

“Inequalities, Social inclusion and Rights”
UNECE Regional Conference
“Enabling choices: Population priorities for the 21st
century”

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**Session 1: Equality, equity, social inclusion, rights and
advancement of ICPD agenda in the region**

- **Panelists**
- **Discussion on the understanding of inequality**
 - gross domestic product
 - differences between countries
 - differences within countries

Session 2: “Successes and Challenges in Implementing the ICPD PoA as a Rights-Based Instrument for Addressing Inequalities and Enhancing Social Inclusion”

- **Successes in the region:** reduced maternal mortality; increased access to contraceptives; increased longevity; advanced access of young people to information and services; progress in decriminalizing abortion and homosexuality; increased strong and vocal role of civil society organizations.
- **Challenges in the region:** direct discrimination against women; persistent lack of comprehensive sexuality education; limited or no access to high-quality abortion services; unacceptably high levels of violence against women; low level of knowledge about human rights; not effectively executed laws; underfunded national mechanisms for human rights protection.
- **Shared concern:** harmful attitudes and stereotypes related to gender are still prevalent in the region.

Session 3: “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”

- **Family policies and gender equality**
- **Division of household labor**
- **Policy responses**
- **Re-emergence of restrictive pro-natalist policies**
- **Gender-based violence**

Session 4: “Inequalities and Vulnerable Groups”

- **Young people**
- **Older persons**
- **People with disabilities**
- **Migrants**
- **Sex workers**
- **Orphaned children**
- **Ethnic minorities**

Thank you for your attention!

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