the draft resolutions some terms and concepts that are not consensual and not in line with the agreed upon ICPD Program of Action. In addition, in

recent years the CPD meetings witnessed endeavors to advance outcomes of the ICPD regional review conferences that were not consensual.

- Therefore, we stress on the importance of focusing solely on the consensual outcome, namely ICPD Programme of Action.

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

- CPD has a clear role, responsibility and mandate as reflected in its terms of reference i.e. the implementation of the programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).
- Not focusing on its role and introducing issues and trends that are not consensual will lead to further difficulties and obstacles to advance the work of the commission.

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?

- The challenges the CPD is facing is not a result of its procedures and methods of work.
- We acknowledge the current endeavors to review the HLPF and strengthening ECOSOC, as well as the alignment of the SDGs in the work of ECOSOC.

- We would welcome the enhanced alignment of the CPD with the work of ECOSOC and HLPF, as long as we do not lose focus off the main role of CPD in the implementation of the programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).
 - We strongly support maintaining the consensus based methods of work, and are not in favor of resorting to voting on specific paragraphs.
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