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1. The importance of migration as a driver of population change will increase in the next few decades

The developed regions as a whole will experience a shrinking of population after 2040. According to the medium-variant projection of the United Nations, the world's population is likely to increase from 7.6 billion in 2017 to 8.6 billion by 2030, the target year of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to 9.8 billion in 2050.[1] Most of this increase will take place in the developing regions, while the developed regions will, for the first time in recorded history, start to experience negative population growth by around 2040 or 2050. Under a scenario that assumes a net migration of zero, the projected population of the developed regions would be nine per cent smaller in 2050 than if current migration trends continued. With no migration, or with equivalent levels of immigration and emigration, the population of the developing regions would be about one per cent larger in 2050 than if current migration trends continued.

With fertility falling, the contribution of migration to population change is likely to , 1 (5 0)]

2. The contribution of migration to population growth or decline varies greatly across regions and over time

Since 2010, the net inflow of migrants to Europe and Northern America has diminished. The larger reduction in net migration took place in Europe, where net inflows were reduced by half, from 1.7 million per year between 2000 and 2010 to 0.8 million per year between 2010 and 2015. The net inflow to Northern America decreased by 0.1 million migrants per annum, while remaining stable for Oceania. At the same time, both Asia (-39 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (-50 per cent) registered a sharp decrease in net outflows. Africa was the only region in which net outmigration increased during the period from 2010 to 2015 (+40 per cent) (figure 2).

In Europe, migration will provide only a partial compensation for the expected excess of deaths over births between 2015 and 2050. In Europe, the excess of deaths over births is projected to total 57 million by 2050. H73 Tw -1I-23.182 -1.136 Td .001 Tc8Tw 3

Note: LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; NA = Northern America

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Note: LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; NA = Northern America

3. Armed conflict and economic crisis

Bahrain the impact of no future migration would be the greatest, with the population of working age shrinking by 53 per cent, 48 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively. Conversely, Samoa (63 per cent), Tonga (45 per cent) and Lebanon (42 per cent) would experience the most significant gains in the size of their working-age populations in the absence of net migration.

Note: LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; NA = Northern America

Migration is projected to reduce old-age dependency ratios in the developed regions. Most world regions are expected to experience a significant increase in the old-age dependency ratio during the next 35 years.[2] Latin America and the Caribbean is projected to experience the largest increase in the old-age dependency ratio, from 13 to 34 persons aged 65 or over per 100 persons of working age (138 per cent), followed by Asia (138 per cent), Europe (83 per cent), Northern America (64 per cent) and Oceania (57 per cent). Africa's projected increase in the old-age dependency ratio is relatively modest, rising from 8 older persons per 100 persons of working age in 2015 to 11 in 2050 (38 per cent). The difference in the projected old-age dependency ratio between the medium variant and the zero-net-migration scenario would range from an average increase of 6 persons aged 65 or over per 100 persons of working age in Europe to an average decrease of less than one person aged 65 or over per 100 persons of working age in Latin America and the Caribbean (figure 6).

Note: LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; NA = Northern America

5. Harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa will foster development and may reduce the need to migrate

Africa's total dependency ratio[3] will decrease well into the second half of the 21st century. In Africa, children under the age of 15 accounted for 41 per cent of the population in 2015, while young persons aged 15 to 24 accounted for an additional 19 per cent. As these cohorts of children and youth grow older and reach the working ages, a continuing reduction of the birth rate in their countries will help to create a favourable age distribution, presenting Africa with a demographic window of opportunity. Providing current generations of children and youth with quality health care and education and ensuring that they have access to gainful employment will be critical both for their own prosperity and for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In Africa and throughout the world, sustainable development will, in the long run, help to make the option to remain in one's country viable for all people.

NOTES

[1] The data used are from the latest set of population estimates and projections produced by the United Nations (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 revision, DVD Edition). Estimates refer to the period from 1950 to 2015 and projections to the period from 2015 to 2100. Different variants and scenarios are used to explore possible future trends. Unless specified otherwise, the projections cited here correspond to the "medium variant", in which the assumed future level of international migration for each country or area is held constant until 2050 around the average level observed in recent years.

[2] The old-age dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the population aged 65 years or older by the working-age population aged 20 to 64 years old. A higher value indicates that each potential worker needs to support a larger number of potentially dependent persons aged 65 years or older.

[3] The total dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the population aged 0-19 and 65 years or older by the population aged 20-64 years old.