



## UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD@25 **Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development**

Geneva, Palais des Nations, 1-2 October 2018  
Organized jointly by UNECE and UNFPA

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### BACKGROUND

In 2014, the international community reviewed progress on 20 years of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at national, regional and global levels. The regional reviews were led by the United Nations Regional Commissions in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Their outcomes contributed to the global review of the ICPD Beyond 2014, which took place at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and culminated in the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014.

In its Resolution 2014/1, the CPD emphasized that the outcome documents of the regional conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region. They requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations, to continue assessing and reporting on progress towards the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

In the UNECE region<sup>1</sup>, the ICPD beyond 2014 review concluded with the UNECE Regional Conference *Enabling choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century* (1-2 July 2013, Geneva). The UNECE regional report and the ICPD beyond 2014 Chair's summary, which was the unanimously agreed outcome of the Conference, outlined the main findings and recommendations for the way forward. Now, five years later, and within the context of the joint project *Enhanced integration of population dynamics into development planning: Follow-up to the ICPD in the UNECE region*, the UNECE Population Unit and UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office are working with member States, civil society partners and other stakeholders to assess progress made, identify challenges and gaps in implementation and prepare a regional report for the UNECE region on ICPD@25, based on the ICPD beyond 2014 Chair's summary and its monitoring framework.

The UNECE Regional Report on ICPD@25 will be launched at the **UNECE Regional Conference *Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development***, on 1-2 October 2018, which will conclude the five-year periodic assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> The UNECE region comprises 56 member States in Europe, North America and Asia: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan.

## CONFERENCE PURPOSE AND THEMES

Focusing on the ICPD beyond 2014 Chair's summary, and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Conference will contribute to the assessment of progress made in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action in the UNECE region. It will focus on key actions for implementation and address the wider policy concerns related to three main themes: **(i) population dynamics and sustainable development; (ii) families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course; and (iii) inequalities, social inclusion and rights.**

The Conference will bring together about 200-250 representatives of governmental authorities, including high-level officials, academia and civil society organizations, national coordinating bodies on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as members of national parliaments and other stakeholders.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

### 1. Assess progress and identify gaps in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

Informed by the UNECE Regional Report on ICPD@25, the Conference will highlight achievements, emerging issues and effective policies and programmes which provide the basis for scaling-up good practice across the region in relation to the themes of the ICPD beyond 2014 Chair's summary.

### 2. Strengthen the linkages between ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Demonstrate the synergies and contribution of the ICPD Programme of Action to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### 3. Reaffirm commitment to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action in the region

Advance the key actions outlined in the ICPD beyond 2014 Chair's summary and mobilize political support, expand partnerships and urge allocation of adequate resources at the national and regional levels.

## CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

The report of the Conference deliberations, Rapporteur's summary, "**Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development**", will be presented at the closing plenary session of the Conference and constitute the recommendations for follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014 Chair's summary. The Rapporteur's summary, together with the full proceedings of the Conference, will be published subsequently.

The UNECE Regional Report on ICPD@25 and the Rapporteur's summary will inform the global review of the ICPD, which will take place at the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2019.

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Participants / Official delegations

The UNECE member States are invited to send delegations of up to three persons, including the head of delegation. Members of national parliaments and representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) are expected to be considered for nomination as part of national delegations. You may also wish to consider the inclusion of SDG national coordinating bodies in the delegation to ensure strong synergies between the ICPD and SDG processes. UNFPA programme country delegations may receive some financial support to cover the costs of participating in the Conference – please contact the UNECE secretariat for details. Representatives from United Nations system agencies and delegates from other intergovernmental organizations, scientists and representatives of CSOs (apart from official members of country delegations) will participate as experts and/or observers to the Conference. All participants attending the Conference are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

### Registration

Member States are kindly requested to communicate to the UNECE secretariat the composition of their delegations and complete the registration forms by **5 September 2018**. The same registration deadline

applies to all participants in the Conference. The registration form is available at <http://www.unece.org/pau/icpd25>.

#### **Languages and interpretation services**

English, French, and Russian are the languages of the Conference. Statements made in any of these languages will be interpreted into the other two languages.

#### **Conference venue**

The Conference will take place in the Palais des Nations, Salle XVIII, Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **Calendar of preparatory events**

<b>Venue and date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sofia, Bulgaria 4-6 December 2017	SDGs for Young People, Young people for SDGs: Europe and Central Asia Regional Dialogue on ICPD and SDGs.
Geneva, Switzerland 13-14 December 2017 & 10 April 2018 (WEBEX)	Ad-hoc expert meetings on regional monitoring framework to review progress in the implementation of the Framework of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 in the UNECE region
Geneva, Switzerland 28 February 2018	CSO Briefing on ICPD@25 during Civil Society Consultation for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Minsk, Belarus 19 March 2018	Technical consultation on population dynamics and family policies in the UNECE region
Sofia, Bulgaria 15-16 April 2018	ICPD@25 Youth Consultation for Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Countries, back to back with the 2018 EU Youth Conference

#### **Contact details**

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For more information please visit <http://www.unece.org/pau/icpd25>