The CPD reviews relevant SDG targets, including ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, and facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

The CPD monitors, reviews and assesses the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994.

The CPD advises ECOSOC on:
- Population issues and trends
- Population and development policies and programmes
- Integration of population and development strategies
- Population assistance

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The CPD addresses the development implications of demographic trends based on high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data.

Held in 2021, the 54th session of the CPD called for making global food systems more equitable and sustainable in order to feed the world’s growing population.

CPD placed special emphasis on the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, and of infants and young children.

UN DESA's Population Division acts as the substantive secretariat of the CPD, working in close partnership with UNFPA, the lead agency for population programmes, and drawing on the expertise of other UN entities.

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