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CONAPO
CONSEJO NACIONAL DE POBLACIÓN

Side-event 56th session of the Commission of Population and Development (56CPD): Population, Education

Concept note and Agenda

Side event: Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Latin America
Organizers: Mexico and the National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO)
Co-sponsors: Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UNESCO and the Embassy of Canada to Mexico.

Date: April 12th, 2023.

Time: 13:15-14:30 NY time zone, 11:15-12:30 Mexico City time zone

Language: Spanish/English with available interpretation

Link for registration:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pNs3hrhvRO-rT3hYKSYfQA

Connection details: [https://unesco-](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/82000743429?tk=NU2vSrTS9N5ZxVQ_trXwxX1acWCXZw4Jld7Obxqh2QA.DQMAAAATF6AMBRZSVEViV9ubFFoZTRLOENINHM5M213AAAA&uuiid=WN_pNs3hrhvRO-rT3hYKSYfQA)

[org.zoom.us/j/82000743429?tk=NU2vSrTS9N5ZxVQ_trXwxX1acWCXZw4Jld7Obxqh2QA.DQMAAAATF6AMBRZSVEViV9ubFFoZTRLOENINHM5M213AAAA&uuiid=WN_pNs3hrhvRO-rT3hYKSYfQA](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/82000743429?tk=NU2vSrTS9N5ZxVQ_trXwxX1acWCXZw4Jld7Obxqh2QA.DQMAAAATF6AMBRZSVEViV9ubFFoZTRLOENINHM5M213AAAA&uuiid=WN_pNs3hrhvRO-rT3hYKSYfQA)

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1. Background and CSE international framework

Taking into account that Education is one of the structural elements for the transformation of human development and social progress, that girls, adolescents and women must play a central role in the face of persistent gender gaps, it is necessary to push them towards higher levels of education and better quality and to eliminate the barriers that impede it as: the lack of secondary and tertiary levels schools, patterns of dropout due to pregnancy or marriage; it is necessary to strengthen Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to form a new generation of girls that know and demand their sexual and reproductive rights and boys who grow up with values of respect and solidarity towards girls and women.

Several international instruments recognize the importance of CSE. The Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population (ICPD)

Points out as one of its objectives:

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- (a) *To address adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, including unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion²⁰ and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, through the promotion of responsible and healthy reproductive and sexual behaviour, including voluntary abstinence, and the provision of appropriate services and counselling specifically suitable for that age group;*
- (b) *To substantially reduce all adolescent pregnancies.*

For UNESCO the sexuality education should be an integral part of basic education because it goes beyond the acquisition of knowledge by providing competences and life skills. This approach emerges in the 1990's with the modernization of scholar curricula, which were adapted to contemporary reality and labor world. The competencies approach links knowledge to social practices, to the resolution of complex situation, to the approach to everyday problems and to the elaboration of life projects. And beyond cognitive skills in Language, Mathematics or Science, the approach seeks the acquisition of skills for social and civil life; for students to become active and creative citizens in the face of the different challenges that await them, and also to show solidarity and responsibility towards to the environment. UNESCO's position emphasizes that sexuality cannot be understood without reference to the gender, that diversity is a fundamental characteristic of sexuality and that the norms which governing sexual behavior vary between and within cultures (Comprehensive Sexuality Education: *concepts, approaches and competencies*, UNESCO/Chile/2014).

The Comprehensive Sexuality Education should be framed within the secularity of the State, with respect for all religions and beliefs, within the framework of Human Rights and universal values; it should be part of any society that claims to be democratic and pluralistic.

Another contribution to sexuality education offers the vision of *International Planned Parenthood Federation* (IPPF), which broadens the concept to incorporate the so called sexual citizenship, the promotion equity between men and women, the promotion of sexual health, responsibility towards reproduction, pleasure, respect for diversity, the elimination of all forms of violence and the need to avoid discrimination, sexual abuse and racist and sexist attitudes. (IPPF Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, International Planned Parenthood Federation/ London 2005).

The Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo Consensus, 2013) is the most explicit and progressive international instrument in the field of sexuality and offers a definition of sexual rights:

34. Promote policies that enable persons to exercise their sexual rights, which embrace the right to a safe and full sex life, as well as the right to take free, informed,

voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and that guarantee the right to information and the means necessary for their sexual health and reproductive health.

In addition, the Consensus was reached on the following priority measures for adolescents and young people:

Priority 9. Invest in youth, through specific public policies and differentiated access, especially through the provision, without discrimination, of universal, free, public, secular, high-quality, intercultural education in order to ensure that this stage of life is full and satisfactory, to enable them to develop as autonomous individuals with a sense of responsibility and solidarity and with the ability to tackle creatively the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Priority 11. Ensure the effective implementation from early childhood of comprehensive sexuality education programs, recognizing the emotional dimension of human relationships, with respect for the evolving capacity of boys and girls and the informed decisions of adolescents and young people regarding their sexuality, from a participatory, intercultural, gender sensitive, and human rights perspective.

Priority 13. Introduce or strengthen policies and programs to prevent pregnant adolescents and young mothers from dropping out of school.

Priority 14. Prioritize the prevention of pregnancy among adolescents and eliminate unsafe abortion through comprehensive education on emotional development and sexuality, and timely and confidential access to good-quality information, counselling, technologies and services, including emergency oral contraception without a prescription and male and female condoms.

Priority 16. Guarantee for boys, girls, adolescents and young people the opportunities and the basis for harmonious coexistence and a life free from violence, through intersectoral strategies to address the factors that disrupt harmony in the community and foment violence, to provide education from early childhood that promotes tolerance, an appreciation for diversity, mutual respect and respect for human rights, conflict resolution and peace, and to ensure protection, timely access to justice and compensation for victims.

Finally, the Sustainable Development Goals consider:

SDG Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies.

Agenda

Objectives:

- To generate a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences about relevance of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the scholar curricula of some countries in the region of Latin America and as a substantive axis in services within and outside the school community.
- To listen the experience and perspective of an adolescent girl in relation to Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

2. Participants:

The event will include the participation of experts from three or four different countries of the region to talk about the CSE in the scholar curricula, teachers' training and intersectoral activities. In addition, there will also be a space to listen to the vision of an adolescent girl from the region.

- Mexico-Moderator, Gabriela **Rodríguez Ramírez**, General Secretary of National Population Council.
- Argentina, Graciela **Morgade**, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of Buenos Aires University (UBA) and *liason* for the Ministry of Education.
- Mexico, Dinorah **Ugalde**, Sector Coordinator of Equal Gender and Transversal Programs, Secretariat of Education.
- Ecuador, Diana **Castellanos**, Undersecretary for Educational Innovation and Good Living.
- Netherlands, Ineke **Van Vlugt**- Programme Manager Sexuality Education and Contraception, Rutgers.
- Uruguay, Gloria **Canclini**, Director of Human Rights of the National Administration of Public Education and Alejandra **López**, Director of Institute of Health Psychology of the University of the Republic (to be confirmed).
- Teenager (to be defined).

3. Format:

Virtual side event, duration: 75 minutes.

- Opening remarks: Gabriela **Rodríguez Ramírez**, 56CDP Mexico's Head of delegation.

- Welcoming remarks: Hon. Mr. Graeme Christie **Clark**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada in Mexico (to be confirmed).

5 minutes for the participants' interventions, facilitated by the moderator based on the following guiding questions:

- 1) What is the current situation of CSE in your country, what is its content and approach and what progress has been made so far?
 - 2) What challenges and perspectives would there be a need to improve in the coming years?
- We will listen the perspective and experience of an adolescent girl, regarding what she has received from CSE and what she would like to improve.
 - Participants' interventions.
 - Closing remarks. Gabriela **Rodríguez Ramírez**.