



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
ASSESSING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW
OF THE 2030 AGENDA

(Virtual meeting)
New York, 19-20 July 2023

19 JULY 2023

OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Noemí Ruth Espinoza Madrid, Chair of the 57TH Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Director of the Population Division John Wilmoth,

Experts,

Delegates,

Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this expert group meeting.

I am Ambassador Noemi Espinoza, Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations and Chair of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development.

As I couldn't make it for the opening earlier this morning, I am delighted to have this opportunity to meet you and say a few words.

As the Chair of the CPD, I am mandated to lead conversations on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, better known as the Cairo Agenda, at the global, regional and national levels.

2024 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Cairo Conference and as you all know, this year

we are marking the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is my ambition, as Chair of the CPD, to link these two agendas, which are fundamental for the wellbeing of our planet and all its inhabitants. I have the commitment to ensure that any outcome of the 57 th CPD celebrates the landmark Cairo Agenda and recognizes its comprehensive nature and centrality to the SDGs. To do this, I plan to engage with Member States and stakeholders in conversations about their desired outcome and the topics in the ICPD agenda.

Yesterday, I hosted a meeting on Adolescents and Young People, as a side event of the High-Level Political Forum Side-Event.



Population Division

Similarly, this meeting is a step in the substantive preparations for the 57th session of the CPD. The main objective of this meeting, which is organized by the Population Division of UN/DESA, is to inform the reports of the Secretary-General which will support our deliberations during the annual session.

I am very pleased that the Secretariat has invited national delegations to participate in this event. My colleagues from Honduras will follow the deliberations closely and I invite other delegations to do the same. I am also glad that NGO representatives have been invited.

Allow me to emphasize that this event is a technical meeting among experts, organized by the Secretariat, not an intersessional activity of the Bureau of the Commission. Today and tomorrow, our role as national delegates and NGO representatives will be one of learners.

Time permitting, national delegates and NGO representatives will be allowed to ask brief questions during the Q and A sessions. I kindly request delegates and NGO representatives to only make focused comments, if needed. There will be future opportunities, organized by the Chair and the Bureau, during which you can share your views and national positions.

Dear experts,

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this event, either virtually or in person. As you may be aware, the SDGs are not on track for being achieved by 2030. Far from it.

In your presentations and deliberations, I will ask that you focus on three messages in particular:

1. What progress have we made and what gaps are remaining in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action?
2. How can we leverage the ICPD Programme of Action for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
3. What are some of the implications of the seismic demographic shifts our world is currently facing, and will experience, during the next 30 years?

Three days ago, the New York Times ran an article “How a Vast Demographic Shift Will Reshape the World”. Subsequently, Mark Malloch-Brown, President of the Open Societies Foundation who served as Deputy Secretary General under Kofi Annan, tweeted that “Demography is literally turning the world upside down and that its implications are barely dawning on us”. He added “We get it, but we don’t.”

So here is my question to you. What is it that we don’t get? How can the United Nations take these demographic megatrends into account when thinking about our world beyond 2030?

Let me thank the Population Division for organizing this event.

I wish you all a very productive meeting and hope that you will provide us with fresh insights and thought-provoking ideas as we are preparing for the 30th anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Summit of the Future next year.

Thank you.