

**HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT: GOVERNMENT OF CHAD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
UNFPA, in the margins of the General debate of UNGA 81**

September 23, 2026 (8:00 AM – 9:30 AM)

Conference Room 5 (CR 5), UN Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE



THEME:

“RELIGIONS, TRADITIONS, CULTURES, AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES AND INNOVATIVE TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR MORE RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs IN A COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN AND SECURITY CONTEXT.”

I. Context

The 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81), scheduled for September 2026, marks a pivotal moment for accelerating and scaling up transformative, high-impact health actions aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Chad continues to face major challenges regarding reproductive health, women's rights, and youth empowerment. High rates of early marriage, maternal mortality, and unintended pregnancies hinder human development and impede the achievement of the SDGs, despite the opportunity presented by the demographic dividend.

In Chad, the maternal mortality rate stands at 860 deaths per 100,000 live births, with 59% of these deaths occurring among those under the age of 18; the contraceptive prevalence rate is 8.1%; the total fertility rate is 6.4 children per woman; and access to family planning information and services for youth and adolescents is limited.

The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs of Chad (CNAIT) is the primary institutional body for Arab-Islamic education in Chad, representing the Muslim faith before public authorities. Beyond its core religious mandate, **the CNAIT works to support government efforts to improve the population's well-being.** Consequently, it has committed to promoting health in general—and specifically maternal and child health, vaccination, and the fight against child marriage and violence against women.

For several years, **Chad's Ministry of Public Health and Prevention, the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs of Chad (CNAIT), women preachers, and UNFPA** have established a partnership and collaboration framework. This initiative aims to operate an action plan integrating innovation, co-creation, an inclusive approach, human rights, dignity, protection, reproductive health, family planning, women's empowerment, and religious values. **This partnership between the Government, CNAIT, and UNFPA is a success story that deserves to be scaled up across all regions of Chad and throughout the West and Central Africa sub-region.**

In terms of results, the efforts of the **women preachers** have contributed to a significant increase in the **number of women using contraception—rising from 150,734 in 2017 to 959,158 in 2025 (a sixfold increase)—which corresponds to a rise in the contraceptive prevalence rate from 8.1% to 21%.**

Against this backdrop, the Government of Chad intends to leverage the international gathering of Heads of State and Government during the 81st UN General Assembly to share the successes and lessons learned from this community-based approach and to mobilize new technical and financial partnerships.

II. General Objective

Provide an international platform for high-level political dialogue and resource mobilization to further promote the community-based approach of religious leaders and women preachers as sustainable solutions for maternal health, gender equality, and youth empowerment within the complex contexts of the Sahel and Lake Chad basin.

III. Specific Objectives

- **Promote and share** the Chadian model and transnational best practices demonstrating the impact of religious leaders and women preachers on the health system.
- **Strengthen political discourse** articulating religion, culture, resilience, social cohesion, and human capital development.
- **Consolidate the commitment** of international partners to programs integrating human rights and religious/cultural values.
- **Mobilize financial and technical resources** to scale up the initiative in 12 provinces of Chad and in other countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad basin.

Expected Results of the Side Event

- **Sharing of experiences:** Lessons learned and best practices from Chad (CNAIT and the League of Women Preachers) are disseminated internationally.
- **Present the innovative approach** of the partnership between religious, traditional actors, and UNFPA regarding the promotion of maternal and child health as a catalyst for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Development Plan "Chad Vision 2030" (*Tchad Connexion 2030*).
- **Enhanced partnerships:** A sub-regional and international alliance is strengthened around transformative community-based approaches.

V. Format and Program (1 hour and 30 minutes)

Under the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Chad, Head of State, this event will be led by the Minister of Health, in partnership with UNFPA and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (CNAIT). Lasting between one hour and one hour and thirty minutes, it will be moderated by the UNFPA Deputy Representative in Chad.

The event will be held from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM in Conference Room 5 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and will follow the agenda below.

Duration Sequence

3 min	Opening Remarks by the Permanent Representative of Chad
5 min	Remarks by the Representative of the UNFPA
5 min	Remarks by the Minister of Public Health and Prevention
10 min	Remarks by the CNAIT President (5 minutes)
10 min	Speech by the President of the League of Women Preachers (5 minutes)
50 min	Interactive discussion