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United Nations expert group meeting on assessing the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

New York, 19 and 20 July 2023

Report of the meeting

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations are used in the report:

APPC	Asian and Pacific Population Conference
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GDP	Gross domestic product
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and communications technology
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WFS	World Fertility Survey

1. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF THE MEETING

The adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, cemented a people-centred approach to population and development policies, grounded in the respect for human rights and a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability. Subsequently, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrated many of its goals and objectives.

In 2014, when it was set to expire, the General Assembly extended the Programme of Action with a view to fully meeting its goals and objectives (A/RES/65/234). In 2019, at its twenty-fifth anniversary, the Secretary-General reported that while considerable progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Action since 1994, progress had been uneven both within and among countries, and the benefits of social and economic progress had not been shared equitably. The report also stated that attaining its goals and objectives and those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a shared responsibility that called for development policies and programmes to be grounded in an understanding of population dynamics, including levels and trends in population size, age structure, migration and urbanisation.

The Commission on Population and Development, at its fifty-seventh session in 2024, would carry out a review and appraisal of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The timing of this appraisal, 30 years after “Cairo”, would be consistent with the five-year cycle of review of the status of its implementation carried out by the Commission in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019, respectively.

In support of this review and as part of the substantive preparations of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Population Division of UN DESA convened an expert group meeting on 19 and 20 July 2023. The meeting examined progress and gaps in implementing selected goals and objectives set out in the ICPD Programme of Action and took stock of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are of particular relevance to its implementation. Participants assessed the implications of demographic trends for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how the 2024 Summit of the Future could promote global solidarity for future generations.

The expert group meeting, held both in person and virtually, consisted of a series of panels focusing on the four global demographic “megatrends” – population growth, population ageing, migration and urbanisation – and the implications of these trends for economic and social development and environmental sustainability, as well as on policy priorities for population and development over the next few decades. This report summarises the presentations and discussions that took place during the meeting and includes a set of recommendations for policies on population and development.

2. SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

A. OPENING OF THE MEETING

John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and giving a brief overview of the Population Division's work and its role in supporting the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The CPD is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations charged with follow-up and review of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action, which was adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. The Commission is also charged with contributing to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 (A/RES/70/1). The theme of 57th session of the Commission, to be held from 29 April to 3 May 2024, would be "Assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". Mr. Wilmoth reiterated that, although considerable progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Action since 1994, progress had been uneven both within and among countries, and the benefits of social and economic progress had not been shared equitably. Mr. Wilmoth outlined the purposes and objectives of the meeting and then invited Priscilla Idele, Chief of the Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to offer opening remarks.

Ms. Idele observed that the global milestone of 8 billion people, reached in November 2022, had drawn the attention of the general public to population issues, creating anxieties and uncertainties among some policymakers. Ms. Idele noted that it was the task of demographers and researchers on population-related issues to provide evidence-based recommendations, which were people-centred and grounded in the principles of rights and choices. In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the ICPD, UNFPA had been preparing reviews of the Programme of Action at global and regional levels, examining key intersections between population megatrends and the ICPD mandate. In line with the mandate of the Commission, the reports of the Secretary-General to be prepared by UNFPA would complement the report of the Secretary-General being prepared by the Population Division, focusing on the same priority issues but approaching them from the perspective of programme and policy implementation and resource allocation.

The opening session also featured a statement from the Chair of the 57th session of the CPD, Noemí Ruth Espinoza Madrid, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations, who echoed that the achievement of the SDGs was not on track. She hoped that the 57th session of the Commission would not only document progress made in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action since 1994 but also address the challenges for achieving the SDGs as well as the implications of demographic dynamics for global development beyond 2030. She stated her desire to make the linkages between the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda more visible and to remind Member States and other stakeholders that the ICPD was a bedrock institution for the SDGs. She stressed that she was committed to working towards an outcome which would recognize the centrality of the Programme of Action for achieving the SDGs. She pointed out three questions that were paramount for this expert group meeting: first, what progress had been made and what gaps were remaining in implementing the Programme of Action; second, how could the Programme of Action be leveraged for achieving the SDGs; and third, what were some of the implications of the seismic demographic shifts the world was facing and would experience during the next 30 years.

B. SETTING THE STAGE: OVERVIEW OF POPULATION MEGATRENDS SINCE CAIRO AND PROSPECTS FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS

To set the stage for the expert group meeting, Thomas Spoorenberg of the Population Division presented an overview of population megatrends since 1994 and prospects for the next 30 years. His presentation discussed population growth, changes in age distribution, and trends in international migration trends and urbanization and their implications for poverty reduction, human capital formation and gender equality. The global population reached a milestone of 8 billion people in November 2022, up by 2.5 billion since 1994. The global population was projected to continue to grow for several more decades – albeit at declining annual rates – reaching 9 billion around 2037 and peaking in the 2080s. Population momentum would be the main driver of this future population growth, contributing some two-thirds of this growth between 2021 and 2050, adding an estimated 1.7 billion people to the global population. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia was projected to continue to be the world’s most populous region through the late 2030s, when Central and Southern Asia would overtake it. By around 2070, sub-Saharan Africa was projected to be the most populous region in the world. In all regions except Europe, Northern America and sub-Saharan Africa, population growth would be driven mostly by population momentum.

The working-age population was expected to increase in some regions and decrease in others, with sub-Saharan Africa having the largest share of young persons. The global convergence in fertility and mortality trends would continue. Global live births per woman had already fallen from 3.3 in 1990 to 2.3 in 2021, although figures varied widely by region with the highest level in sub-Saharan Africa at 4.5 live births per woman. The relatively high level of fertility in sub-Saharan Africa and resulting population growth presented challenges for achieving the SDGs by 2030. Global life expectancy at birth had increased by more than nine years since 1990 – reaching 73.4 years in 2023 – and was expected to increase to 77 years by 2050 with differences in life expectancy between countries expected to be reduced in the future.

There had been significant progress in human capital formation since 1994, with the share of the global population with less than secondary education falling from 50 per cent in 1990 to about one-third in 2020. By 2050, only about 19 per cent of the global population was projected to have less than secondary education.

The number of migrants across regions had increased significantly since 1994, with implications for population growth in some countries of origin and destination of international migrants. It was estimated that the number of people living outside their country of origin increased from 160 million in 1995 to 281 million in 2020. Europe and North America hosted the majority of international migrants, but Northern Africa and Western Asia were also becoming important destinations, reflecting regional economic diversification and the resulting attraction of highly skilled migrants among other factors. It was expected that the sole driver of population increase in more developed regions would be the net inflow of migrants, as the number of deaths in the population increasingly exceeded the number of births. Conversely, some smaller countries of the global South would likely experience a population decline driven by a combination of low fertility and outmigration.

The world had made much progress in reducing poverty, with the global poverty rate falling to 8 per cent in 2019 – down from 38 per cent in 1990 – and more than a billion people estimated to have been lifted out of poverty. However, the COVID-19 pandemic had set progress back by about three years, leading to an increase in the global poverty rate to 9.2 per cent in 2020. In developing countries, rapid

population growth continued to pose challenges for reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and for efforts to provide universal access to essential services such as health care and education.

Improvements in gender equality had occurred since 1994, but gaps remained. In particular, access to education for girls and women had increased considerably. Women were achieving higher levels of education and tended to academically outperform men. Girls, however, continued to lag behind boys in educational attainment in low-income countries, and where they did achieve higher levels of education, such achievements had not translated, on average, to corresponding advantages in labour market integration and salaries. Also, much remained to be done for women to participate equitably in political processes, decision-making and many other spheres of life.

At the global level, in 2023, life expectancy of women was 76 years compared to 71 years for men. This female advantage in life expectancy of about five years had remained fairly stable since the time of the Cairo conference and was projected to remain at that level through the 2050s.

Mr. Spoorenberg concluded by reiterating the observation that, as stated in Cairo, an early stabilization of the world population would make a crucial contribution to realizing the overarching objective of sustainable development.

Sandile Simelane of UNFPA gave an overview of the progress made in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. He summarized key population trends and their impact on sustainable development, climate change and other global issues, and stressed the importance of accounting for all of the world's 8.1 billion people, noting that many births remained unregistered. A forthcoming UNFPA report would cover the implementation of programmes aimed at achieving the ICPD Programme of Action, including challenges faced. Such programmes included the World Population and Housing Census Programme, the International Programme for Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems and the three major International Survey Programmes (DHS, MICS and WFS). Major milestones had been reached in response to the increase in population ageing, including the Madrid International Plan of Action, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Decade of Healthy Ageing and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. Some major interventions to address international migration and refugees included the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the IFRC Global Route-Based Migration Programme, which aimed to save lives and improve the safety and dignity of migrants, refugees and other displaced people along dangerous migratory routes. Initiatives to address issues related to the global increase in the urban population – from 2.3 billion (43 per cent) in 1990 to 4.4 billion (55 per cent) in 2018 – included the New Urban Agenda and the World Urban Campaign.

Noting that disaggregated data were required for evidence-based programming in the context of the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda, Mr. Simelane highlighted the need for development partners to support countries in strengthening and modernizing their national statistics systems in order to respond to data demands and target populations in need. Population dynamics and projections should be incorporated into development planning whereas policymakers and planners should adopt a life-cycle approach to development planning to assure intergenerational harmony and solidarity in an ageing world. He concluded by noting that assessments of progress made in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action should focus on the question “How many people are still waiting for the promise of the ICPD?”

Participants discussed whether urban growth could be disaggregated into growth due to natural increase and growth due to net migration, in particular in Africa where fertility levels were still high. It was suggested that it would be useful to consider the impact of urbanisation on climate change, considering that per capita emissions in urban areas were higher than in rural areas, which required urban planning for sustainable cities. Participants were concerned that discussions on urbanisation – particularly

when focused on building sustainable cities – neglected rural areas, where poverty levels were generally higher than in urban areas.

On the question of how the impact of family planning programmes could be evaluated, responses indicated that such evaluation should consider whether the implementation of the programme expanded or impinged on the rights of people. Considering that regional aggregates masked the country variations in population dynamics and related factors, the consensus was that it is important to expose variations across countries, in particular outliers.

Participants suggested that the review of the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, being prepared by the Population Division, should also include human rights and reproductive rights dimensions, noting, however, that the lack of data and other constraints would hinder efforts to systematically include those aspects. Among the other suggestions to be included in the review were indicators on who is left behind, the connection between ageing and disability, and a rethinking of how the demographic dividend could be defined in light of trends in educational attainment, labour markets and ageing.

C. REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The aim of this session was to highlight regional dimensions in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, including any progress and challenges. Regional periodic reviews, conducted every five years since 1994, played a significant role in informing the reports of the Secretary-General and the deliberations of the Commission.¹

Sabine Henning of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) presented an overview of levels and trends in population and development in the region. Key demographic trends included an overall slowing of population growth rates, a transition from high to low fertility and mortality, a decreasing working-age population in some countries, and growing international migration. Some countries and specific groups of people were particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and natural disasters. The growing population of older persons in particular faced important challenges such as high rates of unemployment, high levels of participation in the informal economy, low rates of pension coverage, high out-of-pocket expenditures for healthcare services, and the so-called grey digital divide. These issues, in turn, posed challenges for reaching targets within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Henning also briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC), which was held in 2013, and preparatory work for the Seventh APPC to be held in November 2023.

Milad Pournik of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) described trends in population and development in the Arab region, placing a special emphasis on population ageing and the demographic characteristics of migrants. Population growth had been decelerating since 1994 but remained above the global average, with large variations in growth rates across countries. Although the population under age 30 currently represented 60 per cent of the total population in the Arab region, the region was projected to increasingly face population aging through 2050, at which point individuals aged 65 and higher would make up over 10 per cent of the population. In

¹ The Declaration ([E/CN.9/2019/L.3](#)) adopted by the 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in 2019 stressed that “the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development for each region that adopted the particular outcome documents”.

2023, the Arab region was host to about 15 per cent of the global migrant stock and an estimated 40 per cent of the world's refugees. About one-third of all migrants and refugees were women, and two-thirds were aged 25–64 years. Mr. Pournik offered some recommendations for the way forward for the Arab region, including strengthening data collection, incorporating population dynamics and projections into the development planning process, creating decent employment opportunities for all, and reducing the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees by facilitating opportunities for orderly, safe and regular migration.

Saurabh Sinha of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) reviewed key demographic trends in Africa, which was the region with the fastest population growth and the most youthful population. Noting that the age composition of a population mattered more than its size for the realization of the demographic dividend, Mr. Sinha said that the future growth and prosperity of the region depended upon whether young Africans could access suitable jobs. Providing decent work was particularly challenging given that the working-age population was growing faster than the number of jobs being created. He also briefed the meeting on the linkages between the SDGs, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, Africa's regional framework for reviewing the implementation and progress of the ICPD Programme of Action. Preliminary assessments had revealed that progress for most indicators had been insufficient for achieving the SDGs. Among the challenges in implementing the Programme of Action and achieving the SDGs in the region were inadequate financial resources and data, limited capacity among civil servants and civil society, and a lack of policy coherence and coordination across levels of government. Partnerships were found to be crucial for the effective implementation of the ICPD and Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development and in designing population policies at the national and regional levels.

Kristen Jeffers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) reviewed key demographic trends in the region from 1994 to 2023, referring to population change, total fertility, life expectancy, migration and population ageing. ECE's monitoring framework for the Programme of Action beyond 2014 included 79 indicators, of which 44 were also SDG indicators. While progress had been made on most of the SDGs related to population dynamics, some indicators had regressed, including those related to childhood obesity and overweight, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections, information and communications technology (ICT) skills and achievements in science. Large increases in HIV infections had occurred in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ms. Jeffers provided some recommendations for ways forward, including but not limited to addressing inequalities within and across countries, supporting the realization of fertility intentions and caregiving for children, supporting active and healthy ageing and long-term care systems, improving implementation of sexuality education, promoting gender equality and female empowerment, and improving data collection and dissemination.

Leandro Reboiras of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) gave an overview of sociodemographic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, including prolonged and aggravated social crises, rapid population ageing, improved life expectancy (despite a temporary reduction of 2.9 years between 2019 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), below-replacement fertility since 2015, persistently high adolescent fertility and increased intraregional migration between 2000 and 2020. Key population and development challenges in the region included: significant vulnerabilities of children, adolescents and young people; the need for universal social protection systems (pensions, health and care services), especially for older persons; setbacks in the economic autonomy of women including poverty, excess burdens of care work and persistence of gender-based violence; vulnerability of migrants, particularly women and unaccompanied children; lack of protection of territorial rights of indigenous peoples; racism and various forms of discrimination against persons of African descent, and the need to guarantee visibility and non-discrimination for populations

with disabilities. Mr. Reboiras briefed the meeting on the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the most important intergovernmental agreement in the region on population and development, and provided recommendations for implementing both the Montevideo Consensus and the ICPD Programme of Action.

D. GLOBAL POPULATION GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This session focused on the relationships between population growth and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and on the progress and challenges in achieving gender equality and sexual and reproductive health since the Cairo conference in 1994. The empowerment of women, gender equality and universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services remained unsatisfactory in many parts of the world. Many low- and lower-middle-income countries were still experiencing rapid population growth, adding to the difficulties that these countries were facing in addressing multiple development challenges, including reducing poverty and promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, while reducing environmental degradation and taking advantage of the demographic dividend. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in the high- and upper-middle-income countries, had generated environmental damage and fueled the climate crisis. Most high- and upper-middle-income countries were facing challenges of population ageing, slow population growth and population decline.

Raya Muttarak of the Department of Statistical Sciences of the University of Bologna presented an overview of her academic research on the effects of population growth on climate change, noting that population size is a critical factor in quantifying the human impact on the environment, but that it should be viewed within the context of economic and technological development. Overall carbon emissions tend to be highly concentrated in wealthier regions and, within those regions, among high-income countries. If all individuals were provided a Decent Living Standard² – a set of basic minimum material requirements essential for human well-being beyond subsistence and extreme poverty – global energy consumption would be more than halved. Meeting requirements for a decent living standard was also projected to lead to faster reductions in fertility globally.

Ana Langer of the Harvard School of Public Health discussed the central role women have in the broader discussion of global health as well as the critical role of women's health in sustainable development. Since 1994, discussions on global health had shifted towards a broader paradigm that embraces a life-cycle approach to women's health, with each stage of life influencing the health and well-being of subsequent ones – before and after reproductive ages – as well as the health of the next generations. More attention was paid to conditions like noncommunicable diseases, which women shared with men but whose manifestations and consequences were particularly severe for women due to biological and social determinants that affected them disproportionately. Also, greater attention was given to the social determinants of health as well as women's contributions as providers of health care. From a public health perspective, high fertility could have serious implications for women's economic outcomes, including by excluding them from education and job opportunities and limiting their human capital attainment. Ms. Langer highlighted women's roles as recipients and providers of health care and

² “Decent Living Standard” (DLS) is a term used in academic literature as proposed, for example, to denote a “universal, irreducible and essential set of material conditions for achieving basic human wellbeing” in Rao, Narasimha D. and Jinhoo Min (2018). “Decent Living Standards: Material Prerequisites for Human Wellbeing”, *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 138, pp. 225–244.

emphasized that, while women contributed disproportionately as health care providers, health systems were often not responsive to their needs. She noted that women's earnings were an important driver of economic growth as, compared to men, women spend more of their income on their families, in particular on children's health, education and nutrition. It was estimated that women's contributions to health care were equivalent to 4.8 per cent of global GDP, half of which is from unpaid work. Health equity and gender equality could therefore lead to more equal societies and strengthen women's contributions to sustainable development.

Karen Hardee of Hardee Associates reflected that, contrary to increasingly common narratives that the ICPD was all about sexual and reproductive health and rights and not about population issues in general, the Programme of Action established that facilitating the demographic transition was important and led to a paradigm shift from a narrow focus on family planning to a broader focus on sexual reproductive health and rights in population and development programming. An analysis of policies in 15 high-fertility countries in Africa and Asia from 1994 to 2021 showed that the Programme of Action appeared to have been embraced by national governments, whose policies reflected this paradigm shift, with a continued focus on population and sustainable development and a policy rationale of bringing demographic dynamics into alignment with development, well-being and resources. The ICPD provided a framework for mechanisms of accountability for human rights and reproductive rights, including an expanded focus on sexual and reproductive health beyond contraception and abortion. Also, the focus of the Programme of Action had been widened beyond human rights to include reproductive justice, as exemplified in the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. She pointed out that some components of the Programme of Action had become delinked, in particular the relationship between population and sexual and reproductive health and rights, arguing that this linkage should be celebrated, not hidden. She concluded that all of the components of the Cairo consensus were important and still relevant nearly 30 years after the groundbreaking conference.

Leticia Appiah, National Population Council Secretariat of Ghana, discussed the demographic challenges faced by countries in sub-Saharan Africa since 1994. There continued to be large differences in fertility between the poorest and wealthiest groups in the region, which could serve to sustain and reinforce existing socioeconomic inequalities. She emphasized the importance of using disaggregated data to identify inequalities among population groups. Rapid population growth due to high fertility commands substantial investments in infrastructure just to maintain current living standards, and even greater investments to improve them. Considering that the age group 15–24 years was more crime-prone than other age groups, a median age of 20 years or less as experienced by countries in the region could have security and economic implications, particularly when there was a dearth of economic opportunity. She stressed that reproductive health policy must be viewed by leaders in the region as a part of security, health, education, food security, employment and environmental policies, and that there was a greater need for the production of contraceptives within the region and evidence-based advocacy against child marriage, actions to address teenage and unintended pregnancies, and support for contraceptive use.

Participants discussed how population issues could be better included in future development agendas than had been the case in the development and formulation of the SDGs, and how the work begun at Cairo could be taken forward. One viewpoint was that the Programme of Action would need to be updated, taking into consideration climate change and environmental degradation. Also considered was whether the review of the Programme of Action should be cast in the context of human rights or that of population dynamics. It was determined that, whereas a rights-based approach was a key dimension of the Programme of Action, population dynamics were fundamental to achieving the objectives of both the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda.

The panelists pointed out that there was a misunderstanding about what was missing from the Cairo consensus in terms of population targets. What the Programme of Action had abandoned was the use of targets in family planning, rather than goals and targets set for other aspects, such as reducing child and maternal mortality. It was suggested that since the ICPD, the narrative of the Cairo consensus had focused narrowly on sexual and reproductive health rights, limiting the scope and potential impact of the ICPD.

While the ICPD represented a paradigm shift towards a human rights-based approach, one panelist recalled that it was at the first International Conference on Human Rights held in Tehran in 1968 that a proclamation was made recognizing the basic right of parents “to determine freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children” (paragraph 16). The panelists agreed that any discussion about rights should be accompanied by responsibilities. Also, the human rights approach should be extended to all people, not just women. The discussion highlighted the complexities in understanding and explaining the relationships between population and development and climate change and recommended to avoid making sweeping statements and to recognize the trade-offs between different value systems, and between different policy choices that governments could pursue in the coming decades.

E. INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AND URBANISATION IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED WORLD

The aim of this session was to review and offer insight into emerging trends in the separate, but interconnected, issues of urbanisation and international migration as well as the challenges, opportunities and prospects of these two megatrends in the context of sustainable development. Today, the majority of the world’s population already resides in urban areas, a trend that was projected to continue for the foreseeable future. Since the ICPD in 1994, the number of migrants had increased from around 161 million to nearly 281 million in 2020.

Maruja Asis of the Scalabrini Migration Center in Manila envisaged that megatrends such as population ageing, uneven development and inequality, conflicts and forced migration, the changing landscape of work, and climate change and climate-related disasters would shape the future of migration governance. Since the adoption of ICPD Programme of Action in 1994, the legal and normative frameworks for international migration had expanded through different international instruments, including by the inclusion of migration-related targets and indicators in the SDGs. Global cooperation on international migration had increased following the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the affirmation of Global Compact for Refugees by the General Assembly in 2018. One of the major challenges was that these global agreements were non-binding and open-ended. Addressing the drivers of migration also remained a challenge. Ms. Asis noted that the ICPD had been groundbreaking on migration issues, including integrating a gender perspective, but many challenges remained, such as ensuring that data on migration were disaggregated by sex. She emphasized the need for collecting data for evidence-based policymaking by improving the collection of administrative data and implementing a world migration survey.

Ayman Zohry of the American University in Cairo reviewed how migration was framed in the ICPD and in other United Nations frameworks including the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. He underscored the close linkages between the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs, noting that the SDGs could not be achieved without progress in fulfilling the ICPD agenda. Over the next decades, demographic dynamics and trends would likely shape migration streams, and he envisioned various scenarios, including accepting more regular migrants, regularizing those with an irregular migration status and actively recruiting highly skilled migrants.

Jean Christophe Dumont of the International Migration Division of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gave an overview of the growth of international migrant stock since 1995 and the characteristics of international migrants. Nearly half of all international migrants were women, and 48 per cent of all migrants resided in OECD countries. The number of international students had increased rapidly. The number of asylum seekers and refugees in OECD countries was expected to reach historically high levels in 2022, most of whom originated from the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine or the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Although migrants tended to have, on average, higher levels of education than the native-born population, their skills were not always valued, as about half of the highly skilled migrants in OECD countries were out of a job or were overqualified for the jobs they performed. Major steps forward in the international governance of migration had been taken since 2015, with the inclusion of migration in the SDGs and the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees had paved the way for the formulation of policies for well-managed migration. Key future challenges included demographic change, the persistence of regional conflicts, climate change and the evolving world of work which was becoming more digital. Differing demographic trends across countries might not automatically lead to migration because of significant mismatches in skills of potential migrants and the policy choices of OECD countries. None of these countries except Canada was currently considering demographic factors in their migration policies. Mr. Dumont recommended that key policy priorities should involve forming new and equitable partnerships, making policy objectives and key performance indicators more explicit, seizing the potential of big data and building national capacity.

Deborah Balk of the City University of New York gave a presentation on challenges related to urbanization in the twenty-first century. These included population growth and ageing, hotter temperatures in most places, more variability in weather patterns and sea-level rise with many places becoming more flood-prone, stormier and drier. In 2000, one in eight urban people already lived in low-elevation coastal zones, which were most vulnerable to sea-level rise. Most future population growth was projected to take place in the cities and towns of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. The relative contributions of natural population increase and migration to urban growth remained unknown, as did the contributions of international migration compared to internal migration. Other challenges included the definition and measurement of urbanization. With urbanisation spreading both vertically and horizontally, it was difficult to project spatial urban change. Whereas many countries had adopted a definition of urban areas as defined at the national level, challenges remained in areas where the distinction between rural and urban was not clear. Ms. Balk concluded by sharing some lessons for policy and research, noting that, while urban population growth was almost certain to happen, the form and causes of that growth were much less clear. Many cities and their populations were at high risk for climate hazards. It would be critical to enhance and improve the ways spatially delineated hazards for urban and other areas were measured. This would include continued efforts by national statistical offices to improve and make available – increasingly thematically – spatial data. Since much data infrastructure, however, was still primed for the 20th century, it was important to update approaches and use place-based findings to help improve the understanding of causal processes associated with vulnerability and demographic components of change.

Bernice van Bronkhorst of the World Bank noted that the world's urban population had reached 4.4 billion people and was projected to reach 5 billion by 2030 and 6.8 billion by 2050. Rapid urbanisation, particularly in developing countries, was putting major pressures on cities, while the World Bank's Groundswell report estimated that internal migration due to slow-onset climate impacts might reach up to 216 million people by 2050. Migrants frequently resided in cities, and new urban settlements accommodating new migrants tended to be established in high-risk areas. Ms. van Bronkhorst noted that

migration contributed to climate change while climate change also impacted cities. Cities in higher-income countries were responsible for most global urban emissions, although cities in lower-income countries faced the greatest hazards related to climate change. High rates of migration also increased pressure on already insufficient services and infrastructure, including housing. A very low share of the population in developing economies could access loans to build, purchase, renovate or improve their dwellings. By 2030, about 3 billion additional people, or about 40 per cent of the world's population, would need housing and access to basic infrastructure and services such as water and sanitation systems in urban areas. Satisfying that demand would require completing nearly 100,000 housing units per day between 2023 and 2030. For these reasons, if left unaddressed, migration could increase inequality. She called for ensuring inclusion through a “people-in-place” approach that would address gaps as opposed to simply “people-based” or “place-based” approaches.

Silvia Giorguli of El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City observed that the Americas had been and would continue to be a dynamic region for human mobility with very rapid changes in the direction of flows. International migration had been a response to economic uncertainty, political instability, social violence and environmental fragility. The lines between sending and receiving countries had become blurred, as previously sending countries were now also receiving migrants. Ms. Giorguli identified several future migration scenarios for the region. The main drivers of migration in the short- and medium-term were climate change, political instability and violence. Large migrant communities maintaining family and social ties would be established across countries, for example between Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Central America and Mexico would continue to be transit areas for migration. In Mexico, recent administrative data showed increasing flows, in particular from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. The United States would continue to be a magnet for labour migration, and return migration would persist. Ms. Giorguli gave some key recommendations for secure, orderly, efficient and regular governance of migration in the Americas, including addressing economic drivers of migration, anticipating environmental drivers of migration, tackling political-institutional drivers of migration, changing the migration narrative, supporting migrant integration and enhancing protection of migrant women and children as well as indigenous populations and the internally displaced.

In the discussion, participants noted that increasing digitization would impact opportunities for migrants across the skills spectrum, both creating and eliminating jobs. Reaping the full benefit of migrants' training and skills required greater efforts to promote the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad in countries of origin and destination. The meeting recognized the difficulty of differentiating between economic drivers of migration and other types of drivers such as violence, and underscored the need to consider social stability, cohesion and other aspects related to social and political institutions when tackling the drivers of migration. One participant elaborated on the potential benefits of migration, including its role in reducing inequality, mitigating some of the challenges related to population ageing and access to long-term care, and promoting the exchange of skills and knowledge between countries of origin and countries of destination. One participant argued that, while migration surveys could be useful, existing migration data offered many possibilities for analysis and should be better exploited.

The meeting elaborated on the complex links between migration and urbanisation, noting that migration driven by conflict, natural disasters, and the adverse effects of climate change or environmental degradation was not always directed toward urban areas. One participant called for more research on poverty and access to services within cities receiving migrants, as migrant households often experienced higher levels of food insecurity and child poverty.

F. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN AN AGEING WORLD

This session reviewed the impact and implications of population ageing and the opportunities it presented for the economy and intergenerational equity. The session also drew lessons from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons. Ageing is a population megatrend, touching all parts of economies and societies, from health care and education to employment and taxation. The panelists discussed issues ranging from redefining ageing metrics to addressing barriers in implementing ageing-related policies, investing in preparation for an ageing population, long-term care and its challenges, and China's ageing situation. They underscored the need for collaborative efforts and innovative solutions to address these issues effectively.

Vegard Skirbekk of the Centre for Fertility and Health at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, highlighted the need to redefine metrics for population ageing, arguing that traditional measures of ageing, including the old-age dependency ratio, did not take into account the variability in health and functioning of older individuals even though these aspects varied greatly by sex, age and socio-economic status, as well as across regions and countries. However, alternative measures of population ageing had their own shortcomings, including a lack of data and limited relevance and validity for the purpose of understanding ageing. Mr. Skirbekk introduced the health-adjusted dependency ratio, which defined "dependency" based on health status rather than age. He presented the distribution of this new measure of population ageing across countries and regions and discussed the differences observed between the traditional and the new measures of population ageing.

Alexandre Sidorenko, an independent consultant, presented progress made in implementing the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing adopted in 1992 and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing from 2002, noting that the United Nations had conducted several appraisals of both frameworks and found limited progress. Barriers to implementing the international policy frameworks on ageing existed at both national and international levels: national barriers included insufficient financial resources, weak infrastructure and low priority given to ageing issues in policy and political agendas; while international barriers included insufficient coordination, limited technical support for less developed countries, insufficient analytical capacity within the United Nations and legally non-binding international policy documents on ageing. He called for a review of the Madrid Plan of Action and highlighted the importance of addressing ageing-related challenges.

Olanrewaju Olaniyan of the University of Ibadan presented a comprehensive approach to address the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population in Africa, stressing the importance of inclusivity and forward-thinking policies. He highlighted the increasing role of Africa in contributing to the world's older population, both in relative and absolute terms. Despite Africa currently having the lowest proportion of people aged 60 and above, its share of older persons was projected to rise significantly between 2000 and 2070, with an addition of 349 million older individuals. Mr. Olaniyan said that the continent should prepare for the future generation of older Africans by investing in human capital through education and health care, promoting responsible migration, improving opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship, implementing old-age pension and social protection systems, and analyzing intergenerational flows using the National Transfer Account (NTA) method. He stressed the importance of countering discriminatory notions about older people and of integrating youth into society by providing employment opportunities to secure their financial well-being before reaching old age.

Anne Margriet Pot of Erasmus University Rotterdam focused on long-term care for older individuals in the context of the objectives of ICPD aimed at developing a formal and informal social-support system for families caring for older persons. She expressed disappointment in the lack of a clear and articulated

approach to long-term care for older persons in the ICPD Programme of Action and highlighted several misconceptions about long-term care and challenges such as elder abuse and ageism. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed widespread ageism and age discrimination against older persons, for which she proposed a legally binding instrument to secure the rights and responsibilities of people of all ages, including in old age, citing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a positive example. In this light, the focus and goals of long-term care should be on meeting people's needs, ensuring their functional abilities, well-being and dignity. She advocated for the use of technology in long-term care, for the development and implementation of supportive systems for older persons, and for the support of unpaid caregivers.

Xizhe Peng of Fudan University in Shanghai gave a presentation focusing on the challenges and opportunities posed by China's rapidly growing older population, which exceeded 280 million people in 2022 with large disparities between urban and rural areas. The working-age population had peaked in 2012 and started to decline, coinciding with a decline in GDP. The main challenges in coping with ageing in China included "getting old before getting rich", "getting old before getting ready", shortages of long-term care personnel, the increasing number of older persons suffering from cognitive impairment, and lack of standardized systems for long-term care. Mr. Peng indicated the need to utilize available resources, such as state-owned assets and companies, to develop strategies for older-person care and to increase intergenerational and gender equality. Internet technology was a promising area for older individuals' care services together with home robots and smart old-age care. He pointed to the increasing educational attainment and a gradual increase in retirement age as factors to mobilize human resources among older persons.

Participants discussed the challenges faced by older people in the informal economy, including the retirement age and gender differences. Retired women were doing a lot of unpaid work such as caregiving, including taking care of grandchildren and cooking. Enhancing gender equality was found to be critical, as was the need to address the burden placed on working women to provide care for older persons. China was implementing "smart care", targeting mostly urban areas with high population density. Participants also observed the need for a global strategy regarding migration and ageing.

G. INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION: POLICY PRIORITIES FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT LOOKING TOWARDS 2054

Mr. Wilmoth reviewed the key points from earlier sessions. He explained that the goal of this session was to reach some conclusions about the topics discussed at the meeting and to formulate recommendations that could be included in the reports of the Secretary-General that were being prepared for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2024.

Stuart Gietel-Basten of Khalifa University emphasized that many internationally agreed frameworks already provided relevant policy tools, including the SDGs, the ICPD Programme of Action, the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. He suggested that population scientists and those active in population fields in government and the public sector should play a role in identifying and addressing gaps in the implementation of these agreements and ways to accelerate progress in achieving their goals and objectives. Whereas the core principles of the Programme of Action were as relevant as they were 29 years ago, there was a need to update certain elements to suit the current situation, in particular in relation to low fertility contexts. More research was needed to understand the causes of very low fertility and to draw lessons from countries experiencing such situations. While policymakers might

seek to incentivize people to have more or fewer children, experts needed to reiterate the key principles of reproductive autonomy, reproductive justice, reproductive rights and gender equality. At the same time, he stressed that the slow pace of ageing in sub-Saharan Africa should not lead experts to disregard the absolute growth in the number of older persons in that region, which was still quite large. He also noted the importance of improving data for monitoring the achievement of SDG targets. The lack of disaggregated data impeded understanding of who were left behind, including their specific needs. There was a need for greater investment in surveys, especially in longitudinal and comparative surveys, to complement data from bottom-up approaches to data collection based on individual rights and empowerment. Lastly, he observed that population scientists and those active in population discourse in the government and public sectors needed to be cautious about the discourse on population change and avoid interpretations that could motivate radical and extreme responses, as well as to avoid promoting misinformation.

Barbara Seligman of the Population Reference Bureau noted that headlines around the world were now highlighting different population trends and that significant policy attention had shifted to age structure, low fertility, ageing, immigration and urbanization, away from high fertility, even though high fertility was a very significant aspect of the ICPD Programme of Action. Even though funding agencies had become supportive of collecting population data and analyzing population trends across the full spectrum of the demographic transition that would inform programmes across all sectors, she cautioned that such projects could result in unsatisfactory outcomes. As an example, she cited USAID's country development strategy, which had been built around demographic transitions although its implementation had little to do with them. Even as demographers were comfortable describing demographic trends, they were less proficient in advising policymakers on how to use this knowledge, for example how to use demographic data in interventions responding to the COVID-19 pandemic or how people's preferences for food were changing as their income increased. National population councils, which were often looked to for leadership across agencies on how to consider population issues in national planning, were rarely staffed by demographers and their expertise was mostly in fertility and family planning rather than other demographic issues such as migration or population ageing. She observed that the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 concentrated mostly on sexual and reproductive health and rights, female genital mutilation and child marriage. It was unclear where other issues of the Programme of Action, especially those related to population growth and sustainable development, were being tackled. She raised the question of national and global responsibility for coordinating and tracking progress in implementing the Programme of Action, and advised that the reports of the Secretary-General would encourage Member States to consider putting in place monitoring mechanisms that encompass all domains of the Programme of Action, not just those that were privileged by development partners.

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung of the National University of Singapore emphasized the need to take into account key demographic trends, such as people living longer and multiple generations living next to each other, and to prioritize the use of technology. Whereas over the past 30 years poverty had decreased in many countries, it had increased in some places. Both poverty reduction and gender inequality remained pressing concerns. Men and women played very different roles compared to 30 years earlier. Today, there were more highly educated women and more women participating in the labour force, yet gaps in employment opportunities, equal pay, access to technologies and participation in policymaking remained and needed to be addressed. She further observed that migration had increased over the past 30 years and that there were countries with shrinking working-age populations and other countries with large cohorts of youth. She suggested that countries could benefit if they collaborated as they became more interconnected. Ms. Yeung then emphasized the need to improve data and also to take into account a life-course perspective in order to allocate resources more effectively. Investing in early childhood

development with an emphasis on maternal and child health would have positive impacts later in life. With regard to population ageing, she emphasized the need to think about older people as resources and agents of change who could help to address the issues and challenges that were under discussion during this meeting. She concluded that Member States should make retirement age more flexible, create more opportunities for lifelong learning, promote health across the age range, invest in intergenerational coexistence, and provide greater opportunities for part-time work and flexible work arrangements.

Jose Miguel Guzman of NoBrainerData stated that the ICPD approach based on human rights and the right of women and couples to decide how many children and when to have them had transformed government policies and approaches. He noted that the term “population policy” had fallen out of favour since 1994, however, and was not mentioned at all in some of the more recent regional agreements on population and development. It was worth remembering that demographic trends, demographic structure, population growth, population ageing and the demographic dividend were based on individual decisions such as whether to marry, whether to have a child and whether to migrate. Drawing a parallel to discussions of climate change, he observed that, when considering how countries could adapt to demographic change, it was a discussion about adaptation, but when considering policies that aimed to change these individual decisions and behaviours, it was a discussion about mitigation. Although Governments formulated and implemented population policies, many actors, including the private sector, played a role in migration. He gave an example from the Caribbean, where many small island states experienced low fertility and high emigration, leading to rapid population ageing and a decline of the working-age population. Governments in the region looked at this issue from the perspective of demographic vulnerability and high exposure to natural climate-induced disasters. Mr. Guzman observed that it would be incorrect to suggest to these Governments that all demographic challenges would be solved by ensuring the reproductive rights of women. He noted that several countries in the region had recently developed population policies, and that all of these countries had included components related to increasing fertility and respecting human rights and gender equality. Additionally, countries were in urgent need of data, especially on migration by age and sex, and were seeking assistance from the Population Division and other entities. In conclusion, he argued that Member States had the legitimacy to develop population policies, including pronatalist policies. He pointed out that Europe had invested substantially in family policies and in gender equality that were based on the Cairo principles, and recommendations were needed for how to incorporate these issues into policies in other regions.

Ms. Appiah highlighted three priorities – health, safety and sustainability – which stood out for her during the meeting as having potential to enrich people and countries. Prioritizing these would mean investments during the life course and the adoption of policies related to children, adolescents and longevity, starting with education, health and immunization of children. Ms. Appiah stressed that, in the context of sub-Saharan Africa, it was important to talk about teenage pregnancies, child marriage and unmet needs for family planning, and that data were needed for evidence-based policies to make the best possible decisions. Additionally, it was necessary to create environments for individuals to access information and services. Individuals who were taking decisions needed to know about rights and responsibilities and to be empowered with adequate and relevant information. She observed that the SDGs did not say much about population issues and that political will was needed to bring the population dimension back. For example, in terms of education, there was a need to identify barriers stemming from culture or ignorance, as the HIV epidemic had shown. While she highlighted the importance of data and communication, there was also a need to better understand and interpret the data. Regarding longevity in the context of sub-Saharan Africa, she noted that longer lives would lead to population ageing. She supported the use of new metrics on ageing, in particular health-adjusted dependency ratios and healthy

life expectancy. She observed that population was not just about numbers, but also skills, health and education, and in this way, longevity would mean the ability to produce, consume, save and transfer.

In the ensuing discussion, a key topic addressed by participants was the need for a fuller, more balanced policy approach to implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Participants felt that in the discourse on ICPD, the Programme of Action was often reduced to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, with population policies understood to mean policies relating to fertility. It was noted that the majority of commitments made at the Nairobi Summit in 2018 focused on family planning, sexual and reproductive health and rights, female genital mutilation and child marriage. As such, it was important for Governments to recommit to the principles of ICPD and to take the population dimension into account in developing all relevant policies. Participants also discussed whether population policies should remain within the purview of national population councils, whose staff often had expertise in family planning and reproductive health, or whether responsibility for such policies should be mainstreamed across government bodies. Participants stressed the need to bring together stakeholders on population-related policies – for example, on labour markets, social protection or migration – and to avoid working in silos.

It was noted that questions of low fertility and population decline were not expressly addressed in the Programme of Action even though they were concerns in many countries today. The principles of empowering and entrusting individuals were as important in low-fertility contexts as in higher-fertility contexts. At the same time, countries should be empowered to develop and implement policies to address population trends. In both low- and high-fertility settings, it was necessary to recognize and address tensions about what Governments could do within the framework of human rights and individual choices in terms of expressing policy opinions about fertility levels or providing information on the benefits of more or fewer children. Participants suggested that the reports of the Secretary-General provide some recommendations about politically difficult topics, particularly around sexuality education, which had an impact on the choices that individuals made in relation to fertility. Unmet needs for family planning remained relevant in high-fertility settings, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Reference was made to the statement in the Programme of Action that “the success of population, education and family planning programmes in a variety of settings demonstrates that informed individuals everywhere can and will act responsibly in the light of their own needs and those of their families and communities”, and, in this context, participants considered the links between information and responsible behaviour in different spheres. It was considered important to frame the wording of such discussions carefully. For example, discussing responsible behaviour could be seen as blaming individuals. In addition, it was suggested that experts and policymakers should avoid inflaming alarmist discourses about population trends.

Participants strongly emphasized the need for more and better data, including disaggregated data, and drew attention to the need for collaboration between data producers and policy experts to better explore ways to translate data into evidence to inform policies. Demographers and researchers needed to continue to focus on data, evidence and quantification of issues and to emphasize heterogeneity in their analyses of subnational issues. Participants also mentioned the emergence of new technologies that were reshaping labour markets and work environments and stressed the need for universal access to quality education, as well as life-long learning opportunities to gain new skills needed to adapt to these changing technologies.

Participants emphasized the need to address poverty and other challenges among the current generation of older persons. At the same time, a life-cycle approach to longevity would be needed to ensure that future generations reached old age in better health and wealth. Attention was given to the need for sustainable development policies in expanding urban areas, while also providing social safety nets for

those left behind in rural areas, who were often older women and children. Some participants suggested that a more nuanced discussion was needed on the topic of gender inequalities and how these should be defined, for example in assessing numbers of men and women in different professions. Some participants noted that men and boys had lower life expectancy than women – in part due to conflict and violence – and had lower educational achievement and employment opportunities in some settings.

Regarding support by the United Nations to countries in implementing the ICPD agenda, the unique role of UNFPA in the follow-up to the ICPD and as an observer in the Commission on Population and Development was underlined. Participants suggested leveraging the contribution of the entire United Nations system in the lead up to the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the ICPD.

H. CLOSING

In closing, Mr. Wilmoth observed that the expert meeting had been very useful and thanked all participants from the United Nations agencies, regional commissions and other institutions across the world, in particular those who had travelled from afar and those who had participated from different time zones. He expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Population Division for successfully organizing the meeting and closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1: ORGANIZATION OF WORK

19 and 20 July 2023

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ASSESSING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA DURING THE DECADE OF ACTION AND DELIVERY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Day 1: Wednesday, 19 July 2023

EDT (New York time)

9:00 – 9:30 am

Opening remarks

- John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Noemí Ruth Espinoza Madrid, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras, Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development
- Priscilla Idele, Chief, Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund

9:30 – 11:00 am

Session I. Overview of population megatrends since Cairo and prospects for the next 30 years

- **Moderator:** Yumiko Kamiya, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Thomas Spoorenberg, Acting Chief of Section, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Overview of population megatrends since Cairo and prospects for the next 30 years*
- Sandile Simelane, Technical Specialist, Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund. *Review of progress on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action*

Q&A

11:00 – 11:15 am

Break

11:15 am – 12:45 pm **Session II. Regional perspectives on population and development**

- **Moderator:** Guangyu Zhang, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Sabine Henning, Chief of Section, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok (virtual). *Population and development trends in Asia and the Pacific – Preview of the 7th Asian and Pacific Population Conference*
- Milad Pournik, Associate Social Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut (virtual). *Regional perspective on population and development from the Arab region*
- Saurabh Sinha, Chief of Section, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa (virtual). *Challenges and opportunities encountered in with the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action as well as future perspectives charting the way forward in Africa*
- Kristen Jeffers, Associate Population Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (virtual). *ICPD at 30: Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the UNECE region*
- Leandro Reboiras, Population Affairs Officer, CELADE - Population Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago (virtual). *The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the review and appraisal of the ICPD Programme of Action in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Q&A

12:45 – 2:15 pm **Lunch break**

2:15 – 4:00 pm **Session III. Global population growth and sustainable development**

- **Moderator:** Lina Bassarsky, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Raya Muttarak, Professor, University of Bologna (in person). *Population dynamics and climate change*
- Ana Langer, Professor, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston (in person). *Women and health: The key for sustainable development*
- Karen Hardee, President, Hardee Associates LLC, Washington DC (in person). *The ICPD 'Cairo Consensus' thirty years on*
- Leticia Adelaide Appiah, Executive Director, National Population Council, Accra (in person). *Demographic challenges in sub-Saharan Africa – 30 years post ICPD*

Q&A

Day 2: Thursday, 20 July 2023

EDT (New York time)

9:00 – 9:30 am

Recap Day 1

- Karoline Schmid, Chief of Section, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

9:30 – 11:15 am

Session IV. International mobility and urbanization in an increasingly interconnected world

- Moderator: Bela Hovy, Acting Chief of Service, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Maruja M.B. Asis, Director, Scalabrini Migration Center, Manila (virtual). *Back to the future: migration governance in the context of megatrends*
- Ayman Zohry, Professor, American University in Cairo (virtual). *Human mobility between the Cairo Programme of Action and The Global Compact for Migration: did we miss the point?*
- Jean Christophe Dumont, Head of International Migration Division, OECD, Paris (in person). *Looking back and forward at international migration trends and policies*
- Deborah Balk, Professor, City University of New York (virtual). *Urbanization in the 21st Century: some challenges ahead*
- Bernice K. van Bronkhorst, Global Director, Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice, World Bank, Washington DC (virtual). *'People in Place': including migrants and the forcibly displaced in urban areas*
- Silvia Giorguli, President, El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico-City (virtual). *Perspectives on international migration from a regional approach: the Americas*

Q&A

11:15 – 11:30 am

Break

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Session V. Leaving no one behind in an ageing world

- Moderator: Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief of Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Vegard Skirbekk, Professor, Centre for Fertility and Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo (virtual). *Exaggerated population ageing and understated fertility decline: addressing the need for valid demographic metrics*
- Alexandre Sidorenko, Independent consultant (virtual). *International policy frameworks on ageing: progress and perspectives*
- Olanrewaju Olaniyan, Professor, University of Ibadan (in person). *Is Africa being left behind in an ageing world? Insights using the National Transfer Accounts Approach*

- Anne Margriet Pot, Professor, Erasmus University, Rotterdam (in person). *Long-term care for older persons*
- Xizhe Peng, Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai (in person). *Main features of population ageing in China and coping strategies*

Q&A

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Lunch break

2:30 – 4:15 pm

Session VI. Interactive discussion: Policy priorities for population and development looking towards 2054

- Moderator: John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Introductory remarks:

- Stuart Gietel-Basten, Professor, Khalifa University (virtual)
- Barbara Seligman, Population Reference Bureau, Washington DC (in person)
- Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, Professor, National University of Singapore (in person)
- Jose Miguel Guzman, President and Founder, NoBrainerData, Washington DC (virtual)
- Leticia Adelaide Appiah, Executive Director, National Population Council, Accra (in person)

Q&A

4:15 – 4:30 am

Closing remarks

- John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

19 and 20 July 2023

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ASSESSING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA DURING THE DECADE OF ACTION AND DELIVERY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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