



United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
Fifty-seventh session
New York, 29 April to 03 May 2024

High-level panel on the key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences on population and development

Tuesday, 30 April 2024, 10:00-11:30 p.m. EDT

Concept note
(28 March 2024)

Introduction and objectives

Ahead of the thirtieth anniversary of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and in preparation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), the United Nations regional economic commissions convened regional reviews on the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The events were held in Beirut, Lebanon (13-14 September 2023), Geneva, Switzerland (19-20 October 2023), Lusaka, Zambia (9-10 November 2023), Santiago, Chile (14-15 November 2023) and Bangkok, Thailand (15-17 November 2023).¹

The regional reviews highlighted the important contribution of the ICPD Programme of Action to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as to the population and development agendas at the regional level. The regions have seen improvements in health and life expectancy, educational attainment, gender gaps in employment, access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information, age-sensitive policies, population data and vital statistics systems. In addition, the reviews highlighted how current and future population trends, including high fertility, population aging, migration and urbanization, can create both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development beyond 2030.

Despite political commitment and increased stakeholder involvement, there are continuing and emerging challenges in the achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action. Moreover, progress has been uneven across regions. In recent years, progress has slowed or even reversed in some countries and regions, including as a result of environmental degradation, climate change, conflicts, deepening socioeconomic disparities and the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ For details on the regional reviews, please refer to <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD57>

Panellists will be invited to:

- Highlight the main findings of the 2023 regional reviews .
- Identify areas of progress, major achievements, challenges and gaps in implementation, and emerging issues, as well recommendations for accelerating implementation.
- Characterise the major demographic and development trends in the region and assess their potential implications for the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, as well as for achieving sustainable development beyond 2030 while leaving no one behind.
- Consider how the regional outcomes contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the ICPD Programme of Action and support progress towards the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda .

Format of the panel

The panel will be held as an in-person event. Following opening remarks by the moderator, panellists will be invited to respond to questions on the following topics:

- (a) Results and key messages that emanated from the regional review conferences;
- (b) Future actions to achieve the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action; and
- (c) How the Programme of Action can help to achieve the SDGs and sustainable development beyond 2030.

Following two rounds of questions to the panellists, members of the Commission, observers and civil society organizations will be invited to ask questions or raise issues in reaction to the preceding discussion. Reading from prepared statements is discouraged. The panellists will briefly respond to the questions and issues raised by delegations, after which the moderator will make brief closing remarks.

Outcome

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council shortly after the closure of the session. It will also inform the Commission's contribution to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.