

# **EU interventions for Regional Conference on ICPD**

International Conference on Population and Development

organised by UNECE and UNFPA

Thursday-Friday 19-20 October 2023

## **A. High-level plenary session**

### **4. Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action**

EU intervention:

- The EU and its MS remain 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.
- Demographic trends in the EU are clearly pointing to the ageing of the population, with fertility rates sometimes significantly below the replacement level of 2.1.
- Therefore, we would like to highlight the importance of including women and underrepresented groups, notably young people, elderly workers and persons with disabilities, improving labour-market participation across all ages and groups in order to help mitigate the effects of demographic ageing on the sustainability of social protection systems and to promote equality.
- The Council of the EU has invited its MS to consider, where it is deemed appropriate, legal migration in order to mitigate the shrinking working-age population, while respecting national competences
- The EU wants to promote the implementation of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a necessary step towards equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, as well as social protection and inclusion;
- The EU is scaling up action to achieve gender equality, and ensure the full recognition, and equal and full enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls and their empowerment, free from all forms of discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, while applying a gender responsive approach. In this regard, the European Commission has adopted an EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, and an EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III “An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in EU External Action” 2021-2025”, welcomed through Presidency Conclusions by 24 Member States.