



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

ENSURING HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTING
WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

New York, 12 December 2024

**Briefing by the Chair of the Commission on Population and Development (Netherlands)
on the substantive preparations for the Commission's 58th session**

**Thursday, 12 December 2024, 1.15-2.30 pm
Conference room D**

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

The 58th session¹ of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) will be held from 7 to 11 April 2025. The special theme of the session, “Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages”, is closely related to Chapter VII on “Reproductive Rights and reproductive health” and Chapter VIII on “Health, Morbidity and Mortality” of the Programme of Action (PoA) adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. The wording of the theme is almost identical to Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. The last time that the theme of the Commission’s annual session focused explicitly on health was in 2010 and 2011.²

The briefing will be held in person only.

Objective

The aim of the informal briefing is to give Member States an opportunity to share views on the substantive preparations for the 58th session. During the first part of the briefing, the Secretariat will summarize key substantive issues discussed during an expert group meeting on the theme convened by the Population Division of UN DESA from 16 to 17 October 2024.³ The session also includes presentations by representatives of UNFPA and WHO. During the second part, Member States will be invited to address questions to the panelists and to highlight issues of interest related to the theme of the session.

Background

The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a foundational principle of the UN, first articulated in the 1946 Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) and reaffirmed in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted in 1994, the ICPD PoA emphasizes universal access to basic health care, including reproductive health services, and the reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality, while calling for investments in health infrastructure, personnel training and integrated health policies. The goals and objectives of the PoA were later embedded in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, MDG 5, which sought to reduce maternal mortality by three fourths, was derived

¹ For details, please refer to <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD58>

² For details on the CPD43 session in 2010, please refer to: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD43>; for details on the CPD44 session in 2011, please refer to: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD44>

³ For details, please refer to <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/EGM-CPD58>



DESA

Population Division

directly from the ICPD PoA. In today's world, SDG 3, which addresses issues such as maternal and child health, universal health coverage, and combating infectious and non-communicable diseases, is closely linked to the ICPD. Other SDGs address broader determinants of health such as education, gender equality and sanitation.

The Commission's upcoming session aims to build on the momentum created by the SDG Summit in 2023, the declaration commemorating the 30th anniversary of the ICPD adopted at the 57th session of the CPD in April 2024, the Summit of the Future in September 2024 and the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, during the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2025. The special theme of the 58th session will also provide an opportunity for the CPD to align its work with the upcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2025, being held under the auspices of ECOSOC with a theme of 'Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind'. The upcoming HLPF will include an in-depth review of five SDGs, including SDGs 3 and 5, which are closely related to the ICPD PoA.

Programme

13.15 – 13.25 Welcome and introductory remarks

- *Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, UN DESA (moderator)*
- *Ms. Catharina Jannigje Lasseur (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Chair of the 58th session of the CPD*

13.25 – 13.45 Presentations

Key findings from the expert group meeting on "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages"

- *Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Chief, Population Trends and Analysis Branch, Population Division, UN DESA*

Preparations for the 58th session by UNFPA

- *Mr. Alessio Cangiano, Senior Advisor on Demographic Megatrends, and Acting Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA*

Substantive contribution to the 58th session by the World Health Organization

- *Mr. Werner Obermayer, Director, WHO Office at the United Nations*

13.45 – 14.25 Questions and answers

- *Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, UN DESA (moderator)*

14.25 – 14.30 Closing remarks

- *Ms. Catharina Jannigje Lasseur (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Chair of the 58th session of the CPD*