

Informal briefing  
27 October 2022, 1.15-2.30 pm  
Conference room 6  
(Draft concept note, 27 October 2022)

## Introduction

The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) will be held from 10 to 14 April 2023. The special theme of the fifty-sixth session<sup>1</sup> which is Population, education and sustainable development is closely related to Chapter XI of the Programme of Action adopted by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Commission last considered this issue of education at its thirtieth session in 2003. The briefing will be held in person.

## Objective

The objective of the briefing is to encourage an exchange of views amongst Member States, the Secretariat and other stakeholders about the substance of the

Ensuring access to education for girls and women continues to be a powerful means to reduce early and unplanned childbearing, increase the adoption of family planning and improve the health of children.

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development commits to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels— early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training. Evidence presented at the expert group meeting in September 2022 suggests that there are many children living in extreme poverty who lack access to primary education, stark gender inequalities, and child marriages among young people living in humanitarian or conflict conditions. The long-term impact on learning outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic which disrupted schooling for millions of children worldwide, remains unclear. But the pandemic did reveal wide disparities in the quality of education between and within countries, exposing deficiencies in infrastructure, teacher training and learning materials, while reminding us that schools play a vital role in assuring the health and well-being of learners, including through nutrition. Health education plays a vital role in promoting the health and well-being of young people and improves sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including preventing unintended pregnancies. The World Bank has estimated that in Sub-Saharan Africa the current school infrastructure can accommodate only 40 per cent of the children in the region whose numbers are still increasing. Globally, as the average age of populations rises, lifelong learning is recognized as an important opportunity to improve the productivity and social inclusion of older persons.

Provisional programme

**13.15 – 13.25 Opening remarks**

- Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, UN/DESA (Moderator)
- H.E. Mr. Gheorghe Leuc, (Republic of Moldova), Chair of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development

**13.25 – 14.05 Presentations (max. 5 minutes each)**

- Key findings from the expert group meeting on Population, education and sustainable development
- Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, UN/DESA