



Towards a regional monitoring framework for ICPD beyond 2014

Expert Group Meeting

Geneva, 13-14 December 2017

Concept Note

The Expert Group consisting of representatives of national statistical offices, policy makers, research and civil society organization has been convened to define a regional monitoring framework to review progress in the implementation of the Framework of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 in the UNECE region.

The regional monitoring framework for ICPD beyond 2014 should respond to the themes and issues highlighted in the chair's summary of the UNECE Regional Conference "Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century", that was held in 2013. The monitoring framework should seek to integrate/align monitoring of progress on the ICPD beyond 2014 with the reporting processes on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In preparation of the Expert Group Meeting, existing statistical indicators and reporting mechanisms that can inform the ICPD beyond 2014 progress will be reviewed, collected and consolidated. The work of the Expert Group will further be informed by the CES Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, the Global ICPD Monitoring Framework and other existing reporting mechanisms in place. Relevant background documentation will be prepared and provided.

Background

In 1994, 179 governments at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) endorsed a ground-breaking Programme of Action that shifted population policy and programmes from a focus on numbers to a focus on individual lives. This marked a turning point towards inclusive, equitable, sustainable development. Twenty years later GA resolution 65/234 established a roadmap for achieving the vision of the ICPD and requested the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in cooperation with the regional commissions and other agencies, to lead the review process.

The ICPD Beyond 2014 review in UNECE¹ was coordinated by UNECE Population Unit, with the support of UNFPA. The process was informed through country implementation profiles (CIP), which comprised of country level indicators, and information provided by member States (MS) in response to a global survey on ICPD implementation. As part of the process, UNFPA commissioned a report "*Population Trends and Policy Responses in UNECE region*" that aimed to supplement the information gathered from governments and civil society with academic research. The report², analysed recent population trends and existing policy responses, and offered key recommendations. The Review culminated in the UNECE

¹ region comprising Europe, North America, Central Asia and Israel

² The report was prepared by International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) and Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Human Capital

Regional Conference “Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century”, held in Geneva on 1-2 July, 2013, organized jointly by UNECE and UNFPA. It was hosted and chaired by the Government of Switzerland, while the Russian Federation served as a vice-chair.

The conference produced as its outcome a Chair’s Summary that highlighted progress achieved in the region, and made recommendations for the future in three thematic areas: “*Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development*”, “*Inequalities, Social Inclusion and Rights*”, “*Families, and Sexual and Reproductive Health over the Life Course*”. This outcome underscored the need for better integration of population dynamics into development planning at the national and sub-national levels in order to ensure a comprehensive response to demographic change (low fertility, population ageing, migration patterns, etc.), and the need to take a long-term, holistic, and rights-based approach to population dynamics and its interlinkages with sustainable development. Additionally, actions that ensured investment in building human capabilities with special attention to young people, the advancement of gender equality, and addressing root causes of inequalities, particularly in access to education, sexual and reproductive health services and employment, as well as actions that ensured attention to vulnerable groups and families were highlighted as central to fulfilling ICPD commitments. The Chair’s Summary also stressed the need for reliable data, and data systems that captured all population groups, as well as the need for governance based on accountability, participation, transparency and the rule of law. Overall, the evidence from the regional review overwhelmingly supports the historic ICPD consensus that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity – across multiple sectors and throughout the life-course – is at the foundation of sustainable development”.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embraces this comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable development with its goals and targets that cut across many of the commitments of the ICPD. The UNECE Chair’s Summary that emerged from the ICPD Beyond 2014 review process provides concrete recommendations that can contribute to the full realization of inclusive sustainable development in the UNECE region by fully incorporating the population dimension. Furthermore, in light of the enduring relevance of the ICPD Agenda for the realization of sustainable development, UN member States at the 50th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, in 2017, mandated the global periodic review and appraisal of the ICPD and its contribution to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda³. Member States also took a decision to adopt a four-year cycle of review of the ICPD that is aligned with the four-year cycle of the 2030 Agenda,⁴ to ensure the full contribution of the ICPD to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

An ICPD regional review process, conducted jointly by UNECE and UNFPA, will culminate with the Regional Conference on 1-2 October 2018. Its outcome will feed into the global reviews of the ICPD and Agenda 2030 that will take place in 2019. The 2018 ICPD regional consultation process will be undertaken with the involvement of multiple stakeholders ranging from government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society, youth groups, and the academic community.

³ E/CN.9/2017/L.4 Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2018 and 2019

⁴ Multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development, including the cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development