

## CHAPTER 4

# Population growth and structure

### SUMMARY

Faced with a world population of 5.6 billion in 1994 and a projected population of 7.5 billion in 2014,\* the Programme of Action called on countries to facilitate the demographic transition, with the aim of stabilizing world population and balancing demographic rates with economic, social and environmental goals, while fully respecting human rights. Countries that had already passed through the demographic transition should optimize their demographic trends with regard to social and economic development. The Programme of Action also recognized the perspectives and needs of special population groups, in particular children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples, and called on Governments to meet the special needs of these groups regarding employment, housing, health care, including reproductive health services, education, participation in the political process, economic and social security and land tenure.

Rather than focusing uniquely on population growth, the Commission has drawn attention to the diversity of global population trends, with populations growing in some countries and declining in others. During its annual sessions, the Commission has studied the changing age structure of populations and its implications for development.

During its fortieth session in 2007, the Commission emphasized for the first time the potential economic benefits from fertility decline in the form of a “window of opportunity” (later called the “demographic dividend” in resolutions of the forty-second and forty-seventh sessions), urging countries to increase and sustain investments in women and youth, and to meet the needs of women for family planning as well as job creation. At the same time, the Commission has recognized the challenges of extending social support mechanisms to the growing number of older persons, particularly those whose minimal literacy and numeracy limits their ability to earn a living and to enjoy long, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Another new and emerging trend affecting population growth and structures is the growing number of migrant children. Governments have been urged to promote and protect the human rights of these children regardless of their immigration status, as noted in the resolutions of the thirty-ninth, forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the Commission.

Faced with a growing number of adolescents and youth in some parts of the world, Governments have been called on to improve their access to productive employment and decent work. Governments have also expressed concern about the development opportunities of Afro-descendent populations and indigenous peoples, and have asked that public policies, plans and programmes be established that guide and advance affirmative action policies, whereby the principles of equality and non-discrimination can be incorporated into all levels of government. Recent resolutions have also recognized the special needs of adolescents and youth affected by HIV/AIDS and those in situations of armed conflict, natural disaster or humanitarian emergency, as well as those affected by violence, including gender-based violence and sexual violence, trafficking in persons, and criminal activities.

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\* According to the *2012 Revision of the World Population Prospects*, world population stands at 7.3 billion in 2014. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, DVD Edition (POP/DB/WPP/Rev.2012/POP/F01-1).

**EXCERPTS FROM THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

**Chapter VI: Population Growth and Structure**

**A. Fertility, mortality and population growth rates**

Objective

6.3. Recognizing that the ultimate goal is the improvement of the quality of life of present and future generations, the objective is to facilitate the demographic transition as soon as possible in countries where there is an imbalance between demographic rates and social, economic and environmental goals, while fully respecting human rights. This process will contribute to the stabilization of the world population, and, together with changes in unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, to sustainable development and economic growth.

Actions

6.4. Countries should give greater attention to the importance of population trends for development. Countries that have not completed their demographic transition should take effective steps in this regard within the context of their social and economic development and with full respect of human rights. Countries that have concluded the demographic transition should take necessary steps to optimize their demographic trends within the context of their social and economic development. These steps include economic development and poverty alleviation, especially in rural areas, improvement of women's status, ensuring of universal access to quality primary education and primary health care, including reproductive health and family-planning services, and educational strategies regarding responsible parenthood and sexual education. Countries should mobilize all sectors of society in these efforts, including non-governmental organizations, local community groups and the private sector.

6.5. In attempting to address population growth concerns, countries should recognize the interrelationships between fertility and mortality levels and aim to reduce high levels of infant, child and maternal mortality so as to lessen the need for high fertility and reduce the occurrence of high-risk births.

**B. Children and youth**

Objectives

6.7. The objectives are:

(a) To promote to the fullest extent the health, well-being and potential of all children, adolescents and youth as representing the world's future human resources, in line with the commitments made in this respect at the World Summit for Children and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) To meet the special needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women, with due regard for their own creative capabilities, for social, family and community support, employment opportunities, participation in the political process, and access to education, health, counselling and high-quality reproductive health services;

(c) To encourage children, adolescents and youth, particularly young women, to continue their education in order to equip them for a better life, to increase their human potential, to help prevent early marriages and high-risk child-bearing and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity.

Actions

6.8. Countries should give high priority and attention to all dimensions of the protection, survival and development of children and youth, particularly street children and youth, and should make every effort to eliminate the adverse effects of poverty on children and youth, including malnutrition and preventable diseases. Equal educational opportunities must be ensured for boys and girls at every level.

6.9. Countries should take effective steps to address the neglect, as well as all types of exploitation and abuse, of children, adolescents and youth, such as abduction, rape and incest, pornography, trafficking, abandonment and

prostitution. In particular, countries should take appropriate action to eliminate sexual abuse of children both within and outside their borders.

6.10. All countries must enact and strictly enforce laws against economic exploitation, physical and mental abuse or neglect of children in keeping with commitments made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant United Nations instruments. Countries should provide support and rehabilitation services to those who fall victims to such abuses.

6.11. Countries should create a socio-economic environment conducive to the elimination of all child marriages and other unions as a matter of urgency, and should discourage early marriage. The social responsibilities that marriage entails should be reinforced in countries' educational programmes. Governments should take action to eliminate discrimination against young pregnant women.

6.12. All countries must adopt collective measures to alleviate the suffering of children in armed conflicts and other disasters, and provide assistance for the rehabilitation of children who become victims of those conflicts and disasters.

6.13. Countries should aim to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in the areas of formal and non-formal education, training, employment opportunities, housing and health, thereby ensuring their integration and participation in all spheres of society, including participation in the political process and preparation for leadership roles.

6.14. Governments should formulate, with the active support of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, training and employment programmes. Primary importance should be given to meeting the basic needs of young people, improving their quality of life, and increasing their contribution to sustainable development.

6.15. Youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives. This is especially important with respect to information, education and communication activities and services concerning reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, sex education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, there is a need for educational programmes in favour of life planning skills, healthy lifestyles and the active discouragement of substance abuse.

### **C. Elderly people**

#### Objectives

6.17. The objectives are:

(a) To enhance, through appropriate mechanisms, the self-reliance of elderly people, and to create conditions that promote quality of life and enable them to work and live independently in their own communities as long as possible or as desired;

(b) To develop systems of health care as well as systems of economic and social security in old age, where appropriate, paying special attention to the needs of women;

(c) To develop a social support system, both formal and informal, with a view to enhancing the ability of families to take care of elderly people within the family.

#### Actions

6.18. All levels of government in medium- and long-term socio-economic planning should take into account the increasing numbers and proportions of elderly people in the population. Governments should develop social security systems that ensure greater intergenerational and intragenerational equity and solidarity and that provide support to elderly people through the encouragement of multigenerational families, and the provision of long-term support and services for growing numbers of frail older people.

6.19. Governments should seek to enhance the self-reliance of elderly people to facilitate their continued participation in society. In consultation with elderly people, Governments should ensure that the necessary conditions are developed to enable elderly people to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives and to make

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full use of the skills and abilities they have acquired in their lives for the benefit of society. The valuable contribution that elderly people make to families and society, especially as volunteers and caregivers, should be given due recognition and encouragement.

6.20. Governments, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, should strengthen formal and informal support systems and safety nets for elderly people and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against elderly people in all countries, paying special attention to the needs of elderly women.

### **D. Indigenous people**

#### Objectives

6.24. The objectives are:

- (a) To incorporate the perspectives and needs of indigenous communities into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the population, development and environment programmes that affect them;
- (b) To ensure that indigenous people receive population- and development- related services that they deem socially, culturally and ecologically appropriate;
- (c) To address social and economic factors that act to disadvantage indigenous people.

#### Actions

6.25. Governments and other important institutions in society should recognize the distinct perspective of indigenous people on aspects of population and development and, in consultation with indigenous people and in collaboration with concerned non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, should address their specific needs, including needs for primary health care and reproductive health services. All human rights violations and discrimination, especially all forms of coercion, must be eliminated.

6.26. Within the context of the activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the United Nations should, in full cooperation and collaboration with indigenous people and their relevant organizations, develop an enhanced understanding of indigenous people and compile data on their demographic characteristics, both current and historical, as a means of improving the understanding of the population status of indigenous people. Special efforts are necessary to integrate statistics pertaining to indigenous populations into the national data-collection system.

6.27. Governments should respect the cultures of indigenous people and enable them to have tenure and manage their lands, protect and restore the natural resources and ecosystems on which indigenous communities depend for their survival and well-being and, in consultation with indigenous people, take this into account in the formulation of national population and development policies.

### **E. Persons with disabilities**

#### Objectives

6.29. The objectives are:

- (a) To ensure the realization of the rights of all persons with disabilities, and their participation in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life;
- (b) To create, improve and develop necessary conditions that will ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and the valuing of their capabilities in the process of economic and social development;
- (c) To ensure the dignity and promote the self-reliance of persons with disabilities.

#### Actions

6.30. Governments at all levels should consider the needs of persons with disabilities in terms of ethical and human rights dimensions. Governments should recognize needs concerning, inter alia, reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, HIV/AIDS, information, education and communication. Governments should eliminate

specific forms of discrimination that persons with disabilities may face with regard to reproductive rights, household and family formation, and international migration, while taking into account health and other considerations relevant under national immigration regulations.

6.31. Governments at all levels should develop the infrastructure to address the needs of persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to their education, training and rehabilitation.

6.32. Governments at all levels should promote mechanisms ensuring the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and reinforce their capabilities of integration.

6.33. Governments at all levels should implement and promote a system of follow-up of social and economic integration of persons with disabilities.

## EXCERPTS FROM RESOLUTIONS AND ENTIRE RESOLUTIONS

### Entire resolutions:

- Resolution 1999/10 – Population growth, structure and distribution
- Resolution 2007/1 – Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development
- Resolution 2012/1 – Adolescents and youth

### Resolution 1999/10<sup>†</sup>

#### Population growth, structure and distribution

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* the commitment of Member States to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to population growth, structure and distribution,

*Recalling also* that the theme for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development was population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education, and noting the importance of the issues related to, *inter alia*, youth, ageing and migration, as well as the need for data collection,

*Requests* the Population Division of the Secretariat to continue its research on population growth, structure and distribution, including levels, trends, determinants, consequences and policies, while giving due attention to issues related to, *inter alia*, youth, ageing, migration and data collection, so that Governments may benefit by comparing experiences and by understanding the factors underlying changing demographic circumstances, and calls upon Governments to continue to facilitate the work of the Population Division in this regard.

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

### Resolution 2005/1

#### Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty

[...]

6. *Recognizes* that the HIV pandemic is having a devastating impact on children, that the global number of orphans continues to increase, and that other children are vulnerable because they have an ill parent, live in poor households that have taken in orphans, live in child-headed households, or are discriminated against, and that more

<sup>†</sup> This resolution was recommended by the Commission on Population and Development to the Economic and Social Council for adoption and was subsequently adopted by the Council.

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than 2 million children are living with HIV/AIDS themselves; and stresses the need to strengthen multisectoral responses in this regard, including psychosocial support to children and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

[...]

12. *Urges* Governments to implement measures to increase capacities of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culture- and gender-sensitive framework;

[...]

### Resolution 2005/2

#### **Contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration**

[...]

5. *Further emphasizes* the importance of closer attention in policy dialogue and policy development to the interrelations between population structure and trends, including population ageing, and poverty and development;

[...]

### 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,

*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,

*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 wellbeing, 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>

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>

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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;

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 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 paraprofessionals 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 wellbeing 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

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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.

<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.

<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.

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

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

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

<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).

<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).

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

**Resolution 2008/1**

**Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development**

[...]

12. *Calls upon* Governments to develop and implement policies aimed at ensuring that all persons, irrespective of where they live, have adequate economic and social protection during old age;

[...]

**Resolution 2009/1**

**The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals**

[...]

7. *Urges* Governments, in order to ensure the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, to, inter alia, protect and promote the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age and marital status, including by eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls and women, working more effectively to achieve equality between women and men in all areas of family responsibility and in sexual and reproductive life, empowering women and girls, promoting and protecting women's and girls' right to education at all levels, providing young people with comprehensive education on human sexuality, on sexual and reproductive health, on gender equality and on how to deal positively and responsibly with their sexuality, enacting and enforcing laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, ensuring the right of women to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, combating all forms of violence against women, including harmful traditional and customary practices such as female genital mutilation, developing strategies to eliminate gender stereotypes in all spheres of life and achieving gender equality in political life and decision-making, which would contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Also urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

[...]

13. *Reiterates* the need for Governments to ensure that all women and men and young people have information about and access to the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable, evidence-based and acceptable methods of family planning, including barrier methods, and to the requisite supplies so that they are able to exercise free and informed reproductive choices;

14. *Calls upon* Governments and the international community to strengthen their efforts to lower infant and child mortality and ensure that all children, girls and boys alike, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, especially by combating malnutrition, taking measures to prevent and treat infectious and parasitic diseases and eliminating all forms of discrimination against the girl child;

15. *Recognizes* that the largest generation of adolescents ever in history is now entering sexual and reproductive life and that their access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and care and family planning services and commodities, including male and female condoms, as well as voluntary abstinence and fidelity are essential to achieving the goals set out in Cairo 15 years ago;

16. *Calls upon* Governments, with the full involvement of young people and with the support of the international community, to give full attention to meeting the reproductive health-care service, information and education needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

[...]

## Chapter 4: Population growth and structure

19. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen initiatives that increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, including voluntary counselling and testing and prevention education that promotes gender equality;

[...]

22. *Calls upon* Governments to take into account the linkages of population dynamics, including population growth, changing age structures and spatial distribution, with economic growth and sustainable development in formulating and implementing national development policies and strategies, including those addressing climate change and the current food and financial crises;

[...]

### Resolution 2010/1

#### Health, morbidity, mortality and development

[...]

22. *Emphasizes* the role of education and health literacy in improving health outcomes over a lifetime, and urges Governments to ensure that health education starts early in life and that special attention is paid to encouraging health-enhancing behaviour among adolescents and young people in a gender-sensitive manner, especially by discouraging the use of tobacco and alcohol, encouraging physical activity and balanced diets, and providing information on sexual and reproductive health that is consistent with their evolving needs and capacities so that they can make responsible and informed decisions in all issues related to their health and well-being and understand the synergies between the various health-related behaviours;

[...]

### Resolution 2011/1

#### Fertility, reproductive health and development

[...]

18. *Recognizes* the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance on sexual and reproductive matters, and that countries must ensure that the programmes and attitudes of health-care providers do not restrict the access of adolescents to appropriate services and the information they need, including on sexually transmitted infections and sexual abuse, and recognizes that in doing so, and in order to, inter alia, address sexual abuse, these services must safeguard the right of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs, and that in this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information and care for adolescents;

[...]

20. *Recognizes* that the largest generation of adolescents in history is now entering sexual and reproductive life and that their access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and care and family planning services and commodities, including male and female condoms, as well as voluntary abstinence and fidelity are essential to achieving the goals set out in Cairo 17 years ago;

21. *Calls upon* Governments, with the full involvement of young people and with the support of the international community, to give full attention to meeting the reproductive health-care service, information and education needs of adolescents, to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

[...]

28. *Also recognizes* that children often form the majority within poor households, and therefore calls upon Governments to develop and implement appropriate social protection measures to provide for the basic needs of children in poor households, especially orphans and vulnerable children;

[...]

**Resolution 2012/1**  
**Adolescents and youth**

*The Commission on Population and Development,*

*Recalling* 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>

*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>3</sup> and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>4</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>6</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>7</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>8</sup> and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling further* the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>10</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>11</sup> the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>12</sup> and Five-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, the World Programme of Action for Youth,<sup>13</sup> and the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,<sup>14</sup> the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,<sup>15</sup> and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,<sup>16</sup> as well as the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,<sup>17</sup> and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* 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,

*Acknowledging* the largest generation of adolescents and youth ever in history and cognizant that different demographic trends and age structures directly impact their lives and have various impacts on development, depending on circumstances in each country, and on the size of investments required to ensure the health and development of current and future generations, and recognizing the evolving capacities, needs, contributions and challenges of adolescents and youth, and that classifications and definitions of age groups vary in accordance with each country’s national legislation,

*Recognizing* that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to promote the interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, inter alia, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

*Recognizing also* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, including those related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, which would also contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as those on population and development, education and gender equality, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and that population dynamics are all-important for development,

## Chapter 4: Population growth and structure

*Recognizing further* that adolescents and youth in all countries are a major resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation, and that further progress for development requires the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations at the international, regional, national and local levels,

*Recognizing* that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices, and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries, and calling for enhanced cooperation and concerted action to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that education can play in that respect,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to realizing the right of everyone to education, and emphasizing that education shall be directed to the full development of the human person and his or her dignity and shall strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recalling that commitments made at the international level emphasize inclusive quality learning, including early childhood education, and universal access to complete, free and compulsory primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and training and lifelong learning, as well as equal access to education and successful schooling for girls and women,

*Addressing* the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including youth migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the international, regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society,

*Noting* with concern that for millions of people throughout the world, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, still remains a distant goal and that in many cases, especially for children, youth and people living in poverty, the likelihood of achieving this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

*Reaffirming* the need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of youth development, recognizing the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women and the need to eliminate discrimination against them, and the critical role of boys and young men in ensuring gender equality,

*Concerned* that early and forced marriage and forced sexual relationships have adverse physical, social and psychological effects on adolescent and young girls and violate their human rights, and that early childbearing and early and forced marriage reduce opportunities for adolescent and young girls to complete their education, develop employable skills and participate in community development,

*Recognizing* that reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents and rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents, and the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence,

*Recognizing also* that young people between 15 and 24 years of age account for more than 40 per cent of all new HIV infections among those aged 15 years or over because of the social and economic factors and other inequities that increase their vulnerability, including stigma and discrimination, gender-based and sexual violence, gender inequality and violations and lack of accurate information on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and ready access to sexual and reproductive health, including HIV services,

*Deeply concerned* that young women living with HIV would like to space or limit pregnancy but are not using an effective modern method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and that addressing reproductive health and HIV together would better serve the needs of clients and health-care providers in a more comprehensive, cost-effective and efficient manner,

*Recognizing* that all forms of violence against adolescents and youth violate their rights, and in this regard recognizing the need to take appropriate actions to address the factors that increase the particular vulnerability of adolescents and youth to all forms of violence,

*Recognizing also* the importance of preventing and addressing youth crime, including drug-related crime, and its impact on youth and the socioeconomic development of societies, and of protecting young victims, witnesses and their respective families, as well as supporting the rehabilitation, reintegration and inclusion of young offenders in society with a view to their assuming constructive roles,

*Emphasizing* that the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons<sup>18</sup> will contribute to address all factors and root factors that foster demand and make adolescents and youth, especially young women and girls, vulnerable to trafficking, as well as the protection and rehabilitation of victims and will, inter alia, promote, as appropriate, increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>19</sup> and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

*Recognizing* the contributions of adolescents and young migrants to countries of origin and destination, their particular vulnerabilities, circumstances and needs, and their potential to build social, economic and cultural bridges of cooperation and understanding across societies, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the socioeconomic circumstances and specific needs of young migrants,

*Recognizing also* that malaria-related ill health and deaths throughout the world, particularly among children, adolescents and youth, can be substantially reduced with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized about malaria and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where the disease is endemic,

*Recalling* that the Programme of Action requires for its full implementation adequate and sustained mobilization and availability of resources at the international and national levels, as well as new and additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, and that Governments are not expected to meet the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action single-handedly, and expressing concern that funding levels do not meet current needs,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on adolescents and youth<sup>20</sup> and on monitoring of population programmes, focusing on adolescents and youth,<sup>21</sup> 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>22</sup>

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. *Also reaffirms* its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation agreed at the five-year review of the Programme of Action, and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action;<sup>23</sup>
3. *Further reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement recommendations of the Programme of Action or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;
4. *Calls upon* Governments, in formulating and implementing national development plans, budgets and poverty eradication strategies, to prioritize actions to address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty and sustainable development, keeping in mind that universal reproductive health-care services, commodities and supplies, as well as information, education, skill development, national capacity-building for population and development, and transfer of appropriate technology and know-how to developing countries are essential for achieving the Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>14</sup> and the Millennium Development Goals;

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5. *Also calls upon* Governments, considering 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, and further calls upon Governments and development partners to make youth development a priority across all sectors;

6. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to combat all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status, and to foster social integration for marginalized groups, such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth, on an equal basis with others;

7. *Urges* Governments to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of age and marital status, including, inter alia, by eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls and women, by working more effectively to achieve equality between women and men in all areas of family responsibility, in sexual and reproductive life, and in education at all levels, and by protecting the human rights of adolescents and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health;

8. *Urges* Member States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage, where necessary;

9. *Urges* all States to develop, adopt and fully implement laws and to take other measures, such as policies and educational programmes, as appropriate, to eradicate harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage, which are violations of the human rights of women and girls, and to intensify efforts, in cooperation with local women's and youth groups, to raise collective and individual awareness on how such harmful practices violate the human rights of women and girls;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to support ways to expand access to and the affordability of key products, such as vector control measures, including indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, environmental management and vaccines, as well as by monitoring surveillance through rapid diagnostic tests, and artemisinin-based combination therapy for populations at risk of exposure to resistant strains of falciparum malaria in malaria-endemic countries, particularly in Africa, including through additional funds and innovative mechanisms, inter alia, for the financing and scaling-up of artemisinin production and procurement, as appropriate, to meet the increased need;

11. *Welcomes* the increased funding for malaria interventions and for research and development of preventive and control tools that will target children, adolescents and youth;

12. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect all adolescents and youth, including those in situations of armed conflict, natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence and sexual violence, trafficking in persons and involvement in criminal activities, and to provide social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and complaint and reporting mechanisms for the redress of violations of their human rights;

13. *Urges* Member States to take effective measures in conformity with international law to protect adolescents and youth affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;

14. *Also urges* Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of adolescents and youth living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially young people, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue, and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, especially young people, and to address the root causes of youth migration, while avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and young women, to remove all obstacles to gender equality, to promote the empowerment of girls and young women in all aspects of youth development, and to encourage boys and young men to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality;

17. *Also calls upon* Governments to support and encourage men in their important role as fathers and in helping their children transition successfully to adulthood, including by providing adequate financial support for their children and families, to promote positive male role models and programmes for boys to become gender-sensitive adults and to enable men to support, promote and respect women's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recognizing the inherent dignity of all human beings;

18. *Urges* Member States to improve and actively support opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work, including through investment in youth employment programmes, youth-adult partnerships entrepreneurship and other income generation strategies, active labour markets, public-private partnerships and other measures to facilitate the participation of young people in labour markets, in accordance with States' respective national laws and international obligations and commitments, and to reinforce links between national development strategies and policies on education, training, social integration and mobility, taking into account gender equality and the empowerment of women;

19. *Also urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated national youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the international, regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard request donors, specialized United National entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance, including technical and funding support, as required;

20. *Encourages* Member States to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in the areas of education, work, income creation and citizen participation, through, inter alia, training programmes that result from dialogue between Governments, employers and employees of various sectors of the economy, as appropriate;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, on an equal basis with men and boys, and that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand the education of girls and women at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

22. *Urges* Member States to increase efforts to improve the quality of education and to promote universal access to education, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that adolescents and youth can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including through appropriate access to scholarships and other mobility programmes;

23. *Urges* Governments and the international community to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination, by paying special attention to nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, promotion of sexual and reproductive health, and mental health, and by supporting measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries, to prevent tobacco and illicit drug use and the harmful use of alcohol, and to encourage sports and recreation as well as the removal of all types of barriers to the ability of adolescents and youth to protect their health;

24. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen basic infrastructure, human and technical resources, and the provision of health facilities so as to improve health systems, particularly for adolescents and youth, and to ensure the accessibility, affordability and quality, especially in rural and remote areas, of health-care services, as well as sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, bearing in mind the commitment to halving, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a means of fighting waterborne diseases;

## Chapter 4: Population growth and structure

25. *Recognizes* the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance on sexual and reproductive matters, and that countries must ensure that the programmes and attitudes of health-care providers do not restrict the access by adolescents to appropriate services and the information they need, including on sexually transmitted infections and sexual abuse, and recognizes that in doing so, and in order to, inter alia, address sexual abuse, these services must safeguard the right of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs, and that in this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information and care for adolescents;

26. *Calls upon* Governments, with the full involvement of young people and with the support of the international community, to give full attention to meeting the reproductive health-service, information and education needs of young people, with full respect for their privacy and confidentiality, free of discrimination, and to provide them with evidence-based comprehensive education on human sexuality, sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality;

27. *Urges* Governments and development partners, including through international cooperation, in order to improve maternal health, reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality, and prevent and respond to HIV and AIDS, to strengthen health systems and ensure that they prioritize universal access to sexual and reproductive information and health-care services, including family planning, prenatal care, safe delivery and postnatal care, especially breastfeeding and infant and women's health care, emergency obstetric care, prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility, quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion, reducing the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services and, in circumstances where abortion is not against the law, training and equipping health-service providers and other measures to ensure that such abortion is safe and accessible, recognizing that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and other reproductive health conditions and information, education and counselling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood, taking into account the particular needs of those in vulnerable situations, which would contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals;

28. *Reiterates* the need for Governments to ensure that all women and men have comprehensive information about, and access to, a choice of the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning, including long-acting methods and male and female condoms, so that they are able to exercise free and informed reproductive choices, and stresses that Governments and development partners, through international cooperation, should ensure that family planning programmes have a sufficient and continuous supply of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern contraceptives;

29. *Calls upon* Governments to pay particular attention to adolescents and youth, especially young women and adolescent girls, in significantly scaling up efforts to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, free of stigma and discrimination and with a gender perspective, and to provide comprehensive information, voluntary counselling and testing to adolescents and youth living with HIV as they transition into adulthood;

30. *Also calls upon* Governments to strengthen national social and child protection systems, and care and support programmes for adolescents and youth, in particular for young women and adolescent girls affected by and vulnerable to HIV, as well as their families and caregivers, including through the provision of equal opportunities to support the development to full potential of orphans and other children affected by and living with HIV, especially through equal access to education, the creation of safe and non-discriminatory learning environments, supportive legal systems and protections, including civil registration systems, and provision of comprehensive information and support, including youth-friendly health centres, to children and their families and caregivers, especially age-appropriate HIV information to assist children living with HIV as they transition through adolescence, consistent with their evolving capacities;

31. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations agencies, and others, as appropriate, to actively support and invest in increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations, taking into account gender equality and representation of youth of various backgrounds, in the formulation, decisions about, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

32. *Encourages* Governments to improve information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making, to develop and strengthen opportunities for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, promoting their social and political participation and removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society, and to promote and support youth associations, volunteer groups and entrepreneurship;

33. *Invites* a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including families, teachers, religious, traditional and community leaders, and community-based organizations, to play positive roles to promote adolescent and youth development, maximize the impact of information, education and communication activities and social media, and mobilize public opinion in support of actions to improve the well-being of young people and their ability to exercise their human rights;

34. *Encourages* the United Nations agencies, the international community and civil society, as well as the private sector, to promote and support the implementation of the adolescent and youth development agenda and to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information on effective policies, programmes and activities as a matter of priority;

35. *Underlines* the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of goal 8 in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizes that without substantial international support, several of the goals are likely to be missed in many developing countries;

36. *Encourages* Governments and development partners to bring their investments in reproductive health in line with the revised cost estimates presented by the Secretary-General for each of the four programme components identified in chapter XIII of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>24</sup> calls upon Governments of both developed and developing countries to make every effort to mobilize the required resources to ensure that the health, development and human rights-related objectives of the Programme of Action are met, and urges Governments and development partners to cooperate closely to ensure that resources are used in a manner that ensures maximum effectiveness and is in full alignment with the needs and priorities of developing countries;

37. *Urges* Governments to monitor their progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and other internationally agreed development goals at the national and local levels, and in this regard, to make special efforts to strengthen their vital registration and health information systems, and to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms to generate population data, disaggregated by sex, age and other categories, as needed, to monitor the well-being of adolescents and youth, and to use these data for the formulation and implementation of population and development policies;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the substantive work on adolescents and youth, including integrating gender and age perspectives, and other relevant perspectives, into analyses and recommendations, in collaboration and coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant international organizations, and giving due consideration to their implications for development and poverty eradication, and sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth.

<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), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>2</sup> See 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.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>10</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>11</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

<sup>12</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, annex II.

<sup>13</sup> See General Assembly resolutions 50/81 and 62/126.

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<sup>14</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/312.

<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex.

<sup>17</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution 64/293.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>20</sup> E/CN.9/2012/4.

<sup>21</sup> E/CN.9/2012/5.

<sup>22</sup> E/CN.9/2012/6.

<sup>23</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 I, annexes I and II.

<sup>24</sup> See E/CN.9/2012/6, sect. V.

### Resolution 2013/1

#### New trends in migration: demographic aspects

[...]

25. *Calls upon* States to protect the human rights of migrant children, especially migrant girls, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in State policies on integration, return and family reunification, including repatriation mechanisms;

[...]

27. *Urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

[...]

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14. *Urges* Governments to promote the development of Afro-descendent populations and indigenous peoples by implementing public policies, establishing standards and creating institutions to guide and carry forward affirmative action policies, plans and programmes at the sectoral level, whereby the principles of equality and non-discrimination can be incorporated into all levels of government, with organized civil society participating throughout the process of the design, implementation and evaluation of those instruments;

[...]

16. *Emphasizes* that, in order to realize and capitalize on demographic dividend, it is essential to increase and sustain investment in women and youth, especially education for girls, maternal, newborn and child health, and to meet the unmet needs of women for family planning, as well as in job creation, and that a well-trained and healthy workforce together with appropriate economic reforms and policies will result in high return on investment for the growing working-age population;

[...]

22. *Calls upon* Governments, agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as appropriate, to actively support and invest in the increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations, taking into account gender equality and the representation of youth of various backgrounds in the formulation, decisions about, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

23. *Encourages* Governments to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

[...]