The Future of Population Growth
Session 6 of the Future of the World:
Global Policy Dialogues on Preparing for What’s Next

Wednesday, 23 February 2022
8:30-10 a.m. EST

Introduction

In line with efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General's to enhance global preparedness for future challenges and crises, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is hosting a six-part series of global policy dialogues on the Future of the World in 2021 and 2022.¹ The purpose of the series is to share insights and experiences that can help reduce future risks and build our collective resilience. Coordinated measures for improved preparedness, implemented across all levels of government in partnership with stakeholders, are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.


The event will launch a new report, *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*, prepared by the Population Division of UN DESA. Additional dialogues in the Future of the World series during 2022 may examine other population issues, including population ageing and international migration.

With this forward-looking initiative, UN DESA hopes to enhance the preparedness of Member States and the UN system to respond to multi-dimensional, systemic risks in today's interconnected world. The Future of the World series demonstrates the importance of foresight analysis and highlights the complex challenges the world is facing, such as those related to economic and financial instabilities, demographic shifts, rising inequalities, digital and frontier technologies, and climate change.

Format

The event will be 90 minutes in length and fully virtual, consisting of three roughly 25-minute segments. The three segments will focus on (a) demographic drivers of population growth, (b) linkages between

¹ The series is made possible by financial support from the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.
rapid population growth and social and economic development, and (c) impacts of population growth on the global environment, including climate change.

The discussions will be interactive and led by a moderator. There will be eight speakers in total (2 or 3 speakers for each segment) plus the moderator. Time will be reserved during the event for audience questions and polls. The audience will also be invited to submit questions in advance when completing the Zoom registration.

**Platform**

The event will be held online with the support of a professional video production company. The audience can watch via Zoom or Facebook Live. They can also access the Slido platform (via QR code or provided link) to enhance engagement by audience members who wish to participate in the polls, submit their own questions or upvote questions posed by others.

**Language**

The event will be held in English with captioning available in the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). There will also be live interpretation in American Sign Language.

**Host/moderator**

A professional moderator, Ms. Aminda Leigh, will guide the discussion.

**Draft programme**

**Introduction (8 minutes)**

- Moderator welcome remarks/logistical information
- Moderator to launch interactive poll 1
- Video on population growth (1:41)

**Discussion on the future of population growth (75 minutes)**

**Topic 1: Rapid population and demographics of population growth (25 minutes)**

Speakers:

- **Mr. Alex Ezeh**, Professor of Global Health, Department of Community Health and Prevention at the Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University, USA
- **Mr. John Wilmoth**, Director, Population Division, UN DESA

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 2
- Moderator to ask 2-3 guiding questions
- Moderator to ask 2-3 questions from the audience
**Topic 2: The social and economic impact of population growth (25 minutes)**

Speakers:
- **Ms. Nyovani Janet Madise**, Director of Research and Development Policy and Head of the Malawi office of the African Institute for Development Policy
- **Ms. Clare Menozzi**, Population Division, UN DESA
- **Ms. Laura Rodríguez Wong**, Professor of Demography, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 3
- Moderator to ask 2-3 guiding questions
- Moderator to take 2-3 questions from the audience

**Topic 3: Population, environment and climate change (25 minutes)**

Speakers:
- **Ms. Deborah Balk**, Director of the Institute for Demographic Research, City University of New York, USA
- **Mr. Pierre Boileau**, Head of the Global Environment Outlook programme, United Nations Environmental Programme
- **Ms. Raya Mutarik**, Director of Population, Environment and Sustainable Development, Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, Austria

  - Moderator to launch interactive poll 4
  - Moderator to ask 2-3 guiding questions
  - Moderator takes 2-3 guiding questions from the audience

**Wrap-up and closing (3 minutes)**

Wrap-up and next steps (3 minutes)
- Moderator final remarks
- Exit survey will launch upon end of Zoom