



Realizing the Future We Want for All: The post-2015 Development Agenda



A Call to Integrate Population Dynamics into the Post-2015 Development Agenda



Recommendations of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics and the Post-2015 Development Agenda



**Outcome document
14 March 2013**

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Introduction

With the target date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) rapidly approaching, the international community is beginning to debate what should be the nature of a new development agenda and how it should differ from the previous MDG approach. Whatever form a new post-2015 development agenda ultimately takes, it will need to address today's complex demographic challenges, promote sustainable development, and find a harmonious balance between complex social, economic and environmental development agendas.

Mega population trends at the national and global levels – continued rapid population growth, population ageing, urbanization and migration – not only frame the entire development debate, they demand a reconsideration and re-conceptualization of what will be the main challenges for the post-2015 development agenda. Without adequate understanding of how the world is changing from a demographic perspective, forward-looking planning and agenda setting will be of little value. For this reason, population dynamics were emphasized in the outcome document of the Rio+20 conference *“The Future We Want”* and in the report of United Nations Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda *“Realizing the Future We Want for All”*.

The issues related to population dynamics are broad and complex. Ongoing demographic changes influence all of the concerns and objectives at the top of international and national development agendas. They shape and are shaped by economic development, employment, income distribution, poverty, social protection and pensions affect and are affected by access to health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy. Population dynamics also influence and are influenced by the sustainability of cities and rural areas, environmental conditions and climate change.

The global thematic consultation on population dynamics seeks to provide an authoritative position on how population dynamics affect, and to a large degree determine, the major development challenges of the 21st century. The consultation aspires to identify a broad-based consensus on how the major challenges associated with population dynamics should be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. The consultation, which benefits from

generous financial support by the Government of Switzerland and the Hewlett Foundation, is co-led by the Governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh. On behalf of the international agencies, the consultation is led by UNFPA, UN DESA, UN Habitat and IOM in close collaboration with UNDP, UNAIDS, UN-Women, OHCHR, ILO, FAO and WFP. This document has been prepared for the Post-2015 Development Agenda Global Leaders Meeting on Population Dynamics in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 12-13 March 2013. It has benefitted from various e-consultants as well as extensive discussions with governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

Population dynamics are at the centre of the main development challenges of the 21st century, and must therefore be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

Sustained social development – the improvement in the wellbeing of current and future generations – is not possible without economic development – an increase in the production of goods and services – and economic development cannot be decoupled from environmental change including the transformation, degradation and depletion of natural resources. A sustainable nexus between social, economic and environmental development will not only require a more balanced distribution of economic resources, but also a shift towards green economies, characterised by sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Population dynamics have a critical influence on each of these three pillars (social, economic and environmental development) and consideration of them needs to be central to any future development agenda.

The world is currently experiencing major population dynamics including continued global population growth, major compositional changes in age structures associated with youth bulges and population aging, and population redistribution as a function of urbanization and migration. These mega population trends present both important developmental challenges and new opportunities that have direct and indirect implications for virtually all aspects of economic and social development, including labour markets, income distribution, poverty and social protection, including pensions and expansion of the care-giving sector (see figure). They also influence and are influenced by environmental sustainability, climate change, and water, food and energy security. Furthermore, they affect and are affected by governments' capacity to ensure universal access to health, education and other essential services.

In addition, the interactions between population dynamics and these other dimensions of development are critically shaped by gender equality issues. They influence, and are influenced by the rights and roles of women in society, and by their active participation in social, political and economic life.

Figure: Population dynamics matters for sustainable development



Global population trends mask considerable and growing heterogeneity of demographic experiences around the world. While fertility and population growth continue to be high in the world's least developed countries, fertility is falling and populations are aging almost everywhere else. Population aging is most advanced in the developed countries of the world, but it is currently occurring most rapidly in developing countries. Population aging represents a significant achievement but many developing countries will grow old before they grow rich, and this fact will create considerable challenges for countries wanting to improve health care systems and social insurance programs including pensions systems. Furthermore, whereas urbanization has reached a mature stage in developed countries and is slowing in advanced developing countries, it is just taking off in the least developed countries. Today, the least developed countries in Africa and Asia are experiencing rapid urban population growth that is being fuelled by continued rural-urban migration. And in more and more countries rural-urban migration is but the first step to international migration. During the past two decades, international migrants as a fraction of global population has remained constant but it has increased significantly in terms of absolute numbers, and it has become an extremely important phenomenon if measured by its social, economic and political impact. Today, remittances by workers living abroad dwarf almost any other financial flow between countries.

In today's increasing global world, it would be wrong to view demographic experiences solely from a national perspective. Evidently, the effects of demographic change will be felt first and foremost in the countries where it occurs, but the effects of demographic change are not limited to an individual country. Whether populations are growing, shrinking, ageing, or moving has far-reaching implications for all countries. The world is not only bound together by trade and financial flows, but also by environmental and demographic change.

There is increasing awareness that the design of any new development agenda, particularly as it relates to any new goals and targets will need to be informed by different scenarios based on the projections of the future size, structure, growth rate, and distribution of the world's population. Efforts to reduce poverty, raise living standards, and promote the well-being of a large and growing world population will place pressure on all natural resources, including land, forests, water, oceans and the atmosphere. More people will need more jobs but also more water, food and energy, clothing, housing and infrastructure, health and education. Food production needs to increase dramatically over the next 40 years in order to meet the nutritional needs of an additional 2.3 billion people. As the rate of availability of new arable land diminishes, future growth in food production must come primarily from increasing the productivity of current arable land, which will become increasingly more difficult over time.

Of particular concern is the possibility that anthropogenic change is already so great that we are in serious danger of doing permanent damage to the global environment. The average surface temperature of the earth has risen approximately 0.7°C since the beginning of the 20th century as a direct result of higher concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Adding more people to the world, has the potential to further significantly impact climate systems worldwide. More than 17,000 species of plants and animals are currently threatened with extinction and all the leading causes of species loss—habitat loss, invasive species, disruption of ecosystems, pollution, overexploitation, and climate change—are the direct result of human activity. Hence the conclusion is that humans are literally changing the face of the planet by eroding the many natural ecosystems upon which our lives and the lives of our children will depend.

According to some estimates, Humanity's Ecological Footprint is already 1.5 times larger than the ability of the planet to supply natural resources and services. With projected population growth humanity would need approximately 3 planets by 2050. This is beyond the physical capacities of the biosphere, leading to increased environmental risks linked with resource shortages. Urgent action is therefore needed to improve the sustainability of consumption and production. Consequently, the consultation, including the e-consultation, has emphasized that slowing global population growth is not only desirable, it is essential (see annex I). Slower global population growth, together with more balanced patterns of production and consumption would help to reduce planetary pressures by slowing the depletion of non-renewable resources, increase the availability per capita of renewable resources and make it easier to achieve many of the internationally agreed development goals.

The effects of these challenges are particularly pronounced in the world's least developed countries where population are most vulnerable to environmental risks. Compared with other developing countries, the least developed countries have higher rates of population growth, higher levels of unmet need for family planning services, lower levels of life expectancy, and faster urbanization as well as significant outmigration. And while the largest number of the world's poor now lives outside the least developed countries, the least developed countries continue to have an unmatched prevalence of poverty. Today, about 50 per cent of the population of least developed countries, every second person, continues to live on less than one dollar per person per day, adjusted for purchasing power parities.

Compounding their problems, by the middle of this century, the population of the least developed countries is set to double. Between now and 2050, their working age population will increase by about 15 million per year and until 2050 every day about 33 thousand young people will enter their labour force. This represents an unprecedented challenge for employment creation and poverty reduction, considering that currently about 80 per cent of the active labour force in least developed countries is either unemployed, underemployed or vulnerably employed, and that about 60 per cent of those who are employed earn one dollar per day or less and continue to live in extreme poverty.

Owing to weak economic development and generalized poverty, the least developed countries have contributed least to global greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Yet, they are most exposed to their negative effects. However, the patterns of consumption and production in the least developed countries are already placing significant pressures on their natural resources and environment. These countries have the highest rates of deforestation, witness the most rapid expansion of deserts and many farmers are increasingly being forced to rely on marginalized agricultural lands.

However, population dynamics not only constitute challenges but can, under the right circumstances, also provide important opportunities for sustainable development. For example, the concentration of people in urban areas provides an opportunity to deliver public services at low per capita cost than if people were more geographically distributed. A rapid and marked decline in fertility levels, which temporarily leads to an increase of the number of people of working-age relative to the number of people who are formally below or above working-age, can create a "demographic dividend" that can positively influence development by raising capital/labour ratios and enabling governments and families to increase their investment in each dependent and strengthen the development of human capital in general. This "window of opportunity" for development requires investments in the creation of new jobs and in the education and health of children, adolescents and youth. Countries that have been able to materialize this demographic dividend are those that have been able to invest in human capital and create employment opportunities for the increased labour force.

Increasing survival and longevity and falling fertility eventually lead to population ageing. While population ageing is most advanced in the developed countries, it is most rapidly advancing in

developing countries, and in particular in all emerging economies. Population ageing, too, provides opportunities for socioeconomic development, provided that older persons benefit from good health, and that they have economic security, are empowered to actively participate in economic, social and political life. At the same time, countries need to ensure that national health care delivery systems are capable of delivering services to a growing older frail population and that adequate social protection schemes are in place to ensure that older people do not fall into poverty. At the same time it is important to recognize the contribution that older people can make to wider society such as the role that grandparents in many rural areas of the World and particularly in Africa have played as care givers in skipped-generation households affected by HIV/AIDS.

Today internal and international migration is a key factor and consequence of the demographic evolution of populations and can make important contributions toward poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. Migration is intimately related to labour demographics that are crucial to economic viability and development of countries worldwide. Women and men migrants replenish economies with much needed skills and innovation and buttress social security systems in countries or cities with ageing populations. Migrants have been, and continue to be, instrumental in job creation through entrepreneurship, in supplying necessary goods and services, and filling gaps in the labour market. The money that migrants gather and send back home—financial remittances—as well as transfers of their knowledge and skills help sustain households in places of origin, can lead to community empowerment, and may even address some of the negative aspects of high fertility and ageing by facilitating household members' access to health care, education and other services.

A historic milestone was achieved in 2007 when the global population living in cities and towns reached the 50 percent mark, making urban centres the dominant habitat for humankind. The rapidly increasing dominance of cities places the process of urbanization among the most significant global social trends of the twenty-first century. Urbanization and city growth are caused by a number of different factors including rural-urban migration, natural population increase, and annexation. However, because fertility is generally higher in rural than in urban areas, the principal reasons for rising levels of urbanization are rural-urban migration, annexation, i.e. the expansion of existing urban areas into adjacent space; and reclassification i.e. the growth and subsequent reclassification of what were previously considered rural villages as small urban settlements.

If well managed, cities offer important opportunities for economic and social development. Cities have always been centres for economic development, innovation, and the arts. But in addition, higher population density enables governments to more easily deliver essential infrastructure and services in urban areas at relatively low cost per capita. Furthermore, adjusted for income, people in urban areas tend to consume less energy per capita than in rural areas. Energy savings are particularly large in the housing and transportation sector.

By anticipating urbanization and managing urban growth as part of national development planning, countries can address the challenges and harness opportunities linked to this urban growth. Unfortunately, this is not happening in many countries, leading to environmentally and economically inefficient urban growth and increased vulnerability for the poor from urban sprawl, informal settlements and the creation and growth of slums and slum dwellers with inadequate access to basic services, housing and livelihoods. Unplanned urban growth under these circumstances also increases vulnerability to natural disasters and can exacerbate urban poverty. Despite increasing attention to improving access to basic services in slums, in absolute terms, the number of slum dwellers in the developing world has risen as urban municipalities have failed to keep up with the rapid pace of generation of new slum areas.

In summary, there is an increasing awareness that population dynamics and its components need to be addressed in designing new development strategies, policies and programmes. Population factors cannot simply be taken to be exogenous but should be viewed as inextricably endogenous to the process of development itself. To address the dual challenge of development -- meeting the needs of current and future generations while ensuring the sustainable use of the natural environment – international political declarations have encouraged a two-pronged approach. The Rio Declaration, agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, as well as the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, called for policies that promote sustainable consumption and production – which is the hallmark of the green economy – as well as policies that address population dynamics. More recently, the importance of population dynamics for sustainable development was emphasized by the Laxenburg Declaration, formulated by a Global Science Panel in 2011, the Global Agenda of the World Economic Forum in 2012, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, entitled “*The Future We Want*” in 2012, and in the recent report by the UN System-wide Task Team to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, entitled “*Realizing the Future We Want for All*”.

Demography is not destiny: Rights-based and gender-responsive policies can address and harness population dynamics

The success and sustainability of development strategies require that countries pro-actively address, rather than merely react to, population dynamics. Demography is not destiny. How population dynamics unfold over the next decades, and whether they compound developmental challenges or help facilitate solution, depends on whether effective policies are put in place that are rights-based, evidence informed and gender responsive.

Reaffirming the Programme of Action agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, ICPD+5, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Report by the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015

Development Agenda, the global thematic consultation has emphasized the need to address and harness population dynamics and has emphasized the need to do so through human rights-based and gender-responsive policies.

Population dynamics are the cumulative outcome of individual choices and opportunities, or lack thereof, and they should be addressed by enlarging, not restricting, these choices and opportunities. The stakeholders in this consultation emphasized that efforts to address and harness population dynamics are needed, but they were also unanimous in their rejection of any type of population control. Population control can have deleterious effects on not just individuals, but on society as whole, as seen in the case of gender imbalance in some parts of the developing world. Effective, sustainable policies, as recommended by the global thematic consultation, protect human rights, oppose stigma and discrimination, address structural drivers of inequality and exclusion, and establish concrete measures to support the poorest most marginalized populations.

Rights-based and gender-responsive policies that help address and harness population dynamics include, amongst others, the following: Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services for all, which can influence fertility rates; fiscal policies, social protection and non-financial support systems for families, including child care facilities, which can influence decisions about family size; infrastructure, building standards, and the classification and management of land, which can influence decisions about settlements; and general social or economic development policies, which can alter the push and pull factors for migration.

Human rights-based approaches hold the dignity, well-being and choice of individuals at the centre. A human rights-based approach means that policies should be positioned in a conceptual framework which is normatively based on human rights standards and principles and operationally designed to further the realization of human rights. Thus, for instance, equality and non-discrimination, participation and accountability are essential facets of a human rights-based approach. To this end, policies should be guided by human rights norms and should ultimately further the realisation of human rights. At the same time, gender responsive policies must effectively identify and address the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men, as well as transgender peoples, in a way which responds to their realities and upholds their rights. Further, the effects of gender violence and sex selective abortions on population dynamics must be taken into account, and every effort must be made to minimize these practices. The empowerment of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality are a matter of fundamental human rights and a basic precondition for equality and sustainable social and economic development.

According to the biannual surveys of population policies undertaken by the United Nations Population Division, many governments are concerned with one or more aspects of population dynamics. Whereas many developed and advanced developing countries report concerns with

respect to population ageing, over 70 per cent of the least developed countries have major concerns with respect to high fertility, high population growth and rapid urbanization.

The global thematic consultation has emphasized the need to address population dynamics as a cross-cutting issue, because they shape and are shaped by virtually all social, economic and environmental development objectives that are emerging as national and international priorities. At the same time, the consultation stressed further that different population dynamics should be addressed as a central issue in its own right, because they themselves represent critical developmental challenges and opportunities that merit their own direct policy responses.

In this context, the global thematic consultation is putting forward the following recommendations:

- Adopt human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to addressing population dynamics, promoting human rights, dignity and gender equality, through laws, policies and practices that eliminate stigma, discrimination, coercion and violence;
- Engage individuals and communities, in all their diversity, in the design, formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and redesign of policies.
- Provide special support to the poorest and most vulnerable populations to empower their full and active participation in social, economic and political life with a view to reduce inequalities.

The common agenda

Use evidence-based arguments based on population data, projections and scenarios to inform development strategies, goals, targets and policies.

Recognising and planning for demographic change is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. It is critical that policy makers understand how population dynamics affect sustainable development, but at the same time realize that social, economic and environmental development will also shape population dynamics. Research and analysis on these linkages must inform the formulation of development strategies, goals and targets.

“[Development] Targets should take proper account of population dynamics and different demographic structures across countries and regions and within countries. The clearest expression of these is the changing weights of youth and older persons in societies; different rates of fertility, morbidity and mortality; and urbanization rates. A combination of absolute and relative targets will be needed for an all-inclusive development agenda that takes shifting demographics into account.” (*Realizing the Future We Want for All*, paragraph 115).

Efforts to promote the wellbeing of current and future generations – which is the overarching objective of sustainable development – must take account of population dynamics. If development strategies do not consider changes in the number, age and spatial distribution of the population people, they will never be able to fully address the needs of people.

Efforts to meet the needs of current generations cannot distract from meeting the needs of future generations. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, which focused on improving the living conditions of people who suffered from deprivations during a given base year, forward-looking development targets must also factor in a goal of improving the living conditions of people who will be added to the planet over the next several decades, and on meeting their changing needs as they age. For instance, while numerous countries have made progress in reducing the share of people living in extreme poverty based on a target calibrated relative to population size in 1990, some of the poorest countries in the world will have a larger number of people who live in extreme poverty in the target year of 2015 than ever before. This is because poverty reduction did not keep pace with population growth. Likewise, for every person who was lifted out of urban slums, more than one person was added to urban slums. To ensure genuine progress, future development goals must be informed by accurate population projections.

Future goals and targets need to take a dynamic, rather than static, view of population patterns and trends. For example, future targets on education cannot only focus on the number of pupils in primary, secondary or tertiary school age today, but must also consider changes in the size of the school-age populations in the future. Likewise, it is essential that countries make every effort to meet the current sexual and reproductive health needs and rights of all, including the 222 million women who want to delay or avoid pregnancy but are not currently using a method of family planning. And at the same time, they must make every effort to lay the foundations to meet the needs of the millions of people who will enter their reproductive age in the coming decades. Similarly, targets on employment and social protection will be influenced by changes in the labour force and dependency rates over time. In addition to accounting for changes in the size of populations, all targets must account for trends in population mobility and the subsequent spatial distribution of people.

Consideration of only broad averages risks overlooking important sub-variation. Progress towards the current Millennium Development Goals have been constrained by the “tyranny of averages” – which has in some situations led to increased inequalities. Population data can also help to reveal inequalities and track progress towards national and international development goals and targets. By disaggregating relevant data by age, sex, location of people and socio-economic variables, it is possible to highlight important differences between different population groups, design more targeted policies to address discrimination, including through support for disadvantaged populations.

In correspondence with the issue of using population data, projections and scenarios to inform development strategies, goals, targets and policies, the global thematic consultation is putting forward the following recommendations:

- Undertake and share research and analysis on the linkages between population dynamics and development to promote the sustainability of rural, urban, regional, national and global development strategies, and ensure that these strategies respond to the changing characteristics and needs of different populations.
- Use population data, projections and scenarios to formulate forward-looking development goals, targets and policies.
- Ensure that public services, including education, health systems, and housing respond to the changing needs of all age groups. Health care systems will need to respond to the changing global burden of disease, associated with population aging, particularly the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, dementia and other mental health problems.

Strengthen national capacities to collect, analyze and utilize population-based data.

Recognising that government and other stakeholders need good data not only to monitor development outcomes, but to achieve development progress, the global consultation emphasized the importance of strengthening national statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis and policy studies, as well as the ability to conduct sound monitoring and evaluation of programs. The need to increase investment in the collection, analysis and utilisation of population-based data, including population and housing censuses and surveys and vital registration systems, as well as critical social, economic and environmental data calls for comprehensive international support. Such data could inform the work of all those seeking to influence and address the complex development challenges that the world is facing.

In correspondence with the issue of strengthening national capacities to collect, analyze and utilize population-based data, the global thematic consultation is putting forward the following recommendations:

- Strengthen national capacities, including through international technical and financial assistance, to collect and analyze demographic, socio-economic and labor data, prepare high quality projections, and integrate these demographic data with other critical social, economic and environmental statistics.
- Promote increased coverage and higher quality of vital registration in all countries.
- Integrate and harmonize survey data, and include critical data especially on migration and maternal mortality
- Integrate and harmonize survey data.
- Disaggregate relevant demographic, social and economic data by age, sex, geography and other demographic information to monitor progress towards internationally agreed development goals, and track changes in inequalities, targeted support to the

Promote human development throughout the life course.

The nature of demographic change is strongly influenced by human development, notably investment in education and health of the population. Human development is an important end in itself, as well as a crucial means to socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development. However, efforts to strengthen human development should not only focus on early phases in life, but should rather extend throughout the life course into old age.

In a world of 7 billion, there are currently about 1.8 billion adolescents and young men and women. Young people represent hopes and aspirations for the future. This is true in the world's least developed countries, which have a large and growing youth population, as well as more advanced developing countries, which have an increasingly older population. Whether the least developed countries are able to realize the demographic dividend, or whether the advanced countries are able to cater for a large and growing number of older persons critically depends on whether young men and women will be find productive and remunerative employment, and whether they will be able to actively participate in the social and political life more broadly. In least developed countries that continue to have a large and growing youth population, young people are expected to seize the demographic bonus; in more advanced countries which see a shrinking youth populations, they are expected to cater for an increasing old age population. Both expectations critically depend on the full participation of younger people in social, economic and political life. However, there often is a gap between expectations of young people, and the realities confronted by them. A large share of young people is neither in education nor in employment, and of those employed, a significant proportion suffers from underemployment or vulnerable employment, and therefore continues to live in poverty.

The considerable expectations of young people must be matched by adequate investment in young generations. Such investment is not only an economic and social necessity but a moral obligation and must start from an early age and continue throughout the life course. Elements should include investment in education including the transfer of technical and vocational skills, comprehensive sexuality education and the development of life skills, and access to adequate health care, including sexual and reproductive health care and family planning. However, a strengthening of human capital and employability must be complemented by sound economic policies that encourage sustainable economic growth and employment generation. Investment in young people must be coupled with the meaningful participation of young people themselves in decision-making processes at all levels, including through the empowerment of women and girls and also those from traditionally marginalized communities.

Health and education are no less important for people in all other age groups. Strategies to provide a continuum of care and support throughout the life course, as well as opportunities for life-long learning should be informed by the needs of women and men of all ages. It is also

important to recognize that the needs, personal preferences and expectations of people evolve over time and change with age, sex, location, and income level. Complementing life-long learning, social protection schemes, including universal access to health care, reduces disparities, empowers women, as well as migrants and their children, and contributes to human development throughout the life-course.

In correspondence with the issue of promoting human development throughout the life-course, the global thematic consultation is putting forward the following recommendations:

- Promote the development of human capital, notably health and education, throughout the life course. Provide possibilities for life-long learning.
- Ensure universal access to health care throughout the life course, including sexual and reproductive health services that meet the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability, quality and affordability. Address the sexual and reproductive health needs of older women.
- Provide non-discriminatory, non-judgmental, rights-based, age appropriate, gender-sensitive health education including youth-friendly, evidence based comprehensive sexuality education.
- Strengthen coverage and quality of primary, secondary and tertiary education; technical and vocational training; as well as apprenticeship programmes; adopt and implement measures that give young people life skills, and access to school-to-work transition programmes, entrepreneurship programmes, and vocational training. This includes closing gender gaps at all levels of education.

Eradicate poverty and promote income security.

Population dynamics raise the stakes in reducing poverty and promoting income security, but at the same time progress in reducing poverty and ensuring income security are expected to affect population dynamics. Poverty and low income security, for example, influence decisions about the timing of marriage and family formation as well as decisions related to the number and timing of children. Thus, they can have a considerable influence on the future trajectory of a country's population.

Poverty reduction and income security depend on sustained and sustainable economic growth; full, productive and remunerative employment, safe conditions of work, respect of rights and adequate social protection. Towards these ends, it is essential that countries promote productive investment and prevent counterproductive financial speculation, formalize economic relationships, strengthen public finances, combat corruption and promote transparency. Policies for economic growth and employment must be supported by policies that fight poverty and rising income inequality, including between men and women. These are influenced by the implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work, labor inspections by public offices, as well as the extension of social protection systems to those in need. Particularly relevant in this respect are integrated approaches to building national social

protection floors and progressively comprehensive social protection systems, as agreed by the member States at the International Labour Conference in June 2012. These include transfers of income (including pensions) and access to essential services (health care, including sexual and reproductive health services).

In correspondence with the issue of the eradication of poverty and the promotion of income security, the global thematic consultation is putting forward the following recommendations:

- Pursue sustainable growth and employment-oriented macroeconomic policies.
- Strengthen national social protection floors and progressively comprehensive social protection systems, as agreed by member States at the International Labour Conference in June 2012.
- Implement, at a minimum, the international core labor standards.
- Ensure women's equal access to economic opportunities and productive assets, including equal employment and income-earning opportunities, equal pay with men, equal access to land, property, inheritance, banking and financial services, and agricultural supports.
- Expand women's leadership in decision-making, including through affirmative action measures to increase their political participation at local and national levels, and further participatory and inclusive governance and democracy.

Develop and strengthen regional and global partnerships.

As discussed above, the global thematic consultation emphasized the need for financial and technical assistance to help countries collect and analyze data and to produce evidence on how population dynamics is linked to sustainable development. At the same time it also emphasized the need for regional and global partnerships that help countries address the challenges posed by population dynamics. These partnerships may focus on such things as prompting universal access to sexual and reproductive health; and on exchanging best practices to extend social protection systems. There is also a need to strengthen collaborations between host and home countries of migrants, through bilateral, regional or even global partnership agreements as well as between cities and local authorities. Stakeholders also suggested that countries establish advisory bodies on demographic change, comprising international experts, including from civil society, and business representatives, which regularly review the implications of demographic change for health and education, housing and transport, water and sanitation, energy and waste management, labor markets and social protection, as well as public finances.

In correspondence with the issue of developing and strengthening regional and global partnerships, the global thematic consultation is putting forward the following recommendation:

- Develop and strengthen global and regional partnerships to support countries to address the challenges and seize the opportunities provided by changes in population size, the demographic bonus, internal and international migration and urbanization.

Thematic Priorities

High fertility and population growth

Whether the world population will indeed grow to over 9 billion by mid-century and level off at about 10 billion by the end of the century, or grow instead to over 10 billion by mid-century and to about 16 billion by the end of the century will largely depend on future trends in fertility. The six billion difference between the former (the medium variant of the United Nations population projections) and the latter scenarios (the high variant) is the result of an assumption that, in the higher variant, women will have an additional half a child, on average, over the course of their reproductive lives. Future population dynamics will be determined by today's policies.

Countries can influence future population growth both directly or indirectly through many types of social, economic, or other policies. Direct policies, however, must be rights-based and gender-responsive. At their core, such policies must ensure the sexual and reproductive rights of women and men, eliminate child marriage, combat gender-based violence, and must meet any unmet demand for family planning. Complementing such policies, governments should promote quality education at all levels, support income security through the generation of productive and remunerative employment opportunities, and ensure that adequate social protection nets are in place. In all areas it is essential that countries eliminate laws, practices and policies that exacerbate inequalities and restrict access to essential services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and that countries take special measures to support the participation of women and young people in social, economic and political life.

As discussed above, one of the most critical determinants of the health and wellbeing of people, as well as the empowerment of women and gender equality, is sexual and reproductive health and rights. They include rights to access essential information and services to avoid unwanted pregnancies and go through desired pregnancies and childbirth safely; for young and adult sexually active people they include the right to protect themselves from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; and for adolescent girls and young women they include the right to avoid harmful practices, early and forced marriage and early pregnancies, which can end their schooling and personal development, and limit their own and their children's prospects of breaking out of poverty. In short, sexual and reproductive health empower individuals to make basic decisions about their body, health, sexuality, relationships, marriage and childbearing, and people must be able to exercise these rights. Legal and enforcement measures must protect the exercise of these rights, without any form of discrimination, coercion or violence.

Currently, however more than 200 million women in developing countries want to prevent pregnancy, but lack access to effective contraception—resulting in 80 million unintended pregnancies, 30 million unplanned births and 20 million unsafe abortions, which are often life-threatening. Globally, 1 in 5 girls give birth before they turn 18. 34 million people live with HIV—with youth especially affected, accounting for 40% of all new HIV infections; 3 million aged 50 and over are infected in sub-Saharan Africa alone; and 16 million children have been made orphans by AIDS.

The challenges of service delivery are most pronounced in the least developed countries. They are furthest behind in ensuring access to health, have the highest unmet need for family planning, the highest infant, child and maternal mortality, and highest infections with HIV/AIDS, and the lowest levels of education attainment. Addressing these challenges amidst rapid population growth will place mounting pressures on scarce financial resources. It is a significant challenge for the least developed countries to maintain current per capita spending on health and education, let alone increase such expenditures to desirable levels. Addressing these challenges therefore requires adequate financial and technical assistance.

Meeting the unmet need for family planning – which continued to be an important development challenge and an unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals -- can make a world of difference for people and societies. It will help improve people's wellbeing, reduce child and maternal mortality, halt the spread of communicable diseases, reduce unintended pregnancies and contribute to lower fertility and slower population growth.

When individuals are able to exercise their reproductive rights and choose the size of their families through access to contraceptive information and services, they tend to opt for smaller families, or the number they can best provide for. Healthier, smaller families are more resilient and better able to thrive when facing crises and environmental challenges, and, combined with changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, this can help balance population dynamics with the planet's resources and fragile ecosystems. Studies show that if couples can choose the number and spacing of their children, they are more likely to invest greater resources in the human capital of each child. Furthermore, children that grow up in poor but small families are more likely to benefit from good health and education than children who grow up in poor and large families. This trend has multiplying effects across families, communities and nations, helping to promote economic development, and prevent and combat poverty on a large scale.

Against this background, the global thematic consultation emphasized the need to

- Accelerate implementation of universal access to quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive sexual and reproductive information, education, services and supplies across the life-cycle including for preventing unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, maternal mortality and morbidity, increasing the prevention, early detection and treatment of HIV, Sexually transmitted infections and non-communicable diseases of

- Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, through prevention efforts engaging young people and men, and ensuring access to health, social and legal services for all victims.
- Elimination of early enforced marriage.

Low fertility and population ageing

While high population growth is still a concern in the least developed countries of the world, in many other parts of the world countries are grappling with a different set of issues as a function of slower population growth or even population decline. While some would view population decline as a good thing, particularly from the perspective of the environment, Governments are primarily concerned that the transition to lower birth rates induces compositional changes in the age structure of a population that require a different sort of policy response. For example, a reduction in fertility leads to a temporary increase in the relative size of youth cohorts and ultimately a higher proportion of the population above a certain age. These compositional changes can create fresh challenges and opportunities. For example, a temporary decline in the number of dependents can provide countries with a window of opportunity for households and governments to spend more on each dependent and can lead to higher capital/labor ratios that can help jumpstart economic growth and development.

At the same time, increased life-expectancy, while fundamentally a success story, when combined with a trend towards lower fertility creates rapid population ageing. Concerns over income security, social protection, health care, and living conditions in old age are common throughout the entire world, yet few would rank them particularly highly on a list of the world's greatest social development priorities. All countries either have or can be expected to move from a situation of high fertility and mortality to a situation of low fertility and mortality through a process known as the demographic transition. Although countries are currently at different stages of this transition –in high-income countries this transition to low fertility and mortality regimes occurred as early as the 18th century while for many countries in Africa the transition is still ongoing –all can be expected to reach a point where the proportion of older people in society is significantly greater than during pre-transitional phase. Indeed in some developing countries, the transition has occurred or is occurring much faster than historically in Europe. All countries are seeing increasing numbers of older people and a larger share of their populations above the age of 60, of which a disproportionate number are women. Consequently, population ageing is an issue that should be addressed by all countries.

While not insurmountable population ageing will require a review and reorganization of social welfare arrangements. In industrialized countries, support for the older people comes mainly from public or private pension systems. These systems are becoming increasingly strained as

the numbers and proportion of older persons has risen so that the financial viability of existing social security arrangements need to be reviewed. Countries should consider policies strengthening the redistribution of an adequate proportion of national income to inactive and vulnerable groups through comprehensive social security systems, namely through improved employment protection measures, access to public health services and social protection. Policies need to foster women labor market participation, namely through family and work-life balance policies. At the same time, some countries may need to review policies in order to extend working lives that should only take place in the context of adequate measures ensuring productive employment and decent work conditions. Rules for retirement need to be redefined to account for the balance between the duration of working lives and the duration of retired life. Public and private schemes could be combined in securing adequate and sustainable pension provision.

Against this background and taking note of the UN Principles for Older Persons (resolution A/46/91) the global thematic consultation emphasized the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination based on age in order to ensure that people of all ages are able to-contribute to society.
- Provide increased coverage and adequate levels of social protection, including pensions and health care.
- Develop appropriate technologies and infrastructure to accommodate the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Provide special support measures for older women. Promote policies that make it easier for people in care-giving roles to combine and share work and domestic responsibilities.

Migration and human mobility

With the greatest number of people ever living outside their country or region of origin, migration today is relevant to all countries in all regions, whether as countries of origin, transit or destination or any combination thereof. With the growth in human mobility set to continue and likely to accelerate in the coming decades, governments, the social partners (workers' and employers' organizations), the private sector and civil society increasingly recognize the relevance of migration to all pillars of sustainable development.

Migration is typically conceptualized as a net positive for both sending and receiving areas. Migration and the resources it generates in the form of diaspora investments, remittances, and knowledge and skills transfers can enhance individual capabilities and human development at the household level—at both origin and destination—but can also contribute to local and national development and resilience to economic and environmental risks and shocks. However, as much as it entails benefits, it also involves trade-offs and costs to migrants, their families and societies. It can generate new inequalities and vulnerabilities, especially when access to regular migration opportunities is highly uneven and when movements are forced or occur in insecure conditions.

The demographic trends highlighted in this paper are major drivers of migration, as are employment shifts across sectors, the internationalization of the labor market, jobless growth, political environment and security concerns, and growing inequalities within and between countries. Indeed, migration is increasingly driven by the interplay between demographics, demand for skills and labor and unaddressed decent work deficits. The growing interconnectedness of the world's populations as a result of exposure to information through various offline and online media sources is facilitating the desires and practical arrangements to migrate, especially among young people. The decision to migrate is often founded on aspirations to improve an individual's or family's life options but can also reflect individual and community survival or adaptation strategies in the face of situations such as climate change, armed conflict and forced evictions. In this globalized 21st century, migration is inevitable; it is necessary where the lives or livelihoods of people are threatened; and it is beneficial when and where it happens through the informed choice of the migrant, free from coercion of any nature, and in a governance context where the human, including labor, rights and dignity are supported.

Despite progress in dialogue and cooperation at the global level, migration and mobility remain inadequately mainstreamed into development frameworks and sectoral policies, both at the national and local levels, in both origin and destination, and in global development agendas and agencies. Mainstreaming migration and mobility into development strategies can be addressed by taking a broad view of development, so that it includes social as well as economic dimensions; adequate indicators that measure the benefits (contribution to GDP, income generation, freedom of movement, and strengthening of resilience) and costs associated with migration (such as brain drain, brain waste and family breakup); and incorporates rights-based policies and frameworks that promote positive development alternatives to migration and re-migration, such as decent work at home.

Vulnerable groups of migrants, such as migrant women, children, adolescents and youth; undocumented migrants; domestic workers; and temporary and low-skilled migrant workers are widely under-protected, especially with respect to their labor rights, right to family life, access to justice, health care and other public services.

Policies, media rhetoric, and public perceptions of migrants and migration have not kept pace with the reality of human migration and in many places remain dangerously negative, with clear implications for integration, social cohesion, and informed public debates on challenges and opportunities in relation to migration and development.

In order to function as a human development enabler, including for the migrants and families involved, migration requires cooperation at all levels including bilateral and regional solutions and a variety of stakeholders. Just as other global interdependencies, migration is best addressed through partnerships. Collaboration between and among governments, the social partners, international organizations, the private sector and civil society is essential to realizing the potential of migration for human development. The private sector and employers and

workers' groups should be partners in identifying labor market needs and gaps while also ensuring that the rights of men and women migrants are protected in terms of their working conditions, wages, social security, and safety and health. As human mobility is influenced by push and pull factors, which are in turn influenced by social, economic and environmental policies, greater cooperation is needed to create coherence between sectoral policies so that their links with migration are recognized and optimized. Together, we must work towards policies that are carefully shaped to leverage the contributions of migration to development while reducing its negative consequences.

Often countries attempt to address challenges and opportunities related to international migration at national level through bilateral and regional arrangements. To better respond to development needs of countries, such arrangements should ensure national policy and institutional coherence with bilateral, regional and multilateral processes and international standards. Such arrangements have to be contextualized and may require multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure sustainability.

Comprehensive and coherent policies on migration and mobility, protection of human rights, including labour rights, fair and properly functioning legal and administrative structures, and development frameworks that recognize and incorporate the reality and effects of migration are the necessary foundation for migrants, their communities and governments in countries of origin, transit and destination to harness the development benefits of migration.

Against this background, we recommend to:

- Eliminate policies that create barriers for migrants to access their human rights such as laws that criminalize migrants in an irregular situation and to explore alternatives in the form of non-custodial measures, in particular in the case of migrant children and families.
- Respect equal treatment with regard to employment, wages, working conditions, and social protection and other social benefits including health care; and implement measures to regulate the work of recruitment agencies in order to ensure the protection of migrant workers, especially domestic workers, and to lower costs of migration.
- Reinforce and establish bilateral, regional and global partnerships on migration in order to address vulnerability of migrants and to promote the realization of the full development potential of migration. Within such partnerships there is also need for the engagement of civil society, the private sector, social partners and other stakeholders including diaspora groups.
- Promote the preservation and portability of social security entitlements, recognition of educational qualifications, and development of skills to better match labor supply and demand within and between countries through comprehensive bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms.

- Ensure that migration is mainstreamed in national and sectoral development policies, in regional and global development agendas and development agencies through the strengthening of policy and institutional coherence at all levels of multi-stakeholder engagement
- Engage within existing international frameworks for instance UNFCCC and its National Adaptation Plans of Action, and within a post-Hyogo framework, to address climate change related movements as well as factoring in migration into efforts in relation to disaster risk reduction
- Promote opportunities for migrants to securely and at low cost transfer and save money, and provide incentives to invest in origin and destination for sustainable development.
- Promote social and economic cohesion through proactive policies in the field of integration and reintegration.

Urbanization

The demographic and economic shifts of the last two decades have transformed countries, making cities and urban centres the dominant habitats of humankind. Therefore it is more critical than ever that member states and UN agencies come together to promote sustainable urban development. The cities of the world, including those of emerging economies, are the drivers of the global economy at the same time as the planet's resources are fast depleting. We must urgently find a way to achieve further economically and socially equitable growth without further costs to the environment. Cities, their spatial frameworks and governance systems constitute key levers for delivering this transition, and providing sustainable ways of accommodating population growth while also responding to the needs of surrounding rural people and their economies including the vulnerable populations.

Well planned and managed urbanization is a critical component of sustainable development. The world's cities –as centers of creativity, innovation and enterprise–have the potential to deliver significant economic and social benefits to the people who inhabit them. Countries around the world need to develop strategies that integrate urban, suburban, peri-

“We emphasize the importance of increasing the number of metropolitan regions, cities and towns that are implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design in order to respond effectively to the expected growth of urban populations in coming decades. We note that sustainable urban planning benefits from the involvement of multiple stakeholders as well as from full use of information and sex-disaggregated data including on demographic trends, income distribution and informal settlements. We recognize the important role of municipal governments in setting a vision for sustainable cities, from the initiation of city planning through to revitalization of older cities and neighbourhoods, including by adopting energy efficiency programmes in building management and developing sustainable locally-appropriate transport systems. We further recognize the importance of mixed-use planning and of encouraging non-motorized mobility, including by promoting pedestrian and cycling infrastructures.” (The Future We Want, paragraph 136).

urban and rural areas and address the social and economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Cities, if well planned, can reap the efficiencies of economies of scale as governments can more easily deliver essential infrastructure and services at lower cost per capita than in rural areas. Cities have the potential to improve people's access to education, health, housing and other services, and to expand their opportunities for economic productivity. Similarly, city dwellers tend to consume less energy and generate lower levels of greenhouse gasses per capita than rural residents, and the public savings in the housing and transportation sectors are significant. By anticipating and planning for urbanization, countries can address the challenges and harness opportunities from urban population growth. The particularity of urban challenges necessitate national, country-wide approaches that decentralize local policy development, following the principle of subsidiarity: the level of government closest to the people most affected by it is empowered and resourced to develop, implement and monitor approaches specific to local need and opportunity.

Along with the challenges posed by the pace of urbanization, is the vibrancy and opportunities for social and economic innovation that the proximity and density in cities provides. This creative capacity of cities continues to be enhanced by the proliferation of Information, communications and technology (ICT) in cities of all sizes on all continents, empowering residents, enabling a democratization of planning and decision-making processes, and improving the accessibility and efficiency of services that foster urban life.

Well planned cities are socially inclusive, providing diverse opportunities for work, leisure, creative expression, and capable of adapting to changing population dynamics and demographics. Effective urban policies recognize the role of the hinterlands that surround them, and ensure that regional concerns are well integrated. To that end, urban governance structures are needed that engage diverse stakeholders from local, regional and national governments, local communities, civil society and the private sector. Similarly, effective local planning is inclusive, participatory, strategic, and integrative.

However, rapid internal growth and rural-urban migration have accelerated urbanization in many of the poorest countries, without the benefits that effective urban planning provides in terms of liveable communities with quality housing and adequate physical and social services. As a result, by 2030, 60% of the global population will live in cities, of which one third will be in slums, creating an urgency need to address these immediate challenges. Slum dwellers are more vulnerable than other residents to the impacts of the increasing incidence and intensity of extreme weather events from climate change. Another product of unmanaged urban growth is the inefficient land use patterns and resource consumption through sprawl.

To those ends, to effectively manage urban growth that promotes equitable, inclusive development for all, we recommend that governments:

- Develop national development policies and plans backed up by reliable and evidence-based data that foster balanced urban, rural and regional development and guide

- Enable and support city governments to prepare, implement and monitor participatory city development plans that promote sustainable cities and resilient populations by accommodating a growing number of urban residents, including the poor, and ensure affordable access to land, housing, water, sanitation, energy, ICT and transport as well as health, education and other essential services. Specifically, city plans must address the safety and public health concerns of women, girls, youth and vulnerable groups.. These city development plans must be formulated, implemented and monitored through partnerships with communities and their residents in order to strengthen social cohesion, inclusiveness, local culture and economies and best respond to their needs and opportunities.
- Minimize the environmental impact of cities by creating incentives to manage urban sprawl without hastening rural agricultural land conversion, avoiding encroachment of settlements in environmentally vulnerable areas and promoting planning for dense cities with higher energy efficiency in transport and in the built environment, and more environmentally-friendly and efficient provision of other public services and infrastructure.
- Establish national incentives programs that embrace technological innovation and creativity of urban populations, especially in the green economy and which empower growing urban populations with economic opportunity, including through business development. Enhance the economic, social and cultural amenities of smaller and medium-sized cities to increase their global attractiveness in order to create incentives for people to move/migrate to diverse cities and not only the major business hubs.
- Improving the quality of life of half of their country's slum dwellers, by 2030, including assurance of secure land tenure, durable housing, basic sanitation, potable water, better health services and adequate living space, through cooperative and inclusive approaches, including slum upgrading, that do not resort to forced evictions.

Annex I: Public Voices on Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development

This annex, which provides quotes from the global e-consultation on population dynamics and the post-2015 development agenda, as at 20 February 2013, does not necessarily reflect the views of the international agencies and governments that are leading this consultation.

While the quotes are sometimes contradictory, they provide a common and powerful message: A new development agenda will fail if it does not take into consideration population dynamics. To add your voice to this discussion, please visit www.worldwewant2015.org/population

On the linkages between population dynamics and sustainable development

Population dynamics and development goals

“Population growth is not the only or even the main cause of poverty in the developing world. Nevertheless population growth has pervasive adverse effects on societies and hinders development efforts. Poor countries would be better off with lower population growth rates.” (John Bongaarts)

“Population factors are key to poverty eradication and development.” (DSW)

“Rapid population growth can create pressure on basic resources such as water, forests and land, as well as biodiversity if policies are not in place to avoid it.”

“Population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are critical, cross-cutting issues for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. A focus on these issues in ways that respect and protect rights is critical and has the potential to drive progress towards a range of development priorities, including poverty alleviation, equity, health, education, food and water security, gender equality, climate change and environmental sustainability, and to reduce the costs of achieving associated development goals.” (Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA). Members include: Blue Ventures Madagascar, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Marie Stopes International, PATH Foundation Philippines Inc., Population Action International, Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium, Population and Sustainability Network, RFSU (The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education) and Sex & Samfund (Danish Family Planning Association).

“Population dynamics must be addressed if we wish to meet all three pillars of the sustainable development framework: economic, environmental, and social.” (Population Action International)

“Changes in the age structure or growth of population affect a government’s ability to plan effectively and to deliver essential services that meet the needs of their citizens. The access or denial of these services has a profound impact on an individual’s ability to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, increase access to health, education, food and water, and live in a secure and sustainable world...” (Sarah Shaw)

“Population dynamics impinge on so many aspects of development, that including this area into the post-2015 UN development agenda will be hugely advantageous to addressing other areas on the development agenda, such as environmental sustainability, access to food and water, healthcare, employment and conflicts and security.” (A Nielsen)

“In poor societies population sizes often double in two or three decades. As a result, industries, housing, schools, health clinics, and infrastructure must be built at least at the same rate in order for standards of living not to deteriorate. Many communities are unable to keep up, as is evident from high unemployment rates, explosive growth of slum populations, overcrowded schools and health facilities and dilapidated public infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, sewage systems, piped water, electric power, etc)” (John Bongaarts, The Population Council)

“In addition, rapidly growing populations have young age structures. The resulting low ratio of workers to dependents depresses standards of living and makes it more difficult to invest in the physical and human capital needed for expanding economies. The size of the formal labour force is also limited by the need for women to remain at home to take care of large families.” (John Bongaarts)

Population dynamics and the environment

“The terms carrying capacities, limits, and limiting factors should be the very first topics raised in virtually all policymaking, sustainability, and humanitarian venues and discussions today, for there are icebergs out there called “limits,” which on a global scale, humankind is colliding with right now, and ships whose captains refuse to acknowledge icebergs, or deny them, or ignore warnings, or imagine that their ship is unsinkable, end up hitting them and then proceed to s-i-n-k.” (Randolph Femmer)

“Global environmental problems (e.g. climate change, decreasing biodiversity) receive much media and scientific attention in the West, but are not a high priority for policy makers in poor countries, except where substantial populations live in low lying coastal areas (e.g. Bangladesh). Instead, most developing countries have critical local environmental problems that require urgent attention, including shortages of fresh water and arable land, and water, air and soil pollution. Environmental stresses have been building up over time and are likely to become much more severe as populations and economies expand further.” (John Bongaarts, The Population Council)

“Population growth, and associated rises in demand for food, water, land, energy, and other resources, increases pressure on the environment. As this growth will be mainly in development countries, it may undermine poverty alleviation and economic growth, outpacing investments in health, education, and other basic services.” (Beyond2015 Campaign)

“Earth’s body is finite, its resource are limited, and its ecosystem services capable of irreversible degradation by the huge scale and anticipated growth of human overconsumption, overproduction, and overpopulation activities.” (Steven Salmony)

“All realistic goals must take account of the bio-physics of a finite planet. Indefinite growth in physical resource-consumption or the number of physical consumers being physically impossible, growth in both will certainly end at some point.” (Simon Ross, CEO, Population Matters)

“Most of the effects of climate change mainly caused by industrialised countries are already being experienced in low income countries...” (DSW)

“Given the tidal-wave scale of the above demographics (biologically speaking, anything even approaching 12, 13, 14, or 15.8 billion by century's end constitutes the environmental equivalent of a collision trajectory with a near-earth asteroid), money, time, and effort expended on items [such as ageing, vulnerable groups, and migration] in the above list simply divert the emergency-scale money, time, attention, and effort needed to save ... the whole of humankind, civilization, and the only planetary life-support machinery so far known to exist anywhere in the universe from a planetary-scale train-wreck.” (Randolph Femmer)

“The richest fifth of the world’s population is responsible for about four fifths of the world’s resource consumption (and waste production).” (Andre Mader)

Population dynamics and peace and security

“... large idle young populations combined with greater inequalities and exacerbated with scarce resources present great factors regarding conflicts and instability”

“Half the population of the least developed world is under age 20. Unemployment is widespread because economies are unable to provide jobs for the rapidly growing number of young people seeking to enter the labour force. Vigorous competition for limited numbers of jobs leads to low wages which in turn contributes to poverty. The presence of large numbers of unemployed and frustrated males likely contributes to socio-economic tensions, high crime rates and political instability.” (John Bongaarts)

On measures to address and harness population dynamics for sustainable development

Take account of population dynamics in development planning

“Development goals should be based on population projections, so that development strategies and environmental planning take into account projected changes in population size, location etc. which have implications for demand and supply of essential resources and services such as water, energy, food, health and education services. Data relating to population dynamics (including growth, migration, urbanisation and age structure), trends and projections must be included in planning, monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms” (PSDA)

“If we don’t know the details, how can governments, private sector, and civil society address them properly.” (Richard Blewitt, CEO, HelpAge Int’l)

“Greater attention to the facts of momentum may increase the seriousness with which politicians (and others) view population dynamics. (Tim Dyson, LSE)

“Securing adequate financial resources which will be allocated and monitored to ensure full implementation of effective programs and projects.” (PAI)

Stabilize population size

“Ever more people multiplied by ever more consumption per person increase our environmental impact and deplete our finite resources, worsening all our environmental and resource problems. Thus, whatever we do to improve technology and limit individual consumption, we can only achieve sustainability if we also stabilize our numbers. Reducing our personal footprint does not help if we keep increasing the number of feet. We need to do both.” (statement posted by NGO Population Matters)

“We suggest that there be specific goals which contribute to lower fertility i.e. as access to/ usage of modern family planning including abortion, women’s participation in formal employment, desire for a smaller family, gender equality in secondary education, sex education in schools and reducing the prevalence of child marriage. These can be integrated into other thematic areas.” (Population Matters)

“Stabilise global population at 8 billion or less by 2030” (NGO Population Matters)

“If we already have an ecological footprint equivalent to 1.5 planets as has been suggested (ie unsustainable), at current levels of consumption/pollution we need to not only stabilise population, but to *reduce* global population (on this basis, from 7 billion to 4.67 billion people.” (Geoff Holland, Exec. Director, IGFR)

“We need a small set of goals. Try to do too much and we will achieve nothing. The public cannot comprehend more than about a dozen goals. National governments have trouble keeping up with 8 MDGs. We need a comprehensive framework of SDGs. One of these goals I would suggest would be “Advancing Towards Population Stabilisation.” (Geoff Holland, Population Matters)

“I agree that targets could be seriously counter-productive in hinting at incentives to officials to put pressure on people, or even misleading people into (eg) sterilisation, as has happened in the past...” (Barbara Roberts)

Pursue a rights-based approach

“There must be a focus on population dynamics in ways that respect and protect human rights, including through the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights.” (PSDA)

“We absolutely must take a rights based approach to public policy.”

“I do not see that our response to population dynamics should be driven solely by the freedom to choose. Freedom to choose is important, but simply leaving it at that ignores the enormously adverse consequences for humanity and other species of continuing population growth. Future generations and other species have rights, too, as do all of those who, today, are adversely affected by population growth. If we fail to encourage fertility reduction, we are not promoting sustainable development.” (Simon Ross)

Ensure that efforts to address population dynamics within the sustainable development agenda are underpinned by a comprehensive, human rights based approach to SRHR. This includes prioritising and measuring quality, choice, equity and the existence of an enabling environment for all women and girls. (Interact Worldwide).

“The post-2015 development framework needs to have human rights and the elimination of inequalities at its core” (Hilkka Vuorenmaa)

“Rights and equity must be at the heart of the post 2015 development agenda.” (Sarah Shaw)

Ensure gender equity

Gender equity, equality should be mainstreamed into all of the goals, including, but not restricted to gender equality, ending poverty, economic growth, environmental sustainability and education. (IPPF)

“A strong focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights is critical for a gender-sensitive approach to addressing population dynamics and for the overall advancement of gender

equality and women's and girls' empowerment. We must promote equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, economic opportunities and health care services, including addressing women's sexual and reproductive health, and ensuring universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning." (Anon)

"Population dynamics should be driven by the freedom to choose. These freedoms include the freedom to exercise bodily integrity and choose whether and how many children to have, and the freedom of movement and to decide where to live." (Sarah Shaw)

Ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights

"Under-pinning population dynamics, promotion of SRHR is an essential component of the post-2015 development agenda. Originally missing from the MDGs, SRHR was partially addressed as Target 5B in 2007, as part of MDG 5, which is the MDG that is most off-track. This omission should not be repeated in the post-2015 framework. SRHR, within a human-rights framework and addressing the unmet need for family planning, offer opportunities to influence population dynamics positively and contribute to sustainable development while addressing gender inequality and women's empowerment." (Beyond2015 Campaign)

"SRHR are fundamental rights and freedoms, vital to inclusive and sustainable development, as recognised in the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994." (DSW)

"Achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment must be prioritised, including access to voluntary family planning services, with the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform of Action" (PSDA)

"Focus on access to sexual and reproductive health and protection of sexual and reproductive rights." (Population Action International)

"Intensifying efforts to ensure equal and sustained access to quality reproductive health services, reducing infant, child and maternal mortality and improving maternal health. This should be guided by a strong focus on the advancement of women's empowerment and gender equality..." (PAI)

"Don't let's waste time having to 'make a place' for, among other things, issues of family planning and birth control in any new agenda. Some population issues need to be there from the start." (Tim Dyson, LSE)

“Access to family planning and sexual and reproductive health services are critical to individuals being able to choose their family size...” (Sarah Shaw)

“Implement targeted strategies to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the advancement of women’s empowerment and gender equality. This should include access to high quality voluntary family planning information, services and a choice of supplies. Attention should be paid to ensuring the highest standard of health is attained and that the human rights of all, particularly girls and other marginalized groups are respected.” (IPPF)

“Since the 1960s, alongside investments to improve education and health, the main policy response to rapid population growth has been the implementation of voluntary family planning programs that provide information about, and access to, contraception. The key rationale for such programs is a well documented substantial level of unwanted and unplanned childbearing and an unsatisfied demand for contraception. Today, about 80 million unintended pregnancies occur annually in the developing world. These pregnancies end in abortions (40 million), unintended births (30 million) or miscarriages (10 million).” (John Bongaarts)

“Family planning programs and socioeconomic development operate synergistically. Women are most likely to reduce fertility when they see rewards to increasing investments in children. Family planning programs are most likely to be effective when they are accompanied by improvements in schools, better economic opportunities, and improvements in child survival... The post-2015 challenge is to bring [the transition from high to low fertility] to the remaining poor countries, mainly in Africa, that have yet to make it. The best way to accomplish this is to provide access to family planning that is accompanied by policies and programs that will improve economic growth and increase the returns to investments in children.” (David Lam, University of Michigan)

Invest in people

“We cannot look for magic bullets such as malaria vaccines or polypills, but a genuine enhancement of human capital is likely to liberate tremendous improvement in the human condition. But to enable this does require investment, e.g. in schools, teachers, primary health care, basic nutrition and solar and other renewable technology.” (Colin Butler)

Address the needs of adolescents

“... policies for young people need to be in place to increase investment in their human development through education (primary and secondary education, vocational training, access to decent work, etc.), including comprehensive sexuality education, and health services with notably SRHR. These health services need to be youth friendly and gender-sensitive...” (DSW)

“Ensuring appropriate investments in young people and adopting measurable targets for achievement of better education, sustainable job creation and the removal of barriers to accessing reproductive health services which empower young people and enhance their social and economic opportunities and wellbeing.” (PAI)

“Make sexuality education, voluntary family planning and youth-friendly services available to all young people. Young people lack information and access to family planning and sexual and reproductive health services for a variety of cultural and social reasons. Denying young people the information and means to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections at this critical juncture can alter the course of their lives forever.” (IPPF)

“Young people and their aspirations should be central to the post development agenda. We ought to consider the sexual and reproductive rights of all individuals, in particular adolescents and youth, without any form of discrimination, coercion or violence based on sex, age, ethnic, racial, marital, migrant, HIV, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or other status. Young women and girls need access to comprehensive, integrated and quality sexual and reproductive health services; including safe abortion services and modern contraceptives. All young people need access to comprehensive sexuality education that reduces misinformation, and increase young people’s skills to make informed decisions about their health and lives” (Anon)

Addressing the needs of older persons

“Account for a progressively and rapidly aging world by promoting health ageing and economic wellbeing in old age and by providing enabling and supportive environments to integrate older persons into the development process, recognizing their role as an asset to society rather than a burden.” (PAI)

Address the needs of migrants

“A large percentage of migrants, displaced or refugees end up living in temporary dwellings or even urban slums.” (DSW)

“Identifying and investing in reducing the vulnerability of populations who are at risk of displacement or whose livelihoods are threatened due to climatic changes in environmentally fragile areas. This could include planning for potential migration and relocation of displaced people.” (PAI)

“Ensuring international dialogue and cooperation on international migration, to guarantee that migration occurs in safe and legal conditions, with full respect for human rights. In addition, strengthening mechanisms that enable migrants to contribute to development in both origin and destination countries.” (PAI)

“Migration – internal and international, voluntary and forced – is yet another dynamic that brings both promises and challenges for migrants and the communities from which they come and to which they go.” (Suzanne Petroni)

“To ensure a human-rights-based approach to addressing population dynamics in the post-2015 UN development framework, it is therefore indispensable to look at the extent to which the human right to health is realized for international migrants and their families.” (Caroline Schultz, IOM)

“Some of the biggest challenges in relation to migration and human mobility are related to protecting, respecting and fulfilling migrants' human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Migrants, particularly those who are undocumented, or working mainly in sectors that are lower skilled, unregulated and in the private domain (majority of whom are women), are among the most vulnerable social groups that are missed out by policies and interventions.” (ARROW)

“Migration and internal displacement due to climate-change-related disasters is also another challenge that need to be taken into consideration in the post-2015 agenda.” (ARROW)

“Every migrant is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance.” (Dermot Grenham referring to Pope Benedict XVI.)

Address the challenges of urbanization

“... the number of slum dwellers worldwide will reach 2 billion by 2030 ...” (DSW)

“Prioritizing planning for future urban growth, including appropriate infrastructure and access to basic education, health and other socio-economic services.” (PAI)

“In my opinion the biggest challenges, in relation to urbanization, cities, and sustainable development are within the areas of crime, housing, job creation and politics.” (Francis Duru)

“In my opinion, The BIGGEST CHALLENGE is the issue of URBAN GOVERNANCE” (Julius Olijimi)

“The biggest challenge in post 2015 will be the mismatch between population growth in urban areas and infrastructure and service delivery (including housing), the main issues that in my view define informality” (Mtafu Manda)

“Slum growth and urbanization of poverty will be major issues in future cities for sure” (Dennis)

Linking the Post-2015 Development Agenda to the ICPD PoA

“Ensuring the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform of Action. The ICPD+14, Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and Rio+20 processes must be integrated with the post-2015 framework. It is critical that there be one overriding framework for international development which comprehensively addresses the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, including the influence of both population- and consumption-related factors.” (PAI)

Annex II: Summary of recommendations

Overarching messages

- Population dynamics are at the centre of the main development challenges of the 21st century, and must therefore be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.
- Demography is not destiny: Rights-based and gender-responsive policies can address and harness population dynamics.

Priorities

Adopt rights-based and gender-responsive policies to address and harness population dynamics.

- Adopt human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to addressing population dynamics, promoting human rights, dignity and gender equality, through laws, policies and practices that eliminate stigma, discrimination, coercion and violence ([>> gender, >> rights](#)).
- Engage individuals and communities, in all their diversity, in the design, formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and redesign of policies ([>> participation](#)).
- Provide special support to the poorest and most vulnerable populations to empower their full and active participation in social, economic and political life with a view to reduce inequalities ([>> inequalities](#)).

Use evidence-based arguments based on population data, projections and scenarios to inform development strategies, goals, targets and policies.

- Undertake and share research and analysis on the linkages between population dynamics and development to promote the sustainability of rural, urban, regional, national and global development strategies, and ensure that these strategies respond to the changing characteristics and needs of different populations ([>> evidence-based policy-making, >> governance, >> inequalities, >> data](#)).
- Use population data, projections and scenarios to formulate forward-looking development goals, targets and policies ([>> data](#)).
- Ensure that public services, including education, health systems, and housing respond to the changing needs of all age groups. Health care systems will need to respond to the changing global burden of disease, associated with population aging, particularly the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, dementia and other mental health problems ([>> evidence-based policy-making, >> governance, >> education, >> health, environment, >> data](#)).

Strengthen national capacities to collect, analyze and utilize population-based data.

- Strengthen national capacities, including through international technical and financial assistance, to collect and analyze demographic, socio-economic and labor data, prepare high quality projections, and integrate these demographic data with other critical social, economic and environmental statistics ([>> partnerships](#)).
- Promote increased coverage and higher quality of vital registration in all countries ([>> data](#)).
- Integrate and harmonize survey data, and include critical data especially on migration and maternal mortality ([>> data](#)).
- Integrate and harmonize survey data ([>> data](#)).
- Disaggregate relevant demographic, social and economic data by age, sex, geography and other demographic information to monitor progress towards internationally agreed development goals, and track changes in inequalities, targeted support to the vulnerable populations, and the resilience of those populations to social, economic and environmental shocks ([data](#), [>> inequalities](#), [>> poverty](#)).

Promote human development throughout the life course.

- Promote the development of human capital, notably health and education, throughout the life course. Provide possibilities for life-long learning ([>> health](#), [>> education](#)).
- Ensure universal access to health care throughout the life course, including sexual and reproductive health services that meet the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability, quality and affordability. Address the sexual and reproductive health needs of older women ([>> health](#)).
- Provide non-discriminatory, non-judgmental, rights-based, age appropriate, gender-sensitive health education including youth-friendly, evidence based comprehensive sexuality education ([>> health](#), [>> education](#)).
- Strengthen coverage and quality of primary, secondary and tertiary education; technical and vocational training; as well as apprenticeship programmes; adopt and implement measures that give young people life skills, and access to school-to-work transition programmes, entrepreneurship programmes, and vocational training. This includes closing gender gaps at all levels of education ([>> education](#), [>> employment](#)).

Eradicate poverty and promote income security

- Pursue sustainable growth and employment-oriented macroeconomic policies ([>> sustainable economic growth](#), [>> employment](#)).
- Strengthen national social protection floors and progressively comprehensive social protection systems, as agreed by member States at the International Labour Conference in June 2012 ([>> inequalities](#), [>> employment](#), [>> sustainable economic growth](#)).
- Implement, at a minimum, the international core labor standards ([>> inequalities](#), [>> employment](#)).

- Ensure women's equal access to economic opportunities and productive assets, including equal employment and income-earning opportunities, equal pay with men, equal access to land, property, inheritance, banking and financial services, and agricultural supports (>> [gender](#), >> [employment](#), >> [sustainable economic growth](#)).
- Expand women's leadership in decision-making, including through affirmative action measures to increase their political participation at local and national levels, and further participatory and inclusive governance and democracy (>> [inequalities](#), >> [governance](#)).

Develop and strengthen regional and global partnerships.

- Develop and strengthen global and regional partnerships to support countries to address the challenges and seize the opportunities provided by changes in population size, the demographic bonus, internal and international migration and urbanization (>> [partnerships](#)).

Thematic priorities

High Fertility and Population Growth

- Accelerate implementation of universal access to quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive sexual and reproductive information, education, services and supplies across the life-cycle including for preventing unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, maternal mortality and morbidity, increasing the prevention, early detection and treatment of HIV, sexually transmitted infections and non-communicable diseases of the reproductive system, especially breast and cervical cancer. Services should be culturally-sensitive and must recognize the sensitivities of certain cultures such as in indigenous communities (>> [health](#)).
- Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, through prevention efforts engaging young people and men, and ensuring access to health, social and legal services for all victims (>> [gender](#), >> [education](#), >> [peace and security](#), >> [governance](#), >> [conflict](#)).
- Elimination of early enforced marriage (>> [gender](#), >> [young people](#), >> [governance](#)).

Low Fertility and Population Ageing

- Eliminate discrimination based on age in order to ensure that people of all ages are able to-contribute to society (>> [gender](#), >> [inequalities](#)).
- Provide increased coverage and adequate levels of social protection, including pensions and health care and sexual and reproductive health care services (>> [Inequalities](#), >> [poverty](#), >> [employment](#), >> [sustainable economic growth](#)).

- Develop appropriate technologies and infrastructure to accommodate the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities (>> [inequalities](#)).
- Provide special support measures for older women (>> [inequalities](#)).
- Promote policies that make it easier for people in care-giving roles to combine and share work and domestic responsibilities (>> [governance](#), >> [employment](#)).

Migration and Human Mobility

- Eliminate policies that create barriers for migrants to access their human rights such as laws that criminalize migrants in an irregular situation and to explore alternatives in the form of non-custodial measures, in particular in the case of migrant children and families (>> [governance](#), >> [rights](#)).
- Respect equal treatment with regard to employment, wages, working conditions, and social protection and other social benefits including health care; and implement measures to regulate the work of recruitment agencies in order to ensure the protection of migrant workers, especially domestic workers, and to lower costs of migration (>> [inequalities](#), >> [poverty](#), >> [employment](#), >> [sustainable economic growth](#)).
- Reinforce and establish bilateral, regional and global partnerships on migration in order to address vulnerability of migrants and to promote the realization of the full development potential of migration. Within such partnerships there is also need for the engagement of civil society, the private sector, social partners and other stakeholders including diaspora groups (>> [governance](#), >> [employment](#)).
- Promote the preservation and portability of social security entitlements, recognition of educational qualifications, and development of skills to better match labor supply and demand within and between countries through comprehensive bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms (>> [employment](#), >> [governance](#)).
- Ensure that migration is mainstreamed in national and sectoral development policies, in regional and global development agendas and development agencies through the strengthening of policy and institutional coherence at all levels of multi-stakeholder engagement (>> [evidence-based policy making](#), >> [governance](#)).
- Engage within existing international frameworks for instance UNFCCC and its National Adaptation Plans of Action, and within a post-Hyogo framework, to address climate change related movements as well as factoring in migration into efforts in relation to disaster risk reduction (>> [environment](#), >> [governance](#)).
- Promote opportunities for migrants to securely and at low cost transfer and save money, and provide incentives to invest in origin and destination for sustainable development (>> [sustainable economic growth](#), >> [governance](#)).
- Promote social and economic cohesion through proactive policies in the field of integration and reintegration (>> [inequalities](#), >> [poverty](#), >> [employment](#), >> [sustainable economic growth](#)).

Urbanization

- Develop national development policies and plans backed up by reliable and evidence-based data that foster balanced urban, rural and regional development and guide population and economic growth in ways that protect natural environments, are socially inclusive and economically productive ([>> cities](#), [>> evidence-based policy making](#), [>> environment](#), [>> governance](#), [>> data](#)).
- Enable and support city governments to prepare, implement and monitor participatory city development plans that promote sustainable cities and resilient populations by accommodating a growing number of urban residents, including the poor, and ensure affordable access to land, housing, water, sanitation, energy, ICT and transport as well as health, education and other essential services. Specifically, city plans must address the safety and public health concerns of women, girls, youth and vulnerable groups. These city development plans must be formulated, implemented and monitored through partnerships with communities and their residents in order to strengthen social cohesion, inclusiveness, local culture and economies and best respond to their needs and opportunities ([>> cities](#), [>> rights](#), [>> gender](#), [>> inequalities](#), [>> poverty](#), [>> sustainable economic growth](#), [>> science, technology and innovation](#), [>> health](#), [>> education](#)).
- Minimize the environmental impact of cities by creating incentives to manage urban sprawl without hastening rural agricultural land conversion, avoiding encroachment of settlements in environmentally vulnerable areas and promoting planning for dense cities with higher energy efficiency in transport and in the built environment, and more environmentally-friendly and efficient provision of other public services and infrastructure ([>> cities](#), [>> environment](#), [>> governance](#), [>> sustainable economic growth](#), [>> science, technology and innovation](#)).
- Establish national incentives programs that embrace technological innovation and creativity of urban populations, especially in the green economy and which empower growing urban populations with economic opportunity, including through business development. Enhance the economic, social and cultural amenities of smaller and medium-sized cities to increase their global attractiveness in order to create incentives for people to move/migrate to diverse cities and not only the major business hubs ([>> cities](#), [>> science, technology and innovation](#), [>> sustainable economic growth](#)).
- Improving the quality of life of half of their country's slum dwellers, by 2030, including assurance of secure land tenure, durable housing, basic sanitation, potable water, better health services and adequate living space, through cooperative and inclusive approaches, including slum upgrading, that do not resort to forced evictions ([>> inequalities](#), [>> poverty](#), [>> environment](#)).