Draft report

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendations of the Asian and Pacific Population Conference are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its consideration and possible action:

Recommendation 1


Recommendation 2

The Asian and Pacific Population Conference requests the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and all other relevant partners, to conduct a regional intergovernmental review meeting of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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, in 2028, and to submit the outcome of the regional meeting to the Commission at its eighty-fifth session.
B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decision adopted by the Asian and Pacific Population Conference is brought to the attention of ESCAP:

Decision

The Asian and Pacific Population Conference decides to transmit the report on its Seventh Conference to the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-seventh session, to be held in 2024, as a regional input to the assessment of 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.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

3. The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which was held in Bangkok and online from 15 to 17 November 2023, was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand, Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa, made statements. Ms. Laisa Bulatale, Fiji Women’s Rights Movement, and Ms. Sangay Dechen Gyanzo, Youth Peer Education Network Bhutan, spoke on behalf of civil society.

B. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following member States of ESCAP attended: Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of the following associate members of ESCAP also attended: Cook Islands and Niue.

6. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Belarus, Holy See and South Africa.

7. Representatives of the following offices of the Secretariat attended: Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

8. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and related organizations also attended: International Organization for Migration, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Environment Programme, UNFPA,

9. A representative of the Economic Cooperation Organization, an intergovernmental organization, also attended.

10. Representatives of the following non-governmental and civil society organizations attended: 2030 Youth Force Indonesia; Ageing Nepal; Asia Feminist LBQ Network; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Asian Population Association; Asia-Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants; Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education; Association of Youth Organizations Nepal; Bangladesh Youth Health Action Network; Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal; Blind Youth Association Nepal; Blue Diamond Society; BRAC; Bumi Setara; Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population; Child Helpline Cambodia; China Family Planning Association; China Youth Network; Circle of Young Minds for Research and Development Career; College of Youth Activism and Development; Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility; David and Lucile Packard Foundation; Development Action for Women Network; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; Equal Asia Foundation; Equality Now; Family Planning 2030; Family Planning New Zealand; Family Planning NSW; Family Planning Organization of the Philippines; Fiji Women’s Rights Movement; Films 4 Peace Foundation; First Pasefika Fono Network; Forum for Dignity Initiatives; Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti; HealthNet TPO; HelpAge India; Hope for Women; Human Development Organization; International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia-Pacific; International Migrant Alliance Research Foundation; International Planned Parenthood Federation, East and Southeast Asia and Oceania region; International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia region; Inti Muda Indonesia; Life Savors; Likhaan Center for Women’s Health Inc.; Malaysian Youth Diplomacy (MyDiplomacy); Medical Services in the Pacific; Me For Myself International Campaign for Mental Health and Well-being; Monfemnet National Network; Nagorik Uddyog; Naripokkho; Pacific Disability Forum; Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization; Plan International Asia-Pacific; Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand; Population Foundation of India; Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan; Rural Women’s Social Education Centre; Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George; Samahan ng mga DH sa Gitnang Silangan; SERAC-Bangladesh; Seven Sisters Foundation; Sherpa for Change; Soroptimist International; SPEAK Trust; The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka; The Young Changemakers; The YP Foundation; Tsao Foundation; United Filipinos in Korea; United Nations Foundation; United Nations Youth Advisory Panel Cambodia; United Nations Youth Advisory Panel Mongolia; Visible Impact; Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights; Women’s Rehabilitation Centre; Working Group on Disabilities and 2030 Agenda; Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan; Yayasan Tabu Indonesia Berdaya (Tabu.id); YIELD Hub; Young Advocates for SRHR; Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka; Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights; Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality Indonesia; Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development; Youth Peer Education Network Asia-Pacific; Youth Peer Education Network Bhutan; Youth Peer Education Network Philippines; Youth Peer Education Network Thailand; Youth Voices Count; and YUWA.
11. Representatives of the following other entities also attended: International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.

12. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.

13. The Conference took note of the oral report of the bureau on credentials.

C. Election of officers

14. The Conference elected the following officers:

   Chair: Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa (Thailand)

   Vice-Chairs: Ms. Lisa Grace Bersales (Philippines)
               Ms. Eselealofa Apinelu (Tuvalu)

D. Agenda

15. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

   1. Opening of the Conference:

      (a) Opening addresses;
      (b) Election of officers;
      (c) Adoption of the agenda.

   2. Review of progress made towards the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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.

   3. Thematic discussion on achievements, challenges, gaps and emerging issues in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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:

      (a) Population dynamics, sustainable development and climate change;
      (b) Health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;
      (c) Inequalities and social exclusion, and rights;
      (d) Partnerships and regional cooperation.

   4. Other matters.

   5. Adoption of the report on the Conference.
E. Other events

16. The following seminars, side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference:

(a) 13 and 14 November 2023, civil society and youth forums, organized by the civil society organization steering committee of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(b) 15 November 2023, side event on understanding the challenges, opportunities and best practices for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of forcibly displaced women and people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and other people on the move in transition countries in Asia, organized by the Asia-Pacific Alliance on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, the Equal Asia Foundation and the International Lesbian and Gay Association Asia;

(c) 15 November 2023, side event: “Harvesting the demographic dividend to achieve the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: experiences from China since 1994”, organized by the China Family Planning Association, the China Population and Development Research Center and the UNFPA country office in China;

(d) 15 November 2023, side event: “Population and development outlooks and challenges in South-East Asia”, organized by the National Population and Family Planning Board of Indonesia;

(e) 16 November 2023, side event: “The changing realities of population in Asia and the Pacific: low fertility and population ageing in the post-COVID-19 era”, organized by the Asian Population Association;

(f) 16 November 2023, side event on a contraceptive policy atlas for Asia and the Pacific, organized by the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights; Family Planning 2030; and International Planned Parenthood Federation, East and Southeast Asia and Oceania region;

(g) 16 November 2023, side event: “Maldives and Solomon Islands at the crossroads to achieving sustainable socioeconomic development as small island developing States”, organized by the Bureau of Statistics of Maldives and the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination of Solomon Islands;

(h) 17 November 2023, side event: “Leaving no one behind: don’t forget deaf women! The importance of the reproductive rights of deaf women and of sign language-based communication”, organized by ESCAP and the Nippon Foundation;

(i) 17 November 2023, side event: “Rights-based approaches as the foundation to achieving just and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, organized by the Government of Bangladesh; the Asia-Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; Equality Now; Family Planning 2030, Asia and the Pacific Hub; International Planned Parenthood Federation, East and Southeast Asia and Oceania region; SERAC-Bangladesh; and the Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights;

(j) 17 November 2023, side event: “Migrants and refugees as actors of development: bringing and amplifying migrants’ and refugees’ voices in the population and development discourse”, organized by the Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants;
(k) 17 November 2023, side event on harnessing lessons learned in the region to accelerate reductions in maternal morbidity and mortality: experiences gained in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with the aim of achieving the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, organized by the Government of Nepal and UNFPA;

(l) 17 November 2023, side event: “Getting everyone in the picture: investing in children”, organized by ESCAP, the UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and Vital Strategies;

(m) 17 November 2023, side event on scaling up humanitarian financing for sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning in emergencies in Asia and the Pacific, organized by Family Planning 2030.

III. Chair’s summary

17. The discussions held during the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be summarized in a Chair’s summary that will become available within a week following the conclusion of the session and be annexed to the present report.
Annex

List of documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General series</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/1/Rev.1</td>
<td>Provisional agenda</td>
<td>1 (c)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/1/Add.1</td>
<td>Annotated provisional agenda</td>
<td>1 (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/2/Rev.1</td>
<td>Review of progress made towards the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/3</td>
<td>Impacts of climate change on population and development in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Limited series</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/L.1</td>
<td>Draft report</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information series</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/1</td>
<td>Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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: a summary of the outcomes of stakeholder consultations</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/2</td>
<td>Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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: a summary of the results of voluntary national surveys reported by member States</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/3</td>
<td>Gender equality and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/4</td>
<td>Universal health care in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/5</td>
<td>Data and statistics to monitor the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, 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</td>
<td>2 and 3</td>
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<td><em>Information available online</em></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference">www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference</a></td>
<td>Information for participants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>List of participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tentative programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>