



Expert panel

Programme of work on population

Thursday, 28 April 2022, 10:00-12:00 noon EDT

Concept Note

(Draft, 30 March 2022)

Introduction

The expert panel, which will consist of national experts on population and development, will examine the following three documents prepared for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development:

- Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2022/5),
- 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), and
- 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).

Background

The aim of the subprogramme on population 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.

The report on world demographic trends provides an overview of population trends for the world and its regions.^a It focuses on recent demographic changes, as well as projected trends during the time frame for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. The topics covered by the report include population size, fertility, family planning, mortality, changing population age structures, urbanization and international migration. The

^a The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1996/2, proposed that main demographic trends be covered biennially, starting in 1997, in a concise report prepared by the Population Division, to be discussed under the agenda item concerning the work programme of the Division. In 2012, the Council decided to change the timing of the consideration of the report to even-numbered years.

report also assesses the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on demographic trends, to the extent possible with currently available data.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2021 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 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 and interagency processes.

The 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 provides the programme of work in 2022 and an overview of key deliverables in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Format

In his opening remarks, the moderator will include highlights of the two reports of the Secretary-General and the Note by the Secretariat. He will then invite national experts to address the guiding questions. There will be no Powerpoint presentations. 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

The following are indicative questions which will be addressed by the panelists:

- What were some of the highlights of the subprogramme on population during 2021?
- Has the work on population in 2021 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?
- From your national and regional perspective, what are some of the most salient findings of the report on world demographic trends?
- In your view, what are the implications, if any, of these demographic trends at the national, regional and global level that should be addressed by the subprogramme on population?
- How can we encourage countries to consider population dynamics and policies in preparing National Voluntary Reviews in the context of the High-Level Political Forum?
- What are the needs at country and regional level that could be addressed by the capacity development activities undertaken by the Population Division?



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. The deliberations and outcomes of the panel will inform the future work of the Population Division.

