



**United Nations**

# **Commission on Population and Development**

**Report on the fifty-second session  
(13 April 2018 and 1–5 April 2019)**

**Economic and Social Council  
Official Records, 2019  
Supplement No. 5**





# **Commission on Population and Development**

**Report on the fifty-second session  
(13 April 2018 and 1–5 April 2019)**



United Nations • New York, 2019

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

## *Summary*

The fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 13 April 2018 and from 1 to 5 April 2019. Its special theme was “Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the President of the Economic and Social Council, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

In February and March 2019, the Chair convened informal consultations on a draft political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. On 1 April 2019, the Commission adopted by consensus the brief, commemorative declaration. In doing so, member States reaffirmed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; welcomed the progress made thus far while acknowledging remaining challenges and obstacles; emphasized linkages between the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; called for adequate mobilization of resources to support implementation; encouraged the provision of technical assistance to developing countries; emphasized the importance of high-quality, disaggregated data for measuring progress; and called on the United Nations system and other entities to commit themselves to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

At the request of the Chair, informal consultations on other draft proposals were led by two Vice-Chairs, Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) and Leila Lora-Santos (Philippines). Following the consultations, the Commission decided that the special theme for the fifty-fourth session in 2021 would be “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”. The Commission also approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-third session in 2020.

During the session, the Commission considered four reports of the Secretary-General.

The report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.9/2019/2](#)), prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides a review of the latest trends in population growth, fertility, family planning and reproductive health, mortality, population ageing, urbanization and human mobility, including international migration, in relation to development trends and outcomes. The report also provides a review of progress made towards the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and, in turn, its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. References are made to the changing age distribution of modern populations, which in its early stages may enable developing countries to reap benefits from a demographic dividend. The promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment is also discussed, as are interrelationships between population trends, environmental risks and climate change, as well as the role of demographic data in planning and monitoring. The evidence presented, including on national policies in relevant domains, makes it possible to identify gaps in implementation and serves to inform the recommendations of the final chapter.

In the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.9/2019/3), prepared by UNFPA, it is highlighted that the International Conference consolidated a shift in population and development policies towards a greater emphasis on individual rights, choices and well-being, which were recognized as critical pathways for the achievement of sustainable development. Twenty-five years of evidence and practice have reinforced that consensus and affirmed the importance of considering population patterns and trends in formulating development policies. In the Programme of Action, issues of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights were highlighted and a vision of universal and integrated development was promoted, foreshadowing the 2030 Agenda. The report contains a description of progress made and shortfalls in the implementation of the Programme of Action, reflecting the progress reviews conducted in 2018 by the regional conferences on population and development, at which participants recognized the relevance and contribution of the Conference agenda to advancing sustainable development in all regions. The report contains recommendations for delivering on the promise of the 1994 conference to all persons, in order to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2019/4), prepared by UNFPA, provides information on the latest trends in official development assistance (ODA) in areas of central importance to the Programme of Action, including sexual and reproductive health, which covers reproductive health, family planning and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and population data and policy analysis. The amount of ODA provided for work in those areas by members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has levelled off since around 2007. Between 2015 and 2016, gross ODA disbursements for sexual and reproductive health increased only slightly, from \$4.4 to \$4.5 per woman of reproductive age in the developing regions. In the same period, gross ODA disbursements for population data and policy analysis increased from \$358,000 to \$476,000 per developing country. The share of ODA provided for humanitarian purposes has risen, but the increase is largely mirrored by a falling share of ODA for development programmes, specifically for infrastructure and production.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2018 (E/CN.9/2019/5), prepared by the Population Division, contains a review of the progress made by the Division in implementing its programme of work. The report covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support given to intergovernmental processes through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

Other substantive inputs to the Commission's deliberations included a keynote address, a high-level interactive panel on the key findings and recommendations of reviews carried out by the regional conferences on population and development and an expert panel on the special theme of the annual session.

On Monday, 1 April, Ashley Judd, Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA, delivered the keynote address.

On Tuesday, 2 April, members of a high-level interactive panel discussed the key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences on population and development held in 2018. The panel was moderated by the Executive Director of UNFPA, Natalia Kanem, and was made up of the Chairs or co-Chairs of the five regional conferences: the Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, Robert Chakanda; the Undersecretary for Population and Development and Executive Director of the Commission on Population and Development of the Philippines, Juan Antonio A. Perez III; the Secretary General of the Higher Population Council of Jordan, Abla Amawi; the Minister for Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, Gloria Montenegro Figueroa; and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Andrei Dapkiunas.

On Wednesday, 3 April, the Commission heard an expert panel discussion entitled, “On the road to 2030: the continuing relevance of the International Conference on Population and Development”. The journalist and author, Fred Pearce, introduced the panellists and moderated the discussion. The panel included the following four experts: the Director of Advocacy of International Planned Parenthood Federation, María Antonieta Alcalde; the General Secretary of ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together, Rudelmar Bueno de Faria; a professor at Drexel University and a founding director of the African Population and Health Research Center, Alex Ezeh; and a senior associate on the Population Council and professor at Shanghai University, Leiwen Jiang.

In their statements during the general debate, delegations reaffirmed their support for the Programme of Action, shared their experiences on implementation and reflected on progress made and remaining challenges on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the conference. Delegations emphasized that the full implementation of the Programme of Action was critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and underscored the importance of integrating population into development planning, including by ensuring quality education, decent work and economic growth; reducing inequalities; addressing climate change; and promoting peaceful societies, justice and strong institutions. They stressed that gender equality and the empowerment of women were central to achieving sustainable development. Delegations also highlighted the need for universal access to education and health care, including for sexual and reproductive health. Investments in the education, health and well-being of young people would enable countries still in the early stages of the demographic transition to benefit from a demographic dividend. Delegations also noted the importance of properly managing international migration, as that would contribute to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination, while helping migrants and their families to improve their standard of living. Member States also stressed the importance of data and statistics for monitoring population change and its impact on development, as well as the need to build capacities for work in that area, including through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Some 109 representatives of 54 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with the Economic and Social Council, out of 508 persons who had pre-registered, of whom 376 had subsequently confirmed registration, attended the annual session. A total of 16 statements on behalf of individual organizations or groups of NGOs had been submitted well in advance and became documents of the session. In addition, 13 representatives of NGOs delivered oral statements from the floor.

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	7
A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council . . . . .	7
B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council . . . . .	8
II. General debate: (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels; (b) Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development . . . . .	10
III. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population . . . . .	14
IV. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission . . . . .	15
V. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session . . . . .	16
VI. Organization of the session . . . . .	17
A. Opening and duration of the session . . . . .	17
B. Attendance . . . . .	17
C. Election of officers . . . . .	17
D. Agenda . . . . .	17
E. Documentation . . . . .	18

## Chapter I

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

#### A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

#### **Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-second session and provisional agenda for its fifty-third session\***

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-second session;<sup>1</sup>

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission as set out below:

#### **Provisional agenda**

1. Election of officers.<sup>2</sup>
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

#### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

3. General debate:
  - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
  - (b) Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

---

\* For the discussion, see chap. V.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 5 (E/2019/25).*

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, the Commission, immediately following the close of its fifty-second session, held the first meeting of its fifty-third session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

#### **Documentation<sup>3</sup>**

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2019: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for 2021: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session.

## **B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council**

2. The following decision and declaration were adopted by the Commission and are brought to the attention of the Council:

### **Decision 2019/101**

#### **Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2021**

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for its fifty-fourth session in 2021 shall be “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”.

#### **Declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development**

*We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments, gathered at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, in New York, on the special occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>4</sup> held in Cairo in 1994, in the context of the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as its contribution to the*

---

<sup>3</sup> Beginning in 2020, the strategic framework and proposed programme of work are subject to the new annual programme budget approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/266 A](#), including a new results framework. A draft of the new results framework was proposed in annex III to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process” ([A/72/492/Add.1](#)). The preparation of the 2020 annual programme budget is scheduled to be finalized in the first quarter of 2019.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, to be held in July 2019, and to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly to be held in September 2019,

1. *Reaffirm* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation,<sup>5</sup> and the outcomes of its reviews, and note the outcome documents of the regional review conferences, stressing that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development for each region that adopted the particular outcome documents;

2. *Welcome* the progress made thus far towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, and stress that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Programme of Action and, in this regard, pledge to undertake further action to ensure its full and accelerated implementation;

3. *Emphasize* that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation are essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Recognize* that the Programme of Action requires for its implementation adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, and that Governments are not expected to meet the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action single-handedly;

5. *Encourage* Governments, international organizations, including those of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries in implementing the Programme of Action through technical assistance and capacity-building activities to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Emphasize* that the availability of, and access to, high-quality disaggregated data is essential for measuring progress towards and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Call upon* the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

---

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

## Chapter II

### **General debate:**

#### **(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels**

#### **(b) Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

3. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, “General debate: (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels; (b) Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 1 to 4 April 2019. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.9/2019/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.9/2019/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2019/4](#)).

4. The Commission also had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.<sup>6</sup>

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 April, the Commission heard statements by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the representative of Romania (on behalf of the European Union), the observer for Nigeria (on behalf of the African Group) and the representative of the Philippines, as well as by the observers for Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Serbia and North Macedonia.

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 April, the Commission heard statements by the Chief of the Population Policies and Development Branch of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General contained in document [E/CN.9/2019/2](#); the Director of the Technical Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who introduced the report of the Secretary-General contained in document [E/CN.9/2019/3](#); and the Chief of the Population and Development Branch of UNFPA, who introduced the

---

<sup>6</sup> [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/1](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/2](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/3](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/4](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/5](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/6](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/7](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/8](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/9](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/10](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/11](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/12](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/13](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/14](#), [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/15](#) and [E/CN.9/2019/NGO/16](#).

report of the Secretary-General contained in document [E/CN.9/2019/4](#). The Commission also heard statements by the representatives of Haiti, the Netherlands, China, Belarus, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Mexico, Morocco, Bangladesh and Israel, as well by the observers for Peru, Honduras, South Africa, the Niger, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nigeria and Malta.

7. At its 4th meeting, on 2 April, following a high-level interactive panel discussion on key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences on population and development, moderated by the Executive Director of UNFPA, the Commission continued its general discussion of the item and heard statements by the representatives of Germany, Vanuatu, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova, as well as by the observers for Maldives, Georgia, Uruguay, Kenya, Benin, Portugal, Sweden and Australia.

8. At its 5th meeting, on 2 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Japan, Cuba, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Argentina, Bulgaria, Belgium, Romania, Côte d'Ivoire and Burundi, as well as by the observers for Cambodia, Norway, Thailand, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Turkey, Malaysia, Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Suriname, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, New Zealand, Nepal and Uzbekistan.

9. At its 6th meeting, on 3 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Luxembourg, India, the Sudan, the United States of America, Brazil, Denmark, Jamaica, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Chile and Madagascar, as well as by the observers for Poland, Italy, Tunisia, Libya, Iceland, Trinidad and Tobago, Seychelles, Kyrgyzstan, Costa Rica, Albania, Ghana, Nicaragua, Togo, Zambia, the Gambia, Azerbaijan, Nauru and Pakistan.

10. At the 7th meeting, on 3 April, following a panel discussion entitled "On the road to 2030: the continuing relevance of the International Conference on Population and Development", moderated by Fred Pearce, the Commission continued its general discussion of the item and heard statements by the observers for Chad, Mauritius, Senegal, Liberia and the Holy See. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization, the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration, the League of Arab States, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Partners in Population and Development, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Africa.

11. At the 8th meeting, on 4 April, the observer for Fiji made a statement on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following NGOs: Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, Campaign Life Coalition, Swasti, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together, International Presentation Association, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana "Profamilia", World Youth Alliance, International Federation for Family Development and Advocates for Youth. The Commission thus concluded its general debate on agenda item 3.

#### **Keynote address and panel discussions**

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 April, the Commission heard a keynote address by the actress, advocate and Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA, Ashley Judd. In her

statement, Ms. Judd noted that participants at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, had emphasized that individual choice, including the right of women and girls to have control over their bodies and to make decisions about their lives, was critical to achieving sustainable development. Ms. Judd reflected on her experience as Goodwill Ambassador, linking stories of persons she had met to the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference. She highlighted that investing in girls and women contributed to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. She also warned of backlash against respect for the human rights of vulnerable or marginalized groups and of the threat that such backlash posed to inclusive societies. She emphasized the importance, to herself and to millions of women, of sexual autonomy and reproductive control and called for three types of action: (a) mobilizing financial resources to accelerate progress; (b) strengthening political will to respect human rights as agreed in Cairo; and (c) providing better data on population for development planning and policymaking.

13. At the 4th meeting, on 2 April, members of a high-level interactive panel discussed the key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences on population and development held in 2018. Moderated by the Executive Director of UNFPA, Natalia Kanem, the panel was made up of the Chairs or co-Chairs of the five regional conferences: the Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, Robert Chakanda; the Undersecretary for Population and Development and Executive Director of the Commission on Population and Development of the Philippines, Juan Antonio A. Perez III; the Secretary General of the Higher Population Council of Jordan, Abla Amawi; the Minister for Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, Gloria Montenegro Figueroa; and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Andrei Dapkiunas.

14. The panellists highlighted region-specific population trends and pointed toward common challenges, such as the need to ensure universal access to health care and services; support the provision of quality education, training and lifelong learning; implement policies to benefit from the demographic dividend; and empower populations at risk of being left behind. Other issues addressed by panel members included the persistence of extreme poverty, coupled with high fertility and a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health care; interlinkages between low fertility, population ageing and international migration; and the impact of political crises and violent conflicts on population patterns and trends.

15. During the interactive discussion, several delegations identified the need for capacity-building to strengthen population data systems and for training on evidence-based policymaking. The further implementation of the Programme of Action would require strengthened coordination at the regional level and a continued partnership between Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs and academia.

16. At the 7th meeting, on 3 April, at an expert panel discussion entitled “On the road to 2030: the continued relevance of the International Conference on Population and Development”, panellists discussed the potential future contributions of a fully implemented Programme of Action to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Lessons learned, best practices and priorities for action through 2030 were addressed. The panel was moderated by the author and journalist, Fred Pearce, and included the following experts: the General Secretary of ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together, Rudelmar Bueno de Faria; a professor at Drexel University and a founding director of the African Population and Health Research Center, Alex Ezeh; the Director of Advocacy of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, María Antonieta Alcalde; and a senior associate with the Population Council and professor at Shanghai University, Leiwen Jiang.

17. Panellists discussed the role of faith-based organizations in eradicating poverty and promoting human rights; global progress in improving maternal and child health and promoting reproductive rights; and remaining gaps in access to contraception, especially among adolescents and marginalized groups. Analysis of data disaggregated according to relevant factors was considered necessary to identify and reduce different types of inequality. Remaining challenges included gender-based violence, forced pregnancy and socioeconomic inequalities, for which programmes were required to promote comprehensive sexuality education, access to contraceptive supplies, safe and accessible abortion where the procedure is legal and support for partnerships between Governments and civil society. Large differences in projected rates of fertility and population growth were highlighted, as were the effects of urbanization on the spatial distribution of populations. Asia was singled out for its large population and, in some areas, very high population density; countries in the region were experiencing rapid economic growth but also the adverse effects of climate change, including cyclones and other natural disasters. Panellists noted that the situation called for increased attention to sustainable consumption and highlighted the need to invest in human capital, especially for education and health, and in rights-based reproductive health care.

18. During the interactive discussion, delegations noted the centrality given to human rights, self-determination and the empowerment of women in the Programme of Action and emphasized that a healthy population was critical to achieving sustainable development. The full implementation of the Programme of Action would be necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Regions with continuing high levels of fertility and rapid population growth, such as sub-Saharan Africa, would need increased investments to ensure universal access to health care and services. Education on human sexuality and addressing violence against women were identified as areas of major concern.

## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2021**

19. At its 9th meeting, on 5 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2021”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2019/101).

## Chapter III

### **Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population**

20. At its 8th meeting, on 4 April 2019, the Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, “Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population”. It had before it the following document:

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2018: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/CN.9/2019/5](#)).

21. At the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Senior Population Affairs Officer in the Programme Management Unit of the Population Division, who introduced the aforementioned report.

22. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Germany, Cuba, the United States of America, Mexico, Japan and Jamaica, as well as by the observers for Norway and Indonesia. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also made a statement.

## Chapter IV

### **Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission**

23. At its 9th meeting, on 5 April 2019, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission in 2020 ([E/CN.9/2019/L.2](#)).

24. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda (see chap. I, sect. A).

## Chapter V

### **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session**

25. At its 9th meeting, on 5 April 2019, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-second session ([E/CN.9/2019/L.4](#)) and authorized the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Saidu Nallo (Sierra Leone), to finalize the document in consultation with the Secretariat.

## Chapter VI

### Organization of the session

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

26. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-second session at United Nations Headquarters on 13 April 2018 and from 1 to 5 April 2019. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th).

27. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 April 2019, the session was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria). Following his election as Chair of the session, Courtenay Rattray (Jamaica) made a brief statement.

28. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs and the UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, Ashley Judd, addressed the Commission.

#### B. Attendance

29. The session was attended by 44 States members of the Commission. Observers for 87 other States Members of the United Nations and 2 non-Member States, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs also attended.<sup>7</sup> The list of participants is available in document [E/CN.9/2019/INF/1](#).

#### C. Election of officers

30. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 13 April 2018 and 1 April 2019, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Chair*

Courtenay Rattray (Jamaica)

*Vice-Chairs*

Saidu Nallo (Sierra Leone)  
Leila C. Lora-Santos (Philippines)  
Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria)  
René Lauer (Luxembourg)

31. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 April 2019, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Saidu Nallo (Sierra Leone), to serve also as Rapporteur for the session.

#### D. Agenda

32. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda ([E/CN.9/2019/1](#)), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

---

<sup>7</sup> Only non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and accredited to the fifty-second session of the Commission were permitted to participate.

3. General debate:
    - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
    - (b) Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
  5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission.
  6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session.
33. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session ([E/CN.9/2019/L.1/Rev.1](#)).
34. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, as contained in document [E/CN.9/2019/L.3](#).

## E. Documentation

35. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-second session is available on the website of the Population Division (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2019/index.shtml>).
-