

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Coordination and Management Meeting**

New York, 12 – 13 June 2018

Item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(f) Population and development

Presentation on the 51st session of the Commission on Population and Development ([E/2018/25](#))

**Ambassador Dr. Ion Jinga
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, and
Chair of the 51st session of the Commission on Population and Development**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Distinguished representatives of the Secretariat and of the
United Nations Population Fund,
Colleagues and friends,

- I am honoured to present to you the report of the 51st session of the Commission on Population and Development, as contained in document E/2018/25.
- The 51st session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 7 April 2017 and from 9 to 13 April 2018.¹ The session had a special theme of “Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration”.
- This theme provided an occasion for the Commission to consider the linkages between two global megatrends that were addressed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and continue to feature in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: the increasing concentration of the global population in cities, and major movements of people between and within countries.
- During the debate, delegations shared national experiences in addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities of urban growth, to ensure that urban development is both inclusive and sustainable. Policies were needed to ensure sustainable land use, while also ensuring access to education, health care, jobs, housing, sanitation and other services, especially for vulnerable urban populations.

¹ An initial meeting was held on 7 April 2017 for the sole purpose of electing members of the Bureau.

- Member States acknowledged the significance of migration as a global megatrend, as well as the challenges faced by countries of origin, transit and destination. The challenges of migration, however, were balanced by the recognition that well-managed migration contributes to development and economic growth. The human rights of migrants must be upheld.
- During the session, delegations interacted with invited speakers and experts and with representatives of non-governmental organizations. Speakers emphasized the importance of cities to the future of the planet: most population growth in the future will occur in the cities of developing regions. They highlighted that cities are often at the forefront as gateways for receiving, hosting and integrating migrants into countries of destination. They underlined the importance of data on cities, human mobility and international migration to inform evidence-based policies.
- This year's session of the Commission was well attended. Participants included delegations from 42 elected members of the Commission, as well as observers from about 72 other Member States, two non-Member States, and several intergovernmental organizations and entities of the United Nations system. Roughly 125 representatives from some 80 non-governmental organizations participated as well.
- An overview of the deliberations and of the substantive documents that helped to inform the discussion are contained in the summary of the report on the 51st session, which has been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.
- Despite extensive informal consultations on a draft resolution on the special theme of the 51st session, Member States did not reach consensus on all issues addressed. In particular, disagreements around issues of sexual and reproductive health and national sovereignty prevented consensus. In the end, I took the decision to withdraw my proposed text.
- The Commission additionally held informal consultations to reach consensus on two draft decisions, on the future direction of the report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and on the special theme for its 53rd session in 2020
- In the report, the Commission on Population and Development recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:
 - First, a decision to take note of the report on its 51st session; and
 - Second, a decision to approve the provisional agenda for its 52nd session.
- The Commission also recommends to the Council the adoption of the draft decision regarding 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.

- The draft decisions just referenced are proposals for action by the Council.
- Furthermore, I bring to the attention of the Council two decisions adopted by the Commission in its April session:
 - First, a decision on the special theme for the Commission's 53rd session in 2020 ("Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development").
 - Second, a decision taking note of the Report of the Secretary-General on "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2017: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs";
- These decisions are brought to the attention of the Council for information.

Madame Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

- The 51st session of the Commission on Population and Development occurred at a critical juncture. It reflected the adoption of decisions on new methods of work in 2016 and 2017, which implement a new cycle for the review and assessment of the ICPD Programme of Action, along with contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.
- Findings from the deliberations and reports of the Commission have accordingly been forwarded to the ECOSOC Integration and to the High-level Political Forum.
- Regarding the Commission's failure to achieve consensus on a draft resolution on this year's special theme, I share the concern of many delegations that this has happened now three times in the past four years.
- I call on Member States to continue to engage in discussions on the important topics that have been part of the debates of this Commission since its first session in 1947. We must ensure that the Commission fulfils its mandate to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Economic and Social Council thereon. Within that mandate, we must also contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To do so, we must continue to provide crucial guidance to the work of the United Nations in the area of population and development.
- My country stands ready to support the Chair and the Bureau of the 52nd session and to work with other Member States to have a successful session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I wish to thank the Economic and Social Council for supporting the work of the Commission on Population and Development by taking note of the report on its 51st session. I request your support also in endorsing the draft proposals presented in that report.
- I would like also to thank my colleagues in the Bureau, the Vice-Chairs of the 51st session: Ms. Zandile Bhengu of South Africa, Mr. Jawad Ali of Pakistan, Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy of Jamaica and Mr. Rene Lauer of Luxembourg.
- I thank Ms. Bhengu for serving as facilitator of the negotiations on the draft resolution on the special theme, Ms. Barker-Murphy for serving as facilitator of the negotiations on the draft decisions, and Mr. Ali for his contribution as rapporteur of the session.
- I would also like to thank our colleagues from the Secretariat, in both DESA and DGACM, and from UNFPA for their continuous support throughout the 51st session.
- I welcome the incoming Vice-Chairs, and regret that a Chair for the 52nd session has not yet been designated. We must demonstrate strong leadership in carrying forward the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in 2019.
- I hope that the new Bureau will carry forward the important work of the Commission on Population and Development. I call on all members of the Commission, as well as Member States who are not currently members, to give the new Bureau your full support throughout the 52nd session.

Thank you, and best wishes to the Council in your deliberations.