

Summary Virtual Side Event CPD59

59th Session of Commission on Population and Development (CPD 59)



Knowledge Generation and Dissemination

Achieving Quality Education and Universal Health Coverage

Date: 16 April 2026; Time: 10 am to 11:15 am (EST, New York time)

Background:

Robust digital infrastructure, including interoperable systems, is essential for bridging the digital divide and enabling interconnectivity for inclusive global participation in STI and health development. International support and public-private partnerships for infrastructure development are key to enhancing access to stable and affordable electricity, mobile networks and the Internet. Sexual and reproductive health is critical to health and wellbeing across the life course, and therefore has to be embedded and integrated with universal health care and universal access to all. [Science and Knowledge Translation](#) in reproductive health research and dissemination, exchange and [clinical application of scientific knowledge](#) with the healthcare providers worldwide and communities, is the purpose of [WHEC's LINK Access Project](#) . WHEC's publications are aimed at a broad range of audience, and it is hoped the everyone who reads this will come away with a realization of the complexity of the issues at stake and an appreciation of the work that lay in front of us. Social justice requires healthcare, education, food, water, housing, employment, social protection, and digital technologies that no one is left behind.

Concept Note:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/59th-Session-of-CPD-ConceptNote.pdf>

Key Concepts Discussed

WHEC's projects and programs bring governments, Member States and the health, education and development sectors closer together, to develop solutions, which is even more important now, than before.

Key points discussed:

1. Foster societies where everyone is included. Both social justice and digital transformation can improve access to essential services for vulnerable communities, creating opportunities for everyone.
2. Expanding UNESCO Chair Program. Promoting global collaboration. Fostering social justice is a collective responsibility.
3. Foster inclusive digital transformation. Digital technologies including artificial intelligence have the potential to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities.
4. To provide technical assistance and strategic advisory to governments and their development partners in priority countries to support ongoing and planned large-scale health facility electrification programs.

5. Women's Health and Education Center's e-Learning, e-Health and e-Government Initiative is an investment in health, education, knowledge and technology – ultimately it is an investment in people, and in a healthier, safer, fairer future. Leading lifelong learning for a healthier world.

WHEC Statement:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/59th-CPD-Virtual-Side-Event-16-April-2026-WHEC-Statement.pdf>

Key Recommendations and Actions:

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) addressed this issue by reinforcing the coordination among key international organizations and national actors working on Sustainable Development policies and framework, by bringing more coordinated support to UN Member States. Equally important, the global WHEC's initiatives in advocacy, recommendations and implementation on its global platform (<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>), support authorities at country level to elaborate strategies, which will strengthen national networks to ensure access to affordable and reliable modern energy for all. Our recommendations for improving quality education and universal health access are:

1. We must act fast to achieve incremental progress on electricity and internet access.
2. Thanks to the greater investment – Asia's progress has been underpinned by finance, with Central and Sothern Asia seeing the largest growth in annual average public financial flow, with a close to 6-fold increase in the last decade.
3. Sub-Saharan Africa is falling further behind on energy and internet access and efficiency. In the last decade, population growth has outpaced new clean cooking access, resulting in 50 per cent more people without access to clean cooking solutions in the region.
4. Modern renewables and energy efficiency are pillars of a clean energy transition that supports development – this should be scaled up.
5. Improve collaboration, coordination and effectiveness of relevant activities of the network participants.
6. Share lessons-learned, results and impacts, and new opportunities regarding the energy compacts on a real-time basis.
7. Apply dynamic monitoring frameworks, providing transparency in tracking progress on the energy compacts.
8. Mobilize additional energy compacts to match the ambition of Global Roadmap.

Program Video: <https://youtu.be/CHfFE-pWQwk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHfFE-pWQwk>