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## Expert panel on population, education and sustainable development

Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 10:00-11:30 a.m. EDT

### **Concept Note** *(draft, January 2023)*

#### **Introduction**

The Commission on Population and Development, at its fifty-sixth session, will consider the special theme of “Population, education and sustainable development”.<sup>1</sup>

This expert panel will discuss key interlinkages between demographic dynamics and quality education, including universal access to education at all levels, lifelong learning, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, women’s empowerment, and digital skills and inclusion. The purpose is to review the latest evidence on the influence of population on education as well as the influence of education on lifecycle demographic processes, and what they imply for development planning. Panel members will include experts from academia and civil society. The panel will inform the deliberations under item 3 of the draft agenda (General debate).

#### **Background**

In the field of population studies, it has long been recognized that education is strongly related to a broad range of demographic behaviours. The spread of education throughout a population has been shown to be of central importance for the long-term demographic transition from high to low levels of fertility and mortality. The education of women and girls, in particular, contributes significantly to the health and survival of children, and the eradication of child marriage, early child-bearing and unplanned pregnancy. It provides a critical pathway to women’s economic and social empowerment.

Education and training over the life course are also important to sustain socioeconomic development, especially in modern economies increasingly driven by innovation and productivity growth. From a macroeconomic perspective, a well-educated workforce reinforces the positive impacts of the demographic dividend and tempers the fiscal and economic challenges associated with rapidly ageing populations, while contributing to the achievement of various sustainable development goals.

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<sup>1</sup> 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/CPD56>.



## Format

Following opening remarks by the moderator, panelists will be invited to address, selectively, 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 the panelists

- What are the challenges involved in increasing human capital investment per child?
- What are the impacts of education, including education on sexual and reproductive health, on adolescent fertility and women's empowerment?
- What is the evidence on programmes and policies that work to improve school enrolment and educational attainment for girls and boys, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What interventions can contribute to closing the digital divide to ensure equitable benefits of the digital transformation?
- What is the role of lifelong learning and adult education in this century and how can they support the achievement of the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- What policies and interventions in both countries of origin and countries of destination can help to facilitate the integration and employability of migrant workers of various educational/skill levels?
- What are effective ways of engaging youth in education planning?

## Outcome

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth 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 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.