



Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

BANGKOK, 15–17 NOVEMBER 2023

Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

Agenda item 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

Thursday, 16 November 2023 (15:30-17:00 UTC+7)
Bangkok and online

Round table 4: Partnerships and regional cooperation

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Introduction

The Asia-Pacific region has experienced significant progress in socioeconomic development, and demographic shifts have made societies increasingly old and urbanized. The region is at a critical juncture. Despite considerable progress, many countries face both new and continuing challenges, such as persistent socioeconomic inequalities – including gender inequality – ageism and disrespect for human rights, internal displacement, poverty and limited access to health, education and employment. Inequalities and vulnerabilities have been exacerbated by climate change, disasters, conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and digital transformation. Limited financial resources, capacities and data hinder countries from fully implementing the priority actions of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

It is therefore important to apply a holistic, people-centred, rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to address existing and future population and development challenges and opportunities. Partnerships among and within countries and regional cooperation are crucial to achieve a comprehensive agenda such as the population and development agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving the priority actions of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration will not only depend on implementing specific actions, but also on data and information to assess the situation and accelerate action.

In the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, members and associate members committed 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 ...” (paragraph 207), to “[s]trengthen the capacity of relevant institutions to ensure effective integration of population issues into development planning ...” (paragraph 208) and to “[c]onduct regular monitoring and evaluation by relevant national authorities of progress towards the continuing implementation of the Programme of Action ...” (paragraph 209).

The round table will discuss the importance of intergenerational solidarity, multistakeholder partnerships, political commitment and aspirations of individuals and society in general. There will also be discussion about institutional and political mechanisms to strengthen common interest, monitor commitments and advance the population and development agenda at subnational, national, subregional and regional levels. Gender considerations, as well as reflections regarding technology and availability of data and statistics, will be mainstreamed in the discussion.

2. Objectives

The round-table discussion is expected to provide insights into progress and challenges with regards to partnerships on population and developments. The round table will:

1. Discuss lessons learned and good practices of partnerships and regional cooperation.
2. Identify mechanisms for partnerships on population and development.
3. Identify barriers and gaps with regards to partnerships and regional cooperation on population and development with recommendations to overcome these gaps.
4. Discuss the importance of data and analysis in particular in light of the finding that Asia and the Pacific is falling behind with regard to achieving the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Content and format

The round-table discussion will consist of a moderated discussion among panellists, Q&A with meeting participants and concluding remarks by the panellists. The following guiding questions will be addressed:

1. What are the main lessons learned or good practices in implementing the population and development agenda at the national, subregional or regional levels to advance the population and development agenda in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
2. What role do stakeholders, UN system organizations as well as other regional and subregional organizations play in supporting implementation of the population and development agenda? What partnerships are needed and what capacity-building needs remain?
3. Are there any remaining gaps in data collection, analysis and dissemination that need to be addressed? Are there any low hanging fruits that member States and stakeholder can address to overcome some of these gaps?

4. What institutional and political mechanisms within countries are needed to generate common interest among different generations, and other groups within a country to implement the population and development agenda?

During the Q&A, Conference participants will be invited to speak from the floor and provide comments and any further reflections. The recording of the round-table discussion will be posted on the meeting website. A summary of the round-table discussion will be included in the Chair's summary of the meeting.

4. Agenda

15:30-15:35	Welcome and opening remarks, moderator
15:35-15:55	First round of questions, panellists
15:55-16:15	Second round of questions, panellists
16:15-16:45	Q&A
16:45-16:55	Concluding remarks, panellists
16:55-17:00	Closing remarks, moderator

5. Organizing team

The round table is being organized by ESCAP in collaboration with UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office.

6. Background

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 by vote.¹

In 1994, United Nations Member States adopted the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. The Programme of Action, which was extended

¹ Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (16-20 September 2013, Bangkok)
<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>

by the General Assembly in 2010 beyond 2014 (resolution 65/234),² undertook a people-centered and rights-based approach to sustainable development. It emphasizes that achieving sustainable development requires that interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and social and economic development are fully recognized, properly managed and brought into a harmonious and dynamic balance. Population dynamics are both drivers and outcomes of sustainable development at national and sub-national levels, but also at regional and global levels. In order to achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, policies, including population-related policies, should be developed and implemented in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations. Since 1994, the Commission on Population and Development, a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, has reviewed and appraised the implementation of the Programme of Action in regular intervals.

In 2022, the Commission decided that the theme of the 57th session in 2024 would be “Assessing 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.”³ Thus, the Commission will undertake another review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action at the global level in 2024.

7. Suggested reading

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). (2014). [Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference \(16-20 September 2013, Bangkok\)](#).
- United Nations. (1995). [Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994](#) (Sales No. E.95.XIII.18, chap. I, resolution 1, annex).
- [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](#) (ESCAP/APPC(7)/2)
- [The impacts of climate change on population and development in Asia and the Pacific](#) (ESCAP/APPC(7)/3)
- [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](#) (ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/1)
- [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](#)

² Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (65/234 Follow-up to the International Conference on Population). A/RES/65/234

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_65_234.pdf.

³ E/2022/25-E/CN.9/2022/7.

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 (ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/2)

- Gender equality and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/3)
- Universal health care in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/4)
- 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 (ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/5)

8. Contact persons

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