

CHAPTER 7

Population distribution, urbanization and internal migration

SUMMARY

The Programme of Action advocated for a more balanced spatial distribution of the population, expressing particular concern about the rapid growth of urban areas. Governments had been unable to respond to rapid urbanization with adequate management capacities and practices, which would require sustainable regional development through strategies of urban consolidation, growth of small or medium-sized urban centres and sustainable development of rural areas. The Cairo Declaration also argued for more participatory and resource-conscious planning and management of large urban agglomerations to improve the security and quality of life of all residents. The Programme of Action recognized the magnitude of forced internal displacement and called on the international community to provide protection and assistance to displaced persons and to address the causes of their plight.

The Commission on Population and Development devoted two sessions to the theme of population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, with one of them also addressing international migration. In general, the resolutions from these sessions recognized the large number of people living in urban areas and called for sustainable integrated urban development in response to urban population growth. They also recognized the situation of the rural population and their particular needs, and called on Governments to eradicate poverty in rural areas.

The resolutions of the forty-first (2008) and forty-sixth (2013) sessions of the Commission helped to push forward the agenda of the Programme of Action. For example, concrete strategies and policies were proposed to strengthen linkages between rural and urban areas, with a view to eradicating poverty in both. They also called for taking account of the impacts of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development in the formulation of family-sensitive policies in the fields of housing, work, health, social security and education. The perspectives and needs of urban and rural populations and internal migrants affected by HIV/AIDS were recognized as well, and Governments were urged to focus on the diverse and special needs of these populations, and to promote healthy living in both rural and urban areas. Adding insights not found in the Programme of Action, the resolution of the forty-sixth (2013) session cited specific advantages of higher urban population density, including more energy-efficient transport and housing, and cheaper provision of services and infrastructure, while also identifying adverse effects, such as increase in the number of urban poor and the size of slum populations. The resolution called on Governments to harness the benefits of more densely populated urban areas while also addressing their challenges.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Chapter IX: Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal Migration

A. Population distribution and sustainable development

Objectives

9.2. The objectives are:

(a) To foster a more balanced spatial distribution of the population by promoting in an integrated manner the equitable and ecologically sustainable development of major sending and receiving areas, with particular emphasis on the promotion of economic, social and gender equity based on respect for human rights, especially the right to development;

(b) To reduce the role of the various push factors as they relate to migration flows.

Actions

9.3. Governments formulating population distribution policies should ensure that the objectives and goals of those policies are consistent with other development goals, policies and basic human rights. Governments, assisted by interested local, regional and intergovernmental agencies, should assess on a regular basis how the consequences of their economic and environmental policies, sectoral priorities, infrastructure investment and balance of resources among regional, central, provincial and local authorities influence population distribution and internal migration, both permanent and temporary.

9.4. In order to achieve a balanced spatial distribution of production employment and population, countries should adopt sustainable regional development strategies and strategies for the encouragement of urban consolidation, the growth of small or medium-sized urban centres and the sustainable development of rural areas, including the adoption of labour-intensive projects, training for non-farming jobs for youth and effective transport and communication systems. To create an enabling context for local development, including the provision of services, Governments should consider decentralizing their administrative systems. This also involves giving responsibility for expenditure and the right to raise revenue to regional, district and local authorities. While vast improvements to the urban infrastructure and environmental strategies are essential in many developing countries to provide a healthy environment for urban residents, similar activities should also be pursued in rural areas.

9.5. To reduce urban bias and isolated rural development, Governments should examine the feasibility of providing incentives to encourage the redistribution and relocation of industries and businesses from urban to rural areas and to encourage the establishment of new businesses, industrial units and income-generating projects in rural areas.

9.6. Governments wishing to create alternatives to out-migration from rural areas should establish the preconditions for development in rural areas, actively support access to ownership or use of land and access to water resources, especially for family units, make and encourage investments to enhance rural productivity, improve rural infrastructure and social services and facilitate the establishment of credit, production and marketing cooperatives and other grass-roots organizations that give people greater control over resources and improve their livelihoods. Particular attention is needed to ensure that these opportunities are also made available to migrants' families remaining in the areas of origin.

9.7. Governments should pursue development strategies offering tangible benefits to investors in rural areas and to rural producers. Governments should also seek to reduce restrictions on international trade in agricultural products.

9.8. Governments should strengthen their capacities to respond to the pressures caused by rapid urbanization by revising and reorienting the agencies and mechanisms for urban management as necessary and ensuring the wide participation of all population groups in planning and decision-making on local development. Particular attention should be paid to land management in order to ensure economical land use, protect fragile ecosystems and facilitate the access of the poor to land in both urban and rural areas.

9.9. Countries are urged to recognize that the lands of indigenous people and their communities should be protected from activities that are environmentally unsound or that the indigenous people concerned consider to be socially and culturally inappropriate. The term “lands” is understood to include the environment of the areas which the people concerned traditionally occupy.

9.10. Countries should increase information and training on conservation practices and foster the creation of sustainable off-farm rural employment opportunities in order to limit the further expansion of human settlements to areas with fragile ecosystems.

9.11. Population distribution policies should be consistent with such international instruments, when applicable, as the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949), including article 49.

B. Population growth in large urban agglomerations

Objective

9.13. The objective is to enhance the management of urban agglomerations through more participatory and resource-conscious planning and management, review and revise the policies and mechanisms that contribute to the excessive concentration of population in large cities, and improve the security and quality of life of both rural and urban low-income residents.

Actions

9.14. Governments should increase the capacity and competence of city and municipal authorities to manage urban development, to safeguard the environment, to respond to the need of all citizens, including urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters, and to provide people with alternatives to living in areas prone to natural and man-made disasters.

9.15. In order to improve the plight of the urban poor, many of whom work in the informal sector of the economy, Governments are urged to promote the integration of migrants from rural areas into urban areas and to develop and improve their income-earning capability by facilitating their access to employment, credit, production, marketing opportunities, basic education, health services, vocational training and transportation, with special attention to the situation of women workers and women heads of households. Child-care centres and special protection and rehabilitation programmes for street children should be established.

9.16. To finance the needed infrastructure and services in a balanced manner, taking into account the interests of the poor segments of society, local and national government agencies should consider introducing equitable cost-recovery schemes and increasing revenues by appropriate measures.

9.17. Governments should strengthen the capacity for land management, including urban planning, at all levels in order to take into account demographic trends and encourage the search for innovative approaches to address the challenges facing cities, with special attention to the pressures and needs resulting from the growth of their populations.

9.18. Governments should promote the development and implementation of effective environmental management strategies for urban agglomerations, giving special attention to water, waste and air management, as well as to environmentally sound energy and transport systems.

C. Internally displaced persons

Objectives

9.20. The objectives are:

(a) To offer adequate protection and assistance to persons displaced within their country, particularly women, children and the elderly, who are the most vulnerable, and to find solutions to the root causes of their displacement in view of preventing it and, when appropriate, to facilitate return or resettlement;

(b) To put an end to all forms of forced migration, including “ethnic cleansing”.

Actions

9.21. Countries should address the causes of internal displacement, including environmental degradation, natural disasters, armed conflict and forced resettlement, and establish the necessary mechanisms to protect and assist displaced persons, including, where possible, compensation for damages, especially those who are not able to return to their normal place of residence in the short term. Adequate capacities for disaster preparedness should be developed. The United Nations, through dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, is encouraged to continue to review the need for protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, the root causes of internal displacement, prevention and long-term solutions, taking into account specific situations.

9.22. Measures should be taken to ensure that internally displaced persons receive basic education, employment opportunities, vocational training and basic health-care services, including reproductive health services and family planning.

9.23. In order to reverse declining environmental quality and minimize conflict over access to grazing land, the modernization of the pastoralist economic system should be pursued, with assistance provided as necessary through bilateral and multilateral arrangements.

9.24. Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to strengthen development assistance for internally displaced persons so that they can return to their places of origin.

9.25. Measures should be taken, at the national level with international cooperation, as appropriate, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to find lasting solutions to questions related to internally displaced persons, including their right to voluntary and safe return to their home of origin.

EXCERPTS FROM RESOLUTIONS AND ENTIRE RESOLUTIONS

Entire resolutions:

- Resolution 1999/10 – Population growth, structure and distribution
- Resolution 2008/1 – Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development
- Resolution 2013/1 – New trends in migration: demographic aspects

Resolution 1999/10[†]

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,¹

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,

[†] 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.

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.

¹ *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 2008/1
Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹ in particular chapter IX, on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, and the key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action,² in particular section II.D, on internal migration, population distribution and urban agglomerations,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration³ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁴ as well as 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 other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling further the relevant provisions on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration and development contained, *inter alia*, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁵ Agenda 21,⁶ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁷ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁸ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),⁹ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action,¹⁰ the Habitat Agenda¹¹ and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,¹² as well as the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2 June 2006,¹³ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁴ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹⁵ and the Barbados Programme of Action,¹⁶

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,

Recognizing also that the world population is undergoing a historic and unprecedented transformation from being mostly rural to being predominantly urban, but that major disparities in the level of urbanization remain among regions and countries, with Africa and Asia still being mostly rural and other regions being highly urbanized, and therefore that this transformation requires integrated and participatory approaches to spatial management, including through coordinated action between national Governments and local authorities, with the support of the international community,

Recognizing further the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, on population distribution, internal migration, urbanization and development, as well as the challenges that rural and urban transformations carry for environmental sustainability,

Noting that the number of urban dwellers in developing countries is growing significantly and that future population growth will be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in small and medium-sized cities,

Recognizing that natural increase, internal migration and the reclassification of rural areas as urban contribute to urban population growth,

Recognizing also that the levels of poverty are highest in rural areas, that poverty levels are increasing in the urban areas of some developing countries and that the urban poor are especially vulnerable and often have no other

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option but to live in slums, which are characterized by overcrowded conditions, unsafe housing, crime and other social problems, and lack of access to improved water sources, sanitation and health services,

Recognizing further that in developing countries, there are differences among urban settings regarding access to social services,

Recalling the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring¹⁷ and on the monitoring of population programmes,¹⁸ both of which focus on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and 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,¹⁹

Acknowledging 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, and urging the international community, including Governments of both donors and developing countries, to continue to mobilize the required resources for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration current needs,

Recognizing that poverty, unemployment, hunger and malnutrition are some of the major causes of migration from rural to urban areas in many developing countries,

Affirming that all States and all people should cooperate to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development in order to decrease disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development³ and the key actions for its further implementation;⁴

2. *Calls upon* Governments, in formulating population distribution policies, to ensure that their objectives and goals are consistent with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the eradication of poverty in both urban and rural areas, the promotion of gender equality, equity and empowerment of women and environmental sustainability;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitments to, and emphasizes the need to fully implement, the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁵ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development¹⁶ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),¹¹ 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;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to address the challenges and opportunities of urban growth and internal migration by taking prompt, forward-looking and sustained action to ensure that those phenomena have a positive impact on economic growth, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, in doing so, to enable the participation and representation of all relevant stakeholders in planning for an urban future, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard, including through building capacities to respond to these challenges and opportunities;

5. *Urges* Governments to promote development that would encourage linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to eradicate poverty in rural areas, including through strategies that, integrating a gender perspective, are aimed at promoting interactions between cities and rural localities, particularly by generating employment for rural residents, creating opportunities to market agricultural products in urban areas and facilitating access to credit, education, vocational training and health services for rural residents and rural-urban migrants;

7. *Also emphasizes*, in the context of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, and bearing in mind national priorities, the importance of establishing and funding active labour market policies devoted to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women in all international and national development and poverty eradication strategies, the creation of more and better jobs for women, both urban and rural, and their inclusion in social protection and social dialogue;

8. *Urges* Governments to improve the plight of the urban poor, many of whom work in the informal sector of the economy, and to promote the integration of internal migrants from rural areas into urban areas by developing and improving their income-earning capability, with special attention to women, in particular female workers and female heads of households;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to take into account the impacts of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development in the formulation of family-sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education;

10. *Also calls upon* Governments to increase the capacity and competence of city and municipal authorities to manage urban development to safeguard the environment, to respond to the need of all citizens, including young people and urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters, and to provide people with alternatives to living in areas prone to natural and man-made disasters;

11. *Urges* Governments to promote healthy living in both rural and urban areas 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, in the light of the challenges and opportunities presented by 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;

13. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development requires an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally, and in this context calls upon developed countries to complement the national financial efforts of developing countries related to population and development and to intensify their efforts to transfer new and additional resources to the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action, in order to ensure that population and development objectives and goals are met;

14. *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, and expresses concern that funding for family planning is far below the suggested targets;

15. *Encourages* Governments, in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and on other communicable diseases, to focus on the diverse and special needs of urban and rural populations and of migrant populations, including temporary migrants, and emphasizes the need to address the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

16. *Also encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization in order to address environmental issues, including climate change, thereby reducing the vulnerability of the low-income sectors of society to the risks posed by environmental impacts in a rapidly urbanizing world, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

17. *Urges* Governments to set up or, where they already exist, to strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms for spatially disaggregated data collection, demographic estimates and projections by age, sex and household composition linked to environmental, economic and social issues at the national and local levels in order to inform policy formulation, regional, urban and rural planning, the planning of service provision, investment decisions or advocacy in favour of vulnerable and marginalized groups, bearing in mind the gender perspective;

18. *Stresses* the need for technical and financial support for the activities associated with the preparation and conduct of the 2010 round of population censuses, which will provide important data on urban and rural development;

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19. *Acknowledges* that the United Nations regional commissions play an important role in adapting the international population and development agenda to the regional contexts, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue relying on the regional commissions for the implementation of the regional population and development agendas;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, his substantive work on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, including integrating a gender perspective into its analyses and recommendations, in collaboration and coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant international organizations, and to continue assessing the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, giving due consideration to their implications for development.

¹ *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.

² 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.

³ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

⁶ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁸ *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 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁹ *Ibid.*, chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

¹⁰ *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, annexes I and II.

¹¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹² General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

¹³ See General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

¹⁴ *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), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁵ *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.

¹⁶ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹⁷ E/CN.9/2008/3 and Corr.1.

¹⁸ E/CN.9/2008/4.

¹⁹ E/CN.9/2008/5.

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

[...]

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;

[...]

25. *Reaffirms* strongly that population distribution policies should be consistent with such international instruments, when applicable, as the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, including article 49 thereof;

[...]

Resolution 2013/1

New trends in migration: demographic aspects

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹ and the key actions for its further implementation,²

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁷ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁸ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁹

Recalling further the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹⁰ and the supplementing protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,¹¹ and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,¹² and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹³

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People,¹⁴

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁵ its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and recalling further the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,¹⁶

Acknowledging that the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 provided an opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and increased awareness of the issue, including the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the Dialogue,¹⁷

Recognizing the contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and promoting coherent and comprehensive approaches,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions relevant to international migration, including those on international migration and development, and on the protection of migrants, in particular Assembly resolutions 63/225 of 19 December 2008, 65/170 of 20 December 2010, 67/172 of 20 December 2012 and 67/219 of 12 December 2012, which are relevant to the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly and will discuss the overall theme of “Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications”,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,¹⁸

Reaffirming the resolve expressed by the Heads of States and Governments to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

Recognizing 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,¹⁹ as well as those on population and development, education and gender equality, are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and that population dynamics are all important for development,

Recognizing also that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the

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same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing further the responsibility of States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children,

Acknowledging the important link between migration and development, and recognizing that migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination to migrants and to the global community,

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,

Recognizing the importance of preventing and eliminating trafficking in persons, including migrant workers, while assuring the protection of their human rights,

Recognizing also that increased national, bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation and shared responsibility are important to ensure orderly, regular and safe processes of migration and to reduce undocumented or irregular migration,

Recognizing further the importance of having a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration, and bearing in mind that migrants can contribute to the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of countries and the historical, cultural and economic ties that exist among some regions,

Recognizing that remittance flows constitute one of the important aspects of international migration and constitute a source of private capital,

Acknowledging the importance of sustainable integrated urban development in order to respond effectively to the growth of urban populations, while also recognizing that a significant portion of the world's poor live in rural areas and that rural communities play an important role in the economic development of many countries,

Aware that migration has increased in volume, scope, complexity and impact since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that migration is an intrinsic feature of a globalizing world in which economic, social, cultural, demographic, political and environmental factors all play an important role,

Acknowledging the complexity of migratory flows and that international migration movements also occur within the same geographical regions, and in this context calling for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions,

Noting that greater internal migratory flows have a significant impact on the distribution and concentration of populations in cities and large urban agglomerations, and recognizing the growing numbers of urban poor who often have no other option but to live in slums,

Recognizing the need to further consider the role that environmental factors may play in migration,

Noting that international migration affects the population size and population distribution of countries as well as their composition by age and sex, and recognizing that migration flows are important considerations for development planning,

Recognizing that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level, that women are increasingly migrating on their own or as heads of households and that while this situation can create opportunities for economic independence and empowerment, it can also lead to exploitation and vulnerability, and violence and abuse for girls, as well as for migrant women and their families, and therefore requires more attention and greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to migration,

Recognizing also the contributions of adolescents and young migrants to countries of origin, transit 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 acknowledging the need to consider the socioeconomic circumstances and specific needs of young migrants, including access to education and

health services, in order that they may achieve their full potential and contribute to inclusive social and economic development,

Recognizing further that any migrant can be vulnerable depending on the conditions and circumstances of his or her migration, and that these vulnerabilities can be exacerbated depending on a variety of factors such as age, sex, ethnicity and legal status,

Recognizing that young people, including young migrants, are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection because of social and economic factors and other inequities, 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 access to sexual and reproductive health, including HIV-related services,

Recalling the resolve expressed to provide protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, of whom a majority are women and children, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law,

Recognizing that all migrants have the right to a nationality to prevent statelessness, which can leave migrants particularly vulnerable to arbitrary arrest and detention, exploitation, and other abuses, and that all children, including the children of migrants, should be registered immediately after birth,

Recognizing also that in order to achieve their full potential for economic and social development, migrants need to have access to vital registration services and relevant documentation, education, vocational training, housing, productive employment, and social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, with due regard for applicable laws and eligibility requirements,

Recalling the various General Assembly resolutions requesting the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, in particular the International Organization for Migration, to enhance their cooperation to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of migration data disaggregated, inter alia, by age and sex,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring and on the monitoring of population programmes, both focusing on new trends in migration,²⁰ 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,²¹

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development³ and the key actions for its further implementation;

2. *Also reaffirms* the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,²² including in the area of migrant women;

3. *Further reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement the 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* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and 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, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

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

6. *Also urges* Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles faced by migrants, including those living in situations of armed conflict or under foreign occupation;

7. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, so as to foster orderly, regular and safe processes of migration;

8. *Urges* all Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures and specific policies to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to

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protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, sexual exploitation, violence or sexual abuse;

9. *Encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and take other appropriate measures to combat international smuggling of migrants, including legislative, judicial, regulatory and administrative measures, recognizing that migrant smuggling may endanger the lives of migrants or make them vulnerable to trafficking, kidnapping or other crimes and abuse by organized criminal groups, and to strengthen international cooperation to combat such crimes;

10. *Urges* Member States to safeguard and protect migrants and members of their families from illegal or violent acts, including acts of discrimination and crimes perpetrated on any basis, and to respect their physical integrity, dignity, religious beliefs and cultural values;

11. *Encourages* Member States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹⁰ as well as other relevant legal instruments related to labour standards, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of such instruments;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of, and promote equal opportunities for, internal migrants, to combat all forms of discrimination against them, to provide them with access to education, health care and social services, and to foster social integration, especially for marginalized migrants;

13. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and to promote conditions for cheaper, faster, more transparent and safer transfers of remittances, in a non-discriminatory fashion, in both source and recipient countries, and invites Member States as well as the private sector, international organizations, the banking community and other stakeholders, to work towards the further reduction of transfer costs of remittances;

14. *Reaffirms also* the need to encourage opportunities for development oriented investments in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to undertake such actions;

15. *Invites* Governments to encourage diasporas to contribute to the development of their countries and communities of origin, in accordance with domestic legislation, including by facilitating human capital transfer, direct investment, trade and philanthropy, and by ensuring an environment that is conducive to investments and entrepreneurship with easy access to information, networks and infrastructure;

16. *Invites* Member States to take practical measures to enhance the benefits of international migration for development by, inter alia, seeking to ensure the fair treatment of migrants with regard to their working conditions and wages, the portability of pensions and other social protections, as appropriate, and the mutual recognition of diplomas and qualifications, with due regard to eligibility criteria, and in general lowering the costs of migration and promoting circular and return migration;

17. *Calls upon* States to ensure that migration, which affects many areas of development, is integrated into national and sectoral development policies, strategies and programmes;

18. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons, especially in the health, social and engineering sectors, affects the development efforts of developing countries and endorses the example of good practice set by the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, whereby the international community is encouraged to support and promote the strengthening of health systems;

19. *Invites* Governments, when developing policies, to take into account the role that environmental factors may play in migration;

20. *Urges* Member States and the international community to give due consideration to the linkages between migration and development in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Urges* Member States, with the support of the international community, to consider population and migration trends and projections in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national, rural and urban

development strategies and policies, and to seize the opportunities and address the challenges associated with demographic change, including migration;

22. *Encourages* Member States to promote sustainable and integrated rural and urban development, to strengthen urban-rural linkages and to expand participatory efforts to upgrade slums;

23. *Encourages* Governments to harness the benefits of persons moving to urban areas in pursuit of education, employment or family unity, and to seize the advantages of higher population density, notably higher energy efficiency in transport and housing, as well as cheaper provision of services and infrastructure, while at the same time working to mitigate the adverse impacts of the rapid concentration of populations in cities or metropolitan areas;

24. *Welcomes* programmes that allow migrants to integrate fully into society, facilitate family reunification in accordance with the laws and specific criteria of each Member State and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages host countries to take appropriate measures aimed at the full integration of long-term, regular migrants staying in the country;

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;

26. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective into all policies and programmes on international migration in order, inter alia, to reinforce the positive effects that migration can have for the empowerment of women and the contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, coercion, discrimination, trafficking in persons, and exploitation and abuse of women and girls;

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;

28. *Calls upon* Member States to consider the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants and migration, including for longer-term development, in particular regarding the situation of international migrants affected by acute crises in destination or transit countries, and the impact of return migration, and also specifically considering the role of human mobility in disaster risk reduction strategies, disaster preparedness, national climate change adaptation programmes and sustainable urban planning;

29. *Also calls upon* Member States to increase measures to protect women migrants from violence and harassment, including sexual harassment and bullying, in both public and private spaces, and to address security and safety through awareness-raising policies and programmes;

30. *Recognizes* that migrants and displaced persons in many parts of the world have limited access to health care, including for sexual and reproductive health, and face specific threats to their reproductive health and rights, and calls upon Governments to provide services that are particularly sensitive to the needs of individual women and adolescents and responsive to their often powerless situation, with particular attention to those who are victims of sexual violence;

31. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify efforts to provide migrants with access to health and social services, including sexual and reproductive health services, information and education, and access to services for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS and other communicable or non-communicable diseases, and for the care and support of persons living with these conditions; as well as to implement measures to prevent violence, including sexual violence, and to address the consequences by providing, inter alia, emergency contraception and safe abortion in circumstances where such services are permitted by national law;

32. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers and to include therein and improve, where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such

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instruments should not punish women migrant domestic workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

33. *Encourages* Member States to consider identifying and reviewing any remaining HIV-related restrictions on the entry, stay and residence of migrants in order to eliminate the restrictions;

34. *Urges* Member States, with the support of the international community and within their national strategies for the development of statistics, to prioritize the collection and publication of timely and comparable migration data, based on existing standards and guidelines, including data disaggregated by age and sex, and to build national capacity for this work;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine best practices and make recommendations for strengthening national capacities to collect, process and disseminate migration data, and for using such data for decision-making and informed public debate and dialogue, as part of his report to the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;

36. *Encourages* Member States to take advantage of advances in methodologies and technologies for data collection and analysis and to collaborate regularly in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of migration and other relevant data compiled through various data collection systems;

37. *Also encourages* Member States to make migration data available at the highest level of spatial disaggregation possible, in all cases respecting the privacy of individuals and taking into account legal and ethical standards, in order to improve the quality, timeliness and accessibility of data for the purpose of policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

38. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to migration and development, in particular by building partnerships among all relevant stakeholders and by ensuring coordinated action to develop national capacities, including for data collection and for the management of migration in ways that respect and protect human rights;

39. *Stresses* the need to take concrete actions to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation and dialogue in the area of international migration and development and, where appropriate, to develop and implement national and regional policies and cooperative strategies with the meaningful participation of migrants to ensure that migration contributes to the development of both countries of origin and countries of destination;

40. *Reaffirms* the right of Governments to enforce their migration laws consistent with their international obligations;

41. *Calls upon* Governments of both developed and developing countries to make every effort to mobilize the required resources to ensure that the migration, development and human rights-related objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 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;

42. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation in the area of international migration, to adopt coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approaches and to include migration issues in their contributions to the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on migration and development and, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, to continue assessing the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on migration and development set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

44. *Looks forward* to the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, with the aim of identifying concrete measures to harness the benefits of migration and to minimize its negative impacts, which is to be held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, reiterates the invitation to Member States and observers to participate at the highest possible level, and calls on Member States to contribute through appropriate regional consultative processes to the High-level Dialogue;

45. *Recommends* in this regard that the Economic and Social Council transmit the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session to the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

¹ *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.

² 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.

³ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 64/293.

¹⁴ See General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 65/1.

¹⁷ A/61/515.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁹ *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.

²⁰ E/CN.9/2013/3 and E/CN.9/2013/4.

²¹ E/CN.9/2013/5.

²² General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

Resolution 2014/1

Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

[...]

5. *Urges* Governments to develop, strengthen and implement effective strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and at promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development that address the needs of children, adolescents and youth, older persons, unemployed persons and persons with disabilities, as well as other disadvantaged and marginalized groups in both urban and rural areas;

[...]