

**Commission on Population and Development 56th Session
Concept Note for a High-Level Side Event**

“Advancing the ICPD25 commitments in the context of sustainable development using a framework of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice”

Monday, 10 April 2023

13:15 to 14:30 EDT

Conference Room 11, UN Secretariat and UN Web TV at the following [link](#)

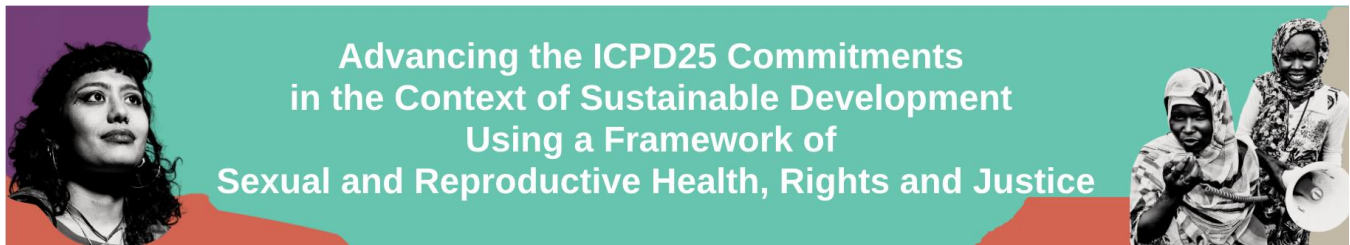
CONTEXT

The 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development will be held from 10 to 14 April 2023, under the special theme “Population, education and sustainable development”. The Commission on Population and Development plays a primary role in the reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as well as identifying best practices to respond to new and emerging challenges in ICPD follow-up.

At the Commission on Population and Development in 2019, UN Member States reaffirmed the ICPD Programme of Action adopted in Cairo in 1994 and pledged to undertake further action to ensure its full and accelerated implementation, while acknowledging that the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Governments of the Republic of Kenya and the Kingdom of Denmark, together with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, convened the *Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise*, from 12 to 14 November 2019, in the Republic of Kenya to commemorate the 25th anniversary since the adoption of the landmark ICPD Programme of Action. The summit brought together a global, multi-stakeholder community that re-energized the sexual and reproductive health and rights movement and mobilized the political will necessary to achieve the goals of the ICPD and the SDGs – by 2030. More than 8,300 delegates from 170 countries and territories attended the Summit. The Summit reaffirmed the need to accelerate the promises made in Cairo and ensure that we finish the unfinished business. The urgent message from the Nairobi Summit was that the world cannot wait another 25 years. In support, some 1300 commitments were made, including financial ones, that were announced by governments and other organizations to accelerate progress and make rights and choices a reality for all. The pledges focused on funding and programmes to achieve zero unmet need for contraception, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, by the year 2030, and are linked to the 12 overarching global commitments as outlined in the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25. All of these efforts are based on a platform of solid data and evidence so that no one is left out or left behind. Delegates committed to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and to achieve sustainable development and prosperity by investing in social inclusion and human rights-based policies.

Subsequent to the Nairobi Summit and in the 54th session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2021, various countries referenced their Nairobi commitments including during a cross-regional statement





delivered on behalf of 81 Member States. During the 55th session of the Commission on Population and Development last year, Member States (Malawi and South Africa) recognized the Nairobi Summit and its commitments.

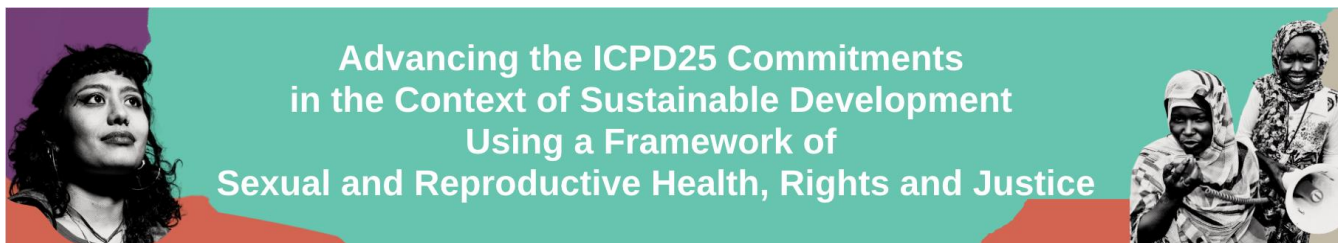
Moreover, while the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had impacted on the implementation of Nairobi commitments, coalition building and leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships in implementing the Nairobi Summit commitments and addressing the ICPD agenda, including in the context of the Beijing+25 processes, are priorities which were advanced in some countries during the post-Nairobi Summit period.

Some examples of moving commitments to action include the establishment of national action coalitions and/or national or sub-national action plans in several countries. In addition, mobilization around integrating the Nairobi commitments in UN processes, like the Universal Periodic Reviews of the Human Rights Council, continue to show traction. Furthermore, youth constituencies have continued to engage to ensure youth-led accountability for the follow up to the Nairobi commitments.

Since Nairobi, a High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up, was launched on 17 September 2020, charged with advocating for, and monitoring and reporting on the progress against the global Nairobi commitments. The Commission is co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and H.E. Ms. Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada and former Secretary-General of the International Organization of the Francophonie. The 29 eminent members of the Commission, each serving in her/his/their personal capacity, and drawn from a diverse range of stakeholders, provide guidance and recommendations for advancing progress and removing bottlenecks so that the sexual and reproductive health and rights community maintains its momentum towards a world of rights and choices for all.

The recommendations put forth in the Commission’s 2021 report *“No Exceptions, No Exclusions: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice for All”*, launched in November 2021 on the occasion of the Nairobi Summit’s second anniversary, as well as its 2022 report *“Sexual and Reproductive Justice as the Vehicle to Deliver the Nairobi Summit Commitments”*, launched in November 2022, are crucial to the Commission on Population and Development.

In its 2021 report, the High-Level Commission recognizes regrettably that the ambition of ICPD is yet to be realized for millions of women and girls, men and boys. Commissioners also took note that the COVID-19 pandemic was a worrisome setback in the implementation of the ICPD25 commitments and in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world. Moreover, the Commission’s report points to disturbing patterns of inequality, of lack of accountability, exacerbated by the pandemic. This is further underscored by the many indicators that are off track in the detailed Global Commitments Monitoring Framework that is included in the report and presents a picture of the status of progress against each of the 12 overarching, core commitments contained in the Nairobi Statement. Injustice and discrimination, based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, refugee status, and sexual orientation and gender identity, have been translated in holding back vast numbers of people



from realizing their rights and choices. The report therefore calls for an agenda on sexual and reproductive justice to ensure that we go beyond merely promising sexual and reproductive health and rights, to ensuring that everyone has the ability to exercise their rights by removing the many barriers they face in health systems, families and societies.

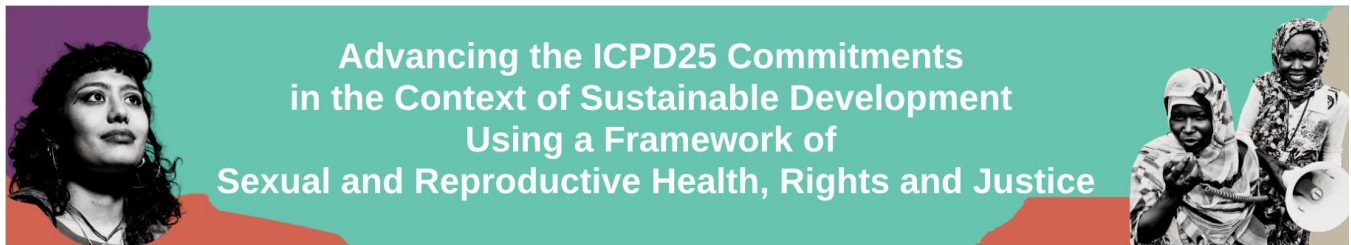
In its 2022 report, the Commission elaborates the concept of sexual and reproductive justice further and provides insights to make this framework applicable to diverse stakeholder groups and contexts. In the report the Commission notes some improvement in meeting unmet need for family planning, however, acknowledges that no region has registered positive movement towards zero preventable maternal deaths. Moreover, domestic and international finance, while critical to sexual and reproductive justice, persistently lags commitments. The report reveals that more than four billion people globally will lack access to at least one key sexual and reproductive health service during their lives. Furthermore, the report notes that rights and choices remain compromised on multiple fronts, however, and the pressures are mounting fast and warns that authoritarianism, far-right rhetoric and populist movements are on the rise, pushing back gains. COVID-19, food insecurity and climate change are worsening disparities and further compromising human dignity, security and well-being. The report further underscores that sexual and reproductive justice is a universal concept and achieving it will determine the realization of the SDGs and the Nairobi Summit commitments, both the twelve overarching commitments contained in the Nairobi Statement and the 1300+ voluntary commitments made by Governments and other stakeholders. The report states that the sexual and reproductive justice framework: “advocates for universal health coverage, including all components of sexual and reproductive health services, alongside the right to education; fair and equal pay; social protection systems, including paid parental leave; family benefits; shared parenting responsibility and decent conditions and pay for care work”. The Global Commitments Monitoring Framework, developed by the Commissions and included in both its reports offers an opportunity to track progress across key global indicators by different regions. The 2022 Report, moreover also includes various country profiles covering all regions, that allow for further deep-dives on the data.

The 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development 2022 offers a strategic opportunity to highlight how implementing the ICPD25 commitments are contributing to population, education and sustainable development and further opportunities to integrate the follow-up in the ICPD30 and ongoing development processes, within a framework of sexual and reproductive justice.

PURPOSE

The co-conveners of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Denmark, Kenya and UNFPA, along with South Africa and IPPF, will co-host this Commission on Population and Development side event to reiterate the importance of the ongoing commitment to the accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and to provide a platform for sharing on the progress made in implementing the voluntary ICPD25 commitments as well as opportunities for further implementation as we start the ICPD30 process and beyond by highlighting the





recommendations contained in the High Level Commission’s 2021 and 2022 reports. During the event, good practices to advance the ICPD25 commitments will be highlighted and discussed. The side-event is also expected to augment advocacy efforts in the follow-up to the Nairobi Summit through the political advocacy of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up.

TIMELINE AND VENUE

The side event will be held on **Monday, 10 April 2023, from 13:15 to 14:30 EDT**, in Conference Room 11, at the UN Secretariat In addition to in-person participants, online participants are invited to view the side event on UN Web TV at the following [link](#).

TARGET AUDIENCE

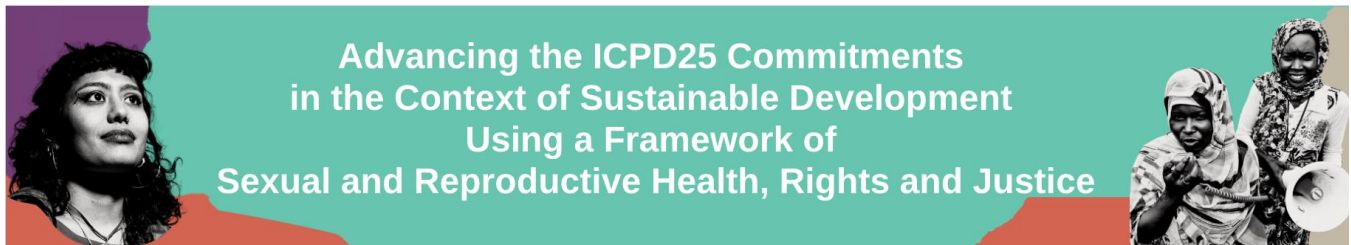
The event targets participation by diverse stakeholders who are involved in the follow-up to the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. Stakeholders included in, and not limited to the following categories, will be invited to participate in the hybrid side event: Member States of the United Nations, High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up, academia, parliamentarians, local government authorities, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, community-led organizations, networks of young people and student associations, women’s groups, traditional and non-traditional leaders, civil society organizations, private strategic partners, and representatives of bilateral and multilateral institutions and think tanks.

FORMAT AND PROGRAMME

The side event will be interactive and feature opening and closing remarks by the co-hosts/co-sponsor and a moderated panel of speakers who will bring their perspectives to the conversation on the follow-up to the Nairobi commitments. The provisional programme includes:

- High Level Opening/Closing Statements by the side event co-hosts/co-sponsor – Denmark, Kenya, South Africa, UNFPA and IPPF
- Message(s) from the Co-Chair(s) of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit
- Government Perspectives
- Civil Society Perspectives
- Good practices on implementing the ICPD25 commitments and their contribution/linkages to education and sustainable development
- Opportunities to advance the recommendations of the reports of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit through the ICPD30 process and towards 2030





SPEAKERS

- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund
- H.E. The Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Former Governor General and Commander in chief of Canada; former Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, co-Chair, High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow up
- H.E. Ms. Marie-Louise Koch Wegter, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations
- Professor Njuguna Ndung'u, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Economic Planning, Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Linton Mchunu, Director-General (Acting), Department of Social Development, Republic of South Africa
- Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary (CEO), Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance
- Ms. Jaha Dukureh, Chief Executive Officer, Safe Hands for Girls
- Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet, Lead & Executive Director, Merck for Mothers
- Ms. Myriem Skhiri, Project Coordinator, Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health, IPPF

Moderated by Ms. Tolu Olubunmi, Founder & CEO of “Lions Write”

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the side event, please contact: Ms. De-Jane Gibbons, Coordination Specialist, ICPD25 Follow-up, UNFPA, at: gibbons@unfpa.org.