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## CONTENTS

1.	BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF MEETING .....	1
2.	MEETING SUMMARY .....	2
	A. Opening.....	2
	B. Setting the stage .....	2
	C. Fertility, reproductive health and population change.....	3
	D. Health, mortality and older persons .....	6
	E. Urbanization, internal and international migration .....	8
	F. Measuring population-related SDGs and targets .....	11
	G. Implementing the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda .....	12
	H. The way forward .....	15
	I. Conclusion .....	15
3.	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	16
	A. The need to broaden the ICPD programme of action .....	16
	B. More data to monitor progress .....	16
	C. Communicating with policy makers .....	16
	D. South-south cooperation and civil societies.....	16
	ANNEX 1. ORGANIZATION OF WORK.....	17
	ANNEX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS .....	21

**1.**

## **2. MEETING SUMMARY**

### **A. OPENING**

Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He observed that this expert group meeting was an integral part of the preparations for the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, which would be convened in April 2019. In particular, the results of the meeting would provide invaluable input to the report of the Secretary-General which the Population Division would prepare for the session. Mr. Wilmoth noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development did not replace, but rather complemented and built upon the Programme of Action. Lastly, he presented the main objectives of this meeting and looked forward to hearing the participants present their latest research findings and policy recommendations.

### **B. SETTING THE STAGE**

Mr. Frank Swiaczny, Chief of the Population Trends and Analysis Branch, Population Division, observed that population was at the core of the three dimensions of sustainable development, that is, the economic, social and environmental dimensions. He summarized the interlinkages between the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs, noting that the SDGs lacked a dedicated goal

Mr. Kalasa reported that in several areas, such as the number of girls at risk of child marriage, the number of girls undergoing female genital mutilation, and the unmet need for family planning, the proportion of affected persons had declined while the absolute number continued to increase. From a programming perspective, it became increasingly difficult to mobilize resources to address some of these issues. He also acknowledged that UNFPA needed to broaden its perspective, for example, from concentrating on maternal health to include other health issues, such as breast cancer and prostate cancer.

In the discussion, Mr. Kalasa acknowledged that reducing inequalities represented a challenge for UNFPA and that filling these gaps required a comprehensive approach. He also called for greater communication with governments regarding the demographic dividend, which could only be reaped by investing in health and education of youth, and through a sustained decline in fertility.

### C. FERTILITY, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION CHANGE

The first panel, which focused on progress, challenges, and best practices in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and services since the ICPD, was chaired by Ms. Karoline Schmid, Chief of the Fertility and Population Ageing Section of the Population Division. In introducing the panel, Ms. Schmid encouraged participants to present concrete policy recommendations relevant to Member States.

Ms. Suzana Cavenaghi, Professor of the National School of Statistical Science at the Institute of Geography and Statistics, Brazil, made a presentation on reproductive health and rights and the objective of realising fertility preferences. She first reviewed the challenges in implementing family planning programmes in Latin America since the 1960s. While fertility levels had declined rapidly after the ICPD, reaching the replacement level throughout the region, access to sexual and reproductive health services remained low. In 2014, only 46 per cent of women aged 15-49 years had used a modern contraceptive method in the last 12 months. In 2014, only 46 per cent of women aged 15-49 years had used a modern contraceptive method in the last 12 months.



report of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights released in May 2018. She highlighted some remarkable global

Ford Foundation, the Population Council and UNFPA, the country developed initiatives in selected counties focusing on abandoning birth quotas, removing birth permits and promoting informed choice as a basis for decision making. The success of the experiment demonstrated the feasibility of the approach and promoted the gradual adoption of quality of care in China's family planning programme. The Chinese Government relaxed its birth control policy in 2013 and finally abolished the so-called "one-child policy" in 2015.

Professor Gu observed two opposing views in China about the future prospects for the family planning programme, given that fertility had reached very low levels. Whereas advocates of birth restriction felt that the programme was no longer needed, others believed that the family planning programme could be reoriented towards offering a more comprehensive approach towards sexual and reproductive health along the lines of the ICPD

the strengthening of family planning programmes, supported by political commitment and increased funding, rather than to rising education levels.

Participants remarked that Mr. Bongaarts' presentation was a compelling case of a model that could reinforce the argument for investing in family planning programmes. These programmes would attract greater funding if they were seen to make a demonstrable difference in reducing fertility rates, permitting governments to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend.

Participants observed that researchers often used a selective set of indicators on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and called for a more inclusive, holistic perspective. The conflicting planning horizons between governments holding a short-term perspective



Lastly, Mr. Jha called for substantial expansion of the role of the United Nations in measurement of levels and causes of adult mortality. He argued that efforts were needed in this field that resembled prior efforts in the field of child mortality. He also recommended the establishment of a nationwide mortality and risk factor system, along the lines of the MDS programme, to collect direct evidence while reducing reliance on models. Given that decision-makers were overwhelmed with information, he proposed the development of a set of simple messages which could be used when communicating with governments.

In reviewing the three presentations, Mr. Gerland focused on the global health transition in general and on healthy ageing in particular, pointing out the implications of an increasingly urbanized world for healthy aging. He called attention to the different challenges in establishing age-friendly services for older people in urban and rural areas.

Important progress had been achieved in reducing mortality of specific age groups and certain population groups, including children and women. While much had been achieved in curtailing the HIV/AIDS epidemic during the last 25 years, there was a need to analyse inequality in accessing health services for different population groups in order to identify appropriate responses. Universal health coverage, one of the targets of the 2030 agenda, would be instrumental in this respect.

Participants identified the need for reducing inequalities in accessing health and allowing for different approaches within and between countries. “Standing still” was not an option: continuous efforts were required to address the challenges in health and other related fields. Participants called for greater attention to mental health and health impacts from environmental change, issues that would become important challenges in many countries. Participants raised the issue of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as well as individual risk behaviour and health and discussed the challenges related to old-age labour force participation, such as health status and the competition between young and older workers.

#### E. URBANIZATION, INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

This session was moderated by Mr. Bela Hovy, Population Division. Mr. Hovy opened the session by noting that migration had gained attention through the focus of the international community on sustainable development. He then pointed to the varying roles of migration in overall population change, with net migration having virtually no impact on total population change in Africa, while in Europe migration prevented the population from declining. While international migration could delay population decline and slow population ageing, it was unable to stop, let alone reverse, these processes.

Ms. Ellen Kraly, the William R. Kenan, Jr. popucha

need for data on international migration and

while not replacing traditional data sources, could complement migration statistics by providing rapid indications of new movements, additional segmentations, and coverage in parts of the world with scarce data.

Ms. Holly Reed, an associate professor of sociology at the City University of New York, delivered a presentation on forced and undocumented migration and development. Forced migration generally included refugee and other forcibly displaced populations, whereas undocumented migration referred to any migration not regulated or documented by the nation state. However, she pointed out that these two types of migration often coincided, which led to the concept of “mixed migration flows”. In recent years, the issue of mixed migration flows had received growing attention in the discourse on human rights and international protection as well as in public discourse and academic research.

Ms. Reed reported a rapid increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers globally, from less than 10 million in 2005 to almost 26 million in 2016, accounting for 10 per cent of all international migrants. The majority of forced migrants were hosted in countries in the less developed regions, with Turkey topping the list. The rise in internal displacement globally was fuelled in part by increased border restrictions and barriers to entry and exit in many countries. Half of the world’s refugees lived in urban settings with the majority of them living in private accommodation, while just over one-fifth lived in planned refugee camps. While abundant information was available on refugees in camps, there was a dire need for reliable data on access to services among self-settled refugees. Even though numbering in the tens of millions worldwide, reliable data on undocumented or irregular migrants were not available.

While undocumented migrants and refugees contributed to the economy in host communities through entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer and skilled work, they often faced challenges. A recent study in the United States had concluded that barriers and challenges made it difficult for undocumented students to pursue their education and earn an advanced degree, regardless of their academic abilities.

Both innovative data sources, such as social media and mobile phone networks, and more traditional sources, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), were important tools for understanding forced and undocumented migration flows. Given the role of cities in receiving migrants, data disaggregation was critical in providing municipal authorities with accurate data. National and global policy frameworks should promote durable solutions for both regular and undocumented migrants, including measures to promote integration and status regularization. Policies should also address the multiple barriers migrants encountered in pursuing economic and social development, in accessing services, and in integrating into host societies.

Mr. Joseph Teye, Director of the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana, gave a presentation on the relationship between urbanization, internal and international migration and sustainable development. He observed that the majority of African migrants had moved to destination countries within the region. Outside Africa, Europe was the most popular destination. However, many Africans also moved to other regions, especially the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Africa had also recently attracted increasing numbers of international migrants, especially from Asia. Both poverty and development had contributed to migration within and out of the region.

The negative effects of migration, such as the loss of highly skilled workers and labour shortages in sending areas, and increasing pressure on social amenities and unemployment in receiving areas, had historically dominated discussions in both policy and academic circles. Nevertheless, the positive contribution of migration to both receiving and sending areas had been recognised in recent years. For example, policies recently formulated in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone aimed at protecting the rights of

migrants and promoting the transfer of remittances and skills. Other efforts made by the African Union and other regional agencies included programmes to facilitate intra-regional mobility within various regional economic blocs.



Participants noted that population numbers were used in many of the denominators of the SDG indicators. In addition, in reference to the concept of population-related SDGs, participants agreed that population processes had become very important in understanding how to reach many of the goals. About 40 per cent of the indicators that were currently considered as measurable used estimates prepared by the Population Division.

Mr. Sikufele Mubita, a demographer from the Central Statistical Office of Zambia, delivered a presentation on Zambia's experience in mainstreaming the SDG framework into national development planning. The seventh national development plan of Zambia, covering the period 2017-2021, was fully aligned with the SDG framework as was its accompanying implementation plan, demonstrating the country's commitment towards mainstreaming SDGs in national development planning.

The five panellists were Mr. Alex Ezeh; Ms. Nyovani Madise,

Mr. Brown briefly introduced the work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the field of family planning, highlighting the role of Ms. Melinda Gates in putting family planning back on the international agenda. The Foundation's main strategy was to ensure universal access to family planning. Family planning programmes should take place within a human rights framework with quality of care as a central concept. High levels of unmet need for family planning among over 200 million women justified the need for expanded family planning coverage.

Data played a critical role in tracking progress in relation to population challenges. Granular data produced at subnational level was essential to understand spatial inequalities by identifying "blind spots". In addition to conventional household surveys, the Foundation was increasingly interested in using "big data" and other information that was collected on a routine basis.

Clear goals with readily available data to monitor progress were essential for communities to raise resources based on a shared vision. Indicators related to family planning in the SDGs required further improvement. In particular, the definition and calculation of current use of contraception, unmet need for family planning, and demand for family planning that was satisfied with modern methods required further development. While targeting young people in family planning programmes was important, there was a risk of inadvertently neglecting women of all ages. Referring to a major contrast between young people aged 15 to 19 years and those aged 20 to 24 years in responding to surveys, it would be useful to ask different questions to youth of different ages in order to better understand the lives of young people.

Mr. Brown also called for a better communication strategy on the contribution of family planning to population change, while backing the social justice orientation of programmes and respecting human rights. Further, there was a need to stimulate the development of new contraceptive technologies.

Ms. Sow called attention to the unequal access to services to prevent maternal mortality and to education, especially in Africa. Population age structures with high proportions of both young and ageing dependents at the same time created challenges for providing adequate services and security. The SDGs lacked a dedicated indicator on youth, and thus a clear lens focusing on adolescents and youth. There was insufficient data on gender-based violence given that the issue was largely absent from the ICPD Programme of Action. With regard to funding, she highlighted the need for innovative financing, e.g. blended financing, going beyond the traditional models of

was a good example of a country conducting systematic research to support policy making on the interrelationship between population dynamics and development.

In the following discussion, participants expressed concern about potential for regression in the commitments made by Member States in the ICPD Programme of Action. While the international climate was challenging, participants were hopeful that UNFPA and the United Nations Population Division could create a space to discuss emerging population issues.

Participants highlighted the importance of the CPD as a platform for Member States to explore the linkages between the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. Participants called for investment in regional demographic training and research centres with a view to training the next generation of population scientists and to informing policy makers.

#### H. THE WAY FORWARD

Mr. Jorge Bravo, Chief of Population Policies and Development Branch, Population Division, reiterated the important linkages between the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, noting that all population trends were linked to development, including fertility, population ageing and international migration. Population policies contributed in many ways to development. For instance, providing sexual

very helpful to the Secretariat in preparing for the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission and, in particular, the report of the Secretary-General

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

In preparing this report, a number of cross-cutting recommendations emerged from presentations, discussions and interventions:

#### A. THE NEED TO BROADEN THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- Address the continually widened inequalities for the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.
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**ANNEX 1. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**UN/POP/EGM/2018/INF.3**

31 October 2018

**ENGLISH ONLY**

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**UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL 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**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

New York, 1-2 November 2018

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**Thursday, 1 November 2018**

**10.00-10.10    OPENING SESSION**

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## **Friday, 2 November 2018**

### **10.00 – 12.00 SESSION IV: Urbanisation, internal and international migration**

This session focuses on urbanization, internal migration and international migration in the context of sustainable development. Panellists will discuss the role of migration in urbanization and highlight key challenges in promoting sustainable urbanization in developing countries. Panellists will also discuss the linkages between migration and development and assess the demographic impact of migration.

- Ellen Kraly, Colgate University
- Fabrizio Natale, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Holly Reed, City University of New York
- Joseph Teye, University of Ghana

Moderator: Bela Hovy, Population Division

### **12.00 – 13.00 SESSION V: Measuring population-related SDGs and targets**

This session will assess progress made in developing and measuring SDG indicators related to population and will identify opportunities and limitations of using the SDG indicator framework for monitoring progress in the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The session will also address the challenge of identifying a subset of “population-related” targets of the (e)-1.62hCID 290.9 (e)02.7 ( 10.8 (o)12.)6.6y9ate3()-1.7 (t)TJ0 Tc 0 T



**16.30 – 17.50 SESSION VII: Conclusions and way forward**

The roundtable will discuss the main findings of the expert group meeting and formulate a set of practical recommendations. The roundtable will also identify knowledge gaps and propose ways and means of addressing these gaps.

Moderator: Jorge Bravo, Population Division

**17.50 – 18.00 CLOSING SESSION**

- John Wilmoth, Population Division

## **ANNEX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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