Draft Report of the Conference

Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich
Chief, Population Unit, UNECE
Participation

283 participants:

40 member State delegations
47 Civil Society Organizations
13 regional and international organizations
24 invited experts
The agenda of the conference was adopted and the following co-chairs of the conference were elected:

**H.E. Ms. Irina Kostevich**
Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus

**H.E. Ambassador Deyana Kostadinova**
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in Geneva

**H.E. Ambassador Rosemary McCarney**
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva
Structure of the Conference

The Conference deliberations were structured in the following sessions:

• ICPD 25 Years Later: Recommitting to the vision of Cairo

• Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development

• Families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course

• Inequalities, social inclusion and rights
Points to be included in the Conference Report

The Regional Report on ICPD+25 and the Monitoring Framework for the ICPD Programme of Action in the UNECE region were presented.

The Conference:

- expressed appreciation for the Regional Report and the Monitoring Framework noting their importance to furthering the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs.

- reaffirmed commitment to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Chair’s Summary

- stressed the centrality of the ICPD Programme of Action in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- called for the ICPD+25 review to inform the upcoming progress review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- emphasized the need to synchronize the ICPD and SDG reviews.
Points to be included in the Conference Report

- A multi-dimensional population framework with a focus on education and health can be effective for addressing population dynamics in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Addressing fertility concerns: more development does not always mean lower fertility – moving up on the human development index also means higher fertility levels – except in countries where gender norms don’t shift or shift too slowly

- Governments are increasing investments in family support, but that family policies are not always gender-sensitive, and haven’t always been adapted to changing family formation patterns

- Aggregate gains in the region in areas such as enhancing capabilities and realizing the potential of longevity and SRH outcomes mask significant inequalities, with many being left out and patterns of exclusion being different from country to country
Highlights of national progress

- Integration of population dynamics and sustainable development, including through the establishment of governing bodies and the production of evidence

- Ageing, including the development of a roadmap for mainstreaming ageing in policies and the production of evidence (Active Ageing Index)

- Rural development, including through strategies to preserve rural regions as attractive and vital living areas

- Reaping the potential benefits of the demographic dividend

- Availability of and accessibility to sexual and reproductive health services, including for youth and vulnerable populations, such as
  - Maternal and neo-natal health
  - Modern contraception, including emergency contraception
  - HIV and STI prevention and care
Highlights of progress (cont.)

- Gender equality, including through combatting sexual violence and increased commitments to ODA.

- Improve work and family life balance through giving mothers and fathers the opportunity to combine parental allowance and part-time work and expanding the number of day care centres.

- Family support, including by conducting data collection exercises to enhance the social inclusion of single-parent families, and providing social support to young families.

- Supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities, for example by promoting inclusive housing for elderly people with disabilities and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
Challenges to implementing ICPD PoA

- Insufficient financial and human resources.
- Difficult transitions from donor to domestic financing in the area of HIV.
- Inadequate multi-sectoral collaboration to address priorities in holistic way.
- Poor availability and use of data for policy making.
- Loss of human capital and its impacts on national development.
- Public acceptance towards minority groups (persons with disabilities) remains low.
- Mounting pressure against women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights.
Future priorities

- Population ageing and population shrinking.

- Conduct data collection to address demographic challenges based on human rights.

- Enhance individual choices in sexual and reproductive health and rights, by strengthening access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.

- Expand access to and improve the quality of comprehensive sexuality education.

- Expand HIV prevention and treatment efforts by increasing political commitments, allocating additional resources and involving civil society.

- Attention to the development of the family, and develop a system for statistics on the family.
Future priorities

- Guarantee the equality between men and women in all spheres of society.

- Address sexual violence against women and young people.

- Improve the targeting of vulnerable population groups

- Inclusive education, including special learning needs
Conference outcomes

Regional Report on ICPD+25
Rapporteur’s Summary of the Conference deliberations

Both will

- Feed into the Global Review of ICPD+25
- Inform 52nd session of CPD in April 2019