

PL 1

**DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITIONS, SOCIAL EQUITY, AND POPULATION
DIVERSITY**

| BACKGROUND

The Plenary Session for Sub-theme 1 aims to discuss the complex realities of global demographic transitions and the imperative for an equity-centered approach. Converging demographic and societal transitions - such as the simultaneous rise in youth and older-age cohorts, evolving family and care arrangements, spatial population shifts - are manifesting at varying intensities across countries. These are placing increasing pressures on health and social protection systems as well as posing challenges for how to develop and sustain supportive social, economic, and physical environments.

At the same time, these transitions present important opportunities to harness the demographic dividend by investing in young people's education, skills, and employment prospects, and to unlock the potential of the silver economy by supporting older adults' participation in society and the economy. Realizing these opportunities sustainably and for societies as a whole, also requires understanding and addressing the differentiated impacts of demographic transitions on vulnerable and at-risk groups, such as people with disabilities, migrants, indigenous populations, gender minorities, and informal workers.

Achieving equitable outcomes necessitates integrated and forward-looking policy approaches that are both inclusive and evidence-based, supported by interventions that are attentive to existing gaps in coverage, affordability, and accessibility related to social welfare systems, income security, care provision, and access to essential services across the life course.

| OBJECTIVES

The Plenary Session will serve as a high-level framing for the sessions under Sub-theme 1 on (1) Social welfare systems, social protection, and fiscal sustainability, (2) Harnessing demographic dividends and silver economy, (3) Role of family, community, and supportive environments alongside demographic shifts, (4) Advancing intergenerational solidarity and equity in an ageing world, and (5) Inclusive policies for vulnerable and at-risk groups.

In particular, the Plenary will highlight cross-cutting themes and priorities. The Plenary will also explore the role of different stakeholders including governments, civil society, communities, the private sector, and development partners in shaping and implementing effective solutions.



Panelist

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Dr. Aleksandar (Sasha) Bodiroza brings 27 years of experience in strategic foresight, leadership, and management at the country, regional, and global levels in sexual and reproductive health, rights, and humanitarian programming. Dr. Bodiroza currently leads UNFPA's work as Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific ad interim, overseeing programmes across 36 countries in the region and providing strategic direction to ensure coherent, high-impact delivery of country and regional initiatives.

Prior to this role, he served as UNFPA Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific (2023–2025), UNFPA Representative in Afghanistan (2020–2023), and UNFPA Representative in Egypt (2016–2020). He successfully navigated the security and socio-political complexities of multiple intersecting crises in Afghanistan while positioning UNFPA as one of the largest humanitarian operations in the country. Under his leadership, the UNFPA Country Office in Egypt scaled up operations and programmes to support the Government of Egypt's efforts to end preventable maternal deaths, meet family planning needs, and combat gender-based violence.

From 2015–2016, Dr. Bodiroza served as Head of the Integrated Field Support Unit of the Arab States Regional Office of UNFPA; Senior Technical Adviser on Youth for the Arab States Regional Office (2011–2016); UNFPA Technical Adviser in the Eastern Europe and Arab States Regional Office in New York (2006–2011); and Programme Specialist at UNFPA Headquarters in New York (1999–2005). Dr. Bodiroza brings extensive experience from the non-governmental sector, having worked for both national and international NGOs on public health and humanitarian response before beginning his career with the UN.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bodiroza has been a tenacious and vocal advocate for sexual and reproductive health for all, empowering women and young people, and ensuring that no one is left behind. He has a strong record of forging broad-based partnerships to deliver results for women, girls, and young people. Dr. Bodiroza is a national of Serbia.