



# Commission on Population and Development

Fifty-fourth session  
New York, 19-23 April 2021

EXPERT PANEL ON THE  
PROGRAMME OF WORK IN  
POPULATION  
(virtual meeting)

Thursday, 22 April 2021  
10:00-11:00 am EDT

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Introduction

The expert panel will examine the work programme of the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The panel will inform the deliberations under item 4 of the provisional agenda (Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population).<sup>1</sup>

### Background

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the programme of work on population of the United Nations Secretariat. The programme of work is guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), by the key actions for its further implementation, and by the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond the original 20-year time horizon. The outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, are also taken into account. In addition, the work of the Division is guided by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development and by other relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The objective, to which the subprogramme on population contributes, is to improve knowledge of global population trends, advance an evidence-based understanding of interactions between population change and sustainable development among policymakers and the public, and to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda.

Starting in 2020, the strategic framework and proposed programme of work have been subject to the new annual programme budget, which orients the outputs of the subprogramme on population around key datasets, "highlights" reports, and an annual report on major demographic trends ("megatrends").

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020 ([E/CN.9/2021/5](https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2021/5)) details the activities of the Division in analyzing global trends in fertility, mortality, international migration, urbanization and population ageing; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of

<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2021/1>

interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; capacity development provided to Member States; and the support provided to intergovernmental processes.

The 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 ([E/CN.9/2021/CRP.2](#)) provides the programme of work in 2021 and an overview of key deliverables in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

### Format

The moderator will make opening remarks including key highlights of the report of the Secretary-General ([E/CN.9/2021/5](#)) and the Note by the Secretariat ([E/CN.9/2021/CRP.2](#)). The moderator will invite national experts to address the guiding questions. Following these interventions, Member States, observers and civil society are encouraged to ask questions or raise issues in response to the interventions made. Reading from prepared statements is discouraged. Following questions and comments from the audience, the panelists and the moderator will make brief closing remarks.

### Guiding questions for the panelists

- What were some of the highlights of the subprogramme on population during 2020?
- Has the work on population in 2020 resulted in enhanced accessibility and relevance of data and analysis on population trends to guide the elaboration of development policies by Member States and supported them in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- Has the subprogramme on population facilitated reviews of progress made in the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global level?
- What are some of the current and emerging population issues at the national, regional and global level that should be addressed by the subprogramme on population?
- What are the needs at country and regional level that could be addressed by the capacity development activities undertaken by Population Division? What would be the best way to address these needs?

### Panelists

- Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (moderator)
- Dr. Géraldine Duthé, Head, Demography of Southern populations, National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), France
- Reiko Hayashi, Ph.D., Deputy Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS), Japan
- Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez, Secretary-General, National Population Council, Mexico



- Mr. Jacques van Zuydam, Chief Director, National Population Unit, Republic of South Africa

### **Outcome**

The Commission on Population and Development acts as the governing body for the Population Division and thus provides guidance on the work programme as part of its annual session. As such, the deliberations and outcomes of the panel will inform the future work of the Population Division.

