

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Fiftieth session, 3-7 April 2017

Briefing on organizational matters, logistics and NGO participation

2 March 2017, 1:15 - 2:30 pm
Trusteeship Council Chamber

**Statement by Mr. John Wilmoth, Director
Population Division/DESA**

Good afternoon, excellencies, delegates, colleagues.

Sign-in sheet

First, let me kindly remind all participants please to sign in on the sheets that are being circulated in the room, if you have not done so already.

Please write your name, the mission or organization that you are representing, and your email address. This will ensure that the Secretariat has a complete and up-to-date contact list, which will be very useful for distributing information during the coming weeks.

Documentation

Regarding the documentation for the upcoming session of the Commission, as the Chair, H.E. Ms. Alya Al-Thani, has just noted, all documents have already been posted on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

Dates

As you know, the plenary meetings of the upcoming session will take place from 3 to 7 April. The Bureau decided to start the informal consultations on Wednesday, 29 March. The informals are closed meetings. The zero draft of the resolution on the special theme will be distributed on 8 March 2017 to allow three weeks for review and consultation within groups prior to the start of the informal consultations led by the co-facilitators. Also on the 8th of March, the Secretariat will distribute, on behalf of the Chair, two short draft decisions: one will contain proposals on special themes for the 51st and 52nd sessions in 2018 and 2019, and the other will address some specific topics in follow-up to last year's review of the Commission's methods of work.

Webcast

All plenary meetings of the upcoming session will be transmitted “live” via UN Web TV. The recordings will be accessible through the Population Division’s website after the session has concluded.

Meeting rooms

The plenary meetings of the Commission are scheduled to be held in Conference Room 4 of the Conference Building. For the period 29-31 March, informal consultations will take place in Conference Room 11. During the week of 3-7 April, informal consultations will take place in Conference Room 6.

The Secretariat will assist the co-facilitators in keeping you informed of any room changes. Nevertheless, I recommend strongly that delegations also check regularly the UN Journal for information about any last-minute room changes.

NGOs will be allowed into the balcony of CR 4, space permitting. On the morning of 3 April, CR 6 will serve as an overflow room for NGOs. CR 5 will serve as an overflow room in the afternoon of 3 April.

Organization of work

Let me now turn to the organization of work, starting with a review of the various agenda items.

On the first day of the resumed session, Monday, 3 April, the Commission will elect its officers under agenda item 1. Also under this agenda item, the Commission will finalize the election of the members of the Bureau for the current session.

The adoption of the provisional agenda and the organization of work will take place under agenda item 2, also on Monday.

Agenda item 3 consists of two sub-items: 3(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; and 3(b) Changing population age structures and sustainable development, which is the special theme of the current session. Under this agenda item, the Commission will have before it three reports of the Secretary-General: a report on the special theme of the 50th session (E/CN.9/2017/2); a report on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the special theme of the 50th session (E/CN.9/2017/3); and a report 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.9/2017/4).

Member States delivering statements under agenda item 3 may wish to refer to the three reports of the Secretary-General that will be presented under this agenda item.

On Thursday morning, the Commission will consider agenda item 4, Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population. Under this item, the

Commission will consider the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016, and a note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the period 2018-2019 of the Secretariat. Member States are invited to make statements with reference to the report and the note prepared for this agenda item, keeping in mind that the Commission serves as the governing body of the Population Division.

On Friday afternoon, the Commission will take action on the draft proposals, including one resolution (on the special theme) and three decisions (on special themes for the next two sessions, on specific topics in follow-up to the review of the Commission's methods of work and on the provisional agenda for the 51st session in 2018). The Commission should also adopt the draft report of the Commission on its 50th session on Friday afternoon.

Immediately following the closing of the 50th session on Friday, 7 April, the 51st session will open for the sole purpose of electing the new members of the Bureau. Following the principle of geographical rotation followed by the Commission since 2005, the Eastern European Group will nominate the Chair of the 51th session, for election by the entire Commission.

This year, the Bureau decided to dedicate Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (4 and 6 April) to informal consultations, and thus there will be no plenary meetings at those times, on the condition that the other meetings will be sufficient for accommodating the list of speakers. This plan is reflected in the organization of work.

Keynote speakers and other experts

On Monday, 3 April, between 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm, there will be a keynote address by Mr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director, African Institute for Development Policy, in Nairobi, Kenya. The presentation by Mr. Zulu will address “Changing age structures and sustainable development in youthful societies”. The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion and debate moderated by the Chair, Ambassador Al-Thani.

On Tuesday, 4 April, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, there will be a keynote address by Ms. Rania Antonopoulos, director of the Gender Equality and the Economy program at the Levy Economics Institute, and since January 2015, Alternate Minister of Labour in the Government of Greece. Ms. Antonopoulos will address “Changes in age structure and sustainable development in ageing societies”. This presentation will also be followed by an interactive discussion.

On Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, there will be national voluntary presentations on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, with an emphasis on changing age structures and sustainable development. A panel of experts will offer additional comments following the brief presentations, followed by an interactive discussion guided by a moderator. Please note that in view of time limitations, it is envisaged that a maximum of 10 Member States, including representatives of each of the five regional groups, will be invited to make such presentations. Each presenter will speak for up to eight minutes. The interactive discussion will involve Member States, observers and other participants in the session, including representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The panel of experts will include the following four persons:

Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak (Poland), Assistant Professor at Warsaw School of Economics and Educational Research Institute, Warsaw, Poland, and former Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy

Rafael Rofman (Argentina), World Bank Program Leader for Education, Health, Social Protection and Labor, and Poverty, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Edith Esinam Asamani (Ghana), Project Officer, Ghana Adolescent Reproductive Health project, at Hope For Future Generations

Youssef Courbage (Lebanon), Research Director, Institut national d'études démographiques, Paris, France

For the interactive discussions following the keynote addresses and the national voluntary presentations, delegates are encouraged to share spontaneous remarks in reaction to the current discussion, rather than reading prepared statements.

We will post short summaries of the presentations and biographic information on the keynote speakers and the panelists on the website of the Population Division prior to the session.

Grounds passes for delegates

We have been advised by the UN security service that delegates who need grounds passes must submit their requests to UN Security at least 48 hours in advance. The general advice is that the sooner delegates apply for grounds passes, the better.

Side events

We have received expressions of interest from permanent missions, UN entities, and non-governmental organizations to organize side events. Please note that NGOs cannot organize side-events on their own, but need to have a permanent mission collaborate with them. If you are considering organizing such an event, please contact us as soon as possible, but no later than 27 March, since room availability is often an issue and cannot be guaranteed. Once we have final confirmations, we will post a schedule of side events on the CPD website.

Please note that organizers are entirely responsible for side-events; this includes the costs for organizing such events, securing passes for entry to the UN premises, drafting of flyers etc.

More information on organizing side events is posted on the website of the Population Division. If you are interested in organizing an event, please send information about it to CPD50@un.org.

A list of all side-events will be posted on the Population Division's website before 3 April 2017.

Additional briefings

I also wish to announce that the Population Division and UNFPA will organize a briefing for Member States on the substantive reports of the Secretary-General that have been prepared for the

upcoming session tomorrow, Friday, 3 March, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. All interested members of delegations, representatives of non-governmental organizations and UN staff are invited to attend.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

As in previous years, we again welcome the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC. Online pre-registration of NGO representatives will close on 17 March. We have secured CR 6 and CR 5 as overflow rooms to accommodate NGO representatives on 3 April. CR 4 can hold about 200 NGO representatives in the balcony.

Regarding oral presentations, NGOs with ECOSOC accreditation can submit their requests to make an oral statement by 27 March. They should send their requests to CPD50NGO@un.org.

I am happy to report that thus far, about 450 ECOSOC accredited NGO representatives have already pre-registered for the event.

On-site registration

In terms of on-site registration, I strongly encourage NGOs to visit the UN website (www.unpopulation.org) for the detailed time-bound schedule for registration, which will take place at the UN Pass and ID Office (320 East 45th Street, between First and Second Avenues) on 3, 4 and 6 April.

All pre-registered NGO participants are required to obtain passes.

All pre-registered NGO participants are reminded to bring the following in order to complete on-site registration:

- Passport or Photo ID
- Confirmation letter
- Annual NGO pass (if available)

Passes will allow NGO participants access to the balcony of CR 4 during the week and CR 6 and CR 5 on 3 April, space permitting.

NGO written statements

NGO representatives in consultative status with ECOSOC were given the opportunity to submit written statements to be circulated as official documents for consideration by the Commission at its 50th session. The 19 statements received were reviewed and processed by the UN Secretariat, translated into the three official languages of the Economic and Social Council, published as official documents and then posted on the Population Division's webpage at www.unpopulation.org.

NGO oral statements

NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status are given the opportunity to make oral statements, time permitting, at the end of the Commission's consideration of agenda item 3, which will begin on Monday afternoon.

Inclusion of NGO presenters on the list of speakers is made on a “first-come, first-served” basis and is dependent on the time available. Although there are no guarantees that an individual NGO will have an opportunity to make an oral statement during the session, the Secretariat will seek to ensure that the voice of NGOs is fully heard.

Requests to make oral statements and to be inscribed in the list of speakers should be sent by e-mail to the Population Division at CPD50NGO@un.org by the 27th of March.

Having said this, NGO representatives should not attempt to present orally the full text of a statement that has already been submitted in writing and is publicly available: such repetition may prevent other NGOs from having their views heard by the Commission. Statements that are already available in written form should be condensed and presented briefly, making reference to the availability of the full statement on the Commission’s webpage. Joint statements on behalf of two or more NGOs are strongly encouraged.

I wish to emphasize that your views are important for the work of the Commission, and we look forward to hearing from you at the session.

Thank you, Madame Chair.