



The Sixth Regional Review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the Arab Region

Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Challenges and Prospects Ten Years After the 2013 Cairo Declaration

Beirut 13-14 September 2023

Organization of Work

Day 1: 13 September 2023	
8.30–9.00	Registration
9.00–9.30	<p>Opening session:</p> <p>Scene Setting Video</p> <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rola Dashti, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) • Natalia Kanem, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) • Haifa Abou Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States (LAS) • Fadoua Bakhadda, Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF- Arab World Region) • Hector Hajjar, Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon
9.30–10.00	<p>Setting the Scene: Findings of the Regional Review Report on Progress Made in Implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration</p> <p>This session will set the scene for the two-days discussions. It will provide an overview of the ICPD regional review process, present key demographic trends and prospects in the Arab region, highlight common trends, challenges and gaps in implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration, as identified in the regional review report.</p> <p>Moderator: Haifa Abou Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States (LAS)</p>

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	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mehrinaz El Awady, Cluster Leader, Gender Justice, Population, and Inclusive Development, ESCWA- <i>The Sixth Regional Review of ICPD in the Arab Region</i> • Laila Baker, Regional Director, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office- <i>Findings from the Regional Review Report</i>
10.00–10.15	Coffee Break
10.15–11.45	<p>Plenary Session I: Ten Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration: Voluntary Reporting by Arab States (A)</p> <p>This plenary session will provide Arab States with the opportunity to reflect on the progress made since the adoption of the 2013 Cairo Declaration and present their national experiences, highlighting the challenges faced, success stories, existing and emerging priorities, and lessons learned. Arab States that have opted to prepare a voluntary national review report on the 2013 Cairo Declaration are invited to present their key findings and messages.</p> <p>Moderator: Chouaa Dassouki, Minister plenipotentiary, Director of population policies department, League of Arab States</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of Jordan • Representative of United Arab Emirates (online) • Representative of Tunisia • Representative of Algeria • Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic • Representative of Djibouti (online) • Representative of the Sudan • Representative of Somalia • Representative of Iraq <p>General discussion</p>
11.45–13.15	<p>Plenary session II: Ten Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration: Voluntary Reporting by Arab States (B)</p> <p>Moderator: Chouaa Dassouki, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of population policies department, League of Arab States</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of Oman • Representative of the State of Palestine • Representative of Qatar • Representative of Lebanon • Representative of Libya • Representative of Egypt • Representative of Morocco • Representative of Mauritania • Representative of Yemen <p>General discussion</p>
13.15–14.30	Lunch

14.30–15.00	<p>Plenary Session III: Key Messages from the Regional Multi-stakeholder Consultations on the 10-Year Review of the 2013 Cairo Declaration</p> <p>This session will offer an open platform for different stakeholders to deliver the outcomes of the regional stakeholders’ consultations that were organized during the ICPD regional review process leading up to the Arab regional conference.</p> <p>Moderator: Salma Al-Nims, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Najat Saliba, Lebanese Parliamentarian- <i>Key messages of Parliamentarians dialogue</i> • Limiaa Abdelgafar Khalafalla, Program Director, Sudan Family Planning Association- <i>Key messages of Stakeholders Dialogue</i> • Ahmed Ammar Abdelzaher, Trainer, YPEER International Network member, Tunisia - <i>Key messages of Youth Dialogue</i>
15.00–16.30	<p>Plenary Session IV: Human Rights, Dignity and Achieving Equality: Priorities, Challenges and Prospects in the Arab Region</p> <p>Multiple and intersecting forms of inequalities, including gender inequalities, constitute a major challenge for achieving the agreed-upon Cairo Declaration principles in the Arab region. These inequalities are often at the root of multidimensional forms of poverty as exclusion and discrimination prevent access to key resources and development benefits and they must be addressed to ensure the sustainable development of the Arab region. This session will focus on the issues of dignity and equality in the Arab region. It will discuss the priorities that need to be addressed, including strengthening human rights-based approaches, and the implications of inequalities, exclusion and discrimination. It will also present some promising practices and explore possible policy solutions to ensure a more dignified life for all.</p> <p>Moderator: Hanin Abu Ghosh, Freelancer Speaker and Journalist, State of Palestine</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Senior Economist, ESCWA • Zafiris Tzannatos, Economist and senior consultant for Development Strategy and Social Policy, Jordan (online) • Lina abou Habib, Director, Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, American University of Beirut (online) • Christopher McIvor, Regional Representative for Middle East and Eurasia, HelpAge International, Jordan • Ghassen Sabri, Sign Language Trainer, Higher Institute of Human Sciences, Tunisia <p>General discussion</p>
16.30–16.45	Wrap Up of Day 1
Day 2: 14 September 2023	
9.00–10.15	<p>Plenary Session V: High-Level Panel on ICPD and 2013 Cairo Declaration Achievements in Population Policies: Linkages and Contributions to Socio-Economic Development Agenda</p> <p>Arab Countries recognize the population and development nexus and are aware of the interlinkages and mutual impact of population characteristics and demographic trends on development. As a result, several countries across the region have adopted population policies and mainstreamed population realities and priorities in development planning. This panel brings together high-level policymakers to reflect on their countries’ experiences and the challenges faced in developing population policies and integrating population issues in their development policies and plans, and what remains to be done to achieve full integration and coherence of population and other development policies.</p>

	<p>Moderator: Maha El Rabbat, Former minister of Health and Population in Egypt, Professor of Public Health, Cairo University</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mouna Osman Aden, Minister of Women, Djibouti (online) • Mohamed Elmi Ibrahim, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Somalia • Mohamad Ali Tamim, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning, Iraq • Hector Hajjar, Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon • Mohamed Youssef AlZidani, Acting Minister of Planning, Libya • Qassem Mohammed Bahaibah, Minister of Public Health and Population, Yemen <p>General discussion</p>
10.15–10.30	Coffee break
10.30–12.00	<p>Plenary Session VI: Sexual and Reproductive Health for All: A Priority for Delivering on the Promise of ICPD</p> <p>The promotion and protection of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and the protection of reproductive rights are critical for people’s well-being and building human capital. It is also key for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the achievement of universal health coverage is yet to be seen in the Arab region. This session will discuss the social determinants of health, the importance of sexual and reproductive health for all, the challenges faced, and the urgency of developing responsive sexual and reproductive healthcare policies and systems. It also considers sociocultural barriers to accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information and to enjoy sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and the need to adopt a holistic and life cycle approach in tackling health priorities for all population groups.</p> <p>Moderator: Hoda Rashad, Director, Centre for Social Studies, American University of Cairo</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faysal el Kak, Senior Lecturer, Clinical Associate and Director, Women Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program, American University of Beirut • Hajer Chehbi, Executive Director, Arab Institute for Human Rights • Ifrah Ahmed, Founder and Program director, Ifrah Foundation, Ireland (online) • Mohammed Afifi, Health Advisor, World Health Organization (WHO) • Hala Youssef, Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisor, UNFPA <p>General discussion</p>
12.00–13.15	<p>Plenary Session VII: Environmental Sustainability and Population Dynamics: Priorities for Planning a Better Future for All</p> <p>The interlinkages between population, the environment, and development were acknowledged as a key priority area in the ICPD. Population growth and spatial distribution pose additional pressures on the environment. Increasingly, the region’s vulnerability to climate change is becoming more visible. Adaptation to climate change must be considerably improved in order to reduce the human suffering that climate change is causing. In addition, climate change and environmental degradation are one of the drivers for internal displacement and migration. This session will tackle the interlinkages between environmental sustainability and the implementation of the Programme of action of the ICPD in the region. It will identify key trends and challenges regarding climate change and environmental degradation and discuss means to integrate population and environmental considerations in building resilience and adaptive capacity and development planning processes, including by supporting the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Moderator: Muhammed Asfour, Consultant on Environmental Sustainability, Jordan</p> <p>Panelists:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roula Majdalani, Senior climate advisor, International Center on Agriculture Research in Drylands, Lebanon (ICARDA) • Magued Osman, Executive Director, Baseera Center, Egypt • Meghna Ranganathan, Social Epidemiologist focused on gender based violence, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom • Maysoun Ibrahim, President, Palestinian Syndicate for Information Sciences and Technology (PALIST) (online) <p>General discussion</p>
13.15–14.15	Lunch
14.15–15.30	<p>Plenary Session VIII: The Impact of Humanitarian Crises on Population and Development</p> <p>During the last decade, countries across the region have suffered from a cumulative effect of multiple crises including occupation, protracted conflict, political instability, the impact of Covid-19, and infectious disease outbreaks, in addition to natural disasters. As a result, Arab countries face a range of challenges that may risk a setback in delivering on the commitments made in the 2013 Cairo Declaration and the 2030 Agenda. This session aims to unpack the impact of multiple overlapping hazards on population and development, particularly on those furthest behind.</p> <p>Moderator: Shatha Elnakib, Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rania Abou el Hassan, Director, Member Associations support and development, IPPF • Samar Muhareb, Lawyer and Director, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development, Jordan (online) • Sara Bader, Official Spokesperson of the World Youth Forum, MENA Regional Focal Point of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, Egypt (online) • Mustapha Barghouti, Member of the Legislative Council, State of Palestine (online) • Nadim Farajalla, Director, Climate Change and Environment Programme, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut <p>General discussion</p>
15.30–16.30	<p>Plenary Session IX: 10-Years After Cairo Declaration 2013: Bridging the Gaps and Accelerating Progress</p> <p>Thirty years after the adoption of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and 10 years after the Cairo Declaration 2013, the Arab region still lags behind in delivering on most of its commitments, though there has been progress. This session will identify ways to address key challenges hindering progress and will explore means to accelerate the rate of progress toward achieving ICPD.</p> <p>Moderator: Ahmed Abdennadher, Population and Development Expert, Tunisia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristonia Lockhart, Lead Gender Specialist, Islamic Development Bank, Saudi Arabia (online) • Abdellatif Lfarakh, Statistician and Demographer, Morocco • Lisa Kolovich, Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United States of America (online) • Rami G. Khouri, Distinguished Fellow at Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut (online) <p>General discussion</p>
16.30–16.45	Coffee break

16.45–17.15	<p>Plenary Session X: Key Messages of the Regional Conference</p> <p>This session will present the key messages and recommendations that emanated from the two days' discussions. They will feed the outcome document of the Conference and presented as input to the Report of the UN Secretary-General on "Programmes and Interventions Assessing the Status of Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its Contribution to the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development During the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development".</p> <p>Speaker: to be determined</p>
17.15–17.30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA • LAS • IPPF • ESCWA

