

## **Resolution 2007/1**

### **Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development**

*The Commission on Population and Development,*

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>1</sup> in particular chapter VI on population growth and structure, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action,<sup>2</sup> in particular section II B on changing age structure and ageing of the population,

*Recognizing* that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action is consistent with and makes an essential contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first special session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-21/5/Rev.1)*; and A/S-21/PV.9.

*Recalling* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003 on the roadmap for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and Assembly resolutions 59/150 of 20 December 2004, 60/135 of 16 December 2005 and 61/142 of 19 December 2006 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

*Recalling also* the relevant provisions on changing age structures of populations and their implications for development contained, inter alia, in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,<sup>4</sup> the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>5</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>6</sup> and their periodic reviews, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>8</sup> and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals; and resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling also* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005 on policies and programmes involving youth and previous Assembly resolutions related to the rights of the child,

*Recalling further* the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2 June 2006,<sup>11</sup>

*Recognizing* that all populations of the world are undergoing a historically unique transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of fertility and mortality, known as the demographic transition, which has strong effects on the age structure of populations, and cognizant of the fact that countries are at different stages of this transition, with some countries still experiencing high levels of fertility,

*Recognizing also* that in the first stage of the demographic transition, when mortality is falling, the proportion of children increases, that in the second stage, when both fertility and mortality are falling, the proportion of adults of working age increases, and that in the third stage, when fertility and mortality reach low levels, only the proportion of older persons increases,

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<sup>3</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>7</sup> See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

<sup>8</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/1.

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

*Recognizing further* that the second stage of the demographic transition presents a window of opportunity for development and that the translation of this window of opportunity into benefits for development requires national policies and an international economic environment conducive to investment, employment, sustained economic development and further integration and full participation of developing countries in the global economy,

*Acknowledging* that population ageing is taking place at a much faster pace in developing than in developed countries, giving the former less time to adjust to the increasing number of older persons, making it difficult to mobilize resources for their support,

*Noting* that children and youth constitute nearly half of the population of developing countries and that two thirds of the world's older persons live in developing countries,

*Reaffirming* that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development, including for tackling the development implications of changing age structures,

*Reaffirming also* that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

*Reaffirming further* the three priority directions agreed in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing:<sup>3</sup> older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments,

*Noting with concern* that poverty is one of the major threats to people's well-being, especially children, the young and older persons,

*Bearing in mind* that women constitute the majority of older persons in almost all societies and that their share of the population increases with advancing age,

*Recognizing* that a heavy disease burden, especially in many developing countries, in particular the HIV/AIDS pandemic, affects population dynamics, shortens life expectancy and slows economic growth through lost productivity and other factors that undermine development,

*Recognizing also* the important role of all families in meeting the many challenges posed by the changing age structures of populations,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring<sup>12</sup> and on the monitoring of population programmes,<sup>13</sup> both of which focus on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> E/CN.9/2007/3.

<sup>13</sup> E/CN.9/2007/4.

<sup>14</sup> E/CN.9/2007/5.

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>1</sup> and the key actions for its further implementation;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Stresses* that since countries are at different stages of the demographic transition and experience different social and economic conditions, development and policy implications vary from country to country depending on their level of social and economic development;

3. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to assist developing countries in assessing the possible impact of changing population age structures and in building capacities to respond to the challenges and opportunities resulting from changing population age structures;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitments to and emphasizes the need to fully implement the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>8</sup> the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>15</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>16</sup> (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) and to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields;

5. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy and planning processes at all levels and the need to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender and age, including the elimination of all forms of violence against women of all ages, and of ensuring equal rights and their full enjoyment by women of all ages;

6. *Recognizes* that investing in young people is an urgent development priority and that it will contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Reaffirms* the resolve, expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>8</sup> to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, are able to complete a full course of primary schooling, *urges* Governments to provide young people with opportunities for obtaining further education, acquiring skills and participating fully in all aspects of society, with a view, inter alia, to improving their productive employment and helping them to lead self-sufficient lives, and *recalls* that a knowledge-based society also requires that policies be instituted to ensure life-long access to education and training;

8. *Expresses its concern* that at the present time developing countries have a large number of persons reaching old age with minimal literacy and numeracy, which limits their capacity to earn a livelihood and may thus influence their enjoyment of health and well-being;

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<sup>15</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1).

9. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All<sup>17</sup> adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000, and underlines the importance of the Education for All partnership as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to take action to create an enabling environment at all levels to increase labour market participation, including special efforts to raise the participation of women, older persons, youth and disadvantaged groups, such as the long-term unemployed and persons with disabilities, in order to reduce the risk of exclusion or dependency in later life;

11. *Stresses* the importance of fully mobilizing the active population through family-friendly policies that support parents and legal guardians in combining work and parental roles;

12. *Invites* countries with ageing populations to promote measures to address this situation, including with family-friendly policies;

13. *Encourages* Governments to apply policies that support gender equality, protect the human rights of older persons, particularly older women, and assist abused older persons;

14. *Also encourages* Governments, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to enhance, through appropriate mechanisms the self-reliance of older persons, including: where appropriate, the promotion of a continued participation in working life, if desired, inter alia, by promoting a new approach to retirement that takes the needs of the employees, as well as the employers into account, in particular by applying the principle of flexible retirement policies and practices while maintaining acquired pension rights; the creation of conditions that promote the quality of life of older persons and enable them to work and live independently in their own communities as long as possible or desired; the provision of continuing education and the encouragement of life-long learning; and the ensuring of equal access to high-quality health and social services;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to develop and implement policies aimed at ensuring that all persons have adequate economic and social protection during old age and to strive to ensure the integrity, sustainability, solvency and transparency of pension schemes and, where appropriate, disability insurance, while paying attention to their intergenerational impacts so that the burden is not chiefly borne by certain generations;

16. *Invites* Governments, mindful of economic obstacles that may exist in some developing and other countries, to facilitate the accumulation of assets through personal savings and investments by individuals in order to cover consumption at older ages by setting up or promoting appropriate institutional mechanisms, if they do not already exist, and to ensure effective monitoring of such mechanisms;

17. *Invites* Governments to develop comprehensive strategies to meet the increasing demand for long-term care for older persons, including by adopting and implementing measures that assist families in providing basic care and support for

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<sup>17</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

their older members, taking into account the need to ensure that women and girls are not disproportionately burdened;

18. *Recalls* the worldwide need to expand educational opportunities in the field of geriatrics and gerontology for all health professionals who work with older persons and to improve information and training for health professionals and para-professionals on the needs of older persons, and in this context acknowledges the need to enhance international cooperation;

19. *Urges* Governments to promote healthy living at all ages and in all spheres of health, including sexual and reproductive health, in particular the improvement of maternal, child and adolescent health, and efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, and to take steps to prepare health-care systems to meet the challenges posed by changing age structures;

20. *Notes* that HIV/AIDS affects the structure of the population in many developing countries, notably in Africa, and poses significant challenges to the economic and social stability in the most affected countries, and encourages Governments to address the rising rates of HIV infection among young people to ensure HIV-free future generations through the implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based prevention strategies, responsible sexual behaviour, including the use of condoms, evidence- and skills-based, youth-specific HIV education, mass-media interventions and the provision of youth-friendly health services;

21. *Recognizes* the gravity of the public health problems afflicting many developing countries and least developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases, and encourages Governments to adopt measures that address these challenges;

22. *Stresses* the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

23. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to continue promoting partnerships at the national and international levels to promote a holistic package of gender-sensitive interventions to ensure the well-being of young people and improve their life prospects, inter alia, by enhancing their educational attainment, promoting healthy lifestyles and safeguarding their health, including sexual and reproductive health, and by supporting young people's social engagement and participation, including in activities to reduce poverty and marginalization;

24. *Reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Calls upon* Governments, taking into account the development situation in each country, to promote both intergenerational equity and solidarity by taking into account the implications of the changing age structures of the population in medium- and long-term development planning and by considering the age-related consequences of social and economic policies;

26. *Welcomes* the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 and, pursuant to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>18</sup> 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries no later than 2010, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

27. *Also welcomes* recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and calls for concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with country strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;

28. *Acknowledges* that for developing countries that cannot generate sufficient resources, the lack of adequate funding remains the chief constraint to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

29. *Notes* that recent increases in the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action have been primarily a result of the increased funding for HIV/AIDS activities, expresses concern that funding for family planning, which has been steadily decreasing, is below the suggested target level, and therefore emphasizes the importance of a continued mobilization of the required resources to implement the Programme of Action by the international community, including Governments of both donors and developing countries;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on the changing age structures of populations, including levels, trends, determinants, consequences and policies, giving due attention to their implications for development.

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\* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 15 and 16.

<sup>18</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.