

Navigating Megatrends: The ICPD Programme of Action for a Sustainable Future

Launch of the ICPD30 Think Pieces

Concept note

Date: Thursday 11 July 2024

Time: 11:30 - 1 PM

Venue: UN Secretariat, New York - Conference Room 6

Interpretation: French and Spanish

Watch Online: [unf.pa/icpdfuture](https://unfpa.org/programmes/icpd30)

ICPD30 in the context of global megatrends

The vision and values of the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA) inspired development priorities worldwide. The core tenet of the ICPD-PoA - that sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and women empowerment are absolute preconditions for sustainable development - is now widely recognized within development agendas. The ICPD-PoA discouraged target-based population policies and affirmed an integrated multi-sectoral approach to development based on human rights, non-discrimination and inclusive human capital development. Recognizing environmental stress, it called to reform unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and eradicate inequality and multidimensional poverty.

Thirty years after the adoption of the Programme of Action, countries face diverse demographic trends and a constellation of challenges including pushback on gender equality and reproductive rights, the climate crisis and increasing conflict that are displacing millions of people, as well as pressures around population ageing and rapid urbanization.

While global, regional and national initiatives have advanced many core objectives of the PoA and contributed to progress in the global development agenda, shortfalls in implementation now coincide with new and unfamiliar threats to development.

At the midpoint on our way to 2030, about half of SDG targets with available data are moderately or severely off track; and over 30 per cent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline. Impacted by polycrises, the world is back at hunger levels not seen since 2005. Under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, with only about one third of countries meeting the target to halve national poverty levels¹. The world's most

¹ United Nations, The Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2023 Special edition.

marginalized people, including low-income groups, persons with disabilities, and, racial and ethnic minorities have seen the least progress in achieving their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). At the current pace of decline, maternal mortality in 2030 will still be almost three times higher than the SDG target 3.1 of 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births.

UNFPA's ICPD30 Think Pieces

To mark the 30th anniversary of the ICPD, and as the international community prepares for the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has produced five Think Pieces exploring key themes shaping the future of the ICPD mandate and providing future-focused ideas on how to achieve the PoA in a world of radical transformation.

The think pieces are entitled:

1. Demographic Change and Sustainability
2. The Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
3. The Future of Population Data
4. ICPD and Climate Action
5. A Safe Digital Future

The think pieces are intended to prompt discussion on future priorities and directions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and accelerating, advancing and amplifying the vision and principles of the ICPD.

Developed under UNFPA's leadership, the Think Pieces include technical contributions from more than 50 experts from the UN system, academia, civil society and INGOs.

The event

The ICPD30 Think Pieces will be launched on World Population Day (annually celebrated on July 11th) to raise awareness of global population issues. The event will also take place concurrently with the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which this year will focus on "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises". The launch session will thus provide a platform for global leaders, policymakers, experts, and advocates to engage in meaningful discussions and reflections on the future role of the ICPD mandate in realizing the promise of the SDGs, and the challenges ahead.

Key objectives of the launch:

- Disseminate the key findings and insights from UNFPA's five ICPD30 Think Pieces, providing participants with a deeper understanding of the evolving dynamics in population and development and their intersections with global megatrends.

- Explore the policy implications of the findings and highlight actionable recommendations for governments and other stakeholders to advance the goals of the ICPD-PoA and promote their alignment and integration with the SDGs.
- Inspire renewed commitment and collective action towards achieving the vision set forth in the ICPD-PoA, ensuring that the next 30 years bring about positive and sustainable change.
- Provide an opportunity for networking and enhanced collaboration among diverse stakeholders working on the key themes shaping the future of the ICPD mandate.

Target audience:

The primary target audience for the event will be Member States (senior government officials and representatives of the permanent missions), as well as civil society organizations, international agencies, experts, and other delegations attending the HLPF.

Format:

Following the welcome address by the moderator, opening remarks will be provided by UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director for Programme, Ms. Diene Keita, alongside the three co-hosts from Canada, Cote d'Ivoire and Japan (TBC), who will officially launch the ICPD30 Think Pieces.

A presentation summarising the key findings and messages from the 5 papers will be delivered by the Chief of Population and Development at UNFPA Headquarters. This will be followed by commentaries by experts in population and development issues. In a Q&A session, Member States and other participants in the audience will be encouraged to ask questions or share policy and practice experiences relevant to the topics of the Think Pieces. The moderator will make brief closing remarks at the end of the session.

Draft Agenda

Time	Item	Who
11.30 am - 11.50 pm	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Opening remarks and launch of the Think Pieces</p>	<p>Moderator: Ms. Julia Bunting, UNFPA Director, Programme Division</p> <p>Diene Keita, ASG and Deputy Executive Director (Programme), UNFPA</p> <p>Representatives of Côte D'Ivoire, Canada, Japan (TBC)</p>
11.50 am - 12.05 pm	Overview of the five ICPD30 Think Pieces	Ms. Priscilla Idele , Chief of Population and Development at UNFPA Headquarters
12.05 - 12.25 pm	Commentaries	<p>Jennifer D. Sciubba, President and CEO of Population Reference Bureau (TBC)</p> <p>Michele Griffin, Director, Our Common Agenda Team, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations (TBC)</p>
12.25 - 12.55 pm	Q & A	Moderator to facilitate
12.55 - 1.00 pm	Final reflections and closing	Moderator