

About the United Nations Thirteenth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development

In 1994, Member States attending the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo agreed that “population-related goals and policies are integral parts of cultural, economic and social development” and recommended that actions be taken “to measure, assess, monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the goals of its Programme of Action”. More than 25 years since its adoption, the ICPD Programme of Action continues to provide crucial guidance for addressing the fundamental development challenges facing the world today. Population issues are also at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015.

The United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the “Inquiry”) gathers critically important data for monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and other international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda. The Inquiry, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, has been conducted by the Secretary-General at regular intervals since 1963. The most recent Inquiry, the Twelfth, was implemented in 2018.

The results of the Inquiry have been disseminated through the World Population Policies database, which is updated biennially. The database provides information pertaining to Member States and non-member States of the United Nations on policies related to important population and development issues. Data gathered through the Inquiry also inform the global monitoring of two SDG indicators, as well as the work of the Commission on Population and Development.

The Thirteenth Inquiry consists mostly of multiple-choice questions and is divided into two thematic modules: reproductive health and international migration. The module on reproductive health will provide information for global monitoring of SDG indicator 5.6.2 on guaranteed universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education; and the module on international migration will inform SDG indicator 10.7.2 on policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, as well as assess migration policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Links to the online questionnaires and fillable PDF questionnaires for the two modules are provided herewith. Information about the Thirteenth Inquiry and links to the online and fillable questionnaires in all six United Nations languages are also available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/themes/population-policies/inquiry>.

Governments are requested to forward the attached Secretary-General’s note verbale and the two modules of the Thirteenth Inquiry to relevant ministries or departments. To allow the United Nations sufficient time to analyse the responses, Governments are requested to transmit completed modules to the Secretariat by **31 December 2020** by filling them online or by emailing the completed PDF questionnaires to poppolicy@un.org. Any hard copies of the completed Inquiry modules and supporting documents can be mailed to the Secretariat at the following address:

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