



UNECE



UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD30 Population and Development: Ensuring Rights and Choices

Geneva, Palais des Nations, 19-20 October 2023

Organised jointly by UNECE and UNFPA

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The United Nations 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo set a bold new vision of the relationships between population, development, and individual rights and well-being. It recognized that population was not about numbers, but about people, and that individual dignity and human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, are the basis for individual well-being and sustainable development.

Since its adoption, five-year periodic reviews have assessed progress towards the ICPD Programme of Action at national, regional, and global levels. At its 55th session, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) launched the ICPD30 preparations process and agreed to dedicate its 57th session in 2024 to assess the status of ICPD implementation globally. At the regional level, the ICPD30 review process is taking place in 2023.

At its 20-year milestone a comprehensive regional review of progress concluded with a Chair's Summary which renewed the commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and set the regional priorities for implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014 in the UNECE region.¹ In its resolution 2014/1, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) emphasized that the outcomes documents of the regional conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014. The CPD 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 PoA.

Now, ten years later, as the international community prepares to mark 30 years of ICPD, UNECE and the UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia are working with member States, academia and civil society partners and other stakeholders to review progress achieved and identify gaps in implementation and chart pathways for realizing individual and societal potential in new demographic realities. The lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging challenges across the region underline the need for a holistic, rights-based approach to population dynamics and sustainable development.

The UNECE regional report on ICPD30 will inform the discussions at the **UNECE Regional Conference** on 19-20 October 2023, which will conclude the five-year periodic review. The Conference will be preceded

¹ The UNECE region comprises 56 member States in Europe, North America and Asia: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Republic of North Macedonia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan.

by a Civil Society and Scientific Community consultation, bringing together outcomes of regional conversations on setbacks towards gender equality, family planning in low fertility countries, inequalities in education, and employment and digital inclusion across the life course.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE AND THEMES

The Conference will contribute to assessing progress in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the UNECE region and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (in particular, SDGs 3, 4,5,8,10,16,17). It will focus on key actions for implementation and address the wider policy concerns related to three main themes: **(i) population dynamics and sustainable development; (ii) families and sexual and reproductive health over the life course; and (iii) inequalities, social inclusion and rights.**

The Conference will bring together 200-250 representatives of governmental authorities, including high-level officials, academia and civil society organizations, national coordinating bodies on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as members of national parliaments and other stakeholders.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

1. Assess progress, highlight good practices and identify gaps in implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

Informed by the previous periodic reviews and the 2023 regional report, the Conference will highlight achievements, effective policies and programmes, and identify gaps across diverse contexts.

2. Strengthen linkages for acceleration of ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Demonstrate the role of the ICPD Programme of Action for accelerating progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Set priorities, build partnerships, and call for action for the way forward

Based on gaps and challenges identified, set priorities for the region to advance progress going forward on the ICPD Programme of Action by mobilising political support, expanding partnerships and urging allocation of adequate resources at the national and regional levels.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

The Conference conclusions will be presented at the closing plenary session of the Conference and constitute the recommendations for follow-up over the next implementation period. The Conference report will be published subsequently.

The UNECE regional report on ICPD30 and the Conference report will inform the global review of the ICPD, which will take place at the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development in April 2024.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Participants / Official delegations

UNECE member States are invited to send delegations of up to three persons, including the head of delegation. Members of national parliaments and representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) are expected to be considered for nomination as part of national delegations. You may also wish to consider the inclusion of SDG national coordinating bodies in the delegation to ensure strong synergies between the ICPD and SDG processes. UNFPA programme country delegations may receive some financial support to cover the costs of participating in the Conference – please contact the UNECE secretariat for details. Representatives from United Nations system agencies and delegates from other intergovernmental organisations, scientists, and representatives of CSOs (apart from official members of country delegations) will participate as experts and/or observers to the Conference. All participants attending the Conference are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Registration

Member States are kindly requested to communicate to the UNECE secretariat the composition of their delegations and complete the registration forms by **22 September 2023**. The same registration deadline

applies to all participants in the Conference. The registration form is available at <https://unece.org/population/icpd30>.

Languages and interpretation services

English, French, and Russian are the official languages of the Conference. Statements made in any of these languages will be interpreted into the other two languages.

Conference venue

The Conference will take place in the Palais des Nations, **Salle XVIII**, Geneva, Switzerland.

Contact details

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For more information, please visit <https://unece.org/population/icpd30>