



CHAPTER SEVEN

THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

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This year, AMUN's simulations include the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), one of the ten functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Participation on the Commission is open to one or two Representatives from any country currently represented on the CPD (see above list). The CPD will meet for all four days of the conference and will report to a combined ECOSOC Plenary session on Tuesday afternoon.

ABOUT CPD

A functional commission of ECOSOC, CPD monitors and studies population trends and the interrelationship of those trends with development issues. Established in 1946 as the Population Commission and renamed in 1994, the CPD's primary mandate from ECOSOC is the monitoring, analysis and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). CPD is composed of 47 Member States elected every four years by ECOSOC.

PURVIEW OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In its review of Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the CPD directly reviews policies and implementation of the Programme at local, national and international levels. CPD is also tasked with arranging studies about and advising ECOSOC concerning: integrating populations with development policies, strategies and other programs; providing population assistance to developing countries and those economies in transitions upon their request; or addressing other population or development questions that arise from UN organs.

Website: www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/aboutcom.htm

THE CHANGING AGE STRUCTURES OF POPULATIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Population age structures are rapidly changing. The relative size of specific age groups are shifting as fertility and mortality rates change and

large proportions of countries' populations are transitioning between dependent and productive phases which strongly impact economic development. The Asian and Latin America and the Caribbean regions are seeing dramatic increases in productivity while Northern America and most of Europe face an aging, increasingly dependent population. Still others, including many developing countries, are seeing burgeoning numbers of youth.

As age structures change, populations transition through three phases. The first phase is characterized by a decrease in mortality in infants and youth and an increase in fertility, contributing to a dramatic increase in a young, dependent population. As young dependents increase, relative to the rest of the population, fertility generally decreases and mortality remains low. In this second phase, populations see an increase in productivity per capita as the young, dependent population ages into productive adults. The third phase is characterized by an overall aging population, with decreased fertility and productivity.

During the second phase of changing age structures, the increased productivity per capita is known as the first dividend (also known as the "demographic window of opportunity"). This is a temporary increase in productivity that fades as populations age. It is largely over in North America and Europe and estimated to end in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean between 2030 and 2035 and in Africa in 2050. The second dividend is increased accumulated wealth, which offsets decreased productivity and can be a permanent feature of populations if developed and encouraged. In anticipation of the development needs of changing demographics, international organizations have focused on developing strong macroeconomic policies while encouraging social policies that address the particular needs of populations within swiftly changing demographics.

The changing age structure of populations has important social and economic implications for development at the local, regional and international levels. Member States will have to respond to the changing age structures to meet the needs of education, employment and health care of the population. New policies and programs are required to support the education and health requirements for the growing number of youth, as well as the social, financial and medical requirements for



the elderly. This remains a significant concern in developing countries that might not have the resources or systems to support the current population.

As a way to address the development concerns in regard to the change age structures, the Programme of Action was adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, guiding future actions by the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The Programme outlines a broad initiative to facilitate changing age structures where demographic rates and social, economic and environmental goals are imbalanced. It also calls attention to four issues impacted by population growth: the protection of children and youth, social security systems for the elderly, often unique demographics of indigenous people and the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

In addressing aging populations, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was adopted in 2002. The Plan outlined policy priorities to anticipate the needs of aging populations. In addition, national policies on the viability of social security and supporting families in low-fertility settings were also reviewed. The objective of the Plan was to create a framework that helps Member States develop new national-level policies on aging and increase the age-specific technical assistance provided by the Division for Social Policy and Development.

In 2005, the specific challenges of changing demographics were detailed at the Expert Group Meeting on Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population Age Structures. In particular, the need for educated young people and increased employment opportunities as populations transition from the young population of the first stage to the high productivity of the second stage was emphasized. The importance of anticipating when a population begins to rapidly age – the third stage – was also highlighted, detailing the need for and challenges of support, employment and health care for an aging population.

CPD focused its annual session on changing age structures in 2007. During the session, the Commission examined key policies and international actions to reduce poverty in aging populations. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in partnership with numerous inter- and nongovernmental bodies, has focused on youth populations primarily in the context of poverty reduction through national programs and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During the 2007 CPD annual session, it was concluded that while somewhat predictable, demographic change is difficult to control, it has an impact on almost all aspects of development policy. CPD and other international bodies were encouraged to address the challenges of changing age structures today by creating policies and priorities that anticipate the needs of expected demographic changes and that have the potential for stronger dividends from demographic change.

In 2011, the Commission focused on fertility, reproductive health and development. Resolution 2011/1 notes that effective development policy is deeply interlinked with changing age structures. The resolution noted that the promotion and protection of the rights of the socio-economic needs of young people plays an important role in eradicating poverty. In addition, the Resolution encouraged policies that ensure access to maternity and paternity leave without discrimination; a policy promoted by the Commission to also encourage productivity in low fertility. The Commission's 2012 draft resolution

(2012/1), focusing on adolescents and youth, similarly addressed the issues of changing age structures.

Future actions by the Commission will need to carefully balance many interrelated, sometimes apparently conflicting, priorities. From within the frameworks set forth by the Programme of Action and other international agreements, the Commission must anticipate the policies necessary to prepare for future demographic changes. Countries experiencing booms in youth population today will need developed economic opportunity tomorrow. Yet the youth of today are still disproportionately vulnerable to epidemic disease, social unrest and poverty and need protection.

Concurrently, the Commission will need to consider new ways to assist countries to simultaneously capitalize on the temporary growth of increased productivity and to prepare and develop costly long term safety nets for an aging population. Programs must also be developed and supported where demographic changes have not been addressed, particularly in countries where imbalances have led to high youth unemployment rates or decreasing, aging productivity has limited the opportunity to accumulate wealth.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include the following:

- How will the changing demographics affect development needs in different regions?
- How can intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations support demographic changes in developing countries?
- What steps can Member States take to encourage development as age structures change?

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ADDITIONAL WEB RESOURCES

www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/aboutcom.htm – Commission on Population and Development

www.unfpa.org – United Nations Population Fund

www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/EGMPopAge/EGMPopAge.htm – United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population Age Structures

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The total number of international migrants in the world was 214 million in 2010, a 22 percent increase since 2000. Economic globalization and technological advances have increased demand for labor, reduced the costs of travel, and strengthened ties between migrant workers and their countries of origin. While most international migration occurs between neighboring countries, migration has become an increasingly regional issue; particularly migration to developing countries. International migration is affected by peace and security issues, poverty and environmental degradation, and human rights violations. Countries of origin and destination are increasingly looking for a comprehensive international policy to address these issues.

The United Nations first expressed concerns about international migration in 1972, when the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) noted with concern the illegal transportation and exploitation of labor. The General Assembly condemned discrimination changing age st migrant workers and encouraged Member States to treat immigrant populations more fairly. At the request of ECOSOC, a report was drafted in 1976 that identified two problematic elements of international migration: illegal operations facilitating migration, and discriminatory treatment of migrants in countries of destination.

The General Assembly formed a working group in 1979 to develop an international convention to address international migration. The Gen-

eral Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on 18 December 1990. The treaty entered into force in 2003. The majority of Member States who have signed or ratified the treaty are those that are primarily seeing immigrants leave their countries, rather than the countries with the largest net immigration. In 2000, the General Assembly established 18 December as International Migrants Day, which has been marked by a statement from the Secretary-General since 2003.

The International Conference on Population and Development was held in 1994, establishing a Programme of Action with recommendations for Member States and other stakeholders. The Programme addresses many issues surrounding population trends, including international migration and development. The Commission on Population Development (CPD), as part of a multi-tiered intergovernmental mechanism, is tasked with the monitoring and analysis of the Programme’s implementation through organizations within and outside of the United Nations, and provides recommendations to ECOSOC based on its analysis and reports.

The United Nations General Assembly held a High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006. Participants agreed that migration could be developmentally beneficial for both the country of origin and destination, citing remittances, migrant entrepreneurs and social and cultural contributions. Participants also noted that while the positive benefits of migration could contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), root causes of migration must also be addressed to ensure migration occurs by choice, not necessity.

An informal thematic debate on international migration and development was held in 2011, substantively serviced by CPD. Many participants recognized the role of global initiatives and organizations, such as the Global Commission on International Migration, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the International Organization for Migration, to strengthen regional and bilateral cooperation which in turn compliment national policies to control international migration and development. Attention was directed toward circular migration, co-development projects involving migrant communities and adverse effects on families.

CPD addressed international migration within the larger context of adolescents and youth in a 2012 report to the Secretary-General. The report identifies several trends and cross-cutting issues particular to youth and international migration, including an increased proportion of migrants aged ten to twenty-four in developing countries. The report recommended increased support to facilitate migration for education, citing benefits in both immediate expertise and broad social and cultural changes.

Successful policies addressing international migration and development should consider the issues facing documented migrants, undocumented migrants, refugees and other displaced persons, while considering the specific concerns and needs of both countries of origin and countries of destination. Policies should also address the unique impacts of immigration on women and children, especially in the universal application of human rights. International policies should strengthen existing regional and bilateral agreements. Policies should encourage and foster the development of international cooperation



where such agreements do not exist. Future recommendations of the CPD will look at existing, successful initiatives; current trends within migration; and addressing the concerns of and facilitating dialogue among its Member States.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include the following:

- What are some of the current successful initiatives? How can they be implemented worldwide?
- How does international migration affect development? How will this shape development policies in the future?
- What are the unique impacts of immigration on women and children? What steps can Member States take to address these concerns?

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ADDITIONAL WEB RESOURCES

www.december18.net – December 18
www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm – Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division
www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/populatin/icpd.htm – International Conference on Population and Development
www.iom.int – International Organization for Migration