

EU interventions for Regional Conference on ICPD

International Conference on Population and Development

organised by UNECE and UNFPA

Thursday-Friday 19-20 October 2023

B. Thematic sessions

6. Families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course

EU intervention:

- The EU acknowledges that in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. This is included in the ICPD Programme of Action, adopted in Cairo almost 30 years ago, and in the Beijing Declaration and Program of Action.
- Raising children is a long-term endeavour, and in order for demographic policies to be effective, they must be reliable and enduring. Investment in affordable and high-quality early childhood education and care can contribute to demographic renewal and have significant positive outcomes, in particular for socio-economically disadvantaged children, helping to make the future labour force more resilient in the face of demographic challenges, as well as achieving better social outcomes across the lifecycle.
- Public policies should be designed in order to create the conditions, inter-alia the economic environment, enabling individuals and families to have the children they wish and to enjoy a better quality of life, live in safety and achieve balance between work, family and caring responsibilities. The EU Care Strategy is an example of this commitment.
- The EU remains committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences and remains committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in this context.
- Having that in mind, the EU reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.
- The EU further stresses the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.