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Commission on Population and Development

**Report on the fifty-fifth session
(23 April 2021 and 25–29 April 2022)**

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Note

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Summary

The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-fifth session in a hybrid format at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 29 April 2022. Its special theme was “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”. The session was chaired Enrique Manalo (Republic of the Philippines). Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Informal consultations on draft proposals were led by the four Vice-Chairs, Antonin Bieke (Côte d’Ivoire), Andrei Nicolenco (Republic of Moldova), Sara Offermans (Netherlands) and Mayra Liseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador). The co-facilitators convened consultations on draft proposals from 4 April to 25 April 2022. On 29 April 2021, the Commission adopted by consensus the draft resolution on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth ([E/CN.9/2022/L.6](#)), and the three decisions referred to below.

Important areas highlighted by Member States in the resolution on the special theme include: (a) adverse impacts of climate change on sustained and inclusive economic growth; (b) vital role that women and girls play as agents of change for development; (c) disproportionate amount of time spent by women in unpaid work, limiting their economic empowerment and independence; (d) contribution of sustainable consumption and production practices to achieving economic development, reducing environmental impacts and advancing human well-being; (e) role of inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and lifelong learning for achieving sustainable development; (f) impact of population ageing on labour and financial markets, fiscal systems, education, housing, health, long-term care and social protection; (g) need to address digital divides within and among countries and regions; (h) need to invest in measures to empower women, girls and youth in order to realize and capitalize on the demographic dividend; and (i) recognition that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and achievement of sustainable development.

In the resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to facilitate an assessment of well-being that went beyond gross domestic product. It also requested the Secretary-General to pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data and to continue research on the linkages among population, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and the environment, and human health. The Commission gave particular attention to levels, trends and differentials of mortality, fertility, population distribution and mobility, and the role of population and development policies, while mainstreaming a gender perspective.

The Commission also decided that the theme of its fifty-seventh session in 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” ([E/CN.9/2022/L.4](#)). In addition, the Commission adopted a decision on the cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action ([E/CN.9/2022/L.3](#)), approved the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session in 2023 ([E/CN.9/2022/L.2](#)) and adopted the draft report on its fifty-fifth session ([E/CN.9/2022/L.5](#)).

During the session, the Commission considered five reports of the Secretary-General.

In his report on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth ([E/CN.9/2022/2](#)), the Secretary-General examined linkages between population and sustainable development with an emphasis on the implications of population change for macroeconomic growth and fiscal sustainability, and for inequalities and social inclusion in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He investigated the relationships linking selected demographic patterns and trends to poverty and inequality and highlighted the unpaid contributions of women to general housework and direct care. In addition, he reviewed evidence on the connections between population and environmental sustainability, including the relative importance of population growth as a driver of climate change.

In his report on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action in the context of population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth ([E/CN.9/2022/3](#)), the Secretary-General emphasized that the world was demographically and economically more diverse than it was in 1994. New megatrends comprising climate change, digitalization and inequality intersected with demographic shifts to influence development trajectories of countries and regions, including progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated inequalities within and across countries. He explored programmes that had recognized and were responding to the new challenges in ways that advanced inclusive sustainable development. He highlighted programmes that upheld the core values of the Conference as set out in 1994, including the fulfilment of human rights and the development of human capital for the economic inclusion of all persons, including women and girls, older persons, persons facing discrimination and all those living in conditions of structural poverty.

The report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action ([E/CN.9/2022/4](#)) provided information on the latest trends in official development assistance (ODA) in areas of central importance to the Programme of Action, including sexual and reproductive health, which covered reproductive health, family planning and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, as well as the collection of population data and the analysis of population policies. In the report, the Secretary-General found that official and private aid had reached record levels in 2020, exceeding \$200 billion, but that not all those in need had benefited from the increase. In absolute terms, ODA from the developed countries to the least developed countries had fluctuated around a flat trend since 2011; measured as a share of total ODA, it had declined over the past decade. The developed countries had fallen behind on the target of providing between at least 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income in the form of aid to the least developed countries. Furthermore, aid for population-related matters had decreased in both absolute and relative terms. Measured as grant equivalents, official donors allocated \$5.08 per woman of reproductive age in the developing world in 2018; in 2019, that fell to \$3.70, the largest year-on-year decrease in the past 10 years. Aid to support countries in promoting more sustained and inclusive growth had risen over the past decade but remained at very low levels.

The report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends ([E/CN.9/2022/5](#)) was focused on recent demographic changes in the world and its regions, and projected trends during the time frame for implementing the 2030 Agenda and beyond. The topics covered in the report included population size, fertility, family planning, mortality, changing population age structures, urbanization

and international migration. The report also served to assesses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on demographic trends, to the extent possible with currently available data. The world's population numbered 7.8 billion in 2020. Projections of future trends suggested that it was likely to continue to grow in future decades, but at a progressively slower pace. Globally, growth could stabilize at a level of roughly 11 billion people by the end of the century. It was expected that the global population would continue its gradual shift towards a higher proportion of older persons (population ageing) and a larger share living in cities (urbanization) and that it would continue to be shaped by significant levels of cross-border mobility (international migration). Given that similar trends were taking place at different times and at varying speeds across countries and regions, the diversity of demographic situations needed to be considered in development planning.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2021 ([E/CN.9/2022/6](#)), prepared by the Population Division, contained a review of the progress made by the Division in implementing its programme of work. It covered the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support provided to intergovernmental processes, including through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

The keynote address of the session was delivered on 25 April by Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, United States of America, Jayati Ghosh. She stressed that the world's multiple crises were not the result of population growth, but instead provided evidence of humanity's current socioeconomic arrangements and how they had created and intensified inequality. She posited that underlying social, gender and economic inequalities lay at the foundation of the challenges to achieve sustainable development and needed to be addressed decisively. She acknowledged the positive effects of declining fertility and slower population growth in many developing countries while also expressing concern about continued global warming and climate change, a situation that had been caused mainly by rich countries and by rich people in all countries. It was crucial to end the undervaluing of care work, carried out primarily by women; care demands could be expected to increase amid future demographic changes and the new impacts of climate change-associated disasters and shifts. She called for specific, immediate policies to enable countries to more effectively pursue sustainable development and outlined a "multicoloured New Deal" that would take account of nature and the climate; recognize growing concerns about water; recognize, value and invest in the care economy; and reduce massive inequalities. Such an economy must also be led by public spending, regulated for the public good and focused on redistribution.

Also on 25 April, an interactive expert panel discussed the reports of the Secretary-General on agenda item 3. The panel was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Côte d'Ivoire), and featured presentations by the following panellists: Chief, Population Policies and Development Branch, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Jorge Bravo; Chief, Population and Development Branch, Technical Division, UNFPA, Rachel Snow; Economic Affairs Officer, New York Office, UNCTAD, Moritz Meier-Ewert; and Chief, Economic Empowerment, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Jemimah Njuki. Panellists highlighted the potential of the demographic dividend that could result from declining fertility and the associated

increase in the relative size of the working-age population, if appropriate policies were in place. They highlighted economic and gender inequalities, including women's unpaid care work and greater participation in the informal economy and the lack of access among poor and rural populations to trade and markets. The COVID-19 crisis had led to cuts in the public sector and an overall shrinking of job opportunities for women and youth. Panellists stressed the need to improve educational opportunities, including for lifelong learning; the need to invest in sectors that employ women and youth; and the economic benefits of investing in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Actions were needed to combat increases in prices of food and energy resulting from current global crises and to provide debt relief. They noted that high-income countries were responsible for the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions, whereas low-income countries bore the burden of climate change impacts. In the interactive debate, speakers noted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and high debt burdens on the achievement of the Goals. They suggested that the Commission not rely on measures of economic growth that marginalized women and girls and also highlighted misinformation as a barrier to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

On 26 April, a multi-stakeholder panel discussion was held on the contribution of key population and development issues to the main theme of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council, "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", followed by interactive debate. The panel was moderated by the Vice-Chair (El Salvador), and featured presentations by the following panellists: Deputy Minister for Health, Malawi, Enock Phale; television host and UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, Catarina Furtado; Statistician General and Chief Executive Officer of Statistics, Sierra Leone, Osman Sankoh; Executive Director, National Commission on Population and Development, Philippines, Juan Antonio Perez III; and co-founder, Youth United in Action and Global Focal Point, major group for children and youth, Dalia Marquez. The panellists examined how the implementation of the Programme of Action could contribute to pandemic recovery and to advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4 (education) and 5 (gender equality), which will be reviewed at the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Panellists discussed the fact that in many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic had eroded gains made in previous decades in the eradication of poverty and hunger, and towards achieving universal access to health and education. Greater efforts were needed to end gender-based violence and child marriage, which had surged during the pandemic in many countries, and to prioritize access to safe, affordable and effective means of family planning, particularly among women and girls.

Building back better from the pandemic also meant addressing structural inequalities, including those related to gender, and ensuring that all segments of society, especially adolescents and youth, had a role in policy and programme formulation that concerned them and their future. The need for better integration of issues related to population and development in the post-pandemic recovery and in national development planning was also highlighted. Several panellists described how the opportunities and challenges related to population and development, including those pertaining to maternal and child health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights would be integrated into national voluntary reviews. Some of them stressed the importance of the cooperation, leadership and commitments of multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to local and national governments and international organizations.

They also provided insights into how the functional commissions of the Council, in particular the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development, could work more closely together to improve the evidence base for monitoring progress toward the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and strengthen the statistical capacity of countries, particularly in the global South.

During the discussion, Member States and representatives of civil society shared their perspectives on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. An unexpected positive consequence of the pandemic had been to prompt many countries to improve the use of digital technologies in their health-care systems, not only for tracking epidemiological caseloads but also for the delivery of more targeted services. In that regard, panellists also drew attention to the need to bridge the digital divide that existed between rich and poor countries and individuals, including through enhanced South-South cooperation. The importance of promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns and of not returning to the harmful environmental practices prior to the pandemic was also echoed by several participants.

On 27 April, the Commission hosted a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on the special theme of the session, “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”, followed by interactive debate. The panel was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Netherlands) and featured the following speakers: Head, Inclusive Growth Team, United Nations Development Programme, Mansour Ndiaye; Vice-Rector for Science and Director, Institute of Statistics and Demography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak; economist and researcher and former National Director of Economy, Equality and Gender, Ministry of Economy of Argentina, Mercedes d’Alessandro; Professor of Child and Family Social Work, University of Oxford, Lucie Cluver; and Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Roman Hoffmann. The panellists reviewed linkages between demographic change and economic growth, poverty, gender and other forms of inequality, the environment and climate change.

Panellists discussed declining dependency ratios and increasing shares of the working-age population in developing countries, when supported by investments in children and youth, including quality education, skills development and opportunities for decent work, could contribute to sustained and inclusive economic growth. Panellists cited examples of targeted “cash plus care” programmes, which had proved to be cost effective and to improve well-being across the life course. The panellists also examined the role of women in the economic sphere, including policies on providing decent employment and on recognizing and rewarding unpaid care work, which was done mostly by women. The need to develop infrastructure and invest in the care economy provided an important opportunity to ensure access to decent work for women and to social protection for their families.

The panellists highlighted the impact of compound crises – involving climate change, armed conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic – on the most marginalized. A range of actions at the individual, national and international levels were needed to produce the required changes to current patterns of consumption and production. Macroeconomic and social policies should target the most vulnerable populations, while the cost of investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation should be shared more equitably within and across countries. In the interactive portion, speakers inquired about such topics as accounting for women’s unpaid domestic work, post-pandemic employment policies to harness the demographic dividend, considerations related to diets and climate change, and bringing the voices of marginalized groups into the discussion.

On 28 April, an expert panel discussion was held on the Secretariat's programme of work in the field of population, followed by an interactive debate. Panellists were national technical experts: Director, Population Management and Development Department, National Population Commission, Nigeria, Margaret Edison; Director General, China Population and Development Research Center, He Dan; President, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Eduardo Rios-Neto; and Head, Research Group, Global and Regional Population Dynamics, Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany, Elke Loichinger. The panel was moderated by the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, John Wilmoth.

Panellists noted key population challenges in their countries, including changing population age structures and the varied challenges for countries at different stages of the demographic transition, for example, the challenges of ensuring access to health and education among adolescents and young people in high-fertility settings, or of addressing care needs and labour market changes in the context of ageing populations. Panellists noted the utility of the Population Division's work in addressing national, regional and global population issues, including through the *World Population Prospects*, National Transfer Accounts, *World Urbanization Prospects*, international migrant stock data, *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development* and work on policy responses to low fertility, demographic dividends and population ageing. They expressed their support for a further strengthening of the analytical and dissemination activities of the Division. The experts acknowledged the challenges of reflecting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in estimates and projections of fertility, mortality, migration and the total population. In the interactive discussion, delegations also emphasized the variation in demographic situations across countries, the value of the Division's datasets, for example, on household composition and living arrangements, in understanding the impacts of COVID-19, and the need to intensify capacity development.

In their statements during the general debate, delegations underscored their commitment to implementing the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. They outlined the population trends that were considered when developing policies to support sustained and inclusive economic growth, including concerns around the age structures of populations. They also stressed the importance of harnessing the opportunity of the demographic dividend and empowering youth to be at the forefront of inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth, while also adapting health, pension and long-term care systems for ageing populations. It was imperative to protect human rights, promote human capital development and ensure social protection for all.

Delegates highlighted the setbacks in progress towards sustainable development caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with respect to poverty, inequality, education, women's employment and gender-based violence. The need to promote women's full participation in all spheres of social and economic life was a common theme, with many speakers calling for intensified efforts for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, family planning, comprehensive sexuality education, non-discrimination legislation, parental leave policies, and increased support for unpaid domestic and care work. Some speakers stressed the central role of families in social development. Speakers underscored the importance of timely, disaggregated and reliable data on population. Delegations also emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable production and consumption and strengthening climate-change mitigation efforts.

Some 195 representatives of 93 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with the Council registered to attend the annual session. A total of 19 written statements on behalf of individual organizations or groups of NGOs had been submitted well in advance and were included among the documents before the Commission. In addition, 20 representatives of NGOs delivered oral statements from the floor. During the general debate, civil society representatives advocated for access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education and the fulfilment of reproductive rights. The role of the family in societies was underscored by NGOs advocating for youth, women and the family and encouraging the formulation of family-sensitive policies in the areas of housing, work, health, social security and education. Youth advocates urged action on youth empowerment, education and participation in policymaking for programmes affecting them. Other NGOs emphasized the need to ensure universal social protection, to collect and use disaggregated data about economic activity, including care work, and to enact laws and implement policies to support women's access to decent work. NGOs were also consulted during the informal consultations on the draft resolution.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-sixth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fifth session;¹

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.²
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session

3. General debate:
 - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
 - (b) Population, education and sustainable development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population, education and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, education and sustainable development

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 5 (E/2022/25).*

² In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its fifty-fifth session, will hold the first meeting of its fifty-sixth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

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

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2022: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2023 and programme performance for 2021: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs³

5. Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

Draft decision II

Cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution [2016/25](#) of 27 July 2016 and its decision 2017/260 of 7 July 2017, as well as General Assembly resolutions [52/188](#) of 18 December 1997, [65/234](#) of 22 December 2010 and [73/303](#) of 28 June 2019, decides that the Commission on Population and Development shall revert to its traditional five-year cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁴ and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ as part of a multi-year work programme aligned with the main theme of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, and invites the Assembly to hold a commemorative event in years when the Commission conducts a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action.

³ The preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2023 is scheduled to be finalized in the first half of 2022.

⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution and decision were adopted by the Commission and are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2022/1

Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

The Commission on Population and Development,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁶ and the key actions for its further implementation,⁷ the declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development⁸ and previous resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁹ and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,¹⁰

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 ensuring that no one is left behind, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹¹ the Paris Agreement¹² adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹³ and the relevant UNFCCC and Paris Agreement decisions including the Glasgow Climate Pact, and the New Urban Agenda,¹⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁵ the political declaration

⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 5 (E/2019/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

⁹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁰ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

¹² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,¹⁶ as well as major outcome documents in relation to countries in special situations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁷ and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁸ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,²⁰ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,²¹ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,²² the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination²³ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,²⁴

Deeply concerned that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment and working conditions, quality education, health systems, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, as well as its significant impact on food prices and the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, is exacerbating vulnerabilities and inequalities and has a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, decent work for all, human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, eliminating all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and violence in digital contexts, food security and nutrition, access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation, including for menstrual health and hygiene management, environmentally sound chemical and waste management, especially for the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind, in particular in developing countries, including countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges, which imposes greater challenges and demands extra efforts to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, and achieving sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth,

Expressing concern that climate change is already having disproportionate and adverse impacts on developing countries, local and marginalized communities and people in vulnerable situations, women and children, migrants and indigenous peoples, and their livelihoods,²⁵ ultimately impacting hundreds of millions of people, and reiterating the urgent need for action to end practices that negatively affect the environment, build resilience and scale up the provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, especially for the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, by investing in and providing long-term and predictable financing for early warning systems and prevention and preparedness programmes, including disaster risk reduction, especially in adaptation and mitigation strategies, and enhancing joint risk assessments and risk management strategies to reduce the impact and cost of natural disasters and address the adverse impacts of climate change on sustained and inclusive economic growth, including for all women and children,

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 74/2.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁸ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

²³ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

²⁵ Based on Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, people of African descent, indigenous peoples and local and rural communities, and to ensure rapid and effective response to the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as disasters and related displacement appropriate to local and national needs,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, which reaffirmed the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognized that universal health coverage is fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related not only to health and well-being, but also, inter alia, to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, providing decent work and economic growth, reducing inequalities, ensuring just, peaceful and inclusive societies and to building and fostering partnerships,

Recognizing that full and productive employment and decent work for all without discrimination of any kind, accompanied by social protection systems and measures for all, equal pay for work of equal value, ending child labour in all its forms and eradicating forced labour, are among the key elements of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and ensuring an adequate standard of living and that facilitate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing also that all women and girls play a vital role as agents of change for development, acknowledging that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against them are crucial to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing further that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and that women spend less time in paid work, and that this unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work contributes to greater time burdens on women throughout their life course and substantially limits their participation in the social, political and economic spheres and their economic empowerment and independence,

Acknowledging the importance of achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production and that sustainable consumption and production practices, including through resource efficiency and sustainable economy policy approaches, can be cost-efficient and effective ways to achieve economic development, reduce environmental impacts and advance human well-being,

Noting with great concern that the global goal of eradicating poverty by 2030 is slipping from our reach and that the multidimensional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation, pushing more than 100 million people into extreme poverty since its outbreak, reversing decades of progress, and that more than 60 per cent of the world's employed population are still engaged in the informal economy, in which women are overrepresented, are often not protected by or able to exercise workers' rights, social protection and decent working conditions, and are at risk of abuse, harassment and exploitation,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, including in Africa, in least developed countries, in landlocked developing countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, as well as countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and reaffirming also the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development,

Reaffirming also that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, and that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems,

Emphasizing that the role of entrepreneurship and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in social and economic development, including in driving inclusive economic growth, is more critical than ever in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond, and stressing the need for ensuring the normal functioning of open markets and global supply chain connectivity,

Acknowledging the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth,

Reaffirming the right to education, and recognizing the role of inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and lifelong learning for sustainable development and sustained and inclusive economic growth, including remote learning, and that, despite progress towards universal primary and secondary education worldwide, all schooling has been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly affecting children, especially girls, and youth, and those who are in vulnerable situations,

Recognizing that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and the pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, stressing the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge the digital divides, both between and within countries and between women and men, and between girls and boys, including but not limited to those based on age and disability, and to harness information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional and inclusive approach that includes digital literacy education, speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content, safety and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

Emphasizing that population issues are interlinked with sustainable development at the subnational, national, regional and global levels, and reiterating in this regard that the realization of a demographic dividend requires national policies and an international economic environment conducive to investment, decent work, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic development and further integration and full participation of developing countries in the global economy,

Recognizing that adolescents and youth in all countries are key agents for change in the promotion of sustainable development, sustained and inclusive economic growth and technological innovation, and recognizing the need to increase the participation of youth in social change and give youth access to equitable opportunities to contribute to social change, including resources for youth-led community initiatives,

Acknowledging that the ageing of the population will continue to impact all aspects of society, including labour and financial markets, fiscal systems, the demand for goods and services, such as education, housing, health, long-term care, social protection, transport, information and communication, as well as intergenerational ties, underlining the importance of multisectoral action to healthy ageing, and recognizing further the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for older persons to fully and effectively enjoy their human rights and fully develop their human potential,

Recognizing that health, including mental health, is a precondition for economic and social development, and aware that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development,

Expressing concern that, in spite of the progress made towards achieving the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, considerable gaps still exist in its implementation, and in that regard noting the voluntary commitments by Member States to further the implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraging further actions by Member States for their implementation in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Stressing that reliable, timely, high-quality, accessible and disaggregated demographic data need to be a central focus of any effort to strengthen statistical systems for the review and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and for reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of high-quality, reliable and timely statistics and population data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts for policy formulation by all countries, and noting in this regard the important contribution of population data in the upcoming assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development scheduled to be held in 2024,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth,²⁶ and the report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth;²⁷

2. *Reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

3. *Also reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, and notes the outcome documents of the regional review conferences, stressing 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;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to take concrete measures towards the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, respect, protect and promote human rights, including the right to development, and fundamental

²⁶ E/CN.9/2022/2.

²⁷ E/CN.9/2022/3.

freedoms, reduce inequalities within and among countries, and achieve sustainable development, and stresses that population dynamics are all important for development, including for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁸ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

5. *Recognizes* that sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth, including sustainable industrialization, is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and for combating inequality within and among countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic and social policies at all levels;

6. *Also recognizes* that unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are key drivers of natural resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and malnutrition, and therefore recommits to making fundamental changes in the way that societies produce and consume goods and services, including through resource efficiency and sustainable economic policy approaches and promoting more resilient and sustainable lifestyles, including lifestyles in harmony with nature, and urges the international community to continue to support developing countries in strengthening their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

7. *Reaffirms* that intergenerational solidarity is a fundamental component for the achievement of an inclusive and just society for all ages, including youth and older persons, that solidarity is also a major prerequisite for social cohesion and a foundation of formal and informal welfare and care systems and that changing demographic, social and economic circumstances may require the adjustment of pension, social security, health and long-term care systems, including to ensure that they are gender-responsive and age-sensitive, and in this respect encourages Member States to adopt effective means to reduce poverty and the intergenerational transfer of poverty through social protection measures, such as old-age pensions, cash transfers, housing assistance, child benefits and tax breaks;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to foster healthy ageing worldwide, in particular to change how we think, feel and act towards age and ageing, ensure that communities foster the abilities of older persons, promote health by implementing policy measures, including raising awareness about healthy lifestyles and health literacy and promoting occupational safety and health over the life course, deliver integrated care and primary health services responsive to older persons, and provide access to long-term care for older persons who need it;

9. *Stresses* that full and productive employment and decent work for all is one of the key elements of sustainable development, and should be a priority of national policies and international cooperation, and that Member States should enable conditions for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, shared prosperity, full and productive employment and decent work for all, without discrimination of any kind, including equal pay for work of equal value, and promoting social dialogue accompanied by social protection, taking into account different levels of national development and policies;

10. *Recognizes* that investments and innovation in the social sector, in particular in inclusive and quality education and health, contribute to the alleviation of poverty, reduction of inequalities and the enjoyment of human rights, and enhance human resource development, and encourages further efforts to scale up investments in these areas through quality education that is inclusive and equitable, and universal

²⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

health coverage, among other things, and in this regard takes note of the initiative by the Secretary-General to convene the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, recalling that the special theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development shall be “Population, education and sustainable development”;

11. *Urges* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into all development and humanitarian efforts, recognizing that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is a common goal which is critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to ensure and broaden the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal actors, and to improve their access to all resources needed for their full exercise and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, ending all forms of discrimination, and by removing persistent barriers, including by providing access to inclusive and equitable quality education, at all levels, and lifelong learning opportunities, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, and strengthening their economic empowerment and independence;

12. *Urges* States to scale up efforts to accelerate the transition of women from informal employment to formal employment, including access to decent work, equal pay for work of equal value, improved wages, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including the provision of childcare support such as paid childcare leave, child allowance, nursery services provision, care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave, which will enable life-work balance, and to take all appropriate measures to effectively value and recognize, reduce, remunerate and equitably redistribute unpaid care and domestic work predominately done by women and girls, including by challenging gender stereotypes and negative social norms, investing in a sustainable and resilient care economy, and taking steps to measure the value of this work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy;

13. *Urges* Governments and the international community to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services, without coercion or discrimination, to remove all types of barriers to the ability of adolescents and youth to protect their health, and also urges Governments to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment, and to provide education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable, innovative and decent job creation, improved employability, skills development, mentorship programmes, increased technical and financial support and vocational education and training, and to actively support and invest in increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the formulation, decisions about, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people, which is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations;

14. *Reaffirms* the commitment to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances, and also reaffirms the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit and destination and in the response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of facilitating safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, and the importance of promoting safe and secure working

environments for migrant workers, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, and recommits to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status;

15. *Recommits* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, which can play a critical role in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development;

16. *Promotes* the role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in sustainable and inclusive economic growth, as well as the importance of adequate skills development training for all, particularly for youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, women, indigenous peoples, local communities and entrepreneurs;

17. *Recognizes* the important role of rural communities in a context of sustained and inclusive economic growth, and encourages Member States, international organizations, the private sector and other partners to develop programmes to foster the creation of decent work in rural areas and increase the investment in agricultural and related off-farm activities;

18. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion, accordingly reaffirms its commitment to bridging the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to implement policies and to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide, both between and within countries, and to address the challenges associated with digital literacy, digital skills, training and awareness, as a measure to attain the social inclusion of all, with a focus on children, especially girls, youth, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, rural and remote communities, migrants and indigenous peoples, without any discrimination;

19. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies, access to the Internet, connectivity and digital inclusion play in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lifelong learning and quality education, health, communication, commerce and economic recovery and to ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while striving to address digital divides within and among countries and regions;

20. *Stresses* the need to take action to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, including in the world of work, through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms and legal frameworks and their application, given that all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in private and public spaces, including in digital contexts, are a major impediment to the achievement of the empowerment of women and girls and their social and economic development and the enjoyment of their human rights that no country has managed to eliminate, and encourages the adoption of specific preventive measures to protect all women and girls, youth and children from violence, abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, exploitation, harassment, trafficking in persons, child labour, forced labour and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, taking into account the need to address negative social norms, structural barriers and gender stereotypes that affect women in

the world of work and to develop and implement measures to promote the re-entry of victims and survivors of violence into the labour market;

21. *Recognizes* that health and nutrition investments at all ages provide high returns for development and bring unique benefits for women's lifetime earnings, poverty eradication and the economic well-being of households and local communities, and calls upon Member States to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;

22. *Emphasizes* that, in order to realize and capitalize on demographic dividend, it is essential to increase and sustain investment in measures to empower women, girls and youth and to provide a enabling environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities, especially inclusive and equitable quality education for girls, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition, and to meet the unmet needs of women for family planning, as well as investment in vocational training, employment support and job creation, and that a well-trained and healthy workforce together with appropriate economic reforms and policies will result in high return on investment for the growing working-age population;

23. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, especially in developing countries, including national safety nets, for the poorest and those living in vulnerable situations and those facing discrimination, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development, and further encourages Governments to increase the coverage of social protection floors to design policy measures that are gender- and age-sensitive and extend social protection to workers in the informal economy, to foster the progressive formalization of enterprises and employment in the informal sector, including in the care economy, and to mobilize investments in support of decent work, universal social protection, and a just transition towards equitable, inclusive and sustainable economies;

24. *Urges* Member States, taking into account that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental risks owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and their implementation, urges developed countries to urgently and significantly scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation so as to respond to the needs of developing countries as part of a global effort, including for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, encourages Member States to increase the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, which are vital for raising ambition and achieving climate goals, and stresses the need to address the challenges posed by climate change that affect women and girls in particular, with a view to advancing towards the goal of promoting gender-responsive and full, equal and meaningful participation and resilience of women and girls and leadership and empowerment of women in support of climate and environment action;

25. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, indigenous peoples, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, women- and youth-led organizations, the private sector and academia, to promote the importance of international solidarity and multilateral cooperation, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to

build back from the COVID-19 pandemic and to intensify the contributions of all actors to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

26. *Urges* Member States to ensure universal, equitable, affordable and timely access to and distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, other health technologies, and health-care services, including as supported through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and other relevant initiatives, especially in low- and middle-income countries, accelerating the global recovery and contributing to putting an end to the pandemic;

27. *Also urges* Member States to strengthen national capacities, including through enhanced international cooperation and effective multilateralism, for the production, dissemination and analysis of high-quality, reliable and timely statistics and population data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts for policy formulation by all countries, to encourage the use of distributional national accounts in order to facilitate an assessment of well-being that goes beyond gross domestic product and inform the design of policies for sustained and inclusive economic growth that benefit all, to complete in a timely manner the 2020 round of population and housing censuses and to improve civil registration and vital statistics;

28. *Calls upon* the United Nations Population Fund to continue to play a crucial role, within its mandate, in assisting countries, based on their needs, and priorities and in consultation with them, to enable countries to achieve the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, and in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia, to continue its research on the linkages among population, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and the environment, and human health, giving particular attention to levels, trends and differentials of mortality, fertility, population distribution and mobility and to the role of population and development policies, while mainstreaming a gender perspective, and to ensure that the findings from this and related research contribute to the next review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Decision 2022/101
Special theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme of its fifty-seventh session in 2024 shall 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”.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting, on 25 April 2022. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.9/2022/1](#)) and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.9/2022/1/L.1/Rev.1](#)).
4. At the 2nd meeting, on 25 April, the Chair of the Commission, Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines), made a statement and noted that the fifty-fifth session of the Commission would be held in a hybrid format involving in-person formal meetings and virtual informal meetings, owing to the circumstances imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and would not in any way create a precedent to the work of the Commission.
5. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the course of the session.
6. Also at the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Bureau, the Commission decided, without setting a precedent for future sessions, that Member States, observer States, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and related organizations, as well as civil society organizations, could submit a pre-recorded statement, which would be played in the conference room during the general discussion under agenda item 3 (General debate) at its fifty-fifth session.

Chapter III

General debate:

(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

(b) Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

7. The Commission considered agenda item 3 and its sub-items (a) and (b) at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 25 to 27 April and on 29 April 2022, and convened two virtual informal meetings to hold a multi-stakeholder panel discussion and an expert panel discussion. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report. The Commission held a general discussion on the item at its 2nd to 5th meetings. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth ([E/CN.9/2022/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth ([E/CN.9/2022/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2022/4](#)).

8. The Commission also had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Council.²⁹

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic Countries) (pre-recorded), Mexico (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay), the Philippines, India (pre-recorded), the Dominican Republic (pre-recorded), China (pre-recorded), Mexico and Lebanon (pre-recorded), as well as by the observers for Honduras (pre-recorded), Norway (pre-recorded), Guyana (pre-recorded), Egypt (pre-recorded), Mongolia (pre-recorded), Peru (pre-recorded), Malawi, Indonesia (pre-recorded), Maldives (pre-recorded), Nigeria, Jordan (pre-recorded), the Syrian Arab Republic (pre-recorded) and the Sudan.

²⁹ [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/1](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/2](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/3](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/4](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/5](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/6](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/7](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/8](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/9](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/10](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/11](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/12](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/13](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/14](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/15](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/16](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/17](#), [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/18](#) and [E/CN.9/2022/NGO/19](#).

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 April, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the reports of the Secretary-General, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Côte d'Ivoire). The following panellists responded to questions posed by the moderator: Chief of the Population Policies and Development Branch, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Jorge Bravo; Chief of the Population and Development Branch, Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund, Rachel Snow; Economic Affairs Officer of the New York Office, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Moritz Meier-Ewert; and Chief of the Economic Empowerment Section, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Jemimah Njuki.

11. At the same meeting, an interactive debate ensued, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representative of Cuba and the observer for Malawi. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the discussion: ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together and International Federation of Medical Students' Associations. Before concluding, the panellists and the Vice-Chair of the Commission made closing remarks.

12. Also at the same meeting, following the expert panel discussion, the Commission resumed its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of the Netherlands, Zambia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Côte d'Ivoire, Turkey (pre-recorded), Cuba, Bangladesh, Colombia, Belarus, Nepal and Malaysia, as well as by the observers for South Africa, Kenya, Sweden, Uganda, Luxembourg, Pakistan and Senegal.

13. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of India and the observer for Pakistan.

14. At the 4th meeting, on 26 April, the Commission resumed its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of the Republic of Moldova, Haiti (pre-recorded), Japan (pre-recorded), Argentina, the United States of America, Israel, Belgium, Canada (pre-recorded), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bulgaria, Germany, the Russian Federation, El Salvador and Burkina Faso, as well as by the observers for Qatar, the Gambia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, New Zealand, Morocco, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Mozambique, Portugal, Finland, Chile, Burundi, Suriname and Algeria.

15. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the Holy See, the League of Arab States and Partners in Population and Development, and by the representative of the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council: International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

16. At its 5th meeting, on 27 April, the Commission resumed its general discussion and heard by the observers for Ghana, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the International Organization for Migration and the representatives of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, as well as the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council: International Federation for Family Development, Rutgers, C-Fam, Inc., Advocates for Youth on behalf of International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition (ISRRC), International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medical Social workers, Advocates for Youth, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, World Youth Alliance, Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, Soroptimist International, China Family Planning Association, Asociación Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho (ASOCOLEMAD), Family Planning NSW, Haiti Cholera Research Funding

Foundation, Swasti, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together, FEMM Foundation and Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights.

Action taken by the Commission

Cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

18. At its 6th meeting, on 29 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development” (E/CN.9/2022/L.3), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft decision and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I).

Special theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development

19. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Special theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development” (E/CN.9/2022/L.4), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2022/101).

Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

20. Also at the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth” (E/CN.9/2022/L.6), as submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission decided to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure in order to proceed immediately to the consideration of the draft resolution. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2022/1).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Israel, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Lebanon, as well as by the observers for France (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova), New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia and Canada), Indonesia, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates), Hungary, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Nicaragua.

22. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

Chapter IV

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

23. The Commission convened a virtual informal meeting to hold a discussion by a panel of national experts, followed by an interactive debate, under item 4 of its agenda (Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population). The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in annex II to the present report. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends ([E/CN.9/2022/5](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2021: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/CN.9/2022/6](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2022/CRP.1).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

24. At its 6th meeting, on 29 April 2022, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission in 2023 ([E/CN.9/2022/L.2](#)).

25. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation of its fifty-sixth session and recommended them to Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

26. At the 6th meeting, on 29 April 2022, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Andrei Nicolenco (Republic of Moldova), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session, as contained in document [E/CN.9/2022/L.5](#).

27. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur with its finalization in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

28. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters on 23 April 2021 and from 25 to 29 April 2022. The Commission held six meetings (1st to 6th) and convened three virtual informal meetings during the session (see also chap. II, para 4, and annex II to the present document).

29. At the 2nd meeting, on 25 April 2022, the regular session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines), who made a statement.

30. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General (pre-recorded), the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development addressed the Commission.

31. Also at the same meeting, a keynote statement was made by Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Jayati Ghosh.

B. Attendance

32. The session was attended by representatives of 33 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States and intergovernmental organizations, and representatives of United Nations system organizations and of non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be available in document [E/CN.9/2022/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

33. At its 1st meeting, on 23 April 2021, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines) as Chair and Andrei Nicolenco (Republic of Moldova) as Vice-Chair.

34. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 April 2022, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Antonin Benjamin Bieke (Côte d'Ivoire), Sara Offermans (Netherlands), and Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador) as Vice-Chairs. The Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session was thus composed as follows:

Chair:

Enrique A. Manalo (Philippines)

Vice-Chairs:

Antonin Benjamin Bieke (Côte d'Ivoire)
Andrei Nicolenco (Republic of Moldova)
Sara Offermans (Netherlands)
Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador)

35. At the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Andrei Nicolenco (Republic of Moldova), to serve as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

36. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2022/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate:
 - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
 - (b) Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

37. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2022/L.1/Rev.1).

E. Documentation

38. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-fifth session is contained in annex I to the present report and available on the website of the Population Division (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD55>).

Annex I

List of documents before the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-fifth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
E/CN.9/2022/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.9/2022/2	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth
E/CN.9/2022/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth
E/CN.9/2022/4	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2022/5	4	Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends
E/CN.9/2022/6	4	Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2021: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/CN.9/2022/CRP.1	4	Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs
E/CN.9/2022/L.1/Rev.1	2	Organization of work of the session
E/CN.9/2022/L.2	5	Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2022/L.3	3 (a)	Draft decision on the cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2022/L.4	3 (a)	Draft decision on the special theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2022/L.5	6	Draft report of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
E/CN.9/2022/L.6	3 (b)	Draft resolution on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth
E/CN.9/2022/NGO/1-19	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Annex II

Proceedings of the virtual informal meetings of the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-fifth session

Virtual informal meetings to hold two panel discussions followed by interactive debates, under agenda item 3 and its sub-items (a) and (b)

Multi-stakeholder panel discussion on the contribution of key population and development issues to building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. At its informal meeting on 26 April 2022, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on the contribution of key population and development issues to building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador), who made a statement.
2. The following panellists responded to questions posed by the Vice-Chair: Deputy Minister of Health of Malawi, Enock Phale; Statistician General, Statistics Sierra Leone, Osman Sankoh; television host and United Nations Population Fund Goodwill Ambassador, Catarina Furtado; Executive Director of the National Commission on Population and Development, Juan Antonio Perez III; and Co-Founder of Youth United in Action and Global Focal Point of the major group for children and youth, Dalia Marquez.
3. An interactive debate ensued, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representative of the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for Egypt and Morocco.
4. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: International Federation of Medical Students' Association and ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together.
5. The panellists and the Vice-Chair of the Commission made closing remarks.

Expert panel discussion on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

6. At its informal meeting on 27 April 2022, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth, chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Sara Offermans (Netherlands), who made a statement.
7. The following panellists responded to questions posed by the Vice-Chair: Head, Inclusive Growth Team, United Nations Development Programme, Mansour Ndiaye; Vice-Rector for Science and Director, Institute of Statistics and Demography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak; economist and researcher and former National Director of Equality, Economy and Gender, Ministry of Economy of Argentina, Mercedes d'Alessandro; Professor of Child and Family Social Work, University of Oxford, Lucie Cluver; and Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Vienna, Roman Hoffmann.

8. An interactive debate ensued, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Japan and Zambia, as well as by the observers for Paraguay and Sweden.
9. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the discussion: ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together and Advocates for Youth.
10. The panellists and the Vice-Chair of the Commission made closing remarks.

Virtual informal meeting to hold a panel discussion followed by interactive debate, under agenda item 4

Expert panel discussion on the programme of work in population

11. At its informal meeting on 28 April 2022, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the programme of work in population, chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Andrei Nicolenco (Republic of Moldova), and moderated by the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who made statements.
12. The following panellists responded to questions posed by the moderator: Director, Population Management and Development Department, National Population Commission, Nigeria, Margaret Edison; Head, Research Group Demographic Change and World Population, Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany, Elke Loichinger; Director General, China Population and Development Research Center, He Dan; and President, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Eduardo Rios-Neto.
13. An interactive debate ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Zambia and Japan.
14. The representative of the non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together, also participated in the discussion.
15. The panellists and the moderator made closing remarks.

