



## Expert panel on the programme of work in population<sup>1</sup>

Thursday, 10 April 2025, 10:00-11:30 a.m. EDT

### Concept Note

#### Introduction

The expert panel will examine the following documents prepared for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development:

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2024: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2025/6); and

Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2025/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 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 of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2024 describes the activities of the Population Division in analysing global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; preparing global population estimates and projections; monitoring population policies; analysing linkages between population and sustainable development; disseminating population data and information; providing technical assistance and capacity development to Member States; and supporting intergovernmental processes.

<sup>1</sup> Item 4 of the provisional agenda entitled "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population" (E/CN.9/2025/1).



As documented in the report, key achievements of the work programme during 2024 included several in-depth reports addressing current and future demographic issues facing developing countries, in particular: (1) *World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of Results*, and accompanying dataset, *World Population Prospects 2024*; (2) *International Migration and Sustainable Development* and (3) *World Fertility Report 2024*. Other notable initiatives included the development of a set of indicators to review progress related to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, updating of estimates and projections of family planning indicators, revision of methods for the estimation of the number of international migrants by origin and destination, and numerous technical cooperation activities carried out to support Member States.

The note by the Secretariat on the programme plan and programme performance provides (a) programme performance for 2024; and (b) the draft programme of work for 2026. The Commission is invited to consider and take note of the programme plan narrative and deliverables to be included in the proposed programme plan and budget for 2026.

### **Format**

The moderator will introduce the panellists and highlight key elements of the report by the Secretary-General and of the Note by the Secretariat. Panellists will be invited to address, selectively, the guiding questions (see below). Member of the Commission, observers and civil society organizations are encouraged to ask questions or raise issues in reaction to the preceding discussion. Reading from prepared statements is discouraged. The panellists will briefly respond to the questions and issues raised by delegations, after which the moderator will make brief closing remarks.

### Guiding questions for the panellists

- From your perspective, what were some of the highlights of the subprogramme on population during 2024?
- Has the work on population in 2024 improved the accessibility of population data and provided relevant analyses of population trends that can guide Member States in elaborating their development policies? How does this work support Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
- From your national and regional perspectives, what were some of the most notable or salient activities of the 2024 work programme on population?
- Which key global, regional and national demographic trends should receive greater attention in the future work programme on population?
- How can we encourage Member States to consider population dynamics and policies in preparing National Voluntary Reviews in the context of the High-Level Political Forum?

- How can we encourage the consideration of population dynamics in upcoming intergovernmental meetings such as the Second World Summit on Social Development?
- What are some needs at the national level that could be addressed by the capacity development activities undertaken by the Population Division?

### **Outcome**

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council shortly after the closure of the session. The deliberations and recommendations of the panel will also assist the Population Division in shaping its future work programme.