



FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
INFORMAL BRIEFING
7 DECEMBER 2023, 1.15-2.30 PM CONFERENCE ROOM 1

BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPERTS



H.E. Ms. Noemí Espinoza Madrid is Ambassador at large, Chair of the Commission on Population and Development. She has over 25 years of experience working on political advice, advocacy, partnerships, and strategic guidance for top level government and intergovernmental organizations, mostly at the United Nations. She has been a leader in intergovernmental negotiations both as an Ambassador and a UN advisor. She is known for establishing and galvanizing partnerships with civil society and governments to advocate for human rights and for political, economic, and cultural justice. She is a sought out lecturer for academic conferences and universities. She began her diplomatic career in the Honduran Consulate in New York City in 1996. She has served in various capacities at the Permanent Mission of Honduras and has a long career in the United Nations Secretariat, where she has been a Senior Advisor to the United Nations President of the General Assembly and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. Ambassador Espinoza Madrid holds two M.A.s. one in Economics from Vanderbilt University and a second one in Politics from The New School.



Dr. Priscilla Idele is the Chief of the Population and Development Branch at UNFPA in New York. Before this role, she was a Principal Adviser in the United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General in New York, where she led the re-establishment of the SG's Scientific Advisory Board, planned and convened the Secretary-General's Transforming Education Summit, and supported high-level events for data advocacy, investments, and partnerships. From 2005 to 2021, Priscilla served in various roles at UNICEF, including Deputy Director of the UNICEF Office of Research in Florence, Italy, and Global Chief of Data and Analytics at UNICEF in New York. Priscilla has spent over 30 years in high level global policy advocacy and national programme design, data and evidence generation, and monitoring and accountability mechanisms for global and national commitments, focusing on child, adolescent and women's rights and development, and gender equality. She is a recipient of the International AIDS Society (IAS) Prize for Excellence in research related to children affected by HIV/AIDS. Priscilla holds a Ph.D. in Social Statistics from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, a Master's in Population Studies, and a Bachelor of Business Education from Nairobi, Kenya.



Ms. Karoline Schmid, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. She has been working with the United Nations since 1995 in various capacities serving at different duties stations (Albania, New York, and Trinidad & Tobago). Karoline is currently heading the Fertility and Population Ageing Section in the Population Division, leading the Division's work on population ageing and fertility. In this capacity she has led research on social, economic as well as health related aspects of demographic dynamics, with a focus on population ageing, such as living arrangements of older persons, measuring population ageing and the impact of COVID-19 on morbidity and mortality of older persons. She has also led a wide range of capacity development projects providing technical assistance on a wide range of economic, social and demographic aspects of population and development to countries in sub-Saharan Africa as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean. Karoline holds a diploma in Sociology from the University of Bamberg (Germany) and a Ph. D. in sociology from the University of Marburg (Germany).



Barbara Seligman is senior vice president responsible for leading International Programs at the Population Reference Bureau, PRB. She has held executive and senior advisory roles with the U.S. government and nonprofit and for-profit global health and development firms, foundations, and think tanks. Barbara has advised more than 20 governments in low- and middle-income countries on health, reproductive health, and family planning policy. Following the Rose Revolution, she led a major health policy reform program, including developing an inaugural reproductive health policy in Tbilisi, Georgia. In the early 1990s, she assisted the Malagasy ICPD delegation in preparing its statement; later, she served as technical advisor to the U.S. government's delegation to ICPD plus ten and represented the U.S. at annual Committee on Population and Development meetings. Her current interests focus on the shifting composition of the global working-age population projected to occur over the next 30 or so years.



Mr. John Wilmoth has been Director of the United Nations Population Division, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, since 2013. He worked previously for the Population Division as Chief of the Mortality Section from 2005 to 2007. He began his career in 1990 by teaching and conducting research at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Wilmoth was Professor at UC Berkeley through 2014 and is now Professor Emeritus in Berkeley's Department of Demography. He is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers on various aspects of population dynamics. From 2009 to 2012, he was engaged as a consultant by the World Health Organization and the World Bank to lead the development of new maternal mortality estimates for the global monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. He has also served on several expert panels convened by the U.S. Government or National Academy of Sciences.