



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
ASSESSING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW
OF THE 2030 AGENDA

(Virtual meeting)
New York, 19-20 July 2023

20 JULY 2023

CLOSING REMARKS

**Closing remarks by Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

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Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. I am John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division of the United Nations, in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

We are grateful to all the experts for participating in this extraordinary expert group meeting and sharing with us your knowledge, observations and insights on the challenges, gaps and opportunities in the implementation of the ICPD PoA over the past and next 30 years. Your informative reflections on the changes ushered in by the ICPD on issues ranging from gender and human rights to data needs and population dynamics and development, and the ICPD's continued relevance to the MDGs and SDGs, will be useful to the Population Division and to UNFPA as we draft the reports of the Secretary-General in preparation for the upcoming session of the Commission on Population and Development in April/May 2024.

We heard, over the past two days, the conceptual extensions to the ICPD framework which provide alternative policy recommendations and actions on the megatrends of our time that I mentioned in opening remarks yesterday, in particular the demographic dividend and its linkage to population dynamics.

We heard the progress made across the world in the implementation of the ICPD PoA, notwithstanding the variations in success. Although not directly addressed at this meeting, it should be noted that the ICPD emphasized the co-funding of programmes from international and country sources. Much of the progress made over the past years, including in academic research and training of population experts across countries depended on such funding.

Also, we heard that the narrative that population dynamics still matter and should continue to be including in development planning does not minimise the human rights and other approaches to the implementation of the ICPD PoA.



Population Division

We discussed the intersections of the Cairo Programme of Action with the SDGs and the variations in successes and challenges across regions, including adolescent fertility in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, ageing in the more developed regions, and even more rapid ageing in Asia. I was particularly struck by the observations that the success in the implementation of the SDGs will depend on the success in the implementation of the ICPD.

We have also heard that one of the cornerstones of the successful implementation of the ICPD PoA and the SDGs is the availability of disaggregated data by all dimensions to identify those falling behind. The other cornerstone is to integrate population data in planning for sustainable development.

Once again, our gratitude goes to all the experts and all of you who participated in this meeting, including colleagues from the regional commissions and others throughout the UN system, for sharing with us your knowledge, experience and insights on the various topics that we have reviewed over the past two days.

Lastly, I would like to recognize and thank sincerely the staff members of the Population Division who have assisted in making this an informative, collegial and productive expert group meeting.

I hope to have an opportunity to meet you again, perhaps next time in person. For those who travelled to this meeting, I wish you safe travels. Have a wonderful day!