

**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION**

Informal briefing on substantive issues
27 October 2022, 1.15 - 2:30 p.m. (EDT)
Conference Room 6

Opening remarks by John Wilmoth
Director of the Population Division, UN/DESA

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this informal briefing on substantive issues in preparation of the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

This briefing is organized by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNFPA, UNESCO and WHO.

Let me also welcome those of you who are joining us online.

My name is John Wilmoth. I am the Director of the Population Division.

I am joined here on the podium by H.E. Gheorghe Leucă, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations and Chair of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development as well as two of our panelists, Cheryl Sawyer from the Population Division and Sandile Simelane from UNFPA.

Dear colleagues,

The 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development will take place from 10 to 14 April 2023. The special theme of this year's session is "Population, education and sustainable development".

All information pertaining to the organization of the upcoming session, including this briefing, will be posted on the CPD website, which is accessible through UNPOPULATION.ORG, the website of the Population Division. You may wish to check this website regularly for updates.

The Secretariat is maintaining a distribution list for CPD delegates. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please register on the list of participants which is currently

being circulated in the room by the Secretariat, or you can send an email to cpd@un.org.

You should have all received a copy of today's programme. Copies of the latest version are available in the conference room and on the CPD website (through unpopulation.org, click on the CPD tab, then click the link for the 56th session and look for the link to this informal briefing).

Ladies and gentlemen,

The theme of this year's CPD session is very timely. Indeed, it seems overdue given that the Commission last considered Chapter XI of the ICPD Programme of Action, entitled "Population, Development and Education", at its thirty-sixth session in 2003. Since then, the 2030 Agenda has focused the attention of the international community on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

We should also consider relevant outcomes of more recent events.

On 6 and 7 September 2022, the Population Division organized an expert group meeting that featured discussions of the latest evidence and analyses related to the theme of this year's session, "Population, Education and Sustainable Development".

The Transforming Education Summit, held in September 2022, addressed the global crisis in education and mobilized leadership and commitment in key areas of action. These included: expanding access to quality education, making schools safe, healthy and inclusive, advancing gender equality, and empowering teachers.

Let me now give the floor to Ambassador Leucă for some introductory remarks.

0-0-0-0-0