



Panel discussion on how the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and on interlinkages with other United Nations forums

Tuesday, 8 April 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT

Concept Note
(draft 7 March 2025)

Introduction and objectives

In the political declaration commemorating the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Member States reaffirmed that the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation is crucial to fulfil the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to accelerate its implementation. They emphasized that the two agendas are mutually reinforcing and must be translated into bold, effective action by all stakeholders, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In this regard, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), as the sole intergovernmental body for the follow-up and review of the ICPD Programme of Action, has an important role to play to explore and deepen how the implementation of the Programme of Action, and the outcomes of its reviews, advance the SDGs, including by promoting relevant linkages with other UN processes, such as the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and other functional commissions of ECOSOC, and with stakeholders in countries.

The special theme of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission is “Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages”. This theme offers a strategic opportunity for alignment both with the overarching theme of the ECOSOC session in 2025, “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind”, and with the in-depth reviews of selected SDGs, particularly SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 5 (gender equality) during this year’s High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC.¹ The discussions at the Commission can also contribute to the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the high-level meeting to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

In this panel, the Chair of the Commission will engage with officials of related UN intergovernmental bodies and with national officials from countries that will be presenting their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) in the HLPF later this year. The main topics to be addressed by the panel include aligning ICPD principles with SDG progress, addressing challenges such as prioritization, financing and data gaps, and strengthening multilateral cooperation, with a view to promoting integrated actions that leave no one

¹ The other goals to be reviewed in depth at the 2025 HLPF are SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

behind and promoting and protecting human rights. The focus would be in particular on SDGs 3 and 5 and their interlinkages. Additionally, delegations will have an opportunity to interact with the panellists and to bring national or other stakeholder perspectives into the discussion.

The panel is expected to provide actionable recommendations on the integrated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, following the 2024 ICPD30 process and with 5 years left until the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Structure and format

The panel discussion will be chaired and moderated by the Chair of the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-eighth session. The Chair will open the discussion with brief remarks and will introduce the panellists and discussants. In the first segment, the Chair will moderate a discussion with officials from ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies on synergies between the Commission's work and the work of the other bodies. In the second segment, the Chair will engage with representatives of countries preparing VNRs for the 2025 HLPF concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action in their countries and how it contributes to progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Panellists are expected to structure their presentations around concrete strategies that have proven to be successful in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. Two discussants will provide reactions to the three reports focusing on the guiding questions (5-10 minutes each). Following these interventions, the moderator will invite interventions, questions and comments from the floor. Panellists and discussants will have an opportunity to respond to the interventions by delegations, followed by a wrap-up and concluding remarks from the moderator.

Guiding questions

For leaders of UN intergovernmental bodies:

- How can the ICPD Programme of Action be further elevated and integrated into the broader sustainable development framework, including at the country level, to ensure a holistic and interconnected approach?
- What would be the most important contribution that this session of the CPD and its reflection on the implementation of the ICPD PoA on health could make to your forum's deliberations?
- How can synergistic messages and action-oriented proposals be brought forward to other UN processes in 2025, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development?
- How can the UN support countries in addressing the financing gaps for SDGs 3 and 5, particularly for low and middle-income countries where health and gender equality issues remain underfunded?

For VNR countries:

- How are population trends taken into account in your preparation of VNRs and development of related policies?
- How is the Programme of Action implemented in your country, and how can it contribute to accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs in your country, with particular emphasis on SDGs 3 and 5?



- What policy changes, investments and cooperation are needed to accelerate progress in health, including sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality in the second half of the current decade? What role do partnerships (e.g., South-South cooperation, public-private partnerships) play in advancing the ICPD Programme of Action and SDG 3 and 5 in your country?
- What are the main gaps in data and knowledge that need to be addressed to ensure that population and development policies and interventions are based on sound evidence? How can technology, data systems, and innovative solutions be better harnessed to address data gaps and inform evidence-based policies in your country?

Outcome

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council shortly after the session. It will also inform the Commission's contribution to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

