



United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

**Report on the forty-first session
(13 April 2007 and 7-11 April 2008)**

Economic and Social Council

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Note

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

Summary

The forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 13 April 2007 and from 7 to 11 April 2008. Its special theme was “Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development”.

The documents before the Commission included the report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on the special theme. The report reviewed trends in and prospects for urban and rural population growth and changes in the population of cities. It discussed the relative contribution of natural increase and the combination of rural-urban migration and reclassification to the growth of the urban population. It considered the relative importance of different types of internal migration and described the implications of population distribution for urban and rural dependency ratios. It documented the impact of urbanization on poverty reduction and reviewed current knowledge on differentials in access to services and demographic behaviour in relation to urban or rural residence, giving particular attention to outcomes for the urban poor. The report also documented major policy developments in regard to population distribution and underscored the importance of urbanization for economic growth and human well-being, concluding that

with major disparities in the level of urbanization remaining among regions and countries. With the number of urban dwellers in developing countries growing significantly, future population growth would be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in small and medium-sized cities. The Commission considered that the rapid urbanization of the world's population required integrated and participatory approaches to spatial management, including through coordinated action between national Governments and local authorities, with the support of the international community. In this regard, the resolution urged Governments to promote linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence. In the same resolution, the Commission called upon Governments to address the challenges and opportunities of urban growth and internal migration by taking prompt, forward-looking and sustained action to ensure that those phenomena would have a positive impact on economic growth, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, in doing so, to enable the participation and representation of all relevant stakeholders in planning for an urban future. The resolution also called upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard, including through building capacities to respond to these challenges and opportunities.

The Commission heard a statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the new functions of the Council (relating to the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum) and the opportunities arising from those new functions for further interaction between the Council and the Commission on Population and Development. The statement was followed by an informal dialogue with members of the Commission.

The Commission also approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-second session and adopted the report on its forty-first session.

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social

internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2008

6. Contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2009.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁵ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶ as well as General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling further the relevant provisions on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration and development contained, inter alia, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁷ Agenda 21,⁸ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁹ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development¹⁰ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),¹¹ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action,¹² the Habitat Agenda¹³ and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,¹⁴ as well as the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2 June 2006,¹⁵ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁶ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹⁷ and the Barbados Programme of Action,¹⁸

Recognizing that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action is consistent with and makes an essential contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the world population is undergoing a historic and unprecedented transformation from being mostly rural to being predominantly

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Recognizing that poverty, unemployment, hunger and malnutrition are some of the major causes of migration from rural to urban areas in many developing countries,

Affirming that all States and all people should cooperate to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development in order to decrease disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development³ and the key actions for its further implementation;⁴

2. *Calls upon* Governments, in formulating population distribution policies, to ensure that their objectives and goals are consistent with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the eradication of poverty in both urban and rural areas, the promotion of gender equality, equity and empowerment of women and environmental sustainability;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitments to, and emphasizes the need to fully implement, the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁵ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development¹⁶ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (“J

poverty eradication strategies, the creation of more and better jobs for women, both urban and rural, and their inclusion in social protection and social dialogue;

8. *Urges* Governments to improve the plight of the urban poor, many of whom work in the informal sector of the economy, and to promote the integration of internal migrants from rural areas into urban areas by developing and improving their income-earning capability, with special attention to women, in particular female workers and female heads of households;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to take into account the impacts of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development in the formulation of family-sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education;

10. *Also calls upon* Governments to increase the capacity and competence of city and municipal authorities to manage urban development to safeguard the environment, to respond to the need of all citizens, including young people and urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters, and to provide people with alternatives to living in areas prone to natural and man-made disasters;

11. *Urges* Governments to promote healthy living in both rural and urban areas in all spheres of health, including sexual and reproductive health, in particular the improvement of maternal, child and adolescent health, and efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, in the light of the challenges and opportunities presented by population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to develop and implement policies aimed at ensuring that all persons, irrespective of where they live, have adequate economic and social protection during old age;

13. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development requires an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally, and in this context calls upon developed countries to complement the national financial efforts of developing countries related to population and development and to intensify their efforts to transfer new and additional resources to the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action, in order to ensure that population and development objectives and goals are met;

14. *Notes* that recent increases in the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action have been primarily a result of the increased funding for HIV/AIDS activities, and expresses concern that funding for family planning is far below the suggested targets;

15. *Encourages* Governments, in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and on other communicable diseases, to focus on the diverse and special needs of urban and rural populations and of migrant populations, including temporary migrants, and emphasizes the need to address the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

16. *Also encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization in order to address environmental issues, including climate change, thereby reducing the vulnerability of the low-income sectors of society to the risks posed by environmental impacts in a rapidly urbanizing world, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

17. *Urges* Governments to set up or, where they already exist, to strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms for spatially disaggregated data collection, demographic estimates and projections by age, sex and household composition linked to environmental, economic and social issues at the national and local levels in order to inform policy formulation, regional, urban and rural planning, the planning of service provision, investment decisions or advocacy in favour of vulnerable and marginalized groups, bearing in mind the gender perspective;

18. *Stresses* the need for technical and financial support for the activities associated with the preparation and conduct of the 2010 round of population censuses, which will provide important data on urban and rural development;

19. *Acknowledges* that the United Nations regional commissions play an important role in adapting the international population and development agenda to the regional contexts, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue relying on the regional commissions for the implementation of the regional population and development agendas;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, his substantive work on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, including integrating a gender perspective into its analyses and recommendations, in collaboration and coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant international organizations, and to continue assessing the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, giving due consideration to their implications for development.

Decision 2008/101
Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development
in 2010*

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for the forty-third session of the Commission in 2010 shall be “Health, morbidity, mortality and development”.

Decision 2008/102

Chapter II

Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the

with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of Qatar, Norway, South Africa, France, Cuba, Italy, the Philippines and Pakistan took part.

10. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April, the keynote speaker, Mark Montgomery, Senior Associate in the Policy Research Division, Population Council, and Professor in the Economics Department, State University of New York at Stony Brook, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of Norway, Mexico and Belgium took part.

11. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April, the keynote speaker, Helen Zille, Mayor of Cape Town and former Minister of Education in Western Cape province, South Africa, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of Switzerland, Mexico, France, Sweden, Norway and the United States of America took part.

12. At the 6th meeting, on 9 April 2008, the keynote speaker, Eduardo Moreno, Chief of the Global Urban Observatory of the Monitoring System Branch of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of South Africa, Spain and China took part.

Action taken by the Commission

Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

13. At its 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission had before it the text of a draft resolution, submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, subsequently issued as document E/CN.9/2008/L.4.

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in population matters: population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

20. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, entitled “General debate on national experience in population matters: population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development” at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 8 and 9 April 2008.

21. At its 4th meeting, on 8 April, the Commission heard statements by the

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

34. At its 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2008/L.2).
35. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out the revisions to the provisional agenda that had been agreed during the informal consultations and circulated in an informal paper.
36. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Cuba,

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session

37. At the 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur, Hossein Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran) introduced the draft report on the forty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2008/L.3).

38. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and authorized the Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur to finalize it.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

39. The Commission held its forty-first session at United Nations Headquarters on 13 April 2007 and from 7 to 11 April 2008. The Commission held eight meetings (1st to 8th).

40. The 2nd meeting, on 7 April 2008, was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Ivan Piperkov (Bulgaria), who also made a statement.

41. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund addressed the Commission.

42. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made opening remarks.

B. Attendance

43. The session was attended by 47 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and non-Member States, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is available in document E/CN.9/2008/INF/1 and Add.1.

C. Election of officers

44. At its 1st meeting, on 13 April 2007, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson

Ivan Piperkov (Bulgaria)

Vice-Chairpersons

Hossein Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Fredrick Matwang'a (Kenya)

Alicia Melgar (Uruguay)

45. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 April 2008, the Commission elected Pauline Eizema (Netherlands), Vice-Chairperson and designated Vice-Chairman Hossein Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran) to also serve as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

46. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 April, the Chairman introduced the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2008/2).

47. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Morocco, the Commission took note of the report.

E. Agenda

48. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2008/1), which read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.