



EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
ASSESSING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW
OF THE 2030 AGENDA

(Virtual meeting)
New York, 19-20 July 2023

19 JULY 2023

OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks by Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

As you know, considerable progress has been made in implementing the Programme of Action since 1994. However, this progress has been uneven both within and among countries, and the benefits of social and economic progress have not been shared equitably.

Perhaps the most important part of this meeting will be the discussion on possible recommendations to include in the reports of the Secretary-General on next year's theme. The recommendations should address priorities for policies and programmes in the area of population and development, considering the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development and keeping in mind the pledge contained in the 2030 Agenda that no one will be left behind.

Managing the discussion of such a broad topic can be challenging, so it is important to narrow the scope somewhat. In earlier discussions between the Population Division and UNFPA, we have agreed that the narrative of the two reports on the theme of next year's session will be framed around an understanding of population dynamics and the linkages between population megatrends and achievement of sustainable development.

Thus, over the next two days, we will review evidence and discuss policy recommendations related to four of the defining global trends of our time: population growth, population ageing, international migration and urbanization. We will seek to identify clear and helpful conclusions about the global demographic situation and to formulate concise and actionable recommendations that can inform the discussion by Member States in the session next year.

I wish to thank all the experts and other participants for joining us today and tomorrow and for sharing your knowledge and insights on these important topics. This hybrid meeting is also being attended by representatives of Member States, civil society and the UN system.

I encourage everyone to participate in the question-and-answer segment at the end of each session, including the interactive closing session tomorrow afternoon. I also wish to remind you that this is not an intergovernmental meeting, and therefore the priority to intervene in the discussions will not follow the usual protocol of UN formal meetings. We are here to listen and learn from the experts, and I look forward to an interesting and productive meeting.

In this opening session, I am joined by two colleagues who unfortunately cannot be here in person right now. However, we will see each of them later today.

