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Commission on Population and Development

Fifty-fourth session

19–23 April 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

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, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officers as may be required.

In accordance with Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020, entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”; decision 2020/206 of 22 May 2020, by which the Council extended that decision until the end of June 2020 and applied the procedure to its subsidiary bodies; and decision 2020/219 of 24 June 2020, by which the Council extended those decisions until the end of July 2020, the Commission elected by



correspondence on 17 July 2020 Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso) as Chair representing African States, Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon) as Vice-Chair representing Asia-Pacific States, and Damla Fidan (Turkey) as Vice-Chair representing Western European and other States. At the first meeting of its fifty-fourth session, to be held on 19 April 2021, the Commission shall elect Vice-Chairs nominated by Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States, and designate one of its Vice-Chairs as Rapporteur.

The membership of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session is available on the web page of the Commission (www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/composition-commission).

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its fifty-third session, the Council, in its decision 2020/221 (see [A/75/3 \(Part I\)](#), chap. XI, sect. I.6), approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session will be prepared pursuant to relevant decisions by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to facilitate the Commission's consideration of agenda items within the time frame available, in accordance with the conference services allocated to it and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic that affect the working arrangements of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2021/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session ([E/CN.9/2021/L.1](#))

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, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

In its resolution [49/128](#), the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development and decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

At its twenty-first special session, the General Assembly, in its resolution [S-21/2](#), adopted a set of key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

The General Assembly, in its resolution [65/234](#), extended the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond the original 20-year time horizon, the end of which was reached in 2014.

On the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution [2016/25](#) on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission. In the resolution, the Council reaffirmed that the primary mandate of the Commission was to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international

levels and to advise the Council thereon. In the same resolution, the Council also reaffirmed the central role of the Commission in coordinating the review and assessment of the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, including by addressing gaps and challenges to implementation, and affirmed that the Commission would contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its existing mandate and that its contribution should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their interlinkages.

In the terms of reference of the Commission (see [E/1995/27](#), annex I, sect. I.A), which were endorsed, with one amendment, by the Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year programme. That work programme would, inter alia, provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In the report on its twenty-eighth session, of which the Council took note in its decision 1995/236, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action (see [E/1995/27](#), annex I, sect. III).

On the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Council, in its resolution [2016/25](#), decided that the Commission would continue its current practice of selecting one special theme for each annual session on the basis of progress, gaps, recurrent challenges and evolving issues relevant to population and development based on the Programme of Action and the key actions to accelerate its further implementation, while also taking into account the 2030 Agenda, with a view to fully implementing all of its mandated tasks and contributing to the work of the Council, including by building synergies and, in the context of its working methods, as appropriate, taking into account the annual thematic focus of the Council and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#) and [68/1](#), as part of a multi-year work programme. The Council also decided to include, under the item on the general debate, two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels, and one focusing on the special theme of the annual session.

In its decision 2017/260 (see [E/2017/25](#), chap. I.A), the Council decided that, starting with its fifty-third session in 2020, the Commission would adopt a four-year cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, as part of a multi-year work programme aligned with the main theme of the Council and with the thematic focus of the high-level political forum meeting under the auspices of the Council.

In its decision 2018/101 (see [E/2018/25](#), chap. I.B), the Commission decided that the special theme for its fifty-third session in 2020 would be “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”. In the light of the extraordinary circumstances occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission, in its decision 2020/101 (see [E/2020/25](#), chap. I.B), decided at its fifty-third session to postpone a full consideration of the special theme until its fifty-fourth session, in 2021.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/2](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/3](#))

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.9/2021/4](#))

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

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission suggested that the work programme in the field of population should continue, inter alia, to give high priority to the monitoring of population trends and policies and include the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; the conduct of studies on population and related development policies; the preparation of studies on interactions of population change with other development processes; the conduct of analyses of mortality; contribution to and coordination of in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; the conduct of studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increasing public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; making the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and the provision of technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries faced at that time (see [E/1995/27](#), annex II). The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1; see [E/1996/25](#), chap. I.C).

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3; see [E/1997/25](#), chap. I.C).

At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Division in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development contained in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (Commission resolution 2004/1; see [E/2004/25](#), chap. I.B). At the same session, the Commission further emphasized that the Division should continue its basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard (Commission resolution 2004/1).

At its forty-ninth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population and development, including on the interactions between population dynamics, inequalities and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, 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, and, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations outside the United Nations, civil society and academia, to continue to assess and report on progress towards the full implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation, and the 2030 Agenda (Commission resolution 2016/1; see [E/2016/25](#), chap. I.C).

In its resolution 2016/25, and again in its decision 2017/260, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the complementary roles of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), within their existing mandates, in supporting the efficient work of the Commission.

The Commission has before it the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020, in which the work of the Population Division is described. Members of the Commission are invited to review the report and provide comments thereon.

Beginning in 2020, the strategic framework and proposed programme of work are subject to the annual programme budget approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/266 A, including a results framework. A draft of the results framework was proposed in annex III to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process” (A/72/492/Add.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2021/5)

Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development

At its fifty-third session, the Commission decided to include an item on the future role and organization of the Commission in the provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2020/L.2/Rev.1), which was subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2020/221 (see E/2020/25, chap. I.B).

In a letter dated 10 July 2020,¹ the Chair of the fifty-third session circulated an informal note by the Secretariat on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development,² prepared at the request of the Bureau and in consultation with UNFPA, and invited Member States to provide written responses to the questions contained in the note. In a letter dated 24 December 2020,³ the Chair of the fifty-fourth session invited Member States to a brainstorming meeting to be held on 28 January 2021. The written responses,⁴ as well as inputs received during the informal brainstorming meeting, would serve as a basis for an informal conference room paper to be prepared by the Secretariat in support of the deliberations on that agenda item.

Documentation

No advance documentation requested

¹ Available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/cpd_cover_letter_future_role_and_organization_of_cpd.pdf.

² Available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/secretariat_note_future_role_and_organization_of_cpd.pdf.

³ Available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/cpd54_invitation_to_a_brainstorming_meeting.pdf.

⁴ Available at www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/country-inputs-future-role-and-organization-commission-population-and-development.

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has before it the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

The Commission is invited to consider Council resolutions [1979/41](#), [1981/83](#), [1982/50](#) and 1983/163, on the control and limitation of documentation, on exercising restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new documentation, on integrating and consolidating documents to rationalize documentation and avoid duplication, and on streamlining agendas and programmes of work.

On the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2016/25](#), decided to include, under the item on the general debate, two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission. The proposed provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission reflects this change.

The Commission decided at its fifty-third session, in 2020, that the special theme of its fifty-fifth session, in 2022, would be “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth” (Commission decision 2020/101; see [E/2020/25](#), chap. I.B).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission ([E/CN.9/2021/L.2](#))

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council on the work of each session.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session⁵

⁵ To be issued as an in-session document.