



**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

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## CONCEPT NOTE

### Introduction and Objectives

The adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, cemented a people-centred approach to population and development policies, grounded in the respect for human rights and a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability. Subsequently, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrated many goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action.

In 2014, the General Assembly extended the Programme of Action beyond 2014 with a view to fully meeting its goals and objectives (A/RES/65/234). In 2019, at the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action, the Secretary-General reported that while considerable progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Action since 1994, progress had been uneven both within and among countries, and the benefits of social and economic progress have not been shared equitably. The report also stated that attaining the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda was a shared responsibility that called for policies and programmes for sustainable development to be grounded in an understanding of population dynamics, including changes in population size or age structure and processes of migration or urbanization.

The Commission on Population and Development, at its fifty-seventh session in 2024, will carry out a review and appraisal of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The timing of this appraisal, 30 years after “Cairo”, is consistent with the five-year cycle of review of the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action carried out by the Commission in 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019, respectively.

In support of this review and as part of the substantive preparations of the 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Population Division of UN DESA will convene an expert group meeting on 19 and 20 July 2023. The meeting will examine progress and gaps in implementing the goals and objectives set out in the ICPD Programme of Action and take stock of the achievement of SDGs which are of particular relevance to the global agenda on population and development. Participants will also assess the implications of demographic trends for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2024 Summit of the Future, showcasing global solidarity for future generations.



Population Division

## Mandate

The mandate of the Commission on Population and Development is to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Commission also contributes to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The annual theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, which will be held from 28 April to 2 May 2024, will be “Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The present expert group meeting is organized to support the preparation of the report of the Secretary General on the theme and, more broadly, to inform the Commission’s deliberations on the theme next year.

## Key topics to be discussed in the meeting

Key topics to be addressed in the expert meeting will be:

1. Population megatrends since Cairo and prospects to 2054
2. Regional perspectives on population and development.
3. Global population growth and sustainable development
4. Leaving no one behind in an ageing world
5. Urbanization and international mobility in an increasingly interconnected world
6. Policy priorities for population and development looking towards 2054

## Format of the meeting

The meeting will be held as a hybrid event: in-person at the United Nations Headquarters as well as virtually (platform to be decided). To accommodate participants from a range of time zones, four-hour sessions will be held during the morning and the afternoon/early evening (New York time) over the two-day period (19/20 July).

Invited experts will be asked to make a brief presentation on an assigned aspect of the theme and to provide written summary notes (of approximately 1,000 words) that will also serve as an input to the meeting report. The written notes should include key research findings and policy implications that may be useful for the review and assessment of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to achieving the SDGs.

Delegates from Member States and civil society will be invited to participate in selected sessions.

## Outcome of the meeting

The expert meeting is expected to provide up-to-date evidence, analysis and recommendations for the reports of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Population Division will prepare a brief report of the meeting, summarizing the deliberations and recommendations. With the permission of participants, presentations will be posted on the website of the meeting.