

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2024:

Side Event Concept Note

**Forging synergies for sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions:
The Vienna-based Commissions cooperating with others to advance
SDGs 3, 16 and the 2030 Agenda
11 July 2024 1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. NY Time**

Talking Points

Noemí Espinoza Madrid.

Ambassador at large for Women's Affairs of Honduras and
Chair of the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
(CPD)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

My name is Noemí Espinoza Madrid, Ambassador at Large for Women's Affairs of Honduras. I extend a special welcome to those joining me on this panel today.

- H. E. Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC
- Ángela ME, Chief Research and Trend Analysis Branch de UNODC,
- H. E. Asad Alam Siam, First Vice-Chair of the CND at its 67th session
- H. E. Ivo Šrámek Chair of the CCPCJ at its 33rd session

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- H. E. Muhammadou M. O. Kah Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its 28th session
- Julia Eberl Vice-Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its 63rd session
- Delphine Schantz Representative New York Liaison Office of UNODC.

It is an honor for me to participate in this event as the Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). I appreciate the opportunity to highlight the significant synergies between the work of the CPD and other ECOSOC functional commissions, particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

This discussion is highly relevant, considering that the primary purpose of the United Nations System is the well-being of people. The main function of ECOSOC is to coordinate the work of specialized bodies that address economic, social, cultural, and health issues, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Therefore, it is imperative that the Commissions ensure our efforts are strategic and, most importantly, effective.

The population agenda must crosscut all sectors because it pertains to the conditions in which people live—social, political, economic, and environmental. It is precisely in these areas that the Commissions can and should make a difference, ensuring that individuals fully exercise their human rights, achieve well-being, and live in peace.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PoA), adopted in Cairo in 1994, has extraordinary breadth and depth across a spectrum of population issues, while having people and their dignity and rights at its core. Consequently, the issue of problematic drug use, its prevention and harm reduction cannot be discussed in isolation from conversations, consensus, and public policies regarding population. The CND Ministerial Declaration itself expresses "deep concern at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families as a result of the world drug problem".

The CPD has addressed illicit drugs in relevant resolutions, including on health, morbidity and mortality (2010) and adolescents and youth (2012).

The issue of illicit drugs was also present in several of the regional agreements negotiated in the lead-up to the 20-year review of ICPD in 2014.

The synergies needed to develop sustainable, innovative solutions that contribute to resilience are within our reach if we leverage what the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda offer us. Let me provide a couple of examples:

1. The Programme of Action aligns with many aspects of SDG 3, including sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, HIV prevention, treatment, and care, as well as lifelong health, which encompasses the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). It underscores the need to prioritize the care of girls, adolescents, and young people, equipping them with knowledge and life skills that foster responsible behaviors to enhance their health and well-being for the future. Within this framework, the public health crisis caused by problematic drug use is recognized as an urgent issue that must be addressed in the population agenda.

2. Gender equality and the empowerment of women, central themes of both SDG 5 and the Programme of Action, are critical issues. In line with drug-related agreements, it is essential to consider the impact on women, not only as consumers but also regarding the effects they experience as members of families and communities.

From this, the collaboration between the CPD and the CND can focus on at least two aspects:

1. The structural conditions in which populations live. Collaboration on strategies aimed at challenges such as eradicating poverty and combating social and structural inequalities is essential. Additionally, the development of drug policies should focus on improving these conditions, thereby contributing to the mitigation of factors that lead to problematic drug use.
2. Demographic factors that play a crucial role because understanding the composition of the population, its location, and the conditions under which people live is essential for crafting more effective, timely, and sustainable policies.

By addressing these issues, we can more holistically address the complex challenges that lead people and communities to turn to drug trafficking and use.

Dear colleagues,

The information, tools, and agreements generated from the implementation of the population agenda represent a crucial technical contribution to the development of drug policies, crime prevention, and access to justice.

The availability of reliable and timely demographic data, disaggregated by age, gender, geographic location, and socioeconomic conditions, is essential for accurately identifying prevalence and trends in illicit substance use. This strengthens our responses, making them more assertive and beneficial for individual well-being and our communities.

Within the framework of commemorating the 30th anniversary of the PA-ICPD at CPD57, a high-level Political Declaration was agreed by consensus. This highlights the renewal of Member States' commitment to

advance the full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the Program of Action.

It emphasizes addressing pending issues with a sense of urgency, duty, and responsibility, in the spirit of international cooperation, partnership, and global solidarity, and to strengthen the ties between population and development.

In that spirit, I want to emphasize that sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions are critical in addressing the complex challenges at the intersection of population dynamics and problematic drug use.

Coordinated efforts, along with investments in research and technology that enhance our understanding of human behaviors, population dynamics, and risk factors associated with problematic drug use, will provide a solid foundation for designing more targeted and effective interventions. These interventions can offer alternatives that move beyond stigmatization and punishment to those in need.

The path towards a more sustainable, resilient, and innovative future will not be easy, but I am convinced that with renewed commitment and joint action, we can achieve significant and lasting impacts.



Together, we can fulfill our shared aspiration of building a better world for all people, a world where equality, well-being, and happiness are accessible to everyone.

Thank you very much!

57th Session



COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
The ICPD Programme of Action and its Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

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