

# **CPD57 Side-event – Concept note**

## **Tracking progress in access to safe abortion**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> 1.15-2.30 pm, UNHQ Conference Room 5**

**France, in partnership with Mexico, Colombia,  
Center for Reproductive Rights, La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres,  
Family Planning and Médecins du Monde**

*Interpretation will be provided in Spanish, French and English*

The Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo (ICPD) provided a new dimension to population and development programming by placing gender equality, women's empowerment, and reproductive health and rights at the center.

In 2019, ICPD25 took place in Nairobi, Kenya, and the partners recommitted to the Programme of Action: gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. Once again, it was determined that sexual and reproductive health and rights are interlinked with gender equality and equity, as women are the ones to give birth and usually bear most of the responsibility to feed, care, and educate children.

The 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57) will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICPD and will review the progress on the implementation of its Programme of Action as well as its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. CPD57 provides a relevant framework and timeframe to reaffirm that access to health-care, including abortion, is a human right as well as a matter of public health, gender equality and social justice, and is closely linked to the challenge of reducing maternal mortality. Civil society organizations, governments, parliamentarians, lawyers, researchers, and feminists are mobilized worldwide for sexual and reproductive rights.

In this context and in the face of the pushback against the rights of women and girls, this side-event aims to highlight recent progress in access to safe abortion, and in resonance with foreign policy commitments. It also seeks to underline the positive alliances and synergies between likeminded countries and various stakeholders committed to defending and promoting the right to safe abortion, such as the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights launched within the framework of the Generation Equality Forum in 2021.