



# Expert Panel on Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development

7 December 2010  
Conference Room C (TNLB)  
UN Headquarters, New York

## Background

Fertility, reproductive health and development are core elements of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development as well as the Millennium Development Goals. In view of the forty-fourth Commission on Population and Development that will take place on 11-15 April 2011 and focus on fertility, reproductive health and development, the Population Division has organized an expert panel to examine emerging issues in these areas, particularly the development impact of fertility decline, improvements in access to family planning and other reproductive health services, and reductions of inequities in reproductive health.

## Agenda

- 10:00 AM      **Welcome and Introduction**  
Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, United Nations Population Division
- 10:15 AM      Presentations  
**The contribution of family planning to the reduction of maternal deaths**  
Ms. Ann Blanc, Director, Maternal Health Task Force, EndgenderHealth
- Targeting poverty and gender inequality to improve maternal health**  
Ms. Rekha Mehra, Director, Economic Development, International Center for Research on Women
- 11:10 AM      **Discussion**
- 11:35 AM      Presentations  
**Long Term Effects of a Social Experiment in Matlab, Bangladesh: 1974 – 1996**  
Mr. T. Paul Schultz, Professor, Department of Economics, Yale University
- The Macroeconomic Consequences of Family Planning**  
Mr. David Canning, Professor, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard University
- 12:30 PM      **Discussion**
- 12:55 PM      **Closing Remarks (Population Division)**
- 1:00 PM        **End of Expert Panel**

**Ann K. Blanc** is Director of the Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) at EngenderHealth. The MHTF, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, offers a structure for catalyzing existing maternal health initiatives, deepening the involvement of developing country experts, engaging new organizations from allied fields, and making information accessible to broader audiences. She previously served as a program officer in the Population and Reproductive Health Program at The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and as a Senior Evaluation Analyst for Macro International, Inc., on the USAID-funded MEASURE/Evaluation Project. At Macro, she collaborated with developing country colleagues to design and implement household- and facilities-based surveys and conducted methodological research and statistical analyses. Earlier, she served for more than a decade overseeing the implementation of demographic research in developing countries under the Demographic and Health Surveys Program. She holds a PhD in Sociology and Demography from Princeton University.

**Rekha Mehra** is Director of Economic Development at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). She leads work on gender and agriculture, assets and property rights and enterprise development and financial services. Her earlier positions include Senior Gender Specialist in the Gender Unit of the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Group; Program Officer for Economic Development at the Ford Foundation, New Delhi; and Vice President of the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, D.C., where she worked on issues related to the economic advancement of low-income women in developing countries and directed a USAID-funded global technical assistance and training project. She has written extensively on gender and development, including the recent publications: *Targeting Poverty and Gender Inequality to Improve Maternal Health* (2010) and *The Significant Shift: Women, Food Security Commercial Agriculture in a Global Market Place* (2008). She has doctoral degrees in Food and Resource Economics and History.

**T. Paul Schultz** is the Malcolm K. Brachman Professor of Economics, Emeritus, at Yale University, where he has been a professor since 1975. His prior positions include Director of the Economic Growth Center at Yale University, Professor at the University of Minnesota, Director of Population Research Program at the Rand Corporation, and economist with the Joint Economic Committee, U. S. Congress, and Council of Economic Advisors. His research focuses on microeconomic explanations for individual, family, and household economic and demographic behavior, including fertility, health status, marriage, female labor force participation, gender differences in human capital, schooling and health of children, the distribution of income among persons and households and over time, and the role of schooling, migration, and health for labor productivity. He is the author of a textbook *Economics of Population* and more than one hundred journal articles, chapters in books and edited volumes. He holds a PhD in Economics from MIT.

**David Canning** is Professor of Economics and International Health at Harvard University and Associate Director of the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. Previously he was a Professor of Economics at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. In addition, he was a member of Working Group One of the World Health Organization's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. His research examines the role of demographic change and health improvements in economic development, and he has published numerous articles and book chapters in this area as well as the book *The Demographic Dividend: A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population Change* (with D. Bloom and J. Sevilla). He holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge University.