This round table will discuss general population trends in Asia and the Pacific and their interrelation with sustainable development and climate change and identify other emerging trends. The discussion will also focus on challenges, opportunities and gaps in implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, as well as of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the key actions for its further implementation in Asia and the Pacific. Gender considerations, as well as reflections regarding technology and the availability of data and statistics, will be mainstreamed in the discussion.

Guiding questions:

1. How do population dynamics affect sustainable development and vice versa?
   - Demographic trends have been identified as one of the megatrends affecting sustainable development. Other trends refer to climate change and increased frequency of disasters, inequality, urbanization and digital transformation.
   - Climate change itself also affects population dynamics. Six dimensions of the relationship between climate change and population dynamics can be identified: health; health systems and social services; the economy; displacement and human mobility; urbanization; and food security.
   - Heatwaves, floods and tropical cyclones directly affect people, whereas vector-borne diseases, food and water insecurity and mental health issues have indirect effects.
   - Altered weather patterns influence the prevalence of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. **Cases of dengue in Bangladesh have been linked to climate change.**
   - Climate change has an influence on maternal health, both directly and indirectly. Adverse birth outcomes, including low birth weight, preterm births, eclampsia and pre-eclampsia, have been associated with extreme weather events, poor air quality, increases in vector-borne diseases and reduced access to SRH services.
   - In addition, food and water insecurity, exacerbated by climate change, can adversely affect reproductive health outcomes, including menstrual regularity, fecundity and pregnancy outcomes.
   - In disaster settings, women and girls face heightened risks of gender-based violence, trafficking and exploitation, alongside limited access to essential sexual and reproductive health services. Early marriage and motherhood might be resorted to as coping strategies for climate adversities, 15 such as following severe climate change-related disasters;
   - **Studies of farmers in Bangladesh have found that seasonal flooding, river erosion and income fluctuation are significant contributors to rural-to-urban migration.**
Climate change is an important driver of internal displacement and international migration, especially in Asia and the Pacific. Climate change induced disasters have already significantly increased the frequency with which people are forced to move; The consequences of climate change affect poverty (addressed in Goal 1), hunger (Goal 2), health and well-being (Goal 3) and gender equality and the empowerment of women (Goal 5).

2. What are some of the new and continuing demographic trends that present challenges and opportunities for sustainable development?

- **Opportunities:**
- **Demographic dividend (DD)**- opportunity as well as challenge to gain maximize benefits:
  Favorable Age-structure 65.23% are working age population (15-64 years);
  Population Ageing: one in nine people aged 60 and above (9.29%), 65+= 5.92%;
  1st DD (favourbale age structure), 2nd DD (if investment in made in health and education and productive workers can save and enjoy good post-retirement life, and gender dividend (half the population women);

Challenges:
- **Climate change and displaced population:** In 2017, Bangladesh ranked 6th among 135 countries that experienced displacement;
By 2050 one in every 45 people in the world and one in every seven people in Bangladesh are projected to be displaced by climate change. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) estimates that more than 4.7 million people were displaced due to disasters in Bangladesh between 2008 and 2014. From 2011 to 2050, as many as 16 to 26 million people would move out from their places of origin in Bangladesh due to many climatic hazards. These flows would include both internal displacement and other forms of labour migration predominantly within the country.

3. How can policy and programme implementation address some of the challenges and harness opportunities? What has not worked? Are there any good practices and lessons learned from countries in the region?

**What worked/good practices:**
- Successful family planning program- Behavior change communication (BCC)
- Advocacy of two-child family norms;
- Sustaining replacement of fertility over a decades-long;
- Promotion of education for girls;

4. In light of demographic and environmental challenges, what concrete steps and actions should the region take to meet its commitments under the 2013 Asian and
Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

- Identify the most vulnerable groups such as women, adolescent girls, people with disabilities, people living in disaster prone areas and take targeted action plans in line with adaptation policies of climate change. In doing so, the first step is to collect disaggregated data so that victims (displaced) and beneficiaries (policy support) are identified.
- CC, displacement and Population and development issues should be included in the national plans and policies. To implement some issues, costed action plans have to be developed.

**Round table 2:**
Health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Thursday, 16 November 2023 (10:30-12:00 UTC+7) Bangkok and online

*(some input for this section is received from DG FP)*

**Objectives** The round-table discussion is expected to provide insights into progress and challenges with regards to health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

**SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages**

**Reproductive health (RH)** is defined as all health events related to reproduction in the life cycle. Its components include-

- Family planning, Post abortion care, Safe pregnancy and safe motherhood, Reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, Cancer of the reproductive tract, Infertility, Female genital mutilation, and Gender-based violence.

**Family Planning:**

Bangladesh has a long and well-established family planning program. Family planning commodities being distributed free of cost.

**Maternal health:**

Skilled birth attendance (SBA) increased to 70% and Institutional delivery to 65%.