



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Population and Development

Fifty-second session

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>

### General Debate 3

**(a) Actions for the further implementation  
of the Programme of Action of the International  
Conference on Population and Development at the global,  
regional and national levels**

**(b) Review and appraisal 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**

### **Statement submitted by Asabe Shehu Yar Adua Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council<sup>2</sup>**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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<sup>1</sup> E/CN.9/2019/1.

<sup>2</sup> The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is one of the ten Functional Commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. At its establishment by ECOSOC in October 1946, the Commission's name was "Population Commission" and in December 1994, was changed to "Commission on Population and Development".

The goal of the Commission on Population and Development is the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional, national and international levels and advise the Economic and Social Council on issues such as population's issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, and on population and related development policies and programmes. It would also provide advice and assistance to the United Nations System, governments and other organizations on population and development related efforts.

According to the official ICPD release, the conference delegates achieved consensus on the following four qualitative and quantitative goals:

1. Universal education: universal primary education in all countries by 2015. Urge countries to provide wider access to women for secondary and higher-level education as well as vocational and technical training.

2. Reduction of infant and child mortality: countries should strive to reduce infant and under-5 child mortality rates by one-third or to 50–70 deaths per 1000 by the year 2000. By 2015 all countries should aim to achieve a rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000.

3. Reduction of maternal mortality: a reduction by half the 1990 levels by 2000 and half of that by 2015. Disparities in maternal mortality within countries and between geographical regions, socio-economic and ethnic groups should be narrowed.

4. Access to reproductive and sexual health services including family planning: family-planning counselling, pre-natal care, safe delivery and post-natal care, prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility, prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion, treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health conditions; and education, counselling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood. Services regarding HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, infertility, and delivery should be made available. Active discouragement of female genital mutilation (FGM).

### **Towards effective implementation of 2030 Agenda**

It is worthy of note that the major shifts in population age structures are signs of success reflecting higher rates of survival from childhood to adulthood and longer life spans and the greater ability of couples to choose the number and timing of any children they desire. This was backed up in 2016, during one of the meetings of the UN DESA's Population Division that highlighted the policies Member States are already implementing to adapt to these changing demographic circumstances. In ageing societies, social protection mechanisms, pension systems and health care programmes are being adjusted and strengthened.

Women's participation in the workforce should be supported more than ever. Countries should also implement and increase the age of retirement. At the same time,

there should be an increase in recognition for international migration which can help to rejuvenate populations and slow the rate of population ageing. It is necessary to further add the necessity of investing in the human capital of populations, especially the youth, through policies and programmes to improve youth's access to education, health, and employment.

Furthermore, attention should be given to the reproductive health needs of youth, as well as to the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, child and early marriage, violence against youth and gender-based violence.

At the same time, countries should detail their policies and programmes to address the health, welfare and inclusion of their rapidly growing older populations.

Consequently, there is also the need for attention of Member States to be drawn to issue of migration and refugee movements which present a unique challenge relating to the changing population age distributions, the introduction of new cultural practices, and to labour markets.

Finally, countries should further stress the importance of improving data and statistics for monitoring demographic trends and development, and capacity development in this regard.

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