

## Sweden's Inputs on the Future Role and Organization of the Commission on Population and Development

A discussion on the future of CPD must take the wider context of ECOSOC reforms into consideration. Having said that, the following would be our initial thoughts regarding the specific questions.

**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 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.
- The **normative role** of the CPD needs to be upheld and strengthened. Technical discussions should remain a priority. We would welcome a further strengthening of the accountability role of the CPD.
- It is critical that CPD remains a **relevant and pertinent space for Governments' to review progress** based upon evidence-based technical discussions, deliberate on ways to achieve the ICPD Program of Action, and remain mutually accountable for its success.
- **CSO involvement** and meaningful participation of civil society important.

**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 are based on a **strong evidence base**, which includes a thorough **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?

- By enhancing and strengthening its visibility, CPD could play a stronger role as a viable forum for member states and other relevant actors regarding SRHR and population issues.
- Sweden is in favour of an **annual negotiated outcome**. A consensual document continues to be preferred; the option of adopting the resolution by vote must be explored carefully. Voting on proposals that are clearly away from consensus due to contentious issues such as SRHR, may be explored as an option. While resolutions are crucial to the work of CPD in advancing the ICPD agenda, they do not constitute the only outcome possible.
- Continue the bureau of CPD53's practice of actively pursuing **greater cooperation within the UN** system in preparing sessions. We would encourage a continued and deeper dialogue between the DESA secretariat and UNFPA.
- Engage in a **dialogue with civil society on how they can best contribute** to the Commission's work. Civil society should be included in the preparations and expert inputs. Devoting time to discuss the analysis of civil society on the progress of the ICPD PoA could be considered and also relevant side-events together with governments and academia.
- Important with **well-functioning secretariat**.
- A more **interactive approach** to the annual session should be considered. The inclusion of diverse voices from different stakeholder groups, in particular from civil society and a combination of high-level, multi-stakeholder and expert panels for each year is welcome.
- **National statements** could be uploaded prior and during the annual sessions as part of the documentation. They could be presented in a summarized manner, in order to not overwhelm the annual session.