

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.



Moderator

Abhijit Visaria

Technical Advisor, Population Dynamics

United Nations Population Fund
Thailand

Abhijit Visaria is the Technical Advisor on Population Dynamics at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok. He is a demographer by training and in his previous role as a Principal Research Scientist at the Centre for Ageing Research and Education at Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore, he led quantitative projects and analysis of survey data on various indicators of health and wellbeing among older persons in Singapore, including psychological resilience, loneliness, social networks, quality of life, and healthy life expectancy. He has also conducted research on age at marriage in India, specifically the implications of early marriage, and on son preference in India and Bangladesh. He has published widely, including in *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Innovation in Aging*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Ageing and Society*, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, among others. Abhijit was a consultant at The World Bank, Washington, DC during 2014-15 on a project on gender and jobs in Bangladesh, and worked full-time with the Social Initiatives Group, ICICI Bank, Mumbai during 2004-2008 on supporting state-civil society partnerships and developing resource centres on maternal and child health and elementary education, across India. Abhijit received his Ph.D. and M.A in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania. He also has an M.A. in Social Work (Urban and Rural Community Development) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and a B.A. (Honors) in Economics from University of Delhi.