



Expert panel

**Population and Sustainable Development,
In Particular Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth
(Virtual Meeting)**

Wednesday, 27 April 2022, 10:00-11:30 am EDT

Concept Note

(Draft, 30 March 2022)

Introduction

The Commission on Population and Development, at its fifty-fifth session, will consider the special theme of “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”.^a

This expert panel will discuss key interlinkages between demographic dynamics and economic growth, poverty, gender inequality and other forms of equality, the environment and climate change. The purpose is to review the latest evidence on population trends and what they imply for development planning. Panel members will include experts from government, academia and the UN system. The panel will inform the deliberations under item 3 of the draft agenda (General debate).^b

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 covers major interlinkages between population and development with a focus on poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, environment and patterns of production and consumption, among other topics. Within that mandate, the Commission also contributes to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The world population continues to grow, albeit at a decelerating rate. There have been some signs of convergence in fertility and mortality between groups of countries at different levels of development, but considerable heterogeneity persists across and within countries. Demographic changes, including slowing population growth and changing ageing structures

^a 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/CPD55>.

^b <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2022/1>.

affect the size of labour force, dependency ratios, economic growth and inequalities. They also influence human and physical capital accumulation, productivity, and the fiscal sustainability of government budgets. The panel will also address interactions between population dynamics, patterns of production and consumption and the environment and climate change, as well as their implications for progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the socioeconomic well-being of future generations.

Format

Following opening remarks by the moderator, panelists will be invited to address the guiding questions (see below). 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. The panelists will briefly respond to the questions and issues raised by the audience, after which the moderator will make brief closing remarks.

Indicative questions for panelists

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

- How do demographic dynamics interact with macroeconomic performance, especially in the post COVID-19 era?
- What is the role of the intergenerational economy in enabling demographic dividends and in financing social programs in the face of current and future demographic shifts?
- How to ensure that, in the current and foreseeable demographic context, countries can achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth? How to ensure inclusive social protection as population age structures change over the coming decades?
- What are the market and non-market contributions of women and men to the economy, and how can they be fairly recognized and valued in public programmes?
- What demographic trends can be harnessed to support more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and mitigate environmental impacts?

Outcome

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth 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 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.^c

^c The General Assembly, in June 2021, adopted resolution 75/290A to strengthen the work of the Economic and Social Council to effectively carry out its Charter mandates and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the outcomes of other UN conferences and summits as well as to the response to COVID19. In particular, the resolution tasked ECOSOC to provide guidance to subsidiary bodies, ensuring a clear division of labour, aligning their work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and promoting their implementation of the ministerial declaration, adopted by ECOSOC in the previous year.

