

---

Opening Remarks by Dr. Natalia Kanem  
Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund  
at the 56th session of the Commission on  
Population and Development  
Monday, 10 April 2023 | New York  
10:00AM

Mr. Chair

Deputy Secretary-General

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Dear colleagues, dear friends

Education!

It is transformative – for individuals and their societies.

It is the foundation for human capital development, and a powerful driver of economic growth.

Education. It is a predictor of population health and well-being; an important indicator of whether a pregnant woman and her infant will live — or perish.

The ICPD Programme of Action sets out an ambitious, people-centered agenda to achieve inclusive, equitable, sustainable global development and to ensure women's empowerment and gender equality.





Today, technology and innovation are expanding opportunities and expanding minds. Digital access and skills are becoming imperative for almost everything – from education to livelihoods. New technologies are making lifelong learning accessible and enjoyable for older persons.

Yet the reality is, technology is increasingly misused and weaponized. Let us not allow technology to add another layer of

The fact is women constitute two-

