

# Fourth Stakeholder Consultation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

## Regional Cooperation, Accountability and Modalities for Implementation of Actions on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (11:00-14:00 UTC+7) Online (Zoom)

### CONCEPT NOTE (8<sup>th</sup> September 2023)

#### 1. Introduction

Pursuant to ESCAP resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 and Commission on Population and Development decision 2022/101, ESCAP, in collaboration with UNFPA, will organize the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference from 15 to 17 November 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. The Population Conference is a statutory organ of ESCAP and convenes every ten years.

The intergovernmental meeting and its preparatory process will coincide with other important events and developments: the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, held in December 1963 in New Delhi, India and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. It will also mark the half-way point toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. It will also be held one year prior to the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2024.

The 6<sup>th</sup> APPC Ministerial Declaration (MD) recognized aspects of **regional cooperation, accountability and modalities for implementation at the national, regional and global levels as essential to implementation of the priority actions of the APMD**. Many delegations emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, technical as well as financial support from international organizations and through triangular cooperation. The generation, analysis and dissemination of reliable **population data**, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other categories was also emphasised.

Paragraph 207 of the APPCMD called to *“Ensure stronger political commitment and establish or strengthen national, subregional and regional mechanisms to assess the 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 of the International Conference on Population and*

*Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and the recommendations of the present Declaration [6<sup>th</sup> APPC MD], taking into account, as appropriate, the outcomes of national and regional reviews, including a review in 2018 of the progress achieved at the midpoint towards the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.”*

Paragraph 216 further called for the *Promotion of **regional cooperation**, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.*

The fourth and final thematic stakeholder consultation for the 7<sup>th</sup> APPC will focus on **Regional Cooperation, Accountability and Modalities for Implementation of Actions on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.**

Key themes within this consultation will include the focus on:

Subtheme 1: Enabling environment, transparency and meaningful participation

Subtheme 2: Regional, subregional and national partnerships and cooperation

Subtheme 3: Intergenerational collaborations, ageing, longevity and youth trends

Subtheme 4: Ensuring accountability for commitments and policy coherence

The consultation will take stock and assess progress, gaps challenges in reducing inequalities, upholding human rights.

Main findings and recommendations of the consultations will be summarized in an information paper to be submitted to the Seventh Asian-Pacific Population Conference. The objective of these consultations is to bring a bottom-up participatory approach of the review and appraisal of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (APMD) priority action areas and modalities of implementation at the regional level. Moreover, the consultations aim at identifying challenges, gaps and opportunities across all 11 priority areas in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (APMD), from CSO perspectives.

## 2. Objectives of consultation

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation is to facilitate and expand collaboration and participation in the regional review and appraisal process, and in particular to elicit stakeholder experiences and views around the review objectives, namely:

- Take stock of the overall progress of implementation of the priority issues of the APMD and the ICPD PoA in Asia and the Pacific to date
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps, and prevalent and emerging issues
- Identify established and emerging good practices and lessons learnt
- Identify resource requirements and capacity building needs
- Formulate recommendations

## 3. Consultation sub-themes focus

The fourth stakeholder consultation theme is **Regional Cooperation, Accountability and Modalities for Implementation of Actions on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**. Four sub-themes have been identified within the main consultation by the 7<sup>th</sup> APPC CSO Steering Committee.

#### **Subtheme 1: Enabling environment, transparency and meaningful participation**

This theme will explore the need for a vibrant civic space and the often widespread violation of civic spaces in the region, as well as at the national level. The subtheme will take stock of restrictive civic spaces in the region and recommend a way forward for enabling environments for civic space to thrive and meaningfully participate in the population and sustainable development agenda from a human rights lens. The working group will also explore an increase in the anti-gender rights movements in multilateral spaces paralleling rights language with discriminatory and regressive anti human right stances. The theme will also explore representation of diverse communities, and voices of communities as part of meaningful participation.

#### **Subtheme 2: Regional, subregional and national partnerships and cooperation**

This theme will explore the need for regional cooperation, South-South, North-South and Triangular collaboration for sustainable development including universal access to COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine technologies, to ARVs, generic medicines, as well as the implementation of TRIPS flexibilities in line with universal access principles. The theme will also discuss multi and bilateral frameworks for protecting the rights of migrants/refugees and asylum seekers through regional cooperation.

#### **Subtheme 3: Intergenerational collaborations pivotal to ageing, longevity and youth trends**

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are undergoing rapid ageing with an increase in proportion of older persons, an increase in pace of ageing, and an increase in the absolute number of older persons. There are now 630 million people aged 60 years or over, representing 60 per cent of the world's older persons. By 2050, their number is projected to increase to 1.3 billion.

At the same time, over 60 per cent of the world's youth live in Asia and the Pacific. This translates into more than 750 million young women and men aged 15 to 24 years. These demographic trends call for attention to older as well as younger persons. Moreover, it is important to harness the intergenerational partnerships for meaningful and inclusive development.

#### **Subtheme 4: Ensuring accountability for commitments and policy coherence**

This theme will explore our understanding of accountability vis-à-vis policy commitments. Accountability for whom, to whom and what accountability means in practice. The linkages across other relevant processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Beijing Platform for Action, Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP) and the international human rights framework will be discussed, for policy coherence and implementation of commitments to further sustainable and just development in the region. This theme will also discuss effective integration of population, sustainable development and SRHR issues into national policy frameworks and its planning, implementation, monitoring and review. The theme will also discuss partnerships, and financing for the ICPD PoA and the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. The session will also look at ways to strengthen data generation, disaggregation and analysis in support of implementing the priority action of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration and the ICPD PoA in Asia and the Pacific.

## 4. Content and format

The consultation will consist of two opening keynote address on the topic followed by one round of four simultaneous subtheme discussions. This will be followed by the closing plenary where the key highlights and recommendations will be shared by the respective sub-theme leads. The floor will then open to questions and comments. A closing and next step will follow.

The consultation is a closed meeting and will not be recorded. In order to have open and frank discussions, **Chatham House Rules will be followed**, which means that participants are free to use the information received but may not reveal the identity or the affiliation of the speaker(s), or of any other participant.

A summary note of the consultation will be drafted and made publicly available after the consultation. Registration will close on 10 September 2023 at 00:00 hours (midnight) (*Bangkok time*).

## 5. Organizing team

This stakeholder consultation is co-designed and implemented by a team of stakeholders led by the 7th APPC CSO Steering Committee Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Caram Asia, Dawn, HelpAge, International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific (ICWAP), IPPF ESEAOR, IPPF SARO, Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, Tsao Foundation Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), Y-Peer Asia Pacific, YouthLEAD, supported by UNESCAP and UNFPA.

## 6. Participants

Participation in the stakeholder consultations should be balanced with regard to geography/region, gender and area of work/sector. Civil society organisations engaged in ICPD and APPC processes in Asia and the Pacific will be actively engaged. Further to this, CSOs working on APMD priority action areas also will be included in the process. In the interest of ensuring diverse representation at the consultation, we ask that only one person or two per organization participates.

## 7. Expected outcomes and next steps

A summary report will be drafted after the meeting and posted on the ESCAP website. The summary will inform an information paper that will be drafted, summarizing the outcomes of all stakeholder consultation.

## 8. Background

The Asia-Pacific region is home to 60 per cent of the world's population. It is undergoing a momentous transition from younger, more rural populations to older, more urban ones. While sharing some general trends, other population levels and trends differ across subregions and countries. For example, some are already experiencing population decline, whereas others continue to grow, albeit at a declining rate. The size, structure and dynamics of regional populations influence and are influenced by economic and social

development, climate change, natural disasters and conflicts. In order to ensure sustainable development, it is important to fully understand the interactions between these factors.

## 9. Background documents

[2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development](#);  
[Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Declaration on Population and Development](#);  
[2020 Report of the Committee on Social Development on its sixth session, containing the Asia-Pacific indicator framework](#);  
[Summary report prepared in follow-up to the Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development in 2018](#); and  
[2021 ESCAP Population Data Sheet](#).

Additional information is available on the UN ESCAP dedicated [website](#)