

Commission on Population and Development

Report on the fifty-eighth session (3 May 2024 and 7–11 April 2025)

Economic and Social Council Official Records, 2025 Supplement No. 5





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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[25 April 2025]

Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	4
	A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	4
	B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	4
II.	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	7
III.	General debate: (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels; (b) Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages	al
IV.	Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population	. 10
V.	Provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission	. 11
VI.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session	. 12
VII.	Organization of the session	. 13
	A. Opening and duration of the session	. 13
	B. Attendance	. 13
	C. Election of officers	. 13
	D. Agenda and organization of work	14
	E. Documentation	14

25-06558 3/14

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-eighth session;¹
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.²

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decision adopted by the Commission and the Chair's summary of the discussion on the draft resolution on the special theme are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 2025/101

Special theme for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Population and Development³

Chair's summary of the discussion on the draft resolution on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages

Delegations participating in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development undertook extensive discussions on the special theme for the session, "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages". There was strong interest in the theme among delegations.

After consultations with regional groups, civil society and United Nations entities, an initial draft resolution, contained in an informal paper, was released by the Chair on 3 March. Informal consultations on the document, which started on 24 March and concluded on 3 April, were facilitated by Jessica Orduz Duran of Colombia and Norma Abi Karam of Lebanon. The negotiations were conducted in a time-conscious, inclusive and meaningful manner, making efficient use of limited resources and working within time constraints to avoid excessive burdening of delegations, in particular those from smaller missions.

During the negotiations, all aspects of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development related to the special theme were discussed in a meaningful way, and compromise language was put forward by various delegations. Five delegations broke silence over the first revision of the draft resolution, which had been placed under a silence procedure by the co-facilitators.

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 5 (E/2025/25).

² E/CN.9/2025/L.2.

³ E/CN.9/2025/L.5.

On 10 April, after extensive bilateral outreach, the Chair circulated a text, contained in E/CN.9/2025/L.4,⁴ that was aimed at accommodating, to the extent possible, the concerns of delegations that had broken silence. One delegation continued to oppose aspects of the text, including at least one that was of critical importance to the vast majority of Member States: the reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the Chair's text, the Programme of Action and the outcomes of related United Nations high-level meetings were reaffirmed, and it was emphasized that their full implementation was crucial to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. Member States agreed to reaffirm the core principle that health was a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The text served to acknowledge the root causes of adverse health outcomes such as inequalities, including gender inequality, food insecurity and malnutrition, poverty, and lack of access to education, healthcare and decent work. The negative impacts on health of humanitarian crises, pandemics, natural disasters and armed conflict were mentioned, and it was acknowledged that food security and food safety, adequate and accessible nutrition, and nutrition-sensitive food systems were important elements for addressing malnutrition.

The structure of the text followed the stages of the life course, ranging from newborn and maternal health to the health needs of children, young people, adolescents and older persons. Specific needs of those groups were recognized, such as ensuring access to youth-friendly healthcare services, including young people in decision-making, addressing reproductive cancers, eliminating age discrimination and fostering a culture in which menstruation was recognized as healthy and natural and the needs of women in perimenopause or menopause were met. Member States found agreement on language about HIV/AIDS. The text also included language on physical and mental health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis and malaria, and antimicrobial resistance. The health needs of migrants and persons with disabilities were acknowledged, and Member States agreed to reaffirm the right of children to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

In the text, it was acknowledged that strengthening healthcare systems and primary healthcare was critical, including through community-based services and access to vaccines, medicines and medical countermeasures, especially against the background of rapid demographic change, and that investments in capacity-building were needed to ensure a skilled health workforce, including midwives. The text served to recognize the importance of health financing and the role of technologies in improving access to healthcare.

In the text, the centrality of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the realization of their human rights was recognized. It was also recognized that particular attention must be given to addressing the health needs and well-being of all women and girls, including by eliminating sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. The text served to highlight the role that healthcare services, including for mental health, and psychosocial support can play in responding to sexual and gender-based violence for victims and survivors. The need for the reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work was recognized, as was the association of such a need with job creation and sustainable economic growth.

25-06558 5/14

⁴ For a summary of the proceedings around the draft resolution during the 9th plenary meeting of the fifty-eighth session, see paragraphs 13 to 15.

While differing views on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights presented a challenge for achieving consensus, many delegations were ready to agree on three paragraphs on those topics in conjunction with a paragraph reaffirming the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations in the resolution in a manner that is consistent with its national laws and development priorities. In the text, Member States were called upon to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services and to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, including for family planning, information and education, fertility and infertility care, and the prevention, treatment and destigmatization of sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

Some delegations proposed language on family that was not acceptable to others if not accompanied by language on comprehensive sexuality education or on multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Some delegations expressed strong wishes for recognition in the text of the links between climate change and health.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting. The Commission adopted its provisional agenda⁵ and approved its organization of work,⁶ on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the session (see chap. VII, sect. D).

25-06558 7/14

⁵ E/CN.9/2025/1.

⁶ E/CN.9/2025/L.1/Rev.1.

Chapter III

General debate:

- (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels
- (b) Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages
- 4. The Commission considered agenda item 3 and its sub-items (a) and (b) from its 2nd to 9th meetings. The Commission held a general discussion on the item at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 8th meetings, and three interactive panel discussions at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, respectively.
- 5. The documentation before the Commission under item 3 and its sub-items⁷ is available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD58. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also submitted a number of written statements.⁸
- 6. The record of speakers of the Member States, Observers, United Nations system entities and non-governmental organizations that delivered statements in the general discussion is available at http://espeakers.unmeetings.org/67e564358d9332fe363e3dd527032025/index.html.
- 7. At the 3rd and 6th meetings, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China and Israel, respectively.
- 8. At its 3rd meeting, under agenda item 3 as a whole, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the reports of the Secretary-General. Details of the panel presentations and interactive debate are available at https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/8a18277e-85e0-4ea9-8a9b-02ff8208e48f/2025-04-07.
- 9. At its 4th meeting, under agenda item 3 (a), the Commission held a panel discussion on how the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and on interlinkages with other United Nations forums. Details of the panel presentations and interactive debate are available at https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/8196a949-d876-4c8a-8a86-845 5649cae15/2025-04-08.
- 10. At its 7th meeting, under agenda item 3 (b), the Commission first heard a thematic presentation, followed by question time. Subsequently, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages. Details of the proceedings are available at https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/7fb30c1f-ba9e-4466-882a-c39 dafce8abc/2025-04-09.

⁷ E/CN.9/2025/2, E/CN.9/2025/3 and E/CN.9/2025/4.

⁸ E/CN.9/2025/NGO/1, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/2, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/3, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/4, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/5, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/6, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/7, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/8, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/9, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/10, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/11, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/12, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/13, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/14, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/15, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/16, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/17, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/18, E/CN.9/2025/NGO/19 and E/CN.9/2025/NGO/20.

Action taken by the Commission

Special theme for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Population and Development

- 11. At its 9th meeting, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special theme for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Population and Development" (E/CN.9/2025/L.5), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Uruguay). The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2025/101).
- 12. Before adoption, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement.

Resolution on the special theme for the fifty-eighth session

- 13. Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair introduced her text of the draft resolution entitled "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages" (E/CN.9/2025/L.4). The Commission was informed that the draft resolution did not entail programme budget implications. Following the introduction, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.
- 14. At the same meeting, the Chair withdrew her text of the draft resolution on the special theme for the Commission's fifty-eighth session. Following the withdrawal, the representatives of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Burundi, the United States, Portugal, Argentina, Denmark, Uruguay, Mexico, Finland, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Belarus, Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), Japan, the Russian Federation, Lebanon, the Republic of Moldova, the Philippines, Belgium, the Gambia, Costa Rica, Luxembourg and Peru and the observers for Germany, Malaysia, Poland (on behalf of the European Union), Sweden, South Africa (on behalf of a cross-regional group of 36 countries), Spain, France, Cameroon, Djibouti, Paraguay, Egypt, Tunisia, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Chile, Norway, Colombia, Algeria and Bangladesh made statements.
- 15. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

Chair's summary of the discussion on the draft resolution on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages

16. Also at the same meeting, the Commission decided to authorize the Chair to prepare a summary of the discussion on the draft resolution on the special theme for the fifty-eighth session, to be included in its report (see chap. I, sect. B) and posted on the website of the Commission.

25-06558 9/14

Chapter IV

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

- 17. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 8th meeting, holding a panel discussion of national experts on the programme of work in population. Details of the panel presentations and interactive debate are available at https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/476acf02-5811-4381-b68b-3b1 a601c0caf/2025-04-10.
- 18. The documentation⁹ before the Commission under item 4 is available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD58.

⁹ E/CN.9/2025/5 and 6.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

- 19. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 9th meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2025/L.2).
- 20. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation of its fifty-ninth session and recommended them to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision).

25-06558

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftyeighth session

- 21. At the 9th meeting, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Burundi) introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.9/2025/L.3).
- 22. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its finalization.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

- 23. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters on 3 May 2024 and from 7 to 11 April 2025. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th) during the session.
- 24. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair (Kingdom of the Netherlands) made an opening statement.
- 25. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.
- 26. Also at the same meeting, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Harini Amarasuriya, made a keynote statement via video link. The Minister of State for Development and Coordination of Government Action of Benin, Abdoulaye Bio Tchane, delivered a special presentation.
- 27. At the 9th meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made closing statements.
- 28. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement and declared closed the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

B. Attendance

29. Representatives of 34 States members of the Commission and observers for other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States and intergovernmental organizations, as well as representatives of United Nations system organizations and of non-governmental organizations, attended. The list of participants is available in document E/CN.9/2025/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

- 30. The officers listed below were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the fifty-eighth session to serve on the Bureau of the fifty-eighth session.
- 31. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission also designated the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.
- 32. The Bureau was thus composed as follows:

Chair:

Catharina Jannigje Lasseur (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

Vice-Chairs:

Norma Abi Karam (Lebanon) Galina Nipomici (Republic of Moldova) Stefany Romero Veiga (Uruguay)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Joselyne Kwishaka (Burundi)

25-06558

D. Agenda and organization of work

33. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2025/1) and approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2025/L.1/Rev.1).

E. Documentation

34. The documentation before the Commission at its fifty-eighth session is available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD58.

25-06558 (E) 010525