



EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON “POLICY RESPONSES TO POPULATION AGEING AND POPULATION DECLINE”

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

Background

The Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat is organizing an expert group meeting on “Policy Responses to Population Ageing and Population Decline” from 16-18 October 2000, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Meeting is a follow-up to the report *Replacement Migration: Is it a Solution to Declining and Ageing Populations?*, issued by the Population Division in March 2000. This meeting is funded in part by a grant from the United States National Institute on Aging.

The Meeting will focus on the eight countries considered in that report, namely France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States, and on the two regions Europe and the European Union. These countries and regions are experiencing rapid population ageing and - with the exception of the United States - will likely register declines in their labour force and total population. The Meeting will bring together national experts from these countries and regions, as well as representatives from selected regional and international organisations.

Objectives

The Meeting aims to investigate the consequences of expected population decline and population ageing as well as the policy responses to cope with such demographic changes. More specifically, the proposed Meeting aims to: 1) review the demographic prospects of each country and region during the next half century; 2) identify the consequences of population decline and population ageing, and 3) examine various policy options that Governments might adopt to cope with such unprecedented demographic challenges. Policy responses are of two types: those addressing the determinants of expected population ageing and decline (such as by affecting migration, raising fertility, etc.), and those concerning the consequences of the demographic change (such as by increasing the age of retirement, altering pension systems, etc). In addition, the Meeting is expected to stimulate scientific discussion on these issues and improve the knowledge base and to identify priorities for future research in order to enhance informed policy and programme planning.