

Concept note

High-level interactive panel

**Key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences
on population and development**

Commission on Population and Development, 52nd session
United Nations, New York
2 April 2019, 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon

Introduction

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [A/65/234](#), in 2014 the international community undertook a comprehensive review of progress in implementing the [Programme of Action](#) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Reviews at the regional level were led by the United Nations regional commissions in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other key partners. The regional reviews held in 2013 resulted in outcome documents containing region-specific findings and recommendations for accelerating implementation of the Programme of Action and for addressing gaps in implementation and emerging issues. The regional reviews in 2013 also contributed to the global assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action at its 20-year mark, which took place at the [47th session](#) of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in April 2014 and concluded with the [29th special session](#) of the General Assembly held in September 2014.

In resolution [2014/1](#), and again in resolution [2016/1](#), the Commission (a) observed that the outcome documents of the regional conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development for the period beyond 2014, (b) encouraged Governments to monitor progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and other internationally agreed development goals at the regional, national and local levels, and (c) requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations, to continue assessing and reporting on progress towards the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

In 2018, each region embarked on a review of the ICPD based on national and regional assessments of progress in implementing the 2013 region-specific outcomes. These reviews included intergovernmental conferences to consider the results of the assessments and to make recommendations promoting the further implementation of the Programme of Action and relevant parts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Events were held in Lima (7-9 August 2018), Geneva (1-2 October 2018), Accra (2-5 October 2018), Beirut (30 October-1 November 2018), and Bangkok (26-28 November 2018). Over 160 countries participated in these regional reviews, and more than 100 of those had prepared national reports.

The regional reviews in 2018 highlighted region-specific demographic trends and identified regional challenges such as the need to ensure universal access to health care and services, including for sexual

and reproductive health, to support the provision of quality education, training and life-long learning, to implement policies and context-specific programmes to benefit from the demographic dividend, and to empower socio-demographic groups that are at risk of being left behind. The regional reviews brought to the fore the continuing challenges of achieving gender equality and the need to empower women and girls, the persistence of extreme poverty coupled with high fertility and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health-care and services in some countries, the intersection of low fertility, ageing and migration in other countries, and the impact of political crises and violent conflicts on population dynamics, in particular, regarding forced displacement and large movements of refugees and migrants. In these reviews, Member States stressed the need for collecting and utilizing timely, accurate and disaggregated data and indicators, and called for improving the evidence base and developing national capacities for the collection of data and analysis of population trends.

Member States participating in the regional conferences decided that the outcomes of each of the regional reviews would be transmitted to the 52nd session of the CPD as each region's contribution to the special theme, "Review and appraisal 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".

Objectives and expected results

The high-level panel will:

- Highlight the main findings of the 2018 regional reviews in the context of the further implementation of the Programme of Action and its contribution to achieving relevant Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, including progress, achievements, challenges and gaps in implementation, as well recommendations regarding its full implementation;
- Assess the potential implications of region-specific trends in population and development for the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda;
- Consider how implementation of the regional outcomes alongside the Programme of Action contributes to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and thereby informs discussions during the high-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development.

Deliberations by the panel will serve as a contribution to the discussion on the special theme of the 52nd session, and the Commission's contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the HLPF. The panel's key findings will be summarized in the report on the 52nd session, while a more comprehensive summary will be made available on the Commission's website hosted by the Population Division.

TIME	PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME
10.00-10.10	<p>Opening</p> <p>Remarks by Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs (invited)</p>
10.10-11.00	<p>Part I. The regional review conferences - Key findings</p> <p>This first part of the session will highlight key findings of the regional review conferences. Chairs of the conferences will each make a brief presentation addressing questions such as: What are some of the main achievements in population and development during the past five years? What are the major demographic trends that will impact the further implementation of the Programme of Action? What are some of the key challenges and emerging issues in population and development? Following the brief presentations, delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions to the presenters and to briefly highlight findings of the reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief presentations by Chairs of the regional reviews (5 min. each) - Questions and answers (25 min.) <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund</p>
11.00-11.55	<p>Part II. 25 years after Cairo: The way forward – Interactive debate</p> <p>This second part of the session will discuss recommendations for the way forward. The moderator will make a few introductory remarks addressing questions such as: What policies and practices have been successful in implementing the Programme of Action during the past five years? What collaborations and partnerships are needed for the further implementation of the Programme of Action? How can the necessary resources be mobilized to support population and development programmes? Following the introductory remarks, delegates will have an opportunity to briefly address the above questions. The Chairs of the regional review conferences will be invited to make brief closing remarks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory remarks by the moderator (10 min.) - Interactive debate (30 min.) - Brief observations by the Chairs of the regional reviews (3 min. each) <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund</p>
11.55-12.00	<p>Closing</p> <p>Wrap-up and closing remarks by Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs (invited)</p>