



United Nations Commission on Population and Development

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

EXPERT PANEL ON THE REPORTS
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(AGENDA ITEM 3)
(virtual meeting)

Monday, 19 April 2021
3:00-4:00 pm EDT

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

The Commission on Population and Development, at its fifty-fourth session, will consider the special theme of “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”.¹

On the afternoon of Monday 19 April, the Commission will organize an expert panel to discuss the three reports of the Secretary-General, prepared for the general debate (item 3 of the agenda).² Panel members include experts from the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP, tbc). The panel will be moderated by a Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session.

Background

The Commission on Population and Development monitors, reviews and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Programme of Action highlights the interlinkages between that population, poverty, patterns of production and consumption and the environment. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In preparation for the fifty-fourth session, the Secretary-General has prepared reports on (a) population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/2), (b) review of impact of COVID-19 on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and their contribution to population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/3), and (c) 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).

¹ For further information on the annual session, including the reports of the Secretary-General, please refer to <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD54>.

² In response to General Assembly 72/305, the Bureau of the Commission has substituted the traditional presentation of the three reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the general debate, with an expert panel to be followed by an interactive debate.

Format

During the first part of the panel, the moderator will make brief opening remarks, to be followed by representatives from UN DESA and UNFPA who will briefly introduce the two reports of the Secretary-General, focusing on the special theme (5 minutes each). The moderator will then address specific questions to the panelists (see below). After each round of questions, Member States and other stakeholders will be invited to make brief comments on the two reports, to pose questions to the panelists, or to address questions posed by moderator. Reading from prepared statements is discouraged. The panelists will be invited to respond to the interventions from delegations.

The second part of the panel will feature a short presentation by a UNFPA representative who will brief the Commission on the main findings of the 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. The presentation will be followed by a brief question and answer session and concluding remarks from the moderator.

Guiding questions for the panelists

- What are the main findings of the reports of the Secretary-General?
- How do demographic megatrends, in particular population growth, population ageing, urbanization and migration, interact with issues of food security and nutrition?
- How can the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action contribute to achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable development?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development and related programmes and interventions?
- What policies, programmes and interventions are needed to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs related to population, food security and nutrition by 2030?

Outcome

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council shortly after the session. It will also inform the Commission's contribution to the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

