COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Informal Consultations with NGOs
11 March 2024, 13:15 - 2:30 p.m. (EST)
Bahá'í International Community United Nations Office

Talking points

Dear NGO representatives,

Good afternoon. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this informal NGO consultation on the preparations for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development.

My name is Noemi Espinoza Madrid, ambassador at large serving my country, Honduras, at our Embassy in Beijing, China. I was elected Chair of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development on 14 April 2023.

Let me thank the members of the Bureau who have taken the time to also meet with you today.
Ms. Noga BARAK from Israel designated for Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
Mr. Kamau KARIUKI from Kenya designate for African Group
Mr. Yosuke KITA from Japan designated for Asia-Pacific Group
Mr. Saša MART from Serbia designated for Eastern European Group (EEG)
Today, we are also joined by staff from the Population Division of UN DESA, which acts as the substantive secretariat of the Commission, and from UNFPA, which is an observer in the Bureau.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, the primary role of the Commission is to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development--known as the Cairo agenda--at the national, regional and international levels. More specifically, I will say that we must bear in mind that the CPD is the home of the ICPD-PoA.

The ICPD agenda is fundamental to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its implementation is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year the Commission will mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action. This milestone gives us a unique opportunity to reinforce the global consensus reached in 1994 and advanced through the various reviews since then.

Our current world faces interconnected challenges and multiple human-made crises and natural disasters that only seem to worsen.

Yet, we have in our hands, at our disposal, a rich and holistic agenda on population and development that outlines clear solutions to achieving the SDGs. We have a rich, if not unique agreed framework that speaks to poverty reduction, gender equality and women's empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, migration, climate change, human rights, demographic changes etc.

Yet, in recent years, the Commission has failed to recognize the value of the Cairo agenda and 5 out of the 10 last years, it has not obtained an outcome. This has undermined the credibility of this Commission and the enduring relevance of Programme of Action. On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, it is time to reverse course.

Now Let me turn to the background information on this year's annual session:

- The fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development will be held from 29 April to 3 May 2024.
- The special theme of this year's session is "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."

- All documents pertaining to the 57th session will be available on the the website of the Population Division of UN/DESA. This includes the reports of the Secretary-General, information on organizing side events, NGO participation, relevant background information, etc.
- The Commission will be an in-person meeting.
- The Commission is expected to reach consensus on 3 outcomes. One on the programme for next year, one on the theme for the 59th session and one on the main theme. The Bureau had decided that Kenya will facilitate the programme for next year, Serbia the theme for the 59th session and Japan and Honduras will facilitate the political declaration. Israel will act as rapporteur.
- Informal consultations on draft proposals will start two weeks ahead of the annual session, that is, in the week of 15 April.
- In line with usual practice, I aim to circulate the draft political outcome and other draft proposals about two weeks before the start of the informal consultations, which is in the week of 1 April.
- I aim to finish informal consultations on draft proposals before the start of the annual session.

Some additional aspects of this year's annual session are as follows:

The President of the General Assembly will convene an informal plenary meeting on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action. The event will take place on Monday, 29 April 2024 at 3 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall. Further details about the organization and duration will follow shortly. During the event, the CPD will not meet. We expect that the Office of the President of the General Assembly will soon announce the modalities for the participation of NGOs.

On Tuesday, in the CPD, we are planning to hold a high-level panel featuring the chairs of the regional reviews of the ICPD Programme of Action. On Wednesday and Thursday, we are also planning to organize interactive panels.

Dear representatives of NGOs,

The Cairo agenda is truly one that belongs to all of us. The leadership of CSOs has been instrumental to achieving the ICPD agenda and its various reviews and it is critical to maintaining it. The world would not have and would not able to carry forward this fundamental solution based vision without you. In this regard, as in previous years, we are planning to hold a dedicated NGO consultation on the zero draft of the resolution during the first week of the informal consultations.

Furthermore, we would like to thank those NGOs which have submitted written statements, which have been posted on the website of the annual session.

During the CPD session, NGOs can contribute in many other ways:

- You can take the floor during the general debate.
- You can participate in the interactive debates in the panels.
- You can participate in in-person side events or organize online side events.

Details are available on the website of the fifty-seventh session.

Dear NGO representatives,

The main purpose of this meeting is to hear your views on possible elements to be included in the zero draft of the outcome document.

After consulting all Member State regional groups, it has been decided that a political declaration would be the best outcome, given that this is a landmark year. The objective would be to voice high-level political support for the ICPD agenda.

In line with GA resolution 72/305, we should aim for an outcome that is effective and action-oriented and that should result in increased levels of commitment.

I am planning to put forward a draft outcome document that takes into account the full breadth and depth of ICPD Programme of Action. The document should reflect issues on which Member States have found consensus, and it should be forward looking.

In my view, the outcome should contain at least six points:

1. Reaffirm the ICPD Programme of Action, welcome the progress made, take note of the gaps in implementation (the 'unfinished agenda'), and call for accelerated implementation.
2. Acknowledge the role and contributions of the regional reviews of the ICPD Programme of Action.
3. Acknowledge that the ICPD Programme of Action in its breadth and depth contains elements to achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Acknowledge that there are emerging issues in the world for which the population and development agenda can provide solutions.
5. Articulate a vision of continuing relevance of the ICPD Programme of Action and its vast topics, such as demographic trends, migration, climate, human rights, women empowerment, health etc. for achieving sustainable development beyond 2030, including within the context of the Pact for the Future.
6. Acknowledge and reaffirm that de CPD is the intergovernmental body mandated to play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with the aim to strengthen its role.

These points are the basis upon which the Zero Draft is being developed, and as mentioned, I anticipate its circulation on April 1st. Additionally, we will take into account certain elements under discussion regarding the Pact for the Future, along with recommendations stemming from the reports of the Secretary-General on of the implementation of the PoA-ICPD and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. But the important thing about being here is to listen to your ideas to strengthen the proposal.

[…]

[Manage Q and A / interactive debate]

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to again thank all of you who participated in today's informal briefing. Your comments and suggestions are very valuable in guiding the work of the Bureau.

If you have any written contributions, please send them to cpdngo@un.org.

This meeting is adjourned.