

# **EU interventions for Regional Conference on ICPD**

International Conference on Population and Development

organised by UNECE and UNFPA

Thursday-Friday 19-20 October 2023

## **B. Thematic sessions**

### **7. Inequalities, social inclusion and rights**

EU intervention:

- The EU and its MS are vigorously promoting and scaling-up international efforts towards gender equality, the advancement and full enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls and their empowerment, in line with its international commitments, including through mainstreaming gender equality in country and thematic contexts.
- The EU will use each and every occasion in all relevant fora to reaffirm and deliver on these commitments, including in the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development and stresses the need for an ambitious and transformative approach to address the root causes and risk factors of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- The prevention and elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence both online and offline, including domestic and intimate partner violence, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices against women and girls, are at the centre of the EU efforts. To accomplish this it is important to promote whole-of-society efforts to engage men and boys as allies and beneficiaries for gender equality in ending sexual and gender-based violence, eliminating all gender inequalities, addressing discriminatory laws and social norms and combating gender stereotypes.
- The EU recalls its commitment to support women's and youth' equal, full, effective and meaningful participation, in all their diversity, including in all spheres of public and political life, as per the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.
- As stated in the Council conclusions on EU priorities in UN human rights fora 2023: "The EU will continue to strongly oppose and step up action to combat all forms of discrimination, with a specific attention to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including on grounds of sex, race, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity." The EU reiterates its commitment to equality and non-discrimination and to the entitlement of all persons, to enjoy the full range of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the participation of, inter alia, youth, girls and women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons, as well as to the protection of those who are in disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised situations, including children. In this sense, the EU consistently and constructively engages with UN mandates focusing on combating violence

and all forms of discrimination and continues to give strong support to the UN work in this regard.

- The EU, according to the European Strategy for older persons, will step up action to ensure full enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, strengthen long-term care, address its quality, accessibility and affordability and support the efforts to tackle age-based discrimination and ageism in order to ensure life in dignity and well-being of older persons, social fairness and intergenerational solidarity. In this respect, the EU will actively engage with the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.