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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Five Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration  
Beirut, 30 October – 1 November 2018

**Agenda**

<b>Day 1: Tuesday 30 October 2018</b>	
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 - 9:45	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund</li> <li>- Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, League of Arab States</li> <li>- Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut</li> </ul>
9:45 - 10:45	<p><b>Launch of the “State of World Population (SWOP) 2018 Report” and Setting the Scene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the “State of World Population (SWOP) 2018 Report”                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director, UNFPA-ASRO, Cairo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Demographic Profile of the Arab Region: Trends and Prospects                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Abdellatif Lfarakh, Statistician, Demographer and a Freelance Consultant on Population Studies, Morocco</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regional Review Report on Progress in Implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration: Development Challenges and Population Dynamics in a Changing Arab World                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Hoda Rashad, Professor and Director, Social Research Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break

11:15 - 13:00	<p><b>Plenary session I</b></p> <p><b>Five Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration: Voluntary Reporting by Members States (A)</b></p> <p>This plenary session will provide Member States with the opportunity to reflect on the progress made since the adoption of the 2013 Cairo Declaration. Member States are invited to present on their national experiences, highlighting the challenges faced, success stories, existing and emerging priorities, and lessons learned. Member States that have opted to prepare a voluntary national report on reviewing the 2013 Cairo Declaration are encouraged to present the key findings and messages from their review.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Limiaa Abdelghafar Khalfalla, Secretary General, National Population Council, Sudan</p>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Hala Helmy El-Saied, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Mohammad Akram Al Kech, President, Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic</li> <li>- Ms. Abla Amawi, Secretary General, Higher Population Council, Jordan</li> <li>- Ms. Rafla Tej, Director-General, National Office of Family and Human Development, Ministry of Health, Tunisia</li> <li>- Mr. Mahmoud Ataya, General Director, Priorities Policy and Reform Unit, Office of the Prime Minister, Palestine</li> <li>- Ms. Aqood Hussein Salman, Director General, Executive Directorate for Population Policies, Iraq</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General discussion</b></p>
13:00 - 14:30	<p>Lunch</p>
14:30 - 16:00	<p><b>Plenary session II</b></p> <p><b>Five Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration: Voluntary Reporting by Members States (B)</b></p> <p>This plenary session will provide Member States with the opportunity to reflect on the progress made since the adoption of the 2013 Cairo Declaration. Member States are invited to present on their national experiences, highlighting the challenges faced, success stories, existing and emerging priorities, and lessons learned. Member States that have opted to prepare a voluntary national report on reviewing the 2013 Cairo Declaration are encouraged to present the key findings and messages from their review.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Mohammad Akram Al Kech, President, Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic</p>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Talal Al Rahbi, Deputy Secretary General, Supreme Council of Planning, Oman</li> <li>- Ms. Sumaia Mabrouk, Director General, Higher Population Council, Yemen</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Jamal Ait Mouha, Head, Department of Space Mobility of the Population, Center for Demographic Studies and Research, High Commission for Planning, Morocco</li> <li>- Ms. Elham Abdallah Mohammad, National Population Council, Sudan</li> <li>- Mr. Mohamed Teghre, Director of Strategies and Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mauritania</li> <li>- Mr. Idriss Ali Soultan, Director, Directorate of Statistics and Demographic Studies, Djibouti</li> </ul>
	<b>General discussion</b>
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 - 17:30	<p><b>Plenary session III</b></p> <p><b>Support to Member States in Implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration</b></p> <p>Participants will benefit from the presentations of ESCWA, UNFPA and LAS on their activities at the national and regional levels to support Member States in the area of population and development through building knowledge, enhancing capacity, and creating platforms for exchange and learning.</p>
	<b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, League of Arab States
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Dina Douay, Director, Population Studies and Research Department, League of Arab States</li> <li>- Ms. Hala Youssef, Policy and Data for Development Adviser, UNFPA- ASRO</li> <li>- Ms. Karima El Korri, Chief of the Population and Social Development Section and Head of the Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA, Beirut</li> </ul>
	<b>General discussion</b>
<b>Day 2: Wednesday 31 October 2018</b>	
9:00 - 10:30	<p><b>Plenary session IV</b></p> <p><b>High Level Panel on Population Policies and Development Planning in the Arab Region: Trends and National Responses</b></p> <p>Countries today recognize the population and development nexus and are aware of the interlinkage and mutual impact of population patterns and trends and levels of socio-economic development. As a result, several countries across the region have adopted population policies and streamlined population realities and priorities in development planning. This high-level panel reflects on some experiences across the region in developing population policies, the challenges faced in terms of policy coherence and integration, and the success factors behind the full integration of population issues in development planning.</p>
	<b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Bassam Abou Zeid, President of the Press Club, Lebanon

	<p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesis Report on Population Policies in the Arab World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Maha El-Rabbat, Professor of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University and Executive Director, MENA Health Policy Forum, Egypt</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Hala Helmy El-Saied, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Ziad Obeidat, Secretary General, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Mohammad Akram Al Kech, President, Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General discussion</b></p>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	<p><b>Plenary session V</b></p> <p><b>Synergies and Interlinkages between 2013 Cairo Declaration and 2030 Agenda</b></p> <p>The ICPD presented a paradigm shift that put people at the heart of development and reflected a global commitment to individual dignity and human rights as a basis for ensuring a resilient and sustainable future. This shift was further consolidated with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. This plenary session will focus on enhancing participants' understanding of the nexus of population and sustainable development through providing evidence on the close linkages between the Arab regional framework on population and development as laid out in the 2013 Cairo Declaration and the 2030 Agenda as the universal sustainable development framework. The discussion will focus on the converging objectives of the two frameworks towards ensuring sustainable development and the fulfilment of human rights for all; the cross-cutting priorities across the two frameworks; and implications for implementation and follow up and review.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Amal Al-Mannai, Chief Executive Officer, Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Qatar</p>
	<p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. François Farah, Population and Development Expert, Lebanon</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Limiaa Abdelghafar Khalfalla, Secretary General, National Population Council, Sudan</li> <li>- Ms. Fatma Bouhamed, Population and Development Portfolio Manager, General Authority for Sectoral and Regional Development, Tunisia</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General discussion</b></p>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<p><b>Plenary session VI</b></p> <p><b>Ensuring a Life of Dignity for All: Empowering Priority Socio-Demographic Groups</b></p>

	<p>The ICDP and the 2030 Agenda converge on a basic principle: a life with dignity for all. Adopting an inclusive approach to governance that strengthens the autonomy of various population groups including the most vulnerable, promotes their political and socio-economic engagement, respects their rights, and guarantees their access to basic services is a pre-condition for ensuring that “no one is left behind” and achieving sustainable development. The 2013 Cairo Declaration identified several priority socio-demographic groups including women, youth, older persons, and persons with disability. This session will ask what still needs to change for the region to capitalize on its biggest resource for development: its human capital. It mirrors the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and ICPD focusing on the interconnectedness of the different population groups and issues. As such, the panelists will draw the attention to the reality of the population groups, highlight selected policy interventions, and discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities for providing an enabling and empowering environment for all.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Mustafa Barghouti, President, Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Palestine</p>
	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Khaled Louhichi, Population and Development Expert, Tunisia</li> <li>- Mr. Mahmoud Nabulsi, Civil Society Team Manager, West Asia-North Africa Institute, Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Mohammed Loutfi, Executive Director, Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/DPI Regional Office, Lebanon</li> <li>- Ms. Sahar Qawasmy, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestine</li> <li>- Mr. Hafedh Chekir, Population Expert, Tunisia</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General discussion</b></p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:00-17:30	<p><b>Plenary session VII</b></p> <p><b>Ensuring a healthy life for All: Achieving ICPD and the SDGs</b></p> <p>Despite much positive development since the adoption of ICPD 25 years ago, universal access to health services has yet to be achieved in the Arab region. Arab governments acknowledged this deficit in the 2013 Cairo Declaration, which identified promoting access to sexual and reproductive health to women and youth as a priority that needs to be addressed to ensure social justice and sustainable development for all. To achieve SDG 3: “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, governments are further compelled to develop holistic healthcare systems and provide universal and affordable coverage for all people irrespective of their sex, age, and national origin. This requires governments to reflect on the changing population trends, including population ageing which has begun in several Arab countries, and broaden their efforts to focus on the needs of persons with disabilities and geriatric care. This panel will sensitize participants to the positive implications of adopting a life-cycle approach and issues related to providing universal access to health care. It will attempt to assess the progress achieved and engage the audience in a collective thinking exercise on how to best address challenges faced across the Arab region.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Gamal Abou El-Serour, Director, International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University, Egypt</p>

	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Faysal El-Kak, Vice President, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</li> <li>- Ms. Huda Zurayk, Professor of Biostatistics, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</li> <li>- Ms. Jocelyn Dejong, Coordinator of the Regional Reproductive Health Working Group, (RHWG), American University of Beirut, Lebanon</li> <li>- Mr. Ibrahim Aqel, Director, Institute for Family Health, King Hussein Foundation, Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Radouane Belouali, Director and Research Professor, International School of Public Health, Mohammed VI University of Health Studies, Morocco</li> </ul>
	<b>General discussion</b>
<b>Day 3: Thursday 1 November 2018</b>	
9:00 - 10:30	<p><b>Plenary session VIII</b></p> <p><b>Mobility and Environmental Sustainability</b></p> <p>One of the core pillars of sustainable development is equitable access to and distribution of resources to present and future generations. Development in the region is compromised in light of increasingly centralized wealth and localized poverty, threats to the environment, and population movement trends. Panelists in this session will situate socio-economic and environmental sustainability within the framework of inclusive development. Discussions will focus on emerging issues related to patterns and trends of population migration, as well emerging drivers of migration including crisis and climate change, and the impact of migration on urban sustainability. Panelists will also explore policy options that policy makers can adopt to address those issues and meet the initial objectives of the ICPD.</p>
	<b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Omar Abdelaziz Hallaj, Senior Coordinator, The Common Space Initiative, Beirut
	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Phillippe Fargues, Founding Director of the Migration Policy Centre, Italy</li> <li>- Mr. Ayman Zohry, President of the Egyptian Society for Migration Studies, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Ahmed El-Kholei, Professor of Urban Planning, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain</li> <li>- Ms. Sarah El-Battouty, Senior Advisor to the President of Egypt on Development Policy and Chair of EConsult Environmental Services, Egypt</li> </ul>
	<b>General discussion</b>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	<p><b>Plenary session IX</b></p> <p><b>Moving Forward: Mobilizing Means of Implementation and Follow-up Mechanisms</b></p>

	<p>The ICPD and the 2030 Agenda are two historic frameworks that Member States have renewed commitment to on many occasions. As governments further engage in achieving the SDGs and delivering on the key principles of inclusiveness, partnership and sustainability, how do we ensure that the next ICPD review four years from now, showcases tangible progress? This plenary session explores means of implementation, acceleration, follow-up and review. Panelists will discuss the role of different stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, and civil society organizations in mobilizing knowledge, capacity and resources to support implementation and enhance accountability and monitoring. The discussion will also include regional and global reporting processes and mechanisms, such as the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, the Commission on Population and Development, and the High Level Political Forum.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. François Farah, Population and Development Expert, Lebanon</p>
	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Ahmed Abdennadher, Population and Development Expert, Tunisia</li> <li>- Ms. Hala Abou Ali, Member of Parliament, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Magued Osman, CEO and Director, Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research “Baseera”, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Mustafa Barghouti, President, Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Palestine</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General discussion</b></p>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	<p><b>Plenary session X</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of Key Messages</b></p> <p>This session will present the key messages and recommendations that emanated from the three-day discussions will be presented to the participants. They will also feed into the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development whose outcome will be submitted to the 2019 High-Level Political Forum.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Abla Amawi, Secretary General, Higher Population Council, Jordan</p>
	<p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Karima El Korri, Chief of the Population and Social Development Section and Head of the Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA, Beirut</li> </ul>
	<p><b>General discussion</b></p>
15:00 - 15:30	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, League of Arab States, Cairo</li> <li>- Mr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director, UNFPA-ASRO, Cairo</li> <li>- Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut</li> </ul>