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Commission on Population and Development Background Guide 2023

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The topics under discussion are:

1. Population, Food Security, Nutrition, and COVID-19
2. Ensuring Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services

Members of our dais this year include:



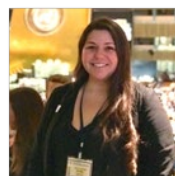
Alliyah L. Edwards, Director, has a passion for politics and law and currently works in local government. Alliyah is also involved with community organizing for a plethora of marginalized groups and organizations.



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This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on 1 March 2023 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the NMUN•NY [Position Papers website](#).

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for this committee, please contact the Economic and Social Council Department, Caitlin M Hopper (Conference A) and Martin Schunk (Conference B), at usg.ecosoc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

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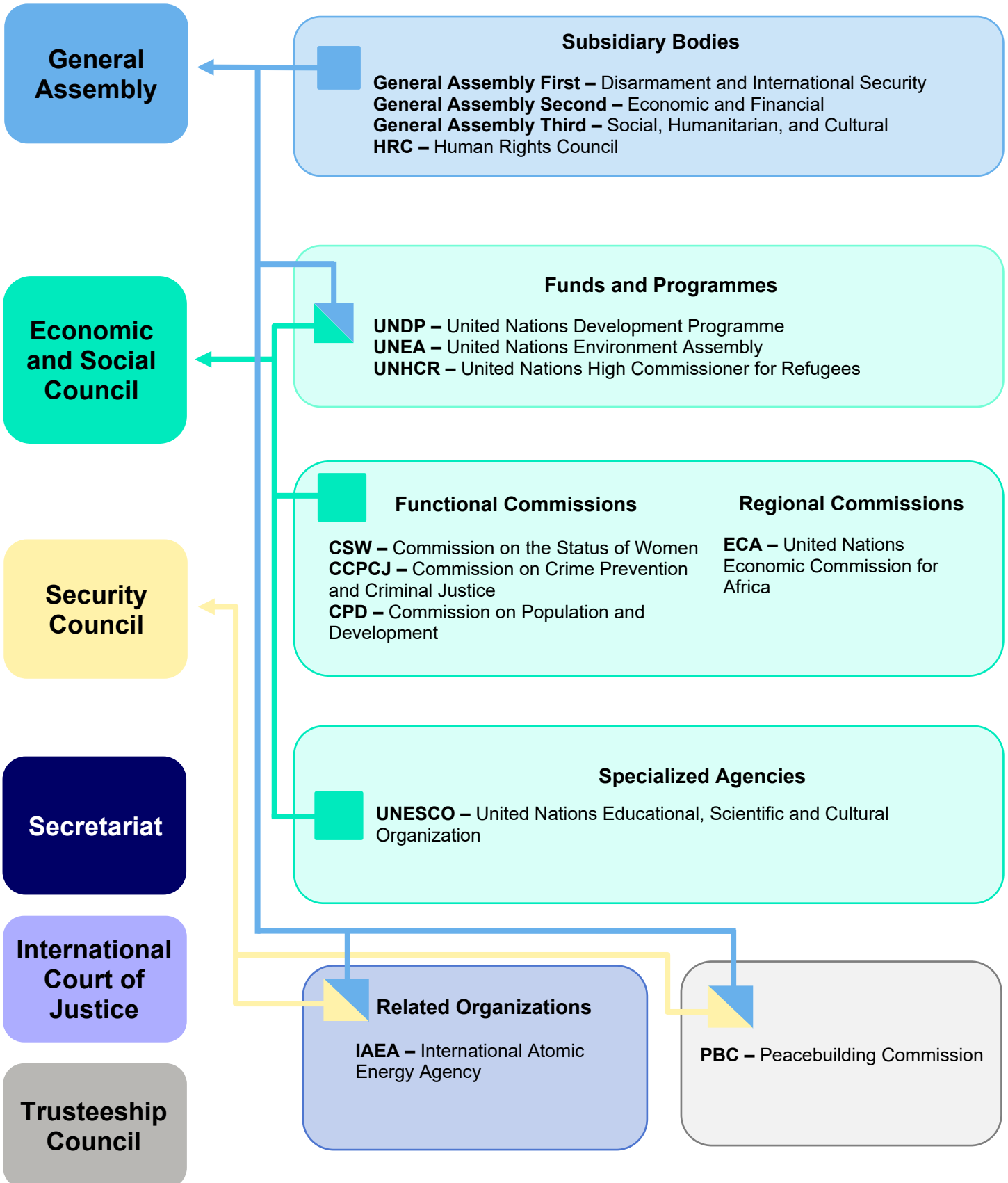


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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee’s position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

The world's population is projected to reach almost 10 billion by the year 2050, an increase of 26% compared with 2019.¹ Due to this unprecedented rapid population growth, it is essential for the international community to identify and monitor population growth, population ageing, migration, and urbanization.² The *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development* (PoA), adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, identifies the links between a myriad of population and development issues, including accessibility for older populations and persons with disabilities, migrants, sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and sustainable development.³ The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the PoA.⁴ CPD continues to lead debates about population trends and serves as a critical body that conducts research on these issues and provides suggestions to the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).⁵

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The roots of CPD are found in the Population Commission, established by ECOSOC in 1946, aiming to offer a platform for Member States, civil society, and other key stakeholders to discuss international issues on human development and population-related social challenges.⁶ As one of the ten functional commissions of ECOSOC, the Population Commission was mandated to follow-up on the 1994 PoA.⁷ The body was renamed that year to CPD to highlight its comprehensive approach to addressing issues related to the challenges of population and development, as outlined in the PoA.⁸

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive, the mandate of CPD can be summarized as:

- **CPD will generally:** conduct studies on population and development themes; request the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) or the Secretary-General to conduct research; monitor, review, and assess the PoA; contribute to the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); provide policy recommendations on population and development for both ECOSOC and the UN system as a whole.⁹
- **CPD will not generally:** request individual Member States or NGOs to take certain action; take direct action to address the identified issues.¹⁰

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights* (ST/ESA/SER.A/423). 2019.

² Ibid.

³ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014.

⁴ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration: Report of the Secretary-General* (E/CN.9/2018/2). 2018.

⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d.

⁶ Ibid.; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Resolution 3 (III) Population Commission* (E/RES/3 (III)). 1946. p. 1.

⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development* (A/RES/49/128). 1994; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d.

⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014. pp. viii-xiii.

⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development* (A/RES/49/128). 1994; United Nations, Conference on Population and Development. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development* (E/CN.9/2016/8). 2016.

¹⁰ United Nations, Conference on Population and Development. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development* (E/CN.9/2016/8). 2016.

Governance, Funding, and Structure

The Commission comprises 47 members elected to serve four-year terms following a specific geographic distribution, with 12 seats for African states, 11 Asian-Pacific states, five Eastern European states, nine Latin American and Caribbean states, and 10 Western European and other states.¹¹ The Commission meets annually in New York City, while the Bureau of CPD holds inter-sessional meetings to prepare for the annual meetings.¹²

The general administration of CPD is funded by the UN, but the Commission has also welcomed Member States and government agencies to provide support to its work.¹³ General Assembly resolution 50/124 on “Implementation of the PoA of the International Conference on Population and Development” (1996) encouraged voluntary donations from Member States, particularly developed states, to ensure that the goals in the follow-up of ICPD could be met.¹⁴

Both CPD and the UNFPA are tasked with following up on the PoA.¹⁵ CPD was designed to fully support ECOSOC and play the primary role in the follow-up process with its three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism, which includes monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the ICPD PoA.¹⁶ On the other hand, UNFPA, as a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly, was mandated to take the lead in helping countries carry out the PoA by providing technical support and guidance with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.¹⁷ UNFPA will continue to accelerate the implementation process of the PoA at the operational level.¹⁸ In contrast, CPD monitors and assesses the progress made from a policy perspective.¹⁹ CPD also focuses on acknowledging major achievements towards this goal and drawing attention to areas that need improvement.²⁰

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the forty-seventh session (E/CN.9/2014/7)*. 2014. Retrieved 4 September 2022 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2014/7>

This report, which was adopted 20 years after the adoption of the PoA, provides an overview of the achievements that CPD has made in this timespan. It covers a variety of population issues, including population growth, ageing, urbanization and several more. The report further addresses questions on the importance of human rights and paths to sustainability. Delegates will be able to get a good overview of the work that CPD has

¹¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/50/124)*. 1996; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d.; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2022-23*. 2022.

¹² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development, fifty-fifth session (2022)*. 2022.

¹³ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the forty-seventh session (E/CN.9/2014/7)*. 2014.

¹⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/50/124)*. 1996. p. 4.

¹⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994; United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* p. 5.

¹⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *How We Work*. 2022; United Nations Population Fund. *International Conference on Population and Development Principle of the ICPD*. 2022.

¹⁸ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *The UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025*. 2021. p. 23.

¹⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/122)*. 2014. p. 20.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p. 20.

done in this timespan and thereby get a good understanding of how CPD works to achieve its mandate.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d. Retrieved 4 September 2022 from:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/CPD>

This webpage provides a clear overview of the Commission's mandate, main functions, and membership. It can also direct delegates to other relevant sources, such as previous CPD sessions, resolutions, and decisions. Delegates will find this page useful because it provides a short and comprehensive introduction of CPD, thereby serving as the ideal starting point to their research on the Commission.

United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994. Retrieved 4 September 2022 from:

<http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/49/128>

The resolution documents the updated mandate and new name of CPD. The adoption of the ICPD PoA led to the expansion of CPD's mandate to monitor, review, and assess its implementation. This resolution allows delegates to gain a clear understanding of CPD's mandate and history. Moreover, this document also discusses the role of Member States in supporting the implementation of PoA at a national level.

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United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development, fifty-fifth session (2022)*. 2022. Retrieved 4 September 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD55>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Resolution 3 (III) Population Commission (E/RES/3 (III))*. 1946. Retrieved 4 September 2022 from: [http://undocs.org/en/E/RES/3%20\(III\)](http://undocs.org/en/E/RES/3%20(III))

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1. Population, Food Security, Nutrition, and COVID-19

Introduction

Food security and nutrition are crucial to the health of all people, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant challenge to the well-being of the international community.²¹ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) highlighted the impacts that environmental, social, and economic factors have on sustainable food systems and food security.²² In this context, food systems are defined as systems that consider all elements of food that relate to “the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food.”²³ Food security is generally established as a “situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”²⁴ The World Health Organization (WHO) defines malnutrition as the surplus or deficiency of nutrient intake.²⁵

Food insecurity and malnutrition have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and disproportionately affect already vulnerable groups, such as women and children.²⁶ As of 2021, 4.5 billion people depend on food systems for their livelihoods and, as reported by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General to the Commission on Population and Development’s (CPD) fifty-fourth session, the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating pre-existing challenges to food systems, including access to adequate nutrition and the development of resilient food systems.²⁷

CPD is the main intergovernmental body tasked with monitoring and reporting on population and development issues as well as the implementation of the *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994) (PoA)*.²⁸ In order to achieve the goals set forth in the PoA, CPD focuses its efforts on establishing policy guidance for resilient food systems and addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthy diets and nutrition for healthy populations.²⁹

International and Regional Framework

The right to food is rooted in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948)* and in Article 11 of the 1966 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*.³⁰ *General Comment 12: The Right to Adequate Food (1999)* expanded on the ICESCR’s definition and established a detailed understanding of multiple facets of food security, including access, sustainability, and monitoring.³¹ Further solidifying the right to food, the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger*

²¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2)*. 2021. p. 2.

²² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Food Systems*. 2022.

²³ United Nations, High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. *Nutrition and food systems*. 2017. p. 11.

²⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy diets More Affordable*. 2022. p. 228.

²⁵ World Health Organization. *Malnutrition*. 2022.

²⁶ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/6)*. 2021. p. 7.

²⁷ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2)*. 2021. p. 2.

²⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. 2022.

²⁹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/6)*. 2021.

³⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948; United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966.

³¹ United Nations, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. *General Comment No. 12: The Right to Adequate Food (Art. 11)*. 1999.

and Malnutrition (1974) marked a global shift towards an increased focus on proper nutrition, thereby incorporating nutrition into the right to food.³² In 1996, FAO convened the World Food Summit and introduced the landmark *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, including the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*, which details 62 objectives to protect the right to food and serves as the first food-specific call to action for Member States, the private sector, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).³³

The PoA is central to the mandate of CPD and serves as its principal framework.³⁴ It provides a comprehensive overview of population issues and challenges and outlines key policy objectives and actions to guide the work of CPD.³⁵ Principle two acknowledges that humans are the most important resource to a state and, to fulfill their potential, the right to adequate food must be respected.³⁶ Chapters three and four respectively emphasize the importance of nutrition for economic and population growth and demonstrate that nutrition is connected to sustainable population development.³⁷ The PoA also discusses gender equality and the empowerment of women, directly linking proper nutrition to the creation of equitable populations.³⁸ Continuing the focus on development, chapter eight expands on the need to enhance information on health and nutrition, thereby establishing the importance of health resilience.³⁹ Thus, the PoA guides the work of CPD in matters related to the right to food and nutrition.⁴⁰ Building off the PoA, General Assembly resolution S-21/2 on “Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development” highlights that, among others, strengthening food and nutrition remain key action items for the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.⁴¹

In 2014, the 65th World Health Assembly of WHO endorsed six global nutrition targets, which identify priority areas that form the basis for much of the reporting and tracking related to nutrition.⁴² By 2025, these goals aim to reduce anemia in women of reproductive age by 50%, reduce low birthweight by 30%, increase exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months by 50%, ensure there is no increase in childhood obesity, and reduce other symptoms of malnutrition, including stunting and wasting in children.⁴³ The *Rome Declaration on Nutrition* (Rome Declaration), adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014, reaffirmed Member States’ commitment to the full eradication of malnutrition in all its forms and endorsed the six global nutrition targets.⁴⁴ Additionally, the Rome Declaration introduced the *Rome Framework for Action* (2014), a comprehensive program with guidelines to monitor progress and ensure accountability in meeting the global nutrition targets.⁴⁵

In addition to the global nutrition targets, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) function as the UN system’s primary framework for development.⁴⁶ Specifically, SDG 2 (zero hunger) aims to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”⁴⁷ Also related to food

³² United Nations, World Food Conference. *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*. 1974.

³³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *World Food Summit*. 1996.

³⁴ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.* p. 11.

³⁷ *Ibid.* pp. 16-56.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.* pp. 78-90.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/S-21/2)*. 1999. p. 6.

⁴² World Health Organization. *Global nutrition targets 2025: policy brief series (WHO/NMH/NHD/14.2)*. 2014.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ United Nations, Second International Conference on Nutrition. *Conference Outcome Document: Rome Declaration on Nutrition (ICN2 2014/2)*. 2014.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.* p. 6.

⁴⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.* p. 15.

nutrition are SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).⁴⁸ The 2015 *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Sendai Framework) and the 2016 *New Urban Agenda*, which respectively identify food security and nutrition as key elements in disaster risk reduction and the establishment of resilient populations, reinforce the connection between resilient populations and the right to food.⁴⁹

Role of the International System

As CPD is mandated to provide policy guidance on population and development, and proper access to nutritious food affects all populations, CPD's work is closely linked to food security and nutrition.⁵⁰ The special theme of the 54th session of CPD in 2021 centered around "population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development" within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵¹ At this session, CPD adopted resolution 2021/1 on "Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development," which reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to the PoA while emphasizing the promotion of sustainable food systems.⁵² The report of the Secretary-General to the 54th session on *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development* (E/CN.9/2021/2) presents analyses of food systems in global changing populations, health and dietary patterns, agricultural transformation and development, and the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition.⁵³ In addition, the report provides 15 detailed conclusions and recommendations on the state of food, including the promotion of healthy diets and the strengthening of food system resilience.⁵⁴

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) hosts the Population Division, which supports the work of CPD.⁵⁵ In 2021, the Population Division published its flagship report *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*.⁵⁶ This report showcases the most recent work completed by the Population Division and reflects on the state of populations globally, including chapter 11, which focuses on "hunger, food security, and nutrition."⁵⁷ In addition, the report details the detrimental impact of COVID-19 on population health and food systems, particularly among vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.⁵⁸ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly adopted resolution 74/306 on "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic" in 2020.⁵⁹ In this resolution, the General Assembly emphasizes the importance of Member State action to continue protecting global agricultural supply chains, minimize food waste, and ensure food security.⁶⁰

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit presented detailed national action plans, also referred to as national pathways, to deliver on all SDGs towards "healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems" by 2030.⁶¹ In addition, General Assembly resolution 70/259 on the "United Nations Decade of Action on

⁴⁸ Ibid. pp. 16-23.

⁴⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016; United Nations, General Assembly. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (A/RES/69/283)*. 2015. pp. 8-15.

⁵⁰ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. 2022.

⁵¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/6)*. 2021.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2)*. 2021.

⁵⁴ Ibid. pp. 19-21.

⁵⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Population Division*. 2022.

⁵⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021.

⁵⁷ Ibid. p. 5.

⁵⁸ Ibid. p. 5.

⁵⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (A/RES/74/306)*. 2020.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *About the Summit*. 2021.

Nutrition (2016-2025),” was reaffirmed in the Food Systems Summit.⁶² Several UN bodies are responsible for the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, and as such, perform important roles within the context of populations, nutrition, food security, and COVID-19.⁶³ These include FAO in its function as the primary UN specialized agency that leads global efforts to eradicate hunger, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in its work to increase agricultural resilience in rural populations, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in its work to eradicate child hunger and ensure food security for all youth, and WHO in its work to protect the well-being and health of all people everywhere.⁶⁴ UN Nutrition, which was established in 2020 from the merging of both the UN network of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition, now functions as the single mechanism for coordinating UN efforts on nutrition at national and international levels.⁶⁵ Additionally, the World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization assisting communities in building food resilience and improving nutrition, specifically in cases of emergency food delivery and development aid.⁶⁶

Supported by FAO, IFAD and WFP, the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) functions as the “foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to ensure food security and nutrition for all.”⁶⁷ CFS’s *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition* (VGFSyN) (2021) function as a tool for governments and other stakeholders to create adequate policies and strategies that assist in addressing food insecurity and nutrition.⁶⁸ Additionally, partners such as CSOs and private sector entities play an important role in shaping access to nutrition across populations globally, and if tools such as the VGFSyN are utilized, these entities can work to deliver healthy diets through sustainable food systems.⁶⁹

The Impact of COVID-19 on Access to Healthy Diets

The 2022 *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF, and WHO estimates that over 3.1 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet with adequate nutrition.⁷⁰ Populations are struggling with the multifaceted burdens of malnutrition including: undernutrition, obesity, and noncommunicable diseases.⁷¹ Malnutrition in all its forms is a world health crisis, with 2.2 billion adults being overweight and 45.4 million children being underweight, causing an increase in diet-related, noncommunicable diseases.⁷² Noncommunicable diseases are defined by the WHO as chronic diseases caused by a combination of factors including genetics and poor nutrition.⁷³ In 2019, 29.9% of women globally suffered from anemia, exacerbated by malnutrition.⁷⁴ As of 2021, poor nutrition was responsible for more adult deaths than tobacco use, causing cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and certain type of

⁶² Ibid.; United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)* (A/RES/70/259). 2016. p. 14.

⁶³ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *About the Summit*. 2021; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Food Security and Nutrition - A Global Issue*. 2022.

⁶⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *About FAO*. 2022; United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development. *About Us*. 2022; United Nations Children’s Fund. *Nutrition: Good nutrition is the bedrock of child survival and development*. 2022; World Health Organization. *About WHO*. 2022.

⁶⁵ United Nations, UN Nutrition. *About UN Nutrition*. 2022.

⁶⁶ United Nations, World Food Programme. *Mission*. 2022.

⁶⁷ United Nations, Committee on World Food Security. *Committee on World Food Security*. 2022.

⁶⁸ United Nations, Committee on World Food Security. *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*. 2021; World Health Organization. *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*. 2022.

⁶⁹ United Nations, Secretary-General. *Secretary-General’s Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit*. 2021.

⁷⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy diets More Affordable*. 2022. p. 50.

⁷¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2)*. 2021. p. 2.

⁷² Global Nutrition Report. *Global Nutrition Report: The state of global nutrition, Executive Summary*. 2021. p. 3.

⁷³ World Health Organization. *Noncommunicable diseases*. 2021.

⁷⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy diets More Affordable*. 2022. p. 69.

cancer.⁷⁵ FAO estimated in 2020 that 20% of all children under five had impaired growth and development as a result of undernourishment or malnourishment, and a further 6.7% were classified as having severe weight loss due to extreme malnutrition.⁷⁶ While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have yet to be fully realized, its impact on the availability of healthy diets and adequate nutrition will continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable populations the most.⁷⁷

Though not all data from the COVID-19 pandemic has been gathered, FAO predicts that in 2022 alone, between 3.4 and 4.5 million more children may be under developed as a result of the pandemic and other sociopolitical factors, including the war in Ukraine.⁷⁸ Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increases in food prices as well as reductions in income, both of which significantly restrict access to healthy and nutritious food, particularly for populations with limited socioeconomic means.⁷⁹ According to FAO the cost of a healthy diet increased by 11% from December 2020 to December 2021, and is expected to experience a similar increase in 2022.⁸⁰ Due to increasing economic hurdles, progress on SDG 2 remains challenging, and estimates on progress towards the global nutrition targets do not yet account for the full impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on nutrition and availability of nutritious food.⁸¹ Furthermore, the 2022 *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report estimates that 670 million people, or 8% of the world's population, will still be undernourished by the end of 2030, which is nearly equal to the amount of people suffering from hunger in 2015.⁸²

The Sendai Framework recommends protections for food security, low food costs, and healthy nutritious diets be included in policy development in global and regional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction.⁸³ Without the implementation of policies that will help lower the cost of nutritious food and improve its accessibility, many of the catalysts of malnutrition will remain in effect post-COVID-19.⁸⁴ Additionally, further challenges to the achievement of access to healthy diets remain, including climate change, economic shock, the war in Ukraine, and inflation, which slow down or revert progress in achieving SDG 2 and implementing the PoA.⁸⁵

Creating Resilience in Food Systems

According to the Secretary-General's report on the *Flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development* (E/CN.9/2021/4), during the COVID-19 pandemic, food production decreased as a result of supply chain disruptions, including lack of access to seeds and fertilizer.⁸⁶ This has led to degradation of sustainable practices in agriculture, production, and consumption of food, which has increased the cost of food and lead to an increase in food insecurity.⁸⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted global food systems, and has highlighted the weakness of international food systems when exposed to unexpected natural or

⁷⁵ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session* (E/CN.9/2021/6). 2021. p. 7.

⁷⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy diets More Affordable*. 2022. p. 69.

⁷⁷ Ibid. p. xvii.

⁷⁸ Ibid. p. 36.

⁷⁹ Ibid. p. 53.

⁸⁰ Ibid. p. 53.

⁸¹ Ibid. p. 129.

⁸² Ibid. p. 36.

⁸³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* (A/RES/69/283). 2015. p. 13.

⁸⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy diets More Affordable*. 2022. p. 157.

⁸⁵ Ibid. p. 157.

⁸⁶ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *General Flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: Report of the Secretary-General* (E/CN.9/2021/4). 2021. p. 12.

⁸⁷ Ibid. p. 12.

sociopolitical shocks.⁸⁸ Indeed, the reliance on Ukrainian and Russian exports of wheat has caused supply chains in countries dependent on these exports to collapse as supplies have been disrupted due to the ongoing conflict.⁸⁹ Likewise, climate change has had an adverse impact on food security and nutrition due to shocks on food supply, with the latest example being the flooding in Pakistan, where two million acres of crops were affected and 800,000 farm animals were lost.⁹⁰ Sociopolitical issues and natural disasters in other Member States demonstrate that a lack of resilience in global food systems can have negative effects on food security and nutrition for populations.⁹¹ In this context, resilience is the ability of a system to evolve, adapt, and recover from the effects of both unforeseen and anticipated hazards.⁹²

With the global population expected to double by 2050, the *New Urban Agenda* outlines goals to sustainably develop food systems and strengthen coordinated food policies.⁹³ As the population grows, developing resilient food systems and policies is important.⁹⁴ In 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 74/2 on the “Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,” which emphasizes that diverse and resilient nutrition-sensitive food systems promote food security and adequate nutrition, and are required for healthy populations to thrive, specifically in regions experiencing growth in population.⁹⁵ The Secretary-General’s report on *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development* (E/CN.9/2021/2) emphasizes that the interactions between economic, social, and environmental impacts need to be considered in order to develop a sustainable food system.⁹⁶ In its 2021 resolution on “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development,” CPD recommends that food systems be coordinated, diversified and flexible to meet the needs of both high-income and low-income countries.⁹⁷

CPD emphasizes that improving the adaptive capacity of food systems through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices will create resiliency during difficult economic hardships, including conflict, and climate change.⁹⁸ Improving resiliency within food systems would ensure agriculture supply chains are functioning to support workers, fishers and farmers, including smallholder farmers.⁹⁹ Incorporating sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture into existing food systems would minimize the loss of livelihoods, minimize increasing food prices, and provide adequate nutrition to vulnerable populations.¹⁰⁰

⁸⁸ Cullen. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Threats to Food Security: Pandemic, Climate, War, and....* 2022. p. 7.

⁸⁹ Ibid. p. 7.

⁹⁰ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Pakistan: WFP working to expand food aid as deadly flooding continues.* 2022.

⁹¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2).* 2021. pp. 20-21.

⁹² United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. *Resilience.* 2020.

⁹³ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256).* 2016. pp. 11-22.

⁹⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (A/RES/69/283).* 2015. p. 2.

⁹⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage (A/RES/74/2).* 2019. p. 4.

⁹⁶ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2).* 2021. p. 9.

⁹⁷ Ibid. p. 20.

⁹⁸ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/6).* 2021. p. 6.

⁹⁹ Ibid. p. 7.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid. p. 18.

Conclusion

Food security and proper nutrition are critical to achieving the principles and objectives outlined in the PoA.¹⁰¹ CPD addresses the challenges of malnutrition in all its forms and food insecurity, particularly as they relate to population and development.¹⁰² The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt agricultural practices, global supply chains, and food availability, exposing the fragility of food systems to unexpected shocks.¹⁰³

Further Research

Moving forward, delegates should keep in mind the following questions: How are Member States progressing on nutrition-related objectives and goals of the PoA? How can the international community and CSOs help achieve nutrition-related goals of the PoA? How can CPD's policy guidance on population and development areas be leveraged to protect food security? How can we build resilient food systems to ensure proper nutrition is not negatively impacted, as it was by the COVID-19 pandemic?

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2022. Retrieved 30 July 2022 from: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0639en/cc0639en.pdf>

This report series is annually published by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and WHO. It provides recent data and analysis regarding current nutrition and food security trends. Delegates should look to this report to understand the current challenges faced by populations regarding food security and nutrition. This report also highlights policy recommendations for addressing the most current obstacles to food security and adequate nutrition faced by global populations, in particular through the adjusting agricultural and food policies for more affordable healthy diets.

United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *General Flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/4)*. 2021. Retrieved 17 June 2022 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2021/4>

This report of the Secretary-General was presented to the 54th session of CPD in 2021. It discusses the current financial resources designated for the implementation of the PoA. Furthermore, it highlights the shortcomings of the current financial distribution to adequately pursue sustainable development. Delegates should look to this report to develop a deeper understanding of the current financial situation and recommendations for the development of sustainable and resilient food systems.

United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/2)*. 2021. Retrieved 17 June 2022 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2021/2>

This report of the Secretary-General was also presented to the 54th session of CPD. It provides an update of the 2020 report of the same title to integrate the developments of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on food systems into the findings. The report therefore discusses the interaction between population, food systems

¹⁰¹ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014.

¹⁰² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*. 2022.

¹⁰³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (A/RES/74/306)*. 2020; United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *General Flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2021/4)*. 2021. pp. 3-18.

and livelihoods and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on them. Delegates should consider this report to understand the current challenges and recommendations regarding population, food systems, and food security.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. Retrieved 25 June 2022 from:

https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesapd_2022_global_population_growth.pdf

This report by the Population Division of UN DESA provides recent statistics on population growth. It includes four principal sections that detail the drivers of population growth, socioeconomic causes, and consequences and impacts of such growth, including the impact on food systems. Of importance, delegates will notice that Chapter 11 and Chapter 18 both relate directly to food security and food nutrition, and as such, may use this resource to view the current state of the world and the most pressing challenges in these areas. Additionally, this report contains various sections detailing population-related subjects that may aid in completing a full perspective of a given Member State's position on this topic.

United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014. Retrieved 1 August 2022 from:

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/programme_of_action_Web%20ENGLISH.pdf

The PoA is the outcome document of the International Conference on Population and Development, serving as the international guiding framework for people-centered development progress. The report contains key challenges, objectives, and action items for 10 thematic areas, ranging from population growth to international migration. Of particular importance to the topic at hand are chapters VI and VIII, which elaborate on nutrition and food security. Delegates should use this document as the basis to understand CPD's priorities, and how these relate to their respective Member States.

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2. Ensuring Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services

Introduction

The protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is a vital part of comprehensive health-care coverage and encompasses the physical, mental, and social well-being of all things related to the reproductive system.¹⁰⁴ Sexual and reproductive health intersects with multiple aspects of human rights, including the right to life, the right to health-care services, and the ability to access education around making vital health-care decisions.¹⁰⁵ The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) also highlights the importance of one's ability to make informed decisions about sexual health, and the choice to decide one's reproductive future.¹⁰⁶ According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), reproductive health can be defined as "a state of well-being related to one's sexual and reproductive life."¹⁰⁷

Services associated with sexual and reproductive health-care include family planning and contraceptives, information and education, counselling, medication for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and interventions and support for cases of sexual and gender-based violence.¹⁰⁸ Access to sexual and reproductive education is generally on the rise.¹⁰⁹ However, according to UNFPA, approximately 40% of states have policy or health-care frameworks that disallow patients, especially women, the ability to autonomously make decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.¹¹⁰ Additionally, UNFPA notes that national funding is consistently lower than what is needed to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care or is inconsistently coordinated across different national and international organizations.¹¹¹

In order to uphold SRHR, CPD has suggested a comprehensive approach that calls for a definition of sexual and reproductive health rights, an assurance of quality care, interventions through the life cycle of a person, and accountability to ensure these approaches are met.¹¹² In order to achieve this comprehensive approach, UNFPA has suggested engaging with stakeholders who are both in and out of the health-care sector; identifying the unique needs of patients based on their location; and prioritizing progressive medical interventions in the health-care system to ensure SRHR.¹¹³

International and Regional Framework

Article one of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) states that all human beings are entitled to equality and dignity in their rights.¹¹⁴ The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) also establishes that all persons should have a right to a standard of living with accessibility to health, medical care, and social services as needed.¹¹⁵ The *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, continued to advance the rights of women, especially in the areas of

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An essential element of universal health coverage*. 2019. p. 3; United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 2022.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 2022.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *Frequently Asked Questions*. 2022.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An essential element of universal health coverage*. 2019. pp. 7, 10, 13.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations Population Fund. *Staggering numbers of women unable to exercise decision-making over their own bodies, new UNFPA report shows*. 2020.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An essential element of universal health coverage*. 2019. pp. 3, 29.

¹¹² Ibid. p. 3.

¹¹³ Ibid. p. 3.

¹¹⁴ United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945.

¹¹⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

reproductive health-care and services.¹¹⁶ Articles 10 and 14 of CEDAW specifically call for women to be provided access to educational information to ensure their health and well-being, as well as information and services related to family planning.¹¹⁷ The General Assembly adopted the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* in 1993, which defined gender-based violence and calls upon Member States to condemn and eliminate violence against women that may result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm.¹¹⁸ Additionally, in 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women stated unequivocally that women’s rights are human rights in its outcome document, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995).¹¹⁹

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the largest intergovernmental conference addressing SRHR, was established in 1989 by the adoption of ECOSOC resolution 1989/91 on “Convening of an international meeting on population in 1994.”¹²⁰ It was here that the *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development* (PoA) was adopted, which placed a heavy emphasis on the intersectionality between population and development, while also aiming to focus on the needs of individuals within the framework of human rights.¹²¹ The themes outlined within the ICPD include adolescents and youth, fertility, marriage, mortality, and population policies.¹²² The themes of ICPD included addressing issues around gender equality, women’s empowerment, reproductive health, family planning and the right to life.¹²³ The PoA presented recommendations to the international community regarding population and development benchmarks.¹²⁴ Among its many objectives was the provision of universal access to reproductive health services, including family planning and sexual health.¹²⁵ The recommendations outlined in the PoA continue to be a catalyst for the work towards enhancing the accessibility of SRHR services, including the accessibility of information, tracking of progress of implementation of services, and emphasis on the importance of collaboration both in the public and private sector.¹²⁶ The PoA also laid out the expectations that its goals would maintain respect towards all religions, ethical values, and cultural backgrounds.¹²⁷

With the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sexual and reproductive health-care continue to be a priority for the international community.¹²⁸ Both SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 5 (gender equality) emphasize the importance of sexual and reproductive health.¹²⁹ Specifically, target 5.6 calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive rights, as outlined by the PoA and the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.¹³⁰ Target 3.7 outlines the need for all to be able to access the specific sexual and reproductive

¹¹⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*. 1979.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104)*. 1993. pp. 3-4.

¹¹⁹ United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. 1995.

¹²⁰ International Institute for Sustainable Development. *Summary report, 10-21 May 1993: 2nd Session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee*. 2021.

¹²¹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *International Conference on Population and Development, 5-13 September 1994, Cairo, Egypt*. n.d.

¹²² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Themes*. 2022.

¹²³ International Institute for Sustainable Development. *Summary report, 10-21 May 1993: 2nd Session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee*. 2021.

¹²⁴ International Conference on Population and Development. *Programme of Action*. 1994. p. 5.

¹²⁵ Ibid. p. 6.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid. p. 7.

¹²⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Family Planning and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Data Booklet*. 2019.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ United Nations Population Fund. *Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights: Measuring SDG Target 5.6*. 2020.

health services.¹³¹ This target includes “access to family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.”¹³²

In 2019, the ICPD+25 Nairobi Summit conducted a 25-year review of the PoA and adopted the *Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage*, which was later adopted by the General Assembly.¹³³ The document was created to describe essential elements of an approach to sexual and reproductive rights, including accelerating efforts to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health-care, working to eliminate maternal and infant mortality, and ensuring investments for comprehensive sexual and reproductive education.¹³⁴ Furthermore, it also addressed how countries could move towards universal access to SRHR as it has been declared an essential part of universal health-care.¹³⁵

Role of the International System

CPD is the primary intergovernmental policy-making body tasked with consideration of population and development issues, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care.¹³⁶ It is tasked with the implementation, monitoring, review, and assessment of the PoA.¹³⁷ In doing so, it will often request the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs’ (UN DESA) Population Division to conduct studies and produce reports on topics involving fertility, contraception, STIs and other components of SRHR.¹³⁸ This includes an annual *World Family Planning* report that outlines overarching trends, successes, and challenges in ensuring access to universal family planning services and progress towards the associated commitments of the PoA.¹³⁹ CPD has acknowledged that sexual and reproductive health-care is essential to achieving global, regional, and national endeavors towards sustainability and achieving the SDGs.¹⁴⁰ At its most recent session in 2022, CPD called for Member States to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, such as family planning education and information.¹⁴¹

UNFPA is the United Nations (UN) agency centered on sexual and reproductive health, with a focus on maternal health, healthy child births, and the fulfillment of every person’s potential.¹⁴² Although it does not directly report to CPD, both receive policy direction from ECOSOC (UNFPA also reports to the General Assembly), although UNFPA’s work is generally more program-based and operational.¹⁴³ UNFPA supports women and reproductive health programs in 150 countries and funds programs that provide contraceptives to 20 million women per year and trains thousands of health-care workers.¹⁴⁴ UNFPA’s Supplies Partnership supplies women and men in the least developed countries with modern contraceptive methods and maternal health medicines.¹⁴⁵ The main aim of the UNFPA’s work is to

¹³¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Family Planning and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Data Booklet*. 2019.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An essential element of universal health coverage*. 2019.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development*. 2020.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Publications*. 2022.

¹³⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *World Family Planning 2020 Highlights: Accelerating action to ensure universal access to family planning*. 2020.

¹⁴⁰ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.5)*. 2021.

¹⁴¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/6)*. 2021. p. 18.

¹⁴² United Nations Population Fund. *About us*. 2022.

¹⁴³ United Nations Population Fund. *UNFPA in the UN system*. 2022.

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Population Fund. *About us*. 2022.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations Population Fund. *UNFPA Supplies Partnership*. 2021.

educate people from youth into adulthood on safe sexual and childbearing practices to ensure the safety of women and girls from STIs, unwanted pregnancies, and the prevention of unnecessary harm.¹⁴⁶

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the leading specialized agency for global health issues across a large number of areas.¹⁴⁷ WHO addresses all matters of sexual and reproductive health issues, including ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention, and gender-sensitive health-care responses.¹⁴⁸ In its *Thirteenth General Programme of Work* (2019), WHO commits to working towards the provision of universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services such as educational programs and family planning strategies.¹⁴⁹ WHO has been a consistent advocate for access to family planning products and initiatives and has called for access to safe abortion practices.¹⁵⁰ WHO has published guidelines on abortion care, the most recent being published in 2022, which includes recommendations and best practices across areas essential to abortion care such as law and policy, clinical services, and service delivery.¹⁵¹ WHO also outlines plans for women interested in family planning, which includes providing safe and modern contraceptives, but has faced a slow reach for this goal due to limited access to services and opposition due to religion or societal bias.¹⁵² A 2018 handbook published by WHO recommends that sexual and reproductive health-care and education begin for girls at an early age and continue throughout life, including through traditional contraceptive methods and contraceptive implants and injections.¹⁵³

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is the leading UN entity committed to ending HIV/AIDS.¹⁵⁴ UNAIDS has labelled HIV/AIDS as a public health threat and aims to end transmission by 2030 as part of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁵⁵ UNAIDS was established in 1996 to help contain and prevent the spread of AIDS with the goal of eradication.¹⁵⁶ As of 2020, it was estimated that 7 million people live with HIV.¹⁵⁷ UNAIDS works on providing the education and resources people need in order to prevent HIV transmissions and the conditions that lead to the development of AIDS.¹⁵⁸

CPD works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to gain perspectives from various cause-based groups.¹⁵⁹ During sessions addressing topics related to CPD's mandate, NGOs are allowed to interject their opinions or proposals during sessions.¹⁶⁰ They are also allowed to observe the work of CPD during sessions and assemblies.¹⁶¹ Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is an NGO that works to provide medical aid to those in war zones as well as developing nations.¹⁶² One of the many areas they address is safe access to abortions, especially in the developing world.¹⁶³ Their research has found that 25 million unsafe abortions are performed each year, with 97% of them taking place in developing countries.¹⁶⁴

¹⁴⁶ United Nations Population Fund. *About us*. 2022.

¹⁴⁷ World Health Organization. *Our Work*. 2022.

¹⁴⁸ World Health Organization. *HIV/ AIDS*. 2022; World Health Organization. *Gender and Health*. 2022.

¹⁴⁹ World Health Organization. *Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019-2023*. 2019. p. 14.

¹⁵⁰ World Health Organization. *Abortion*. 2022.

¹⁵¹ World Health Organization. *Abortion Care Guideline*. 2022.

¹⁵² World Health Organization. *Family Planning/Contraception Methods*. 2020.

¹⁵³ World Health Organization. *Family Planning - A Global Handbook for Providers*. 2018. p. vi.

¹⁵⁴ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. *About: Saving lives, leaving no one behind*. 2022.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. *Global HIV & AIDS Statistics – Fact sheet*. 2022.

¹⁵⁸ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. *HIV Prevention*. 2022.

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *CPD55 General Information for NGOs*. 2022.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² Doctors Without Borders. *Safe Abortion*. 2022.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

Access to Contraceptives and Family Planning Services

Contraceptive medicines are the most common method of family planning.¹⁶⁵ Medical contraceptive methods include birth control pills, condoms, implants, emergency contraception, and consensual male and female sterilization.¹⁶⁶ Non-medical contraceptive methods include less effective techniques such as the withdrawal method and fertility awareness methods, wherein someone tracks their menstrual cycle to determine their most likely time for conception.¹⁶⁷

As outlined in the *World Family Planning 2020* report, global demand for contraceptives and family planning has increased.¹⁶⁸ The number of women using contraceptive methods has increased from 663 million to 851 million between 2000 and 2020, with this expected to increase further by 2030.¹⁶⁹ Nonetheless, WHO estimates that 214 million women of reproductive age in developing countries have no access to modern contraceptive methods, despite a high demand for such resources.¹⁷⁰ Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have particularly high levels of unmet needs for modern contraception.¹⁷¹ This can be due to long-term vulnerabilities in health-care systems, a lack of family planning education, lack of investment, or due to short-term factors such as occurrences of armed conflict.¹⁷²

Both contraceptives and abortions have been deemed essential to fulfilling the human rights of women and girls by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).¹⁷³ The importance of safe and legal abortions was emphasized by Member States at the ICPD, which recognized that unsafe abortions are a public health concern and agreed to commit to the reduction of the need for abortions through expanding and improving family planning services and outreach.¹⁷⁴ In 2020, WHO determined that abortion care is considered an essential care service and that the lack of access to safe, timely, and affordable abortion care is a public health and human rights issue.¹⁷⁵ A majority of Member States have laws that allow for abortions in certain situations, while a handful of countries have complete bans on abortions.¹⁷⁶ Nonetheless, WHO found that 45% of all abortions worldwide are unsafe, as they are performed in secret in unsanitary settings using unsafe practices.¹⁷⁷

Although the need for contraception and sexual well-being products has grown, funding for access to such products has instead decreased in recent years.¹⁷⁸ In 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee disbursed \$6.41 billion for SRHR.¹⁷⁹ This was a decrease of over \$1 billion between 2017 and 2018.¹⁸⁰ CPD continues to encourage Member

¹⁶⁵ World Health Organization. *Contraception*. 2022.

¹⁶⁶ World Health Organization. *Family planning/contraception methods*. 2020.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *World Family Planning 2020 Highlights: Accelerating action to ensure universal access to family planning*. 2020. p. 5.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.* p. 5.

¹⁷⁰ World Health Organization. *Contraception*. 2022; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Contraception and Family Planning*. 2020.

¹⁷¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *World Family Planning 2020 Highlights: Accelerating action to ensure universal access to family planning*. 2020. p. 16.

¹⁷² *Ibid.* pp. 16-20; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Contraception and Family Planning*. 2020.

¹⁷³ United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An Essential Element of Universal Health Coverage*. 2019.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ World Health Organization. *Abortion*. 2022.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ Ravelo. *ODA disbursements for SRHR dipped in 2019*. 2021.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

States to present solutions to their citizens that ensure fair access to health-care and education to ensure sexual well-being.¹⁸¹

Sexual Health-Care and STI Prevention

Sexual and reproductive health is related to multiple facets of human rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education, and the right to be free from discrimination.¹⁸² Improper access to sexual and reproductive health-care services can result in STIs, infertility, cancer, and death.¹⁸³ The rate of transmission of STIs, including HIV/AIDS, is increasing at an alarming rate among women and girls, especially in developing countries.¹⁸⁴ According to the OHCHR, since the start of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, around 77.3 million have contracted HIV.¹⁸⁵ Although AIDS-related deaths have decreased by more than 51% since its peak in 2004, more still needs to be done to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS.¹⁸⁶

Sexual health services related to HIV/AIDS are essential for both men and women in order to prevent their spread, as well as other STIs.¹⁸⁷ UNFPA has called for voluntary testing for HIV to be available to those who seek it as well as sexual education for both boys and girls.¹⁸⁸ Safe-sex practices such as the use of condoms to promote health and family planning practices are also encouraged to ensure low-transmission rates.¹⁸⁹ CPD has consistently addressed the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its effect on both women and men.¹⁹⁰ Previously, CPD has called for Member States to address the epidemic by strengthening health-care systems, providing universal health-care service, and providing education to groups most susceptible to contracting HIV/AIDS.¹⁹¹ CPD has also called for educational programs to share information on how to protect oneself and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.¹⁹²

As part of its *Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026* (2021), UNAIDS has highlighted the need to improve the collection and analysis of data to track funding and availability of services for HIV/AIDS treatment.¹⁹³ It highlights that without sufficiently mapping service gaps, it is difficult for the international community to understand where to target future improvements.¹⁹⁴ It also notes that one approach that has worked in recent years are community-based programs integrating people living with HIV into prevention programs.¹⁹⁵ These programs reduce inequalities among those suffering from HIV/AIDS.¹⁹⁶ WHO hopes that, by 2025, 60% of the programs that support social welfare programs for those affected by HIV/AIDS will be delivered by community-led organizations.¹⁹⁷

¹⁸¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Fertility, reproductive health and development (2011/1)*. 2011. p. 6.

¹⁸² United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An Essential Element of Universal Health Coverage*. 2019.

¹⁸³ World Health Organization. *Sexual Health*. 2022.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. 1994. p. 14.

¹⁸⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *HIV/AIDS and human rights*. 2022.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ United Nations Population Fund et al. *Reproductive Rights are Human Rights: A Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions*. 2014. p. 29.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid. p. 30.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid. p. 30.

¹⁹⁰ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty (E/CN.9/2005/L.4)*. 2005. p. 5.

¹⁹¹ Ibid. p. 5.

¹⁹² Ibid. p. 5.

¹⁹³ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. *Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026: End Inequalities. End AIDS*. 2021. p. 81.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid. p. 95.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid. p. 61.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid. p. 61.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid. p. 62.

Conclusion

The right to universal sexual and reproductive health-care services is essential to the promotion of human rights for individuals around the world.¹⁹⁸ CPD has emphasized the need enable the realization of SRHR by building and protecting services that promote good sexual and reproductive well-being.¹⁹⁹ CPD and the international community are working for universal access to sexual and reproductive education and services free of discrimination to uphold the human rights of all peoples.²⁰⁰

Further Research

Continuing their research on the topic, delegates should consider the following questions: What policies can Member States develop to address the overall accessibility of SRHR? What measures can be put into place to ensure accurate monitoring and data collection on access to sexual and reproductive health-care? Is the international community allocating sufficient funds to sexual and reproductive health-care? What further initiatives can be created to promote the importance of SRHR so all individuals have the proper and accurate information they need to make informed decisions? What more can be done to foster more partnerships between the public and private sector to increase resources among nations?

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This document provides an in-depth look at the ICPD and its conception. This source provides a brief history of the conference, mentions the preparations that went into its inaugural edition, the framework and how it was proposed, and the outcome of the conference. Delegates will be able to use this document to see where the conference and conversation around sexual reproductive health started and how it has transformed into meaningful work today in the UN system.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. *Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026: End Inequalities. End AIDS*. 2021. Retrieved 26 June 2022 from: https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/global-AIDS-strategy-2021-2026_en.pdf

This document is the official five-year strategy for UNAIDS and their response to the AIDS epidemic. The document addresses how AIDS can be combatted through lateral responses across societies and how UNAIDS' mission is being achieved through the SDGs. This document will be useful for delegates as it will give them a better understanding of the current threat of AIDS, the challenges involved in developing an international response, and how it interlinks with broader topics of sexual and reproductive well-being.

United Nations Population Fund. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An Essential Element of Universal Health Coverage*. 2019. Retrieved 6 August 2022 from: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UF_SupplementAndUniversalAccess_30-online.pdf

This document is a comprehensive look at the right to sexual well-being as part of UHC and how this approach can be implemented. Part of the report focuses on the SDGs and UHC, but also on the idea of approaches to sexual well-being and care for women and girls. Most importantly, this report highlights countries that have been able to implement these approaches and how they have succeeded, alongside the challenges they have faced. Delegates will find this report useful as it looks at the issue of reproductive health

¹⁹⁸ World Health Organization. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH)*. 2022.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

through the lens of UHC and establishes this kind of well-being as essential to human rights.

World Health Organization. *Abortion care guideline*. 2022. Retrieved 26 June 2022 from: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/349316/9789240039483-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

This report focuses on abortion care and best practices. In addition to this, the report also looks at the legality of abortions and the measures some states have taken to prevent abortions from taking place. Most importantly, this document will give delegates a better understanding of the issue of abortion and help them understand their delegation's position on the issue.

World Health Organization. *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH)*. 2022. Retrieved 7 August 2022 from: <https://www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research/key-areas-of-work/sexual-health/defining-sexual-health>

This source provides a breakdown of the definitions on sexual health, sex, sexuality, and sexual rights. It also provides a list of rights critical to sexual health, including the right to equality without discrimination, the right to information and education, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to marry and enter into marriage with free and full consent. This source breaks down the key conceptual elements in relation to sexual and reproductive health. WHO has highlighted the need of sexual health to be understood within multiple pillars: economic, political and social. Delegates will be able to use these definitions and key elements to guide their research on the topic and what platforms need to be adjusted or created to reflect the initial goals and proceedings of the fight to increase accessibility to universal SRHR to all.

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