

Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

Bangkok and online

15 - 17 November 2023

Call for side event proposals

As part of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference (7th APPC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) invite member States, relevant stakeholders, United Nations partners, international organizations and others to submit side event proposals using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/BxBRwyU52g> at their earliest convenience, and **no later than Friday, 20 October 2023**.

Side events will be held on **15., 16. and 17. November**, between **12.30** and **13.45 pm** respectively¹. The duration of each side event will be **75 minutes**. Side events can take place in one of **three formats: a) in-person only, b) hybrid (i.e. in-person and online), or c) online only**. For the in-person and hybrid options, Conference organizers will provide a total of 9 timeslots in meeting rooms at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) over the course of the Conference. For the online and hybrid options, side event organizers can choose any virtual platform they deem appropriate, and they will be responsible for providing and managing that platform.

All requests for side events received within the deadline will be considered. As slots are limited, priority will be given to applicants from ESCAP member States and on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. **ESCAP and UNFPA will review the requests and revert to the side event organizers by Wednesday, 25 October 2023**, at the latest. ESCAP will also ensure that there is a balance of in-person and hybrid side events.

Criteria for holding a side event

- One of the co-organizers of the proposed side event should be designated as a **lead organizer and communication focal point**.
- To ensure **representation of different stakeholders**, participation of the same organization in more than one side event will be considered only if slots are available after other requests have been considered. An organization cannot be the lead organizer of more than one side event.

¹ Pending demand, Conference organizers will consider offering additional slots for online only side events also during morning or evening hours outside scheduled Conference sessions. For 17 November, additional slots might be available in the morning for on-site and online side events.

- The side event should **support the objectives of the 7th APPC** (see ‘Background’ section below). It should take stock of progress, address remaining and emerging challenges, and provide original perspectives on population and development issues in Asia and the Pacific – overall within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly with reference to the Priority Actions² of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (APMD).
- At the side event, participants should share **good practices** and outline **opportunities** for regional, triangular, and South-South cooperation on population and development issues.
- Organizers are encouraged to ensure **geographic and gender balance** and include, in the discussions, a mix of countries and stakeholders, including governments, civil society, scientists, and academia.
- Side events sponsored by **Governments** will be given priority in the allocation of preferred time slots and side event organizers are encouraged to co-organize side events with Governments.
- Priority will be given to side events involving **multiple organizing partners** to allow for the participation of as many organizations as possible.
- The side events should be **open to all Conference participants**. All participants of side events held in person at UNCC, must be registered participants of the Conference. This is not a requirement for online participants, where participation criteria can be decided by the side event organizers.
- Organizers are kindly requested to hold their event in **English**; for interpretation, organizers are requested to make their own arrangements, as interpretation services are not available for side events.
- Side event organizers are encouraged to design the events as **interactive as possible**, including by allocating sufficient time for interaction with the audience.

Responsibilities of co-organizers

- For onsite side events, the Conference organizers will provide a room, laptop, screen, Wi-Fi, and a standby technician free of charge; all other **costs** related to the side event will be borne by the organizers.
- Organizers are responsible for making all **arrangements for the side events**. For hybrid or online events, this includes providing the virtual platform and the link to the event to participants, inviting speakers etc.
- **Slot preferences** for the side event (date and time) can be ranked in the application form, and Conference organizers will confirm the final slot with selected side event focal points.
- Once side events are confirmed, the Conference organizers will discuss details of the room set-up and equipment (for in person and hybrid events), and other organizational aspects with the side event organizers, and request them to provide the **connection link** (for hybrid and online options), a **concept note and a flyer** to be posted on the **Conference website**.
- Aside from this, **publicizing** a side event and ensuring adequate participation is the sole responsibility of the side event organizers.

² The Priority Actions are: A) Poverty Eradication and Employment, B) Health, C) Sexual and Reproductive Health, Services and Rights, D) Education, E) Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, F) Adolescents and Young People, G) Ageing, H) International Migration, I) Urbanization and Internal Migration, J) Population and Sustainable Development, K) Data and Statistics.

Background

From 15 to 17 November 2023, the 7th APPC is organized by ESCAP in collaboration with UNFPA at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online.³ The Conference will take place against the backdrop of momentous demographic changes and socio-economic development in Asia and the Pacific. It will reaffirm the interconnectedness of all dimensions of socio-economic development and that people are at the center of sustainable development.

The Conference will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the [2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development with its Priority Actions](#). It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The objectives of the Conference are:

- a) **To review progress** in implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and the recommendations of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration and identify gaps;
- b) **To identify good practices, lessons learned, priority actions and emerging trends** as they relate to the further implementation of the before-mentioned documents in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c) To recognize the many **achievements** in population and development since the first Asia and Pacific Population Conference in 1963 and to look ahead and identify **challenges and opportunities** of future trends, such as population stagnation and decline; population ageing; urbanization and international migration; the future of youth; social protection and health; climate change, pandemics, digitalization, and food crises; and
- d) Prepare a **regional input** to the global review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development which will take place at the 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2024.

Contact and information

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Additional information, including background documents, is available on the dedicated [Conference website](#).

³ According to resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Asian Population Conference was established as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years synchronizing with the decennial population and related censuses, for the consideration of all aspects of population questions and of their impact on economic and social development. Since its first session in 1963, the Asian and Pacific Population Conference has been convened six times. The sixth Conference was held from 16 to 18 September 2013 at ESCAP, and members and associate Members adopted the Asian-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.