



COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-third session

Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the
Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies

31 January 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
ECOSOC Chamber

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Meeting objectives (as per the annotated agenda):

- guide and coordinate the work of the ECOSOC system (ensuring that it is coherent, avoids overlap and adequately covers the 2030 Agenda)
- explore how the Subsidiary Bodies can contribute to the 2020 theme of ECOSOC and the high-level political forum (HLPF).
- review how subsidiary bodies have been implementing General Assembly resolution 72/305 on ECOSOC Strengthening and discuss possible proposals for reinvigorating ECOSOC and its relationship with its subsidiary bodies.

Agenda item 1. Contributions by Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies to the 2020 theme of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Madam Chair,

I would like to briefly respond to two questions listed under this agenda item.

First, how will the Commission on Population and Development contribute to the HLPF review of the theme for 2020 and to ECOSOC?

At the third meeting of the Bureau, held in November last year, I invited the Bureau members to reflect on how the theme of the 53rd session of the Commission, which is “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”, can best contribute to 2020 HLPF review and to ECOSOC. I also invited the Secretariat and UNFPA to make concrete recommendations in the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for this session on how the theme of our Commission may inform this year’s HLPF and ECOSOC sessions.

Following the 53rd session of the Commission, which will be held from 30 March to 3 April, I will submit a note for the 2020 HLPF review and ECOSOC session. In line with previous practice¹, this note will draw on the outcomes of the Commission, the reports of the Secretary-General, and the statements made by Member States and invited speakers.

Second, what are some of the implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda that the CPD aims to address?

Madame Chair,

This question draws attention to the enduring relevance of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The world’s population is becoming larger, older, more mobile and more spatially concentrated than ever before. Those demographic “mega-trends” affect and are affected by the implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For example, while rapid population growth puts additional

1

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/pdf/52/Contribution_by_CPD52_to_2019_HLPF.pdf

pressure on service delivery and resources in general, increased access to education and health care promotes a decline in fertility. Similarly, persistently low levels of fertility, associated with ageing populations and in some cases population decline, pose a different set of challenges to achieving sustained economic growth and establishing support systems. The Commission is the only place in the United Nations to deliberate, and to provide guidance on, the critical importance of integrating of population dimensions into national policy design and development planning.

As Chair of the 53rd session, I am fully committed to ensure that the Commission on Population and Development will continue to play a vital role in informing the international community on these critical dimensions.

Agenda item 2. Responding to GA resolution 72/305 on Review of the implementation of GA resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of ECOSOC

Madam Chair,

The Commission has made important strides towards implementing GA resolution 72/305.

First, the Commission has a strong tradition of producing technical and expert analysis to inform the review of the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action and efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. This ensures that the Commission's recommendations are built on a solid evidence-based review of progress.

Second, in 2019, after two years of a stalemate, the Commission successfully adopted, by consensus, a declaration reaffirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation. The declaration emphasized that the full and effective implementation of the

Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Third, the Commission has taken unprecedented steps to “reinvent” itself. In 2019, the Commission convened a highly successful panel on key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences on population and development, featuring the chairs of those reviews. This year, Bureau has added expert and multi-stakeholder panels with a view to making the Commission more effective and inclusive. I am also planning to convene a dedicated briefing for civil society ahead of the 53rd session.

Lastly, the Bureau has initiated a discussion on options for initiating a discussion on the vitalisation of the Commission, which is intended to continue during the 54th session. I hope that this discussion will help ensure the continued relevance and success of the Commission going forward.

Thank you, Madam Chair

