



*American Model United Nations*

**Commission on Population and Development**

**Report to the Economic and Social  
Council on Changing Age Structures of  
Populations and Their Implications for  
Development**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Commission on Population and Development is pleased to present to the Economic and Social Council its final report on the topic of Changing Age Structures and their Effect on Development. The following report covers a wide range of sub-topics, ranging from the support and reintegration of elderly populations into economies, to the sustainability of developing nations' workforces by creating incentives that will fight the current brain drain being experienced by developing nations' workforces.

Two resolutions have been adopted by the body, the first adopted without objection and the second by consensus. The body was unified on the importance of supporting changing populations via job creation, investment in infrastructure and vocational training, as well as development of community centers to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention strategies and to improve literacy rates. Representatives also suggest that elderly populations be targeted for employment in such community centers in order to reintegrate this population cohort into the active economies of nations and emphasizes the importance of providing affordable, generic medications, including antiretroviral medications for nations currently unable to afford such medicinal measures. These ideas were holistically adopted by the body.

The representatives also targeted the aging populations of the Member States of this body in such a way that encourages the reintegration of elderly cohorts into the active economy of nations for as sustained a time period as possible in order to avoid the current expanding elderly dependence of populations. It is suggested that this might be achieved by creating opportunities for employment of the elderly as well as ensuring the maintained health and longevity of elderly populations.

In deliberating and debating the issues of this agenda topic, the body focused on the effects of the three accepted stages of the demographic transition on populations of nations. Thus, an important dialogue emerged that emphasized the value of specific issue-based resolution writing that could then be tied together comprehensively via an overarching, global topic report. Thus, the body would like to stress the importance of considering the passed resolutions in the context of the greater framework of this topic.

The body would also like to stress to the Economic and Social Council their deep concerns with funding the ideals set forth by this report in nations currently unable to support these actions economically. However, as the discussion of funding is outside the purview of this Committee, the body would like to encourage a dynamic discussion of possible monetary solutions by ECOSOC and its appropriate sub-committees.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

#### **A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council**

The Commission on Population and Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

##### **Draft resolution I Elderly Populations**

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Recalling* the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

*Further recalling* the commitment of Member Nations to contribute 0.7% of their GDPs to development,

*Recognizing* the need created by large young adult populations for increased employment opportunities,

*Affirming* the benefits of population planning and education for creating a stable populace,

*Deeply concerned* about the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS on populations,

*Fully believing* in the value of community involvement within local regions,

*Emphasizing* the need for transparency between member states with regards to the programs herein described,

*Recognizing* that the elderly populations of all member states are a valuable asset to society,

1. *Calls* for job creation within the developing world to encourage the growing young adult population to be productive members of their countries, with respect for the values of those countries, through:

- (a) Investment in infrastructure within developing countries to provide employment and increase long-term productive capacities of countries;
- (b) Investment in vocational training in developing countries to encourage employment;

2. *Calls upon* the initiative of NGOs and IGOs working with each Member State to create local education community centers respective to the cultural ideologies of each Member State for the following purposes:

- (a) Promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention strategies, and dispelling misconceptions and myths about the AIDS epidemic;
- (b) Improvement of literacy rates among the entire youth population;

3. *Encourages* the creation of employment opportunities for the entire population of a Member State, with special regard for the elderly, by promoting vocational education and training;

4. *Suggests* the provision of affordable, generic medications, including antiretroviral medications to nations unable to afford these drugs;

5. *Suggests* the use of a “Professionals without Borders” organization, modeled after Doctors without Borders, and dedicated to training and empowering professionals in the developing world, so as to better sustain the populations of those respective member states.

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of funding for poorer countries as well as the involvement of organizations such as the UNFPA, the UNPF and other NGOs in implementation of these goals.

## **Draft resolution II Supporting Populations**

### *The Economic and Social Council*

*Noting* that the age structure in developed nations is changing at an unprecedented rate,

*Recognizing* that the aging population needs to be addressed by Member States and international organizations in order to ensure that the needs of this growing political and economic force are adequately utilized and tended to,

*Guided by* the International Plan of Action on Aging which was endorsed by Resolution 37/51 in 1982,

1. *Encourages* the increased viability of, and access to, quality medical assistance for the growing elderly population in order to maintain the mental and physical health of this emergent demographic group;

2. *Endorses* longer labor market participation to Member States with increasing life expectancy by encouraging those Member States to potentially reintegrate the current aged population into the workforce so as to alleviate their economic stress in those states;

3. *Further recommends* Member States to consider the problems incurred by the increasing longevity of life in regard to the future participation of their aging workforce;

4. *Approves* of cooperation between developed and developing nations to alleviate their population disparities through reciprocal flow of resources.

**B. Other recommendations for action by the Council**

The Committee would encourage the Council to partake in a discussion of means of implementing supported actions for Member States that are currently unable to incorporate supported policies into their national policies. Thus, the Committee would recommend further discussions on funding and incorporation of NGOs and IGOs. The Committee would also like to encourage the Council to continue and take further steps in the distribution of generic antiretroviral drugs in order to fight the current degradation of many Member States' workforces.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Consideration of Changing Age Structures of Populations and Their Implications for Development**

At its meetings on 17 November 2007 and 18 November 2007, the Commission considered Agenda Item 1, Changing Age Structures of Populations and The Implications for Development.

For its considerations of this item, the Commission took the following documents into consideration:

- (a) The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as developed by the 1994 conference in Cairo
- (b) The International Plan of Action on Aging which was endorsed by Resolution 37/51 in 1982
- (c) The 2005 World Summit Outcome as expressed in GA Resolution 60/1

#### **A. Deliberations**

Despite an initial belief that the three-faceted view of development was restrictive to the body's discussion, representatives expressed the importance of considering this topic through the lens of development's three facets and stages as well as the integration of these facets into an overarching interpretation of the drafts being discussed and suggested by the Commission. The process of changing age structure begins with declining mortality rates, particularly infant mortality rates. This leads to the first state of population transition, in which the percentage of children in the population increases relative to other age groups. With more infants surviving, a decline in fertility rates begins. As the large group of children enters young adulthood, the second phase begins, in which the ratio of working people to dependents increases. As this population enters retirement, the third phase begins, in which the percentage of elderly people increases relative to other age groups, and the population begins to shrink substantially.

Thus, considering the vastly different situations experienced by populations in different stages of this demographic transition, the body experienced significantly different intentions and goals emerging from separate development blocs. As a result, in our discussion of this agenda topic, the Commission struggled with a polarization of the body into, though arbitrary terms, the 'developed' nations and the 'developing' nations. This was manifested in the separate drafting of resolutions as well as the occasional reference to the "two sides" of the issue. Nonetheless, the body was largely able to overcome the divergent directions of sectors of the commission by endorsing issue-specific resolution writing with an overall intention of global integration and consideration. The representatives also looked to the incorporation of all resolutions into one unifying report in order to create a dialogue across the specific issues.

Representatives used the discussion of cooperation across developmental stages to consider the importance of sharing and exchanging resources, both social and political. Representatives realized that if the sharing of resources can be implemented via the exchange of technology, natural resources, and other social and political assets, the physical exchange of human resources might be replaced by the exchanging of ideas, thus decreasing the economic and social stresses created by the current push and pull of persons in and out of populations.

General concern was expressed, particularly among African, South American and Middle Eastern Member States, in terms of education of their large youth cohorts, job creation for increasing numbers of individuals entering the workforce, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. These concerns were coupled with issues of funding the actual implementation of the resolutions passed as well as empowering developing nations in a way that may decrease dependency on more developed members of the global economy. Nonetheless, a productive discussion was born out of these pressing concerns, supporting the enhanced opportunity for vocational training among elderly and youth populations, creating community development, and increasing the availability of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques and medications. However, the distribution of intellectual property from developed nations to less developed nations remains a contended point.

Representatives also expressed deep concerns for their ever-growing elderly populations and the subsequent need of shrinking workforces to support expanding aging populations. Thus, representatives stressed the importance of providing medical and monetary support for their elderly populations in a manner that would not detract from the nations' overall economic functionality. Representatives came to a consensus that this could be achieved by reincorporating elderly populations into the economy, possibly postponing retirement, and encouraging the continued improvement of medical care for the elderly in order to increase the length of time in which they may be actively involved in economic activities. In general terms, the body experienced a period of disagreement concerning the particular purview of the Commission. Thus, representatives strove to clarify the particular actions of the Commission and the proper methods by which the Commission might encourage and advise the Economic and Social Committee.

Although consensus was reached by the closure of debate on the agenda topic, many points of contention had to be worked through by the Commission during the writing of resolutions. Unwillingness to compromise in the review of resolutions emerged, as well issues in combining similar resolutions. As a result, a failed draft resolution is included in this report in order to provide an accurate representation of the holistic discussion of this Commission. While many of the points of the failed resolution are included in draft resolution CPD/I/1, there are matters of wording and verbiage that some Member States prefer in the failed resolution. Nonetheless, the body feels as though the passed resolutions accurately represent the issues of concern for the authors of the failed resolutions.

The Commission is proud to say that two resolutions were passed on this topic, the first by consensus, and the second unanimously.



## **B. Considerations**

In order to provide a holistic view of the discussions of the Commission, this report will include a failed resolution that reflects pertinent views and considerations.

Resolution I/1 was approved by the dais and made available. The resolution did not pass the body.

The text of this resolution was as follows:

*The Commission on Population and Development*

*Acknowledging* the importance of maintaining each Member State's national identity and sovereignty,

*Commending* all previous work done by this body to address the changing age structures of populations,

*Deeply concerned* about the changing age structures in the populations of the developing worlds,

1. *Reaffirms* all previous actions of international organizations within and outside the United Nations' purview including NGOs and IGOs which are currently working to improve the conditions for development;

2. *Emphasizes* the diverse and changing needs of different regions and Member States;

3. *Calls upon* developed nations to fulfill their 0.7% development assistance as outlined by the Millennium Development Goals as well as other existing commitments to the developing world;

4. *Endorses* the use of education to combat the negative implications of changing age structures:

- (a) Family planning services in developing nations;
- (b) Basic education and sustainability programs to ensure the literacy of the large young populations;
- (c) Health care education specifically geared toward prevention of the further spread of HIV/AIDs:
  - (i) Promoting more responsible behavior for young people;
  - (ii) Promoting understanding of the HIV/AIDs virus;
- (d) Health care education specifically geared toward preventative health care including nutrition and fitness;

5. *Supports* the creation of community centers in developing countries;

6. *Further endorses* working with NGOs and IGOs for the creation of health care clinics in developing nations to combat the spread of HIV/AIDs:

(a) HIV/AIDs testing services;

(b) Prenatal care for pregnant women;

(c) Treatment services for those infected with HIV/AIDs.

**CHAPTER III**  
**Adoption of the Report of the Commission**

On 19 November 2007, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Commission considered the report and it was adopted by consensus.