



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

May 2024; Vol. 19. No. 05

Sustainable Development

Myths about a world of 8 billion. By the end of 2023, the world's population reached a landmark 8 billion+ people. It is a staggering number – but what does it mean? What are the implications for the lives, rights, health and future offspring of all these people?

Instead of celebrating a milestone in global development, media reports have been overwhelmingly fearful: The world is bursting at the seams, migration is out of control, there is no one to look after all the old people, women need reproduce more, or less. As alarmist rhetoric circulates and governments increasingly seek to influence fertility rates, in our latest State of World Population Report, we ask: What's fact, what's fiction, and what's the future beyond figures? Reaching 8 billion is a sign of human progress. It means more newborns are surviving, more children are going to school, receiving healthcare and making it to adulthood.

Common Myths: There are too many people being born: Increasing climate catastrophes, endless conflict over resources, soaring hunger, pandemics, economic devastation ... the causes behind these crises are multiple and overlapping. For many, it is only natural to point the finger at fertility rates: the world population is too large, our resources cannot cope, etc. But the truth is – people today are living almost 10 years longer than they were in 1990. Changes in fertility rate will do little to change our population's current trajectory of growth (for the next 25 years, two thirds of all population growth will be driven by past growth). In fact, if we look at the rate of population growth, it is showing significantly – which brings us to our next myth.

There are not enough people being born: Since the 1950s, the average number of children that women are having globally has more than halved, from 5 to 2.3. Two thirds of the world's population live in places with below-replacement fertility rates. Is this an alarm bell signaling the demise of the global population? That as populations age, the elderly will use up all our social service resources and nations will dwindle and die?

No. it is a sign that individuals are increasingly able to exercise control over their own reproductive lives. Falling fertility rates need not result in population reduction overall. Many countries have experienced falling population rates since the 1970s – but have still grown due to migration. And all populations are ageing – the result of welcome increases in longevity.

These are demographic issues, not gender issues. Populations are about people, and people are currently being born into a world of deeply entrenched gender inequality. Human reproduction should be a choice, but the latest data show us that, tragically, it often is not. Some 44% of partnered women are unable to exercise bodily autonomy – meaning they are unable to make their own decisions over their health care, contraception and whether or not to have sex. **Nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended.** (Source: UNFPA). Half a million births every year are to young girls of 10 to 14 years old. As few as one quarter to one third of women in low- and middle-income regions are having the number of children they planned, at the speed that they planned – if they even planned to have them at all.

Yet when faced with population changes or concerns, we often see rhetoric and policymakers turn to fertility rates as a preferred solution. How often do people proposing these solutions consider the fertility desires to women and girls? NOT OFTEN ENOUGH.

Population Bomb, Bust – or Boon?

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

What is the ideal total fertility rate is per woman? Is having kids irresponsible in a world of climate change? Do we need to stabilize population rates?

Is it really about The Numbers? Too many people, too few, what is the right number – we are asking the wrong questions. What we should be asking is – are people, especially women, able to freely make their own reproductive choices? The answer, unacceptably often, is no. Women’s bodies should not be held hostage to choices made by governments or other individuals. Family planning must not be a tool for achieving population targets, but one to empower individuals.

Human reproduction is neither the problem nor the solution. When we put gender inequality and rights at the heart of our population policies, we are stronger, more resilient, and better able to deal with the challenges resulting from rapidly changing populations. The State of World Population 2023 Report shows that too many people today are still unable to achieve their reproduction goals.

Myth is – the ideal total fertility rate is 2.1 children per woman.

It is often noted that 2.1 children per woman is the replacement fertility level – the average rate needed to replace a population over time. This is generally true. But the number 2.1 can be treated as a gold standard, and a target for many fertility policies – WHICH IS A MISTAKE.

Firstly, 2.1 is the average replacement rate for countries with very low infant and child mortality and natural sex ratios at birth, not countries with higher mortality or skewed sex ratios. It also fails to capture changes in the age of women at childbirth and the impact of migration. In short, it is a misleading and unattainable goal. There is no reason to believe a 2.1 fertility rate will result in the highest levels of well-being and prosperity.

We need to stabilize the population rate: This belief contains the assumption that certain population rates are good or bad. But there is no perfect number of people, not should we prescribe a number of children that each woman should have. History has shown that damage this kind of thinking can cause, such as eugenics and genocide.

The international community today firmly rejects population control efforts, but there remains significant interest in *influencing* fertility rates. According to an United Nations Survey of governments’ attitudes towards population change over the past decade – one notable finding is a marked uptick in the number of countries adopting policies with an intention to raise, lower or maintain the fertility rates of their citizens. These are not necessarily coercive policies – they might be positive, for example if they increase access to health services – but in general we see that efforts to influence fertility are correlated with lower performance on measures of democracy and human freedom.

We have focused on fertility rates because we don’t have data on what women want. Concerns about population are repeatedly framed as issues around fertility or birth rates – but is anyone asking what individuals want for their own reproductive lives? Calls to increase or decrease fertility rates are often heard as efforts to control women’s fertility, rather than intentions to secure women’s and girl’s own control over their choices.

The bottom line is that every individual has a fundamental human right to choose, freely and responsibly, the number and spacing of their children. No one – not politicians, not pundits, not policy-makers – gets to take that right away from their citizens.

8 billion lives – Infinite Possibilities!

New governance insights to advance the SDGs and eradicate poverty

23rd Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)
15-19 April 2024 – United Nations, New York



<https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/intergovernmental-support/cepa/23rd-session>

Written Statement of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) has been published by 23rd Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

Achieving Education- and Health-for-All

Agenda Item 6: Principles of effective governance for sustainable development.

[WHEC input_23rd_CEPA_rev1.pdf \(womenshealthsection.com\)](https://www.womenshealthsection.com/WHEC_input_23rd_CEPA_rev1.pdf)

2023 STI Side Event; Sponsored by WHEC

- “Side Event provided significant opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to participate in the Forum.”

[UN Document: E/HLPF/2023/6; # 102; page 16](#)



57th Session

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
The ICPD Programme of Action and its Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

29 April - 3 May 2024 | New York | www.unpopulation.org

 **United Nations** | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD57>

Virtual Side Event Sponsored by Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

Economic and Social Inclusion for Healthy Ageing

A Call for Global Action

01 May 2024; 8:30 to 9:45 am (EST, New York Time)

Concept Note

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/57thCPD-ConceptNote.pdf>

Details

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/cpd.php3>

All are Welcome; Join Us! There is no registration fee



STI FORUM | 
Science, Technology & Innovation for
the Sustainable Development Goals



W . H . E . C P R E S E N T S

Artificial Intelligence Literacy in Health & Education Sectors



AI - A FRIEND OR A FOE
JOIN THE DISCUSSION



The objectives of this Side Event:

1. To Provide a universal framework of values, principles and actions to guide Member States in the formulation of their legislation, policies and other instruments regarding AI - consistent with international law.
2. To guide governmental, non-governmental organizations, individuals, groups and communities, institutions and private sector companies to ensure the embedding of ethics in all stages of the AI system life cycle.
3. To protect, promote and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, human dignity and equality, including gender equality.
4. To safeguard the interests of present and future generations.
5. To preserve the environment, biodiversity and ecosystems, and respect cultural diversity in all stages of the AI system life cycle.
6. Can inequality in education and health sectors be fixed in Africa and other low and middle-income countries, with AI?

Virutal Side Event



THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION CENTER (WHEC)
DEDICATED TO WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING AND HEALTH CARE WORLDWIDE

W W W . W O M E N S H E A L T H S E C T I O N . C O M

9th Multistakeholder Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum; Virtual Side Event; Event ID: V-08.
Artificial Intelligence Literacy in Health and Education Sectors

AI: A Friend or A Foe

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sti.php3>

09 May 2024; 13:15 to 14:45

Abstract

For artificial intelligence (AI) to have beneficial impact on global health, especially in low- and middle-income countries, ethical considerations, regulations, standards and governance mechanisms must be placed at the center of design, development and deployment of AI-based systems. The safe deployment of new technologies, including AI, can help the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). AI is already playing a role in diagnosis and critical care, drug development, disease surveillance, outbreak response, and health-systems management. The future of education & health is digital. We must promote universal access to these innovations, and prevent them from becoming another driver for inequality.

Concept Note

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/2024-STI-Side-Event-Concept-Note.pdf>

Announcement / Invitation / Flyer

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/2024-Side-Event-Flyer-AI-friend-or-foe.pdf>

WHEC Statement

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/2024-STI-Forum-Side-Event-WHEC-Statement-May-2024.pdf>

We Welcome Everyone! Join us! There is no registration fee



United Nations at a Glance

Member State of Palau at the United Nations



Palau became UN Member State on 15 December 1994

Palau, officially the **Republic of Palau**, and historically Belau, Palaos or Pelew, is an island country and microstate in the western Pacific. The republic consists of approximately 340 islands and connects the western chain of the Caroline Islands with parts of the Federated States of Micronesia. It has a total area of 466 sq. ki. (180 sq. mi.). The most populous island is Koror, home to the country's most populous city of the same name. The capital Ngerulmud is located on the nearby island of Babeldaob, in Melekeok State. Palau shares maritime boundaries with international waters to the north, the Federated States of Micronesia to the east, Indonesia to the south, and Philippines to the northwest.

Official Language: Palauan, English; also recognized: Japanese, Sonsorolese and Tobian. Religions: 90% Christianity, 6% Modekngai; Government: Federated presidential republic under a non-partisan democracy. Population (2022) 18,233; Currency: United States Dollar (USD)

Palau's economy is based mainly on tourism, subsistence agriculture and fishing, with a significant portion of gross national product (GDP) derived from foreign aid. Palau was originally settled between the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE, most likely from the Philippines or Indonesia. Europeans came in 1697 when a group of Palauans were shipwrecked on the Philippine island of Samar to the northwest. British traders became regular visitors to Palau in the 18th century. The British East India Company packet ship *Antelope* shipwrecked off Ulong Island in 1783. Palau was sold by the Spanish Empire to the German Empire as part of German New Guinea in the German-Spanish Treaty (1899). During WWI, the Japanese Empire annexed the islands after seizing them from Germany in 1914. In WWII, Palau was used by Japan to support its 1941 invasion of the Philippines, which succeeded in 1942. The invasion overthrew the American-installed Commonwealth government in the Philippines and installed the Japanese-backed Second Philippine Republic in 1943.



During WWII, the United States captured Palau from Japan in 1944 after the costly Battle of Peleliu, when more than 2,000 Americans and 10,000 Japanese were killed and later the Battle of Angur. Palau was passed formally to the United States under United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 21.

Palau, the westernmost cluster of the Caroline's, opted for independent status in 1978. Legislation making Palau an "offshore" financial center was passed by the U.S. Senate in 1998. Palau is a democratic republic. The President of Palau is both head of the state and head of the government.

executive power is exercised by the government, while legislative power is vested in both the government and the Palau National Congress. As a sovereign state, Palau conducts its own foreign relations. Since independence, Palau has established diplomatic relations with a number of countries, including many of its Pacific neighbors, like Micronesia and the Philippines. The United States maintains a diplomatic delegation and an embassy in Palau, but most aspects of the countries' relationship have to do with Compact-funded projects, which are the responsibility of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Primary education is required until the age of 16. Schools include both public and private institutions as well as some fields of study available at Palau Community College.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/palau-8940>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Palau



Health Situation

The population of Palau was estimated to be around 18,233 in 2022 – of which approximately 70% are Palauan, 16% Filipino and rest Chinese. In the coming years, there is expected to be an increase in foreign investments as well as the number of workers on the island. This will result in a number of workers on the island. This will result in a number of environmental concerns, including water pollution due to the lack of sufficient land area for proper waste disposal, and the degradation of air and marine quality due to increased industrial activity.

Furthermore, the burden of diabetes, heart disease, obesity and kidney failure is increasing in Palau. Belau National Hospital is the main health facility in the country, with additional community centers and satellite dispensaries for more remote areas. However, as the need for quality healthcare increase, cost evaluations are needed for off-island medical referrals, hemodialysis and intensive care services, and for the financial sustainability of a secondary healthcare facility.



Health Policies and Systems

The *Ministry of Health Strategic Plan* outlines the strategic priorities to : provide accessible and high-quality patient-centered hospital services; provide accessible and high-quality primary care and prevention services; ensure effective partnerships are developed and maintained; value the people and support their growth and development; and ensure that the administrative and support services are accountable and sustainable.

According to the plan, the vision of the Ministry of Health is one of the healthy communities with access to comprehensive healthcare services. The Ministry focuses on strengthening health systems by providing holistic care, integrating services, and maintaining effective partnerships with staff, patients, and community and partners. As annual operational plan for each of the bureaus achieves its priorities.

Cooperation for Health

In implementing this strategy, WHO and the Ministry of Health will work with other government ministries, other sectors, academia, civil society, other government ministries, other sectors, academia, civil society, other UN agencies, bilateral development partners, regional and global health initiatives, philanthropic foundations and others in support of planned national health priorities.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/plw/>



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Collaboration with UNESCO

Palau is Member State of UNESCO since 1999



Rock Islands Southern Lagoon

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon covers 100,500 ha and includes 445 uninhabited limestone islands of volcanic origin. Many of them display unique mushroom-like shapes in turquoise lagoons surrounded by coral reefs. The aesthetic beauty of the site is heightened by a complex reef system featuring over 385 coral species and different types of habitat. They sustain a large diversity of plants, birds and marine life including dugong and at least thirteen shark species. The site harbors the highest concentration of marine lakes anywhere, isolated bodies of seawater separated from the ocean by land barriers. They are among the islands' distinctive features and sustain high endemism of populations which continue to yield new species discoveries. The remains of stonework villages, as well as burial sites and rock art, bear testimony to the organization of small island communities over some three millennia. The abandonment of the villages, in the 17th and 18th centuries illustrates the consequences of climate change, population growth and subsistence behavior on a society living in a marginal marine environment.

World Heritage Program for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

SIDS are islands of Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. They are some of the most beautiful places on the Earth, with atolls of white sands beaches, mountain ranges covered in cloud forest, historic ports and towns, and agricultural landscapes. They are relatively remote, vulnerable to environmental challenges, such as climate change, and generally small in size – Niue has population of only 1,269, and Tuvalu a total land area of only 26 km.

The UNESCO SIDS Program develops World Heritage activities in these areas, providing support for new nominations to the World Heritage List, and sustainable conservation and management practices for sites already inscribed. The SIDS were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development. The 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2005 adopted the World Heritage Program for SIDS (Decision 29 COM 5B), and the SIDS have since become a point of focus for World Heritage identification and protection.



World Heritage Marine Program

What is environmental DNA?

Ocean species shed DNA into the water around them. The genetic material from waste, mucus or cells in one liter of water can determine the species richness in a given area, without the need to actually extract organisms from their environment.

In September 2022, UNESCO kicked off an initial pilot phase in World Heritage marine sites to accelerate tracking of ocean species. Over hundred children have already collected eDNA samples in Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Other eDNA sampling campaigns are planned in the coming months at sites in Bangladesh, Belize, France, Mauritania, Mexico, Panama, United-States, Sudan, and Yemen.

Details: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/pw>

Education-for-All and Health-for-all

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015

.....Continued Introduction

Our Shared Principles and Commitments

10. The new Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect of international law. It is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

11. We reaffirm the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and have helped to shape the new agenda. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the World Summit for Social Development; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). We also reaffirm the follow-up to these conferences, including the outcomes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries; and the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

12. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

13. The challenges and commitments contained in these major conferences and summits are interrelated and call for integrated solutions. To address them effectively, a new approach is needed. Sustainable development recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combatting inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent.

Our World Today

14. We are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern. Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiraling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. Natural resource depletion and adverse impacts of environmental degradation, including desertification, drought, land degradation, freshwater scarcity and loss of biodiversity, add to an exacerbate the list of challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing states. The survival of many societies, and of the biological support systems of the planet, is at risk.

To be continued.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

Tourism Competitiveness in Small Island Developing States

The tourism industry is the leading segment of the services industries in small island developing states (SIDS). This paper therefore seeks primarily to investigate both the nature and determinants of tourism competitiveness in SIDS. Judging from the various calculated indices of tourism competitiveness, the competitive position of tourism in SIDS is a major issue. More specifically, SIDS are still price uncompetitive and appear to be losing ground in the global tourism market. There is also a need for these countries to improve their levels of investment for the development of the technological infrastructure (telecommunications technology), and more importantly to ensure that the economic gains from tourism are spread to the lower-income households. Additionally, the findings of this study highlight some difficulties (from a macroeconomic perspective) of designing appropriate policies and strategies to enhance tourism competitiveness in SIDS. In particular, price and income considerations, given their predominantly exogenous nature, are not easy to control, but nevertheless must be explicitly taken into account in any policy aimed at improving tourism competitiveness.

The global trend towards expanded market access compels the SIDS to intensify efforts to improve the level of (international) competitiveness in all areas of economic activity. Indeed, the mounting pressure on the traditional goods-producing (manufacturing and agricultural) sectors, which has been fueled largely by the removal and reduction of tariffs, as well as by massive cuts in trade preferences, means that the services industries, particularly tourism, will be the main focus of the majority of SIDS for sustaining long-term economic and social development. The tourism sector is widely recognized as the key engine of growth of SIDS, representing a significant source of foreign exchange earnings and employment both directly and indirectly in tourism and indirectly in the ancillary sectors, supporting the tourism sector.

The immense economic and social value of the tourism sector to SIDS cannot be overstated. Indeed, tourism is widely viewed as the main engine of real output growth and a significant contribution to foreign exchange earnings and employment. With regard to the indices of competitiveness, the overall competitive position of SIDS is below that of developed countries, but slightly higher than the global level. In particular, SIDS are uncompetitive in terms of price (particularly, the price of accommodation). In addition, the paper finds that SIDS lag considerably in the areas of technological and social development. Hence, these countries require higher levels of investment for the development of the technological infrastructure (telecommunication technology), and more importantly the economic gains from tourism are spread to the lower-income households.

The estimated results of the model of tourism competitiveness imply that the determinants of tourism market share depend on the origin of the tourist. At one time or another, relative source income, relative prices, cost of travel and capital-to-output ratio are found to be key explanatory factors in the regression estimates. How can governments of SIDS insulate the economy from such shocks and their impact on the competitiveness of tourism? In view of tourism's importance to sustaining national long-term economic and social goals, governments of SIDS must seek out every avenue possible to control the price of key tourism inputs, most critically energy, as well as improve existing infrastructure and focus on human resources development.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Roland Craigwell; Sponsors: UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions to the project by The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the UK Department for International Development—DFID.

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Two Articles of Highest Impact, April 2024

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. Tuberculosis in Pregnancy;

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsidp/obsidp015.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. Newborns Exposed to HIV: Prevention, Evaluation & Management;

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc018.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

***Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization)
PMNCH Member***

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line

77th World Health Assembly, May 27 – 01 June 2024 Geneva, Switzerland

77th World Health Assembly (WHA) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland,

Proceedings will be webcast live from this web page. Simultaneous interpretation is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Theme, of this year's Health Assembly is: All for Health, Health for All.

During the 77th World Health Assembly, a series of strategic roundtables will be held. During these sessions, WHA delegates, partner agencies, representatives of Civil Society and WHO experts will discuss current and future priorities for public health issues of global importance.

WHA77 Main Documents

https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha77.html



Walk the Talk Geneva 2024

The *Walk the Talk: Health for all Challenge* returns on Sunday, 26 May 2024 to Geneva, Switzerland to provide a healthy kickstart to the 77th WHA. WHO is joining with the UN Family, Member States, athletes, local sports clubs health partners and the Geneva Community to celebrate the importance of healthy lifestyles and demonstrate measure to safely conduct public events.

This in-person event will invite participants to run, walk, use your wheelchair, or move in any other way over two routes: 3 km and 4.2 km. people of all ages and abilities will gather at Place des Nations from app. 09:00, when fun warm-ups start.



Trust in Multilateralism: Delivering for All



Multilateralism can work, but it must work better and faster. Stronger global architecture is needed. The recommendations include strengthening the global architecture for peace, security, and finance, delivering just transitions for climate and digitalization, and ensuring more equity and fairness in global decision making.

Gender equality needs to be at the heart of a reinvigorated multilateral system along with recommendations to ensure that system becomes more networked, more inclusive, and more effective.

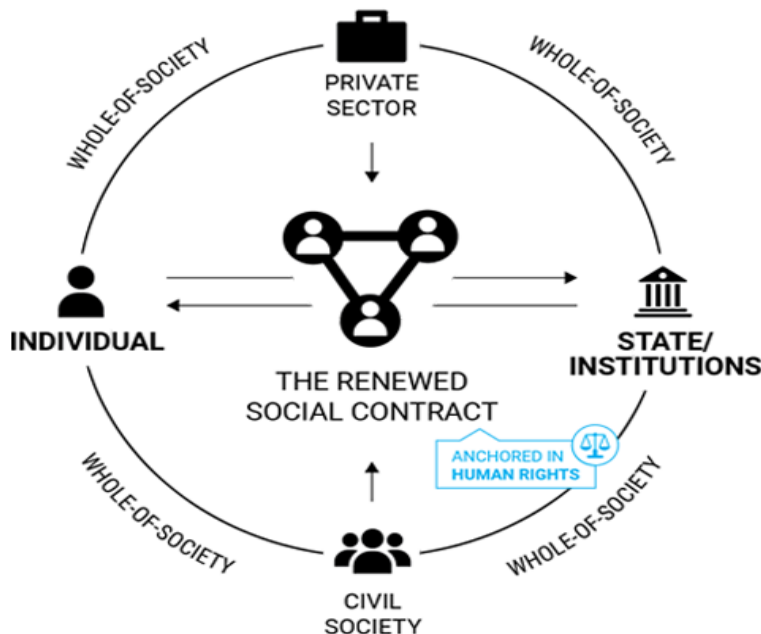
Six transformational shifts frame the report:

1. Rebuilding trust in multilateralism through inclusion and accountability;
2. Regaining balance with nature and providing clean energy for all;
3. Ensuring abundant and sustainable finance that truly delivers;
4. Supporting a just digital transition that unlocks the value of data and protects against digital harms;
5. Empowering effective, equitable, collective security arrangements; and
6. Managing current and emerging transnational risks.

Fresh Path to Better Global Governance

There needs to be a major shift in global governance to better tackle such current and looming challenges as the climate crisis and rising security threats, according to a new UN Report, recently published.

“The choices we make, or fail to make, today could result in breakdown or a breakthrough to a greener, better, safer future. The choice is ours to make.” Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



We must recognize that humanity's very future depends on solidarity, trust, and our ability to work together as a global family to achieve common goals. No community or country, however powerful, can solve its challenges alone. Multilateral action has achieved an enormous amount over the past 75 years. Our Common Agenda must be a starting point for ideas and initiatives that build on these achievements.

Humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough. Our Common Agenda contains recommendations across 4 broad areas for renewed solidarity between peoples and future

generations, a new social contract anchored in human rights, better management of critical global commons, and global public goods that deliver equitable and sustainability for all.

To Think and Act for Future Generations

The present policy brief contains suggestions for practical steps to fulfil our long-standing commitment to meet the demands of the present in a way that safeguards the interests of future generations and preserves their ability to effectively enjoy all human rights. These include:

1. An envoy to serve as a voice for future generations at the global level;
2. Better use of foresight, science and data;
3. A declaration to define and make concrete our duties to future generations; and
4. A dedicated intergovernmental forum to advance implementation of the declaration and share best practices.

The term “future generation” refers to all people who will come after us. Their lives and eventual ability to effectively enjoy all human rights and meet their needs are already being influenced by our actions today. While children and young people alive today may have overlapping interests and a special affinity with future generations, they are not the same. Young people alive today should not bear the burden of advocating for our descendants, but they deserving of a separate and dedicated place at the table.

From Commitment to Realty: Steps for the United Nations (UN) System

Our Common Agenda, urges the UN and the Member States to take steps to account for future generations in our work. The envoy would not be operational but would perform advisory and advocacy functions, such as:

- Representing and advocating for the interests of future generations across the UN System and in intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder processes as appropriate.
- Supporting member states and the UN system in raising awareness of and advising on the likely intergenerational or future impacts of policies and programs under consideration, building on national examples and lessons learned, through research and the production of high-quality assessments and recommendations, as well as participation in relevant discussions;
- Facilitating efforts to collaborate and share lessons and best practices among peer institutions, committees and networks for future generations, including those at the national and subnational levels;
- Supporting Member States collectively and individually, on request, by serving as a focal point for efforts to embed future generations and long-term thinking in global, national and subnational policymaking processes and channeling capacity-building resources to that end;
- Facilitating long-term thinking and better use of foresight and understanding of future risks, challenges and opportunities by the UN System, in support of Member States, leveraging the Futures Lab network and science advisory mechanisms, among other resources.

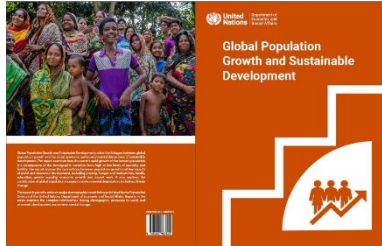
Better use of foresight, science and data.

The pledge to bequeath a livable world to those who will follow us is not new. Actions taken now to deliver on this pledge will also benefit those living today.

Let us make this a reality!



Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development



Given the intrinsic momentum of population growth, the range of plausible trajectories for the size of global populations can do little to mitigate the forces of climate change between now and 2050. A lower birth rate over the next few decades could begin to have a significant impact on global trends only in the latter half of the century, after the current momentum dissipates. At the same time, in many low-income and lower-middle-income countries, rapid population growth remains a matter of concern.

Ten Key Messages

- 1. Rapid population growth is a common feature of the demographic transition.** For many countries, this transition has already ended, and the population is growing slowly if at all; for many others, the demographic transition is still at an early and intermediate stage.
- 2. Most of the world's future population growth will take place in developing countries.** The world population continues to grow but is expected to peak around 2100 at a level of 11 billion. Most of this growth will take place in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.
- 3. Rapid population growth is both a sign of success and a challenge to be met.** It is also the result of a failure to ensure that all people, everywhere, have the knowledge, ability and means to determine whether and when to have children.
- 4. Global population is expected to continue to grow rapidly over the next few decades.** It is unlikely the reduction in global population increase over the next 30 to 40 years will happen substantially faster than already anticipated in the population projections of the UN.
- 5. Rapid population growth is both a cause and a consequence of slow progress in development.** Achieving SDGs, particularly those related to health, education, and gender equality, can contribute to slowing global population growth.
- 6. Access to reproductive healthcare services can accelerate social and economic development.** Increased access to high-quality reproductive healthcare services, including safe and effective methods of family planning, can facilitate a drop in fertility and help related economic and social development.
- 7. A decline in fertility can create a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth.** In countries with relatively high levels of fertility today, investments in education and health and the promotion of full and productive employment for all, including for women, can significantly increase the positive, but temporary, economic impact of a favorable age distribution created by a sustained decline in fertility.
- 8. Higher incomes contribute more to environmental degradation than population growth.** More affluent countries bear the greatest responsibility for moving rapidly to achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases and for implementing strategies to decouple human economic activity from environmental degradation.
- 9. Developing countries require support to reduce future emissions and to develop sustainable.** Wealthy countries and the international community can help to ensure that these countries receive the necessary technical and financial assistance so that their economy can grow using technologies that will minimize future greenhouse gas emissions.
- 10. Food systems must transform to feed a growing population and limit environmental damage.** Food systems need to incorporate more sustainable practices, while ensuring access to safe, sufficient, affordable and nutritious food and enjoyment of a diversified, balanced and healthy diet for all.

Yesterday is History

Yesterday is history,
'Tis so far away –
Yesterday is poetry –
'Tis philosophy.

Yesterday is mystery –
Where it is Today –
While we shrewdly speculate,
Flutter both away.

- Emily Dickinson, (December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1986) American Poet, Amherst, MA.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

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