



Economic and Social Council

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference

Adoption of the report on the Conference

Report

E. Other events

16. The following seminars, side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference:

(a) 13 and 14 November 2023, civil society and youth forums, organized by the civil society organization steering committee of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(b) 15 November 2023, side event on understanding the challenges, opportunities and best practices for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of forcibly displaced women and people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and other people on the move in transition countries in Asia, organized by the Asia-Pacific Alliance on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, the Equal Asia Foundation and the International Lesbian and Gay Association Asia;

(c) 15 November 2023, side event: Harvesting the demographic dividend to achieve the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: experiences from China since 1994, organized by the China Population and Development Research Center in collaboration with the China Family Planning Association and the UNFPA country office in China;

(d) 15 November 2023, side event: Population and development outlooks and challenges in South-East Asia, jointly organized by the National Population and Family Planning Board of Indonesia, the Commission on Population and Development of the Philippines and the UNFPA country offices in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand;

(e) 16 November 2023, side event: The changing realities of population in Asia and the Pacific: low fertility and population ageing in the post-COVID-19 era, organized by the Asian Population Association;

(f) 16 November 2023, side event on a contraceptive policy atlas for Asia and the Pacific, organized by the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights; Family Planning 2030; and

(j) 17 November 2023, side event: Migrants and refugees as actors of development: bringing and

Annex II

Chair's summary

I. Introduction

1. The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference was held in Bangkok and online from 15 to 17 November 2023. In total, 276 representatives of member States participated in person and 16 participated online; and 147 representatives of civil society organizations and other entities participated in person and 2 participated online.

II. Summary of discussions

A.

5. To address those challenges, the panellists recommended that legislation be passed to address gender-based violence, that data

scourge. One

B. Thematic discussion on achievements, challenges, gaps and emerging issues in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, as well as of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation in Asia and the Pacific (agenda item 3)

28. The Conference had before it the notes by the secretariat on the review of progress made towards the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, as well as of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/APPC(7)/2/Rev.1) and on the impacts of climate change on population and development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/APPC(7)/3), as well as five information documents (ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/1, ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/2, ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/3, ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/4 and ESCAP/APPC(7)/INF/5).

Population dynamics, sustainable development and climate change (agenda item 3 (a))

29. The Conference heard a panel discussion that was moderated by Professor of Social Science, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates, Mr. Stuart Gietel-Basten. The panellists were:

49. Representatives of the following civil society organizations and other entities made statements: Medical Services in the Pacific and Population Foundation of India.
50. Several representatives reiterated the commitment to promoting sexual and reproductive health as outlined in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and shared information on national policies and plans for its implementation. Achievements in improving maternal, child and reproductive health and in meeting the need for modern contraceptive methods were noted.
51. Several representatives emphasized the need to focus on adolescent health care and shared information on measures taken in that regard. For example, steps had been taken to establish national centres for providing health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for adolescents, to create a supportive social environment and to enhance access to contraceptives. The importance of offering a comprehensive sexuality education and of educating men and boys on sexual and reproductive health issues was underscored.
52. Some representatives stressed that making progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights was fundamental to achieving gender equality. One representative stressed the need to promote and protect the human rights of all women, girls, persons with disabilities, sexual minorities and, in particular, those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Another representative reported on the establishment of an advisory council to provide strategic advice to the Government to improve the health outcomes of women and girls and to actively examine and address gender bias in the health system.
53. More needed to be done to ensure universal access to health care and to fully integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as long-term care, into universal and integrated health-care systems. Some representatives shared information on efforts made to engage educational institutions and employers in implementing health policies. The importance of working with communities in promoting healthy lifestyles and integrated care systems was stressed, as was the importance of identifying long-term care needs early on and of preventing disease, frailty and dementia.
54. Violence against women, in particular those in marginalized situations and experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, had to be addressed. The round table on ensuring equal access to and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities, held during the sixteenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, was recognized as a landmark event, particularly given the increased risk of forced abortion and sterilization faced by women and girls with disabilities.
55. Several representatives shared information on efforts made to eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage, including legal measures that increased the age of marriage and viewed child marriage as a form of sexual violence. They also reported on measures taken in the areas of skills development and entrepreneurship and the use of cash incentives. One representative noted that the introduction of legislation and increased acche areas of

56. Several representatives stressed the impact that climate change was having on health systems, threatening health and livelihoods. While health systems in general had to be strengthened and made more resilient to climate change, a particular emphasis should be placed on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent services. In addition, there was a need for more disaggregated data on how vulnerable populations were being affected by climate-induced disasters and to engage women and girls in actions to adapt to and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

57. Several representatives underscored the value of collaboration and peer learning across countries, multilateral institutions and the private sector to promote sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, healthy ageing and the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

58. One representative noted that the documentation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference should have been aligned with the terms and definitions in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and he therefore expressed his objection to the

n the Seventh Conference.

59. Civil society representatives highlighted the importance of community-based solutions and the need to look beyond the reproductive role of women by taking a holistic approach to realizing rights and meeting their needs. Participants in the civil society and youth forums held on 13 and 14 November called upon Governments to ensure universal access to high-quality contraceptives and to sexual and reproductive health services free from stigma and discrimination, to decriminalize abortion and to amend laws and policies that restricted the right to safe abortion.

Inequalities and social exclusion, and rights (agenda item 3 (c))

60. The Conference heard a panel discussion that was moderated by the Regional Director of

63. The panellists recommended that all stakeholders with broad coalitions become engaged in promoting change in legal frameworks in order to reduce inequalities and end social exclusion. Enacting anti-discrimination legislation was considered essential. Universal social protection, including for migrant workers, covering different stages of the life cycle was highlighted as helpful for addressing inequalities and social exclusion. A shift to universal social protection was recommended, in particular in the light of demographic and social challenges and as experience with targeted programmes had demonstrated that several groups had been left out.

64. Representatives of the following member States made statements: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Solomon Islands (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States and territories), Sri Lanka and United States.

65. Representatives of the following civil society organizations and other entities made statements: Blue Diamond Society, United Nations Youth Advisory Panel Mongolia and Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality Indonesia.

66. Several representatives

85. Some representatives underscored the particular benefits of subregional groupings, strategies and frameworks for addressing challenges and finding