



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 December 2015
English
Original: French

Commission on Population and Development

Forty-ninth session

11-15 April 2016

Item 4 of the provisional agenda¹

**General debate on national experience in population matters:
“Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015
development agenda”**

Statement submitted by Centre Africain de Recherche Industrielle (CARI), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council²

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

¹ [E/CN.9/2016/1](#).

² The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Strengthening of the demographic evidence base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

This subject needs to be raised, as all development programmes are developed by humans, for humans. Their success is closely linked to the number and calibre of people involved, so that their objectives may be fully achieved.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is no exception. Its initiators assigned to it goals which, once achieved, will change humanity or the life of all people on the planet. Let us recall the three dimensions of sustainable development mentioned in the report “The Future We Want”, paragraph 6. And I quote: “We recognize that people are at the centre of sustainable development and in this regard, we strive for a world which is just, equitable and inclusive, and we commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and thereby to benefit all.” End of quote.

That commitment by heads of State and Government, placing people at the centre, can only become reality when the people who are to run the programme are sufficient in number and calibre.

That is why the demographic evidence base for use under the Post-2015 Development Agenda needs to be strengthened.

But how?

We believe the required strengthening should be understood with reference to two components, namely: the qualitative and the quantitative component.

The quantitative component has already been achieved, as the world population has reached 7.3 billion people as of 2015 and is forecast to grow to 9.7 billion by 2050.

We hope the Post-2015 Development Agenda has been developed to meet the needs of all 9.7 billion inhabitants of the Earth in 2050. If such is not the case, the agenda is in need of review.

To recapitulate: the quantitative component presents no problem. We must now turn our attention to the qualitative human component: the people we need to fulfil the agenda, who ought to meet the criterion of “the right person in the right place”.

According to the published estimates regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a number of countries, especially developing countries, have failed to achieve any of the goals or have achieved only a few. That failure can be imputed to a number of factors: insufficient physical and financial resources, the quality and orientation of the policies implemented, the calibre of the people appointed to carry out the programmes, the stakeholders’ commitment, the political will of governments, etc.

The calibre of the people involved: such is our theme today, and such is the problem that must be taken seriously if we are to achieve the objectives of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Poor and developing countries are those where that problem is acute, as their level of education and training is deficient. Access for all to training and education has not lived up to governments’ commitments. The result

has been total dilapidation of the basic socioeconomic infrastructure, which has prevented any progress. This has strongly affected training and education, which have not been able to supply the requisite skilled personnel for the MDGs to be achieved. If we do not take care, the Post-2015 Development Agenda will suffer the same fate as the MDGs in many countries.

At CARI we believe that greater international cooperation can solve the problem; one need only increase aid to the education sector in countries in difficulty, increase the number of teachers available to produce competent people to run the programme, diversify training and improve infrastructure, support technology transfer from rich to poor countries, and afford the personnel so trained appropriate working conditions.

Intense awareness-raising is necessary among decision-makers so that they will understand that they are accountable to their citizens for the training and education needed for successful implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Developed countries, on the other hand, where the MDGs have mainly already been achieved, face the opposite problem to that of the developing countries, that is, their ageing labour force. The cohort of young people in their populations is too small to meet their real development needs. The last decades' well-executed programmes to make every child a wanted child have adversely affected population regeneration.

These countries will need to import labour in order to fulfil the Post-2015 Development Agenda. That labour force, which may come from very populous countries, will require capacity building and additional training aligned with the level of the host countries where the MDGs have been successfully achieved.

In closing, we should stress that the success of the objectives of the Post-2015 Development Agenda unquestionably depends on respect for human rights and, consequently, the right to development.

We support and encourage any initiative taken by all stakeholders to achieve the internationally agreed goals, together with those pursued by each country, to improve the quality of life on our planet.

The Executive
