

Technology, research and development

SUMMARY

The Programme of Action recognized the importance of technology and research for understanding the relationship between population and development and for anticipating change. In the interest of effective policymaking, it called for strengthening national capacities to collect, analyse and disseminate timely population data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity and geographic unit. It urged Governments to sustain their commitment to regular data collection and analysis and full utilization of data. Furthermore, the Programme of Action called for an improved understanding of factors affecting universal reproductive health, including sexual health, and for research on products for regulating fertility, including natural methods. New and improved methods of regulating fertility should be made available, and the number of relevant partnerships between the public and private sectors should be increased. The Cairo document also emphasized the importance of promoting sociocultural and economic research on issues related to population and development, in order to assist in the design of policies, programmes, activities and services, as well as in their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In particular, the Programme of Action identified sociocultural and economic research as a means to better understand sexual and reproductive behaviour, the causes and consequences of migration and mobility, and differentials in mortality and morbidity between population subgroups.

Almost all resolutions over the past 10 years have addressed the topics of technology, research and development, constantly expanding the understanding of how these should be used for the purposes of policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Resolutions have also emphasized the need for capacity development and have urged developed countries and international organizations to support developing countries and to cooperate in partnership with relevant stakeholders in this area. Specifically, recent resolutions have called for the collection, analysis and dissemination of timely and comparable population data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other categories. In the case of mortality, the resolution of the forty-third session of the Commission in 2010 called for improving and strengthening national health information systems and research capacity, in order to measure the health of national populations disaggregated by age and sex, and thus to better detect health inequities and measure the impact of policies on health equity. In the case of migration and urbanization, the resolution of the forty-sixth session in 2013 called for the highest level of spatially disaggregated data possible, with due regard for individual privacy and legal and ethical standards. The Commission has called repeatedly for strengthening civil registration, vital statistics and health information systems, and has requested technical and financial support for conducting census enumerations. A resolution from the thirty-first session (1998) focused on the importance of population census activities for the evaluation of progress in implementing the Programme of Action, and this point was repeated in the context of urban and rural development at the forty-first session (2008).

The Commission has also urged member States, international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance cooperation on methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data, including through capacity development. Furthermore, at the thirty-eighth session (2005), the Commission has called for strengthened pharmaceutical policies and practices, including those applicable to generic drugs and intellectual property regimes in the field of HIV/AIDS research. In this regard, the same resolution also stressed the importance of implementing the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and public health, a call that was repeated during the forty-third session of the Commission in 2010. More recently, at the forty-fifth session (2012), the

Commission has also acknowledged the use and value of new technologies such as social media in support of actions to improve the well-being of young people in particular.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Chapter XII: Technology, Research and Development[§]

A. Basic data collection, analysis and dissemination

Objectives

12.2. The objectives are:

(a) To establish a factual basis for understanding and anticipating the interrelationships of population and socio-economic — including environmental — variables and for improving programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) To strengthen national capacity to seek new information and meet the need for basic data collection, analysis and dissemination, giving particular attention to information classified by age, sex, ethnicity and different geographical units, in order to use the findings in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of overall sustainable development strategies and foster international cooperation, including such cooperation at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) To ensure political commitment to, and understanding of, the need for data collection on a regular basis and the analysis, dissemination and full utilization of data.

Actions

12.3. Governments of all countries, particularly developing countries, assisted as appropriate through bilateral cooperation and international organizations and, where necessary, through interregional, regional and subregional cooperation, should strengthen their national capacity to carry out sustained and comprehensive programmes on collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of population and development data. Particular attention should be given to the monitoring of population trends and the preparation of demographic projections and to the monitoring of progress towards the attainment of the health, education, gender, ethnic and social-equity goals, and of service accessibility and quality of care, as stated in the present Programme of Action.

12.4. Programmes for the collection, processing, analysis and timely dissemination and utilization of population and related development data should include disaggregation, including gender disaggregation, and coverage and presentation compatible with the needs of effective programme implementation on population and development. Interaction between the community of data users and data providers should be promoted in order to enable data providers to respond better to user needs. Research should be designed to take into account legal and ethical standards and should be carried out in consultation and partnership with, and with the active participation of, local communities and institutions, and the findings thereof should be made accessible and available to policy makers, decision makers, planners and managers of programmes for their timely use. Comparability should be ensured in all research and data collection programmes.

12.5. Comprehensive and reliable qualitative as well as quantitative databases, allowing linkages between population, education, health, poverty, family well-being, environment and development issues and providing information disaggregated at appropriate and desired levels, should be established and maintained by all countries to meet the needs of research as well as those of policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Special attention should be given to assessing and measuring the quality and accessibility of care through the development of suitable indicators.

[§] The Holy See expressed a general reservation on this chapter. The reservation is to be interpreted in terms of the statement made by the representative of the Holy See at the 14th plenary meeting, on 13 September 1994.

12.6. Demographic, socio-economic and other relevant information networks should be created or strengthened, where appropriate, at the national, regional and global levels to facilitate monitoring the implementation of programmes of action and activities on population, environment and development at the national, regional and global levels.

12.7. All data collection and analysis activities should give due consideration to gender-disaggregation, enhancing knowledge on the position and role of gender in social and demographic processes. In particular, in order to provide a more accurate picture of women's current and potential contribution to economic development, data collection should delineate more precisely the nature of women's social and labour force status and make that a basis for policy and programme decisions on improving women's income. Such data should address, inter alia, women's unpaid economic activities in the family and in the informal sector.

12.8. Training programmes in statistics, demography, and population and development studies should be designed and implemented at the national and regional levels, particularly in developing countries, with enhanced technical and financial support, through international cooperation and greater national resources.

12.9. All countries, with the support of appropriate organizations, should strengthen the collection and analysis of demographic data, including international migration data, in order to achieve a better understanding of that phenomenon and thus support the formulation of national and international policies on international migration.

B. Reproductive health research

Objectives

12.11. The objectives are:

- (a) To contribute to the understanding of factors affecting universal reproductive health, including sexual health, and to expand reproductive choice;
- (b) To ensure the initial and continued safety, quality and health aspects of methods for regulation of fertility;
- (c) To ensure that all people have the opportunity to achieve and maintain sound reproductive and sexual health, the international community should mobilize the full spectrum of basic biomedical, social and behavioural and programme-related research on reproductive health and sexuality.

Actions

12.12. Governments, assisted by the international community and donor agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the academic community, should increase support for basic and applied biomedical, technological, clinical, epidemiological and social science research to strengthen reproductive health services, including the improvement of existing and the development of new methods for regulation of fertility that meet users' needs and are acceptable, easy to use, safe, free of long- and short-term side-effects and second-generation effects, effective, affordable and suitable for different age and cultural groups and for different phases of the reproductive cycle. Testing and introduction of all new technologies should be continually monitored to avoid potential abuse. Specifically, areas that need increased attention should include barrier methods, both male and female, for fertility control and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, as well as microbicides and virucides, which may or may not prevent pregnancy.

12.13. Research on sexuality and gender roles and relationships in different cultural settings is urgently needed, with emphasis on such areas as abuse, discrimination and violence against women; genital mutilation, where practised; sexual behaviour and mores; male attitudes towards sexuality and procreation, fertility, family and gender roles; risk-taking behaviour regarding sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies; women's and men's perceived needs for methods for regulation of fertility and sexual health services; and reasons for non-use or ineffective use of existing services and technologies.

12.14. High priority should also be given to the development of new methods for regulation of fertility for men. Special research should be undertaken on factors inhibiting male participation in order to enhance male involvement and responsibility in family planning. In conducting sexual and reproductive health research, special attention should be given to the needs of adolescents in order to develop suitable policies and programmes and appropriate

technologies to meet their health needs. Special priority should be given to research on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and research on infertility.

12.15. To expedite the availability of improved and new methods for regulation of fertility, efforts must be made to increase the involvement of industry, including industry in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. A new type of partnership between the public and private sectors, including women and consumer groups, is needed to mobilize the experience and resources of industry while protecting the public interest. National drug and device regulatory agencies should be actively involved in all stages of the development process to ensure that all legal and ethical standards are met. Developed countries should assist research programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with their knowledge, experience and technical expertise and promote the transfer of appropriate technologies to them. The international community should facilitate the establishment of manufacturing capacities for contraceptive commodities in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, and countries with economies in transition.

12.16. All research on products for regulation of fertility and sexual and reproductive health must be carried out in adherence to internationally accepted ethical and technical standards and cultural conditions for biomedical research. Special attention needs to be given to the continuous surveillance of contraceptive safety and side-effects. Users', in particular women's, perspectives and women's organizations should be incorporated into all stages of the research and development process.

12.17. Since unsafe abortion¹ is a major threat to the health and lives of women, research to understand and better address the determinants and consequences of induced abortion, including its effects on subsequent fertility, reproductive and mental health and contraceptive practice, should be promoted, as well as research on treatment of complications of abortions and post-abortion care.

12.18. There should be enhanced research on natural methods for regulation of fertility, looking for more effective procedures to detect the moment of ovulation during the menstrual cycle and after childbirth.

C. Social and economic research

Objectives

12.20. The objectives are:

(a) To promote socio-cultural and economic research that assists in the design of programmes, activities and services to improve the quality of life and meet the needs of individuals, families and communities, in particular all underserved groups;²

(b) To promote the use of research findings to improve the formulation of policies and the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects that improve the welfare of individuals and families and the need to enhance their quality, efficiency and client-sensitivity, and to increase the national and international capacity for such research;

(c) To understand that sexual and reproductive behaviour occurs in varying socio-cultural contexts, and to understand the importance of that context for the design and implementation of service programmes.

Actions

12.21. Governments, funding agencies and research organizations should encourage and promote socio-cultural and economic research on relevant population and development policies and programmes, including indigenous practices, especially with regard to inter-linkages between population, poverty alleviation, environment, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

12.22. Socio-cultural and economic research should be built into population and development programmes and strategies in order to provide guidance for programme managers on ways and means of reaching underserved clients and responding to their needs. To this end, programmes should provide for operations research, evaluation research and other applied social science research. This research should be participatory in character. Mechanisms should be established with a view to ensuring that research findings are incorporated into the decision-making process.

12.23. Policy-oriented research, at the national and international levels, should be undertaken on areas beset by population pressures, poverty, over-consumption patterns, destruction of ecosystems and degradation of resources, giving particular attention to the interactions between those factors. Research should also be done on the development and improvement of methods with regard to sustainable food production and crop and livestock systems in both developed and developing countries.

12.24. Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations concerned, funding agencies and research organizations are urged to give priority to research on the linkages between women's roles and status and demographic and development processes. Among the vital areas for research are changing family structures; family well-being; the interactions between women's and men's diverse roles, including their use of time, access to power and decision-making and control over resources; associated norms, laws, values and beliefs; and the economic and demographic outcomes of gender inequality. Women should be involved at all stages of gender research planning, and efforts should be made to recruit and train more female researchers.

12.25. Given the changing nature and extent of the spatial mobility of population, research to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of migration and mobility, whether internal or international, is urgently needed. To provide a sound foundation for such research, special efforts need to be made to improve the quality, timeliness and accessibility of data on internal and international migration levels, trends and policies.

12.26. In the light of the persistence of significant mortality and morbidity differentials between population subgroups within countries, it is urgent to step up efforts to investigate the factors underlying such differentials, in order to devise more effective policies and programmes for their reduction. Of special importance are the causes of differentials, including gender differentials, in mortality and morbidity, particularly at younger and older ages. Increased attention should also be paid to the relative importance of various socio-economic and environmental factors in determining mortality differentials by region or socio-economic and ethnic group. Causes and trends in maternal, perinatal and infant morbidity and mortality also need further investigation.

¹ Unsafe abortion is defined as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by person lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both (based on World Health Organization, *The Prevention and Management of Unsafe Abortion*, Report of a Technical Working Group, Geneva, April 1992. (WHO/MSM/92.5)).

² Which could include children, adolescents, women, the aged, the disabled, indigenous people, rural populations, urban populations, migrants, refugees, displaced persons and slum-dwellers.

EXCERPTS FROM RESOLUTIONS AND ENTIRE RESOLUTION

Entire resolution:

- Resolution 1998/7 – Importance of population census activities for evaluation of progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Resolution 1997/2[†]

International migration and development

[...]

1. Urges both the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, along with the regional commissions, other relevant United Nations and intergovernmental organizations and Governments providing technical assistance in statistics, to collaborate in the dissemination of the new set of recommendations on statistics of international migration and to provide, at the request of Governments, technical assistance in implementing these recommendations;

[...]

[†] 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.

**Resolution 1998/1
Health and mortality**

[...]

1. *Calls upon* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to work in close coordination with each other, and with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with Governments, in strengthening national capacities to collect, analyse and utilize health and mortality data at both national and local levels, in the priority areas of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including infant, child, adolescent and maternal health and mortality; sexual and reproductive health, with special attention to family planning, sexually transmitted infections and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); and violence against women and children and female genital mutilation and other harmful practices; and in the areas of infectious disease, substance abuse and measurement of adult mortality and morbidity;

[...]

4. *Calls* for assistance to developing countries to strengthen their national health serviced, including, inter alia, transfer of technology for building their capacity to produce basic and essential drugs;

[...]

**Resolution 1998/7[†]
Importance of population census activities for evaluation of progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1995/7 of 19 July 1995 in which it urged Member States to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 1995-2004,

Taking into account the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its nineteenth session, held in New York from 10 to 12 February 1998¹, which, inter alia, addresses the prospects for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses,

Emphasizing the importance of up-to-date population and housing census information for implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development² at the country level and for decision-making by Governments on a wide range of policy issues,

Mindful of the technical limitations of sample surveys as vehicles for the collection of data on adult mortality, and recognizing that methods exist for the collection of data on deaths in households in the course of a population census,

1. *Invites* Governments to give priority to the planning and undertaking of the next population and housing census;

2. *Recommends* that countries lacking adequate vital statistics systems give due consideration to the collection and analysis of data in the 2000 round of population censuses for the estimation of levels of mortality;

3. *Calls upon* relevant organizations of the United Nations system, donor Governments, through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations to provide the necessary support to those countries in need in respect of undertaking such censuses, including the building of national capacity in this field.

¹E/CN.3/1999/20.

²*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.

[†] 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.

Resolution 2004/2

Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

[...]

9. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, including those of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries in implementing the Programme of Action through technical assistance and capacity-building activities to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action;

[...]

Resolution 2005/1

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

[...]

17. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen pharmaceutical policies and practices, including those applicable to generic drugs and intellectual property regimes, in order to further promote innovation and the development of domestic industry consistent with international law;

18. *Urges* relevant United Nations organizations as well as other relevant international organizations to further support national efforts for the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to address the issue of the cost, availability and affordability of drugs and related technology;

19. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and public health;

[...]

23. *Encourages* increased investments in HIV/AIDS-related research nationally, regionally and internationally, in particular for the development of sustainable and affordable prevention technologies, such as vaccines and microbicides, and also encourages the proactive preparation of financial and logistic plans to facilitate rapid access to vaccines and microbicides when they become available;

[...]

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

[...]

10. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, including those of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to assist the developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Programme of Action through technical assistance and capacity-building activities in order to accelerate that implementation;

[...]

Resolution 2006/2

International migration and development

[...]

19. *Invites* Governments to set up or, where they already exist and where necessary, to strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms for, inter alia, data collection, analysis, the subsequent elaboration of policies,

Chapter 10: Technology, research and development

programmes and projects, and their monitoring and evaluation, including by improving skills and increasing resources, with a view to their providing timely, reliable and disaggregated information, including, inter alia, sex- and age-specific information, on international migration flows in countries of origin, transit and destination and their effects on development, and in this regard invites the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries;

20. *Invites* relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation on methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants;

[...]

Resolution 2007/1

Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development

[...]

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;

[...]

Resolution 2008/1

Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

[...]

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;

[...]

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

[...]

6. *Further 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 of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals and can contribute to economic and social development and to poverty eradication;

[...]

31. *Urges* Governments to monitor their progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Millennium Development Goals at the local and national levels and, in this regard, to make special efforts to strengthen relevant national institutions and mechanisms to generate population data, disaggregated, as appropriate, by sex and age and other categories, as needed for monitoring the improvement of maternal health, the achievement of the target of universal access to reproductive health and progress in empowering women and achieving gender equality and to use these data for the formulation and implementation of population and development policies;

[...]

Resolution 2010/1
Health, morbidity, mortality and development

[...]

17. *Emphasizes* the urgency of combating the main causes of child morbidity and mortality, inter alia, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition, through vaccination, long-lasting insecticide-treated bednets, nutritional support, improved sanitation, access to safe drinking water, and access to effective medicines and other treatments, while strengthening health systems;

18. *Stresses* the need to sustain and strengthen progress made in combating tuberculosis and malaria and developing innovative strategies for tuberculosis and malaria prevention, detection and treatment, including strategies to treat co-infection of tuberculosis with HIV, multidrug resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, including through ensuring the availability of affordable, good-quality and effective medicines and equipment;

[...]

29. *Encourages* all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

[...]

35. *Reaffirms* the need to develop, make use of, improve and strengthen national health information systems and research capacity with, as appropriate, the support of international cooperation, in order to measure the health of national populations on the basis of disaggregated data, including by age and sex, so that, inter alia, health inequities can be detected and the impact of policies on health equity measured;

[...]

Resolution 2011/1
Fertility, reproductive health and development

[...]

27. *Recognizes* the need to address the economic, social and psychological implications of infertility for individuals, couples and societies as a whole, and encourages Member States and development partners, including through international cooperation and resources, to facilitate access to prevention, required know-how and technologies for more effective and affordable treatment of infertility;

[...]

39. *Urges* Governments to monitor their progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation and the Millennium Development Goals at the local and national 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 improvement of maternal health, the achievement of the target of universal access to reproductive health and progress in empowering women and

Chapter 10: Technology, research and development

achieving gender equality, and to use these data for the formulation and implementation of population and development policies;

[...]

Resolution 2012/1 Adolescents and youth

[...]

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;

[...]

Resolution 2013/1 New trends in migration: demographic aspects

[...]

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;

[...]

Resolution 2014/1

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

[...]

20. *Also encourages* 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 regional, national and local levels, and in this regard to make special efforts to strengthen their civil registration and vital statistics, and health information systems, and to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms to generate population data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other categories, as needed to monitor progress and ensure accountability;

[...]