

Concept Note
Civil Society Consultation on Population Dynamics
Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

18-19 February 2013
Geneva

The United Nations Development Group is leading efforts to catalyze a “global conversation” on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda through a series of eleven global thematic consultations. The aim of these consultations is to bring together a broad range of stakeholders to review progress on the MDGs and to discuss options for a Post-2015 framework. The eleven thematic consultations will deal with topics considered as of particular importance to the Post-2015 discussions. The consultation on population dynamics, comprises discussions on the linkages between, and developmental implications of, high fertility and population growth, low fertility and population aging, internal and international migration, and urbanization. Other global consultations focus on the following themes: Conflict and Fragility, Environmental Sustainability, Economic Growth and Employment, Education, Food Security and Nutrition, Governance, Health, Inequalities, Water, and Energy.

The global thematic consultation on Population Dynamics on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, benefits from the generous financial support of the government of Switzerland and the Hewlett Foundation, and is co-lead by the governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh. On behalf of the international agencies, the consultation is led by UNFPA, UN DESA, UN Habitat and IOM in close collaboration with UNDP, UN-AIDS, UN-Women, OHCHR, ILO, FAO and WFP. Mega population trends affect all aspects of economic, social and political life, and have far-reaching implications for sustainability. While the world’s poorest countries continue to have high population growth, others are facing rapid population aging, and some are seeing even population decline. Furthermore, many are witnessing an accelerating internal and international migration, and rapidly expanding urban areas.

These population dynamics will change virtually all aspects of life and impact on overarching development objectives. Population dynamics affect economic development, labour markets, employment, skills and labour shortages, income distribution, poverty, social protection and income security; population dynamics influence environmental sustainability, the sustainability of cities and rural areas, climate change, water and sanitation, food and energy security; and population dynamics affect our ambition to ensure universal access to health, education, housing, and other essential services. But population dynamics are also shaped by the developments in these areas in turn. The linkages between population dynamics and development challenges have also important implications for inequalities (including gender equality) more generally and for human rights (including labour rights)-based policy responses.

The process consists of a consultation with experts, which took place 19-20 November 2012, a meeting with representatives of the private sector, held on 23 January 2013 and this consultation

with the civil society, to be held on 18-19 February 2013. In addition, a Global Online Consultation— a joint initiative between the United Nations and Civil Society— was launched on 2 October 2012, covering the eleven themes and meant to ensure that the Post-2015 development agenda will be based on the views and perspectives of all groups of citizens. An on-line consultation on population dynamics and post-2015 development agenda is on-going:

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/population>

The outcomes of all these consultations will feed into a single report to contribute to a vision for *The World We Want beyond 2015*, and will also contribute to a report that will be the main background document for the Global Leadership Meeting, which will be held on 11-12 March 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Goals of the Civil Society Consultation on Population Dynamics

The meeting, planned for two days, would attempt to provide a clearer vision on how population dynamics should be integrated in the Post-2015 development agenda. Against the background set by the introductory session, the civil society consultation would largely focus on developing concrete recommendations on “how to” address and harness population dynamics in the Post-2015 development agenda through an Interactive discussion in plenary on public policy options.

The meeting would discuss:

- Recommendations on how population data and projections should be used for the design and monitoring of development goals, indicators and targets;
- Recommendations on how population issues might be incorporated in the new development agenda and monitoring framework, addressing the following:

High population growth and large youth populations:

– How can countries promote demographic transitions and seize the demographic bonus associated with a youthful population? What is the role of rights-based and gender-responsive policies on health, education, employment and social protection?

Population ageing and population decline:

– How can countries address the associated challenges and opportunities of population ageing? What is the role of human capital development throughout the life cycle and productive investment in the economy?

Internal and international migration:

– How can countries seize developmental opportunities and address humanitarian challenges associated with internal and international migration; including migrant remittances, employment and social protection issues related to labour migration, human rights and well-being of migrants, vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks; and the role of rights-based policy frameworks as well as bilateral and multilateral dialogue and agreements fostering avenues for safe and productive human mobility?

Urbanization, Cities, and Sustainable Development:

– How can countries address human and environmental challenges associated with urbanization, promote the sustainability of cities, and seize the developmental opportunities provided by an urban world?

Date

18-19 February 2013

Venue

Centre International de Conférences Genève (Room 5)

9-11 rue de Varembe

Geneva, Switzerland

Draft Agenda

18 February 2013

Morning Session

Opening Remarks

Governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland, and Officials from Lead Agencies

Plenary

Moderator (tbd)

- Overview of the process: UNDP
- Overview of demographic trends: UNDESA
- Summary and call for action from the Experts Group Meeting on Population Dynamics and Post-2015 Development Agenda held on 19-20 November, 2012, in NY: UNFPA

Discussion

Moderator (tbd)

- How has population dynamics affected progress towards the MDGs?
- How should population dynamics be integrated into the post-2015 Development Agenda?

Afternoon Session

Working Groups

A brief presentation of case studies will be followed by discussions on policy priorities in each of the following sub-themes:

- High fertility and population growth, including youth bulge and demographic bonus
- Low fertility and population aging, and population decline
- Internal and international migration
- Urbanization

19 February 2013

Morning Session

Plenary

Moderator (tbd)

Reports of day one working groups' discussion

Working Groups (all four working groups will address the same set of questions)

- Review the policy priorities in the area of population dynamics and development.
- How should they be addressed in the development agenda?
- What is the contribution of the civil society in addressing them?
- What should be the mechanism for monitoring and ensuring accountability (including in terms of goals and targets where relevant)?

Afternoon Session

Plenary session

Moderator (tbd)

Report of morning working groups' discussion

Discussion: Inter-linkages identified between the four megatrends, recommendations and call for action

Moderator (tbd)

Closing remarks

Governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland