

Expert Group Meeting to identify synergies between the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

5-6 July 2017
Bangkok

Concept Note

Background

At the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference, held in Bangkok in September 2013, member States of ESCAP agreed to a set of policy directions and priority actions “to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014, and inclusion in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”. It also calls for the integration of the policy directions and priority actions in the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations.

The key priority actions in the ICPD PoA include poverty eradication and employment; health; sexual and reproductive health, services and rights; education; gender equality and women’s empowerment; adolescents and young people; ageing; international migration; urbanization and internal migration; population and sustainable development; and data and statistics. The ICPD PoA also calls for institutional measures to support its implementation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets, was adopted unanimously by UN member States in September 2015. This agenda, which was the outcome of extensive consultation between member States, sets out a comprehensive agenda for sustainable development, balancing social, economic and environmental dimensions. It includes a number of common areas with the ICPD Programme of Action, including the following:

1. Health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;
2. Gender equality;
3. Recognition of the diverse nature of populations, and a need to focus priority actions on specific socio-demographic groups such as youth and adolescents, international and internal migrants, and older persons; and
4. A focus on the need for increased capacity for data-gathering and disaggregation.

Given the nature of the new and overarching 2030 Agenda, it is important to consider the synergies between the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets and indicators. This will be particularly pertinent in the context of the mandated 5-year review of the implementation of the APPC ministerial declaration, due to be held in 2018. To prepare for this process, an expert group meeting will be held to assess the linkages between these agendas, as well as to identify areas of concerns and emerging issues.

Organizers: UNESCAP in collaboration with UNFPA (APRO), supported by the interested members of the RCM Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Societies.

Suggested dates: 5 and 6 July 2017

Venue: UNCC, Bangkok

Objectives:

- Identify synergies and linkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action with a focus on issues pertinent to the Asia-Pacific region;
- Assess the situation with regards to population and development in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Provide inputs to a road map to prepare for the 5-year review meeting of the outcomes of the 6th APPC in 2018.

Methodology

The EGM will bring together experts from:

- Academia;
- Civil society;
- International organizations; ICPD secretariat, UNFPA (APRO) and ESCAP.
- Governments

The meeting will adopt an interactive format and focus on utilizing the expertise of the participants on technical and policy-related issues, guided by background documentation prepared by the Secretariat.

Documentation

The documentation for this meeting will be provided in the form of two background papers: (i) A quantitative comparison of the SDG goals, targets and indicators with the monitoring framework for the ICPD to address the linkages and synergies between them; and (ii) a qualitative analysis of persisting areas of concern and emerging issues with regards to the implementation of the ICPD PoA, and linkages between population and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.
