



Commission on Population & Development 59 Session Side Event

***Integrating Population Dynamics, Technology
& Research for Sustainable Development:
Advancing WASH Outcomes***

Conference Room 8 | 13 April 2026 | 13:15pm-14:30pm

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Concept:

Global demographic shifts, aging populations, youth bulges, migration, and rapid urbanization are reshaping development priorities. At the same time, digital technologies and expanding research ecosystems are transforming how societies collect data, deliver services, and plan. CPD59 provides a critical platform to examine how population dynamics, technology, and research can jointly accelerate sustainable development.

Many countries face persistent gaps in demographic data systems, digital access, and research capacity. These gaps limit the ability to design inclusive, evidence-based policies that respond to real population needs. Strengthening the integration of population trends, technological innovation, and research is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

Sustainable development in the 21st century is shaped by rapid demographic transitions, accelerating technological innovation, and an expanding landscape of research and data systems. Population dynamics such as fertility, mortality, migration, age structure, and urbanization interact directly with technological change and evidence-based policy-making. These interactions influence progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from poverty reduction and education to health, climate resilience, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth.

As countries confront widening inequalities, climate pressures, and shifting labor markets, the integration of demographic intelligence, digital tools, and robust research becomes essential for designing policies that are equitable, future-oriented, and people-centered.

Advancing further, this concept proposes a framework for understanding and advancing the synergy between population dynamics, technology, and research as drivers of sustainable development. It aims to:

- Strengthen the use of demographic data for planning and policy formulation.
- Promote equitable access to digital technologies and innovation.
- Expand research capacity to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Ensure that technological and research advancements benefit all population groups, especially women, youth, and vulnerable communities.

The theme, Population technology and Research in the Context of Sustainable Development, will explore the Thematic Pillars of the CPD56 priority theme with respect to

- Population Dynamics as a Foundation for Sustainable Development
- Technology as an Accelerator of Inclusion and Development
- Digital tools that enable real-time population data, remote learning, telemedicine, and climate monitoring.
- Artificial intelligence and big data strengthening demographic modeling and policy simulations.
- Research and Evidence for Policy and Accountability

Objectives:

The theme will address the following Strategic Objectives:

Promote inclusive digital transformation to bridge gender, rural–urban, and generational digital divides, support digital literacy programs for women, youth, and marginalized groups, and encourage ethical, rights-based use of technology.

Expand research capacity and innovation ecosystems to support universities, think tanks, and national statistical offices, promote partnerships between governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society, and encourage research that centers on vulnerable populations and local realities.

Integrate population, technology, and research into national development planning by aligning technological innovation with SDG priorities, ensuring policies are inclusive, gender-responsive, and youth-centered, and using demographic foresight tools to anticipate future needs.

Alignment with the CPD59 Theme

The 59th Session of the Commission on Population and Development focuses on Population, Technology, and Research in the Context of Sustainable Development. The concept directly supports CPD59 by:

- Positioning population dynamics as a core determinant of development outcomes, including health, aging, fertility, migration, and urbanization.
- Highlighting technology as a transformative tool for demographic data systems, health delivery, and social protection.
- Emphasizing research and evidence as essential for designing population-responsive, rights-based, and inclusive policies

- Addressing digital, gender, geographic, and socioeconomic inequalities that shape population well-being.
- Strengthening national capacities to anticipate demographic shifts and integrate them into sustainable development planning.

In essence, the concept operationalizes the CPD59 mandate to ensure that population trends, technological innovation, and research systems work together to advance sustainable development for all.

Relevance to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. The intersection of population, technology, and research is central to achieving this goal.

Population dynamics and SDG 3, recognizing that aging populations require stronger health systems, long-term care, and chronic disease management. Youthful populations need investments in sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and preventive care. Migration patterns influence disease surveillance, health access, and service delivery. Urbanization increases demand for health infrastructure, sanitation, and emergency response systems. Understanding these demographic realities is essential for designing effective health policies.

Technology as a Catalyst for SDG 3: Technology accelerates progress on SDG 3 through:

- Telemedicine and digital health platforms that expand access to care;
- AI-driven disease surveillance that improves early detection and response.
- Electronic health records that strengthen continuity of care.
- Mobile health (mHealth) tools that support maternal health, immunization, and health education.
- Digital supply chain systems that ensure the availability of essential medicines and vaccines.

When equitably deployed, technology reduces health disparities and improves population well-being.

Research as the Backbone of SDG 3: High-quality research enables

- evidence-based health policies grounded in demographic realities.

- Monitoring of health inequalities, especially among women, youth, and marginalized groups.
- Innovation in public health, including vaccines, diagnostics, and treatment protocols.
- Evaluation of health interventions to ensure efficiency, equity, and impact.

Research ensures that health systems are responsive, resilient, and future-ready.

Outcome for the Commission on Population and Development59 Session.

The side event of the Commission on Population and Development59 Session advances its objective by focusing on improvements in community health, preventive care, and health education, especially among undeserved and vulnerable populations. Addressing the theme with respect to the priority theme of the CPD59 Session will result in advancing the mission of the organization towards:

- Improved Community Health Literacy
- Expanded Access to Preventive Health Services
- Strengthened Support for Women, Youth, and Marginalized Groups
- Enhanced Community Capacity for Sustainable Health Practices
- Increased Collaboration for Global and Local Health Impact
- Tangible Reductions in Health Inequalities

The side event will contribute to healthier, more informed, and more resilient communities by promoting preventive care, expanding access to essential health services, and empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve lifelong well-being.

It will further strengthen community well-being by expanding preventive care, improving health knowledge, and reducing health inequalities for undeserved populations.

Program Agenda

Population, Technology and Research in the Context of Sustainable Development

Opening Session and Welcome Remarks:

Chair/Moderator: Prof. Ada Okika , Senior Adviser, Office of the Permanent Observer for the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation for Africa to the UN

	High- Level Statements and Declaration of Conference Open	Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations Office of the Permanent Observer for the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation for Africa to the UN	H.E. Mr. Samuel Yao Kumah Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Permanent Representative Dr Nabhit Kapur, Permanent Observer
	Keynote Presentation:	Population Dynamics, digital transformation, and sustainable development	Professor Ayaga Agula Bawah, Professor of Demography and Population Health at the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), University of Ghana, and a Research Affiliate of the Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania
	Reflection on CPD59	Population, Technology and Research in the Context of Sustainable Development	Dr Rohit Ramchandani, Innovation and Strategic Partnership Officer, United Nations University Institute of Water, Environment and Health
	Plenary Presentation: Setting the Global Context	Role of Technology in data systems, health, education, and governance Importance of Research and evidence for SDG acceleration	Ing. Safuratu Mohammed Andani, Civil and Environmental Engineer in the Water & Sanitation sector
	Thematic Panel Discussion	Integrating Population, Technology, and Research for Sustainable Development Technology for inclusion and	Dr Angela G.N.El Adas Board Chair National Population Council Dr Devon Bannister

		Research for evidence based policy	Advisor/Program Liaison, Observer Mission for the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation for Africa to the UN
	A Call to Action for CPD59 Session	Safeguarding Peace Through Transparency and Integrity: Building upon the Power of Conscience and Hope, committed to advancing a new vital initiative: the Declaration of Transparency and Integrity on health and population	Dr. Hong, Tao-Tze, President of Federation of World Peace and Love
	Statement of Declaration, comments and suggestions	CPD Declaration on Declaration of Transparency and Integrity on Health and population	Federation of World Peace and Love
	Call to action linking outcomes to CPD59	Tenets for CPD59	Prof. Ada Okika , Senior Adviser, Office of the Permanent Observer for the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation for Africa to the UN