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Commission on Population and Development

**Report on the fifty-sixth session
(29 April 2022 and 10–14 April 2023)**

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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 Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 14 April 2023. Its special theme was “Population, education and sustainable development”. The session was chaired Gheorghe Leucă (Republic of Moldova). During the high-level opening on 10 April, statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Ambassador Leucă expressed concern about the ongoing global crisis in education, which had been exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He urged Member States to work toward a successful outcome this year. The Deputy Secretary-General emphasized that access to quality education is a human right and a source of economic empowerment, noting that progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 is seriously off track. The Executive Director highlighted that education is the foundation for human development, and that achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development requires universal access to quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education, as well as women’s empowerment and gender equality, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Under-Secretary-General emphasized that education is one of the best investments that societies can make to build a more sustainable and prosperous future, noting that education helps to lift individuals and their families out of poverty and to address the negative consequences of global warming and climate change. The Deputy Director-General highlighted the urgent need to close the gender gap in school enrolment; to provide good quality education on a range of issues, including on puberty and sexual and reproductive health; and to provide nutritious school meals and increasing access to health services.

In delivering the keynote address, Professor Wolfgang Lutz observed that population mattered for most, if not all, of the Sustainable Development Goals. He illustrated the vast transformation of the population composition by age, sex and educational attainment since 1950 with data from the European Union and the Republic of Korea. The latter had transitioned from a low-income country with a young population structure and with relatively few adults having completed primary and secondary education, to an aged society with a large proportion of young people with a tertiary level of education. There was overwhelming evidence that education empowered individuals to improve their health, increased productivity and incomes and facilitated adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Sarah Linton (Australia) facilitated informal consultations on three draft decisions, which the Commission adopted by consensus on 14 April 2023. In particular, the Commission approved the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, in 2024 ([E/CN.9/2023/L.2](#)), and decided that the theme of its fifty-eighth session in 2025 would be “Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages” ([E/CN.9/2023/L.3](#)). The Commission also decided to change the timing for the consideration of the biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends to odd-numbered years and, accordingly, to next consider the report at its fifty-eighth session in 2025 ([E/CN.9/2023/L.4](#)). Lastly, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-sixth session ([E/CN.9/2023/L.5](#)) and entrusted the rapporteur to finalize the report with the assistance of the Secretariat.

Following consultations with each of the five regional groups, with United Nations entities with expertise on the special theme and with civil society organizations, the Chair had distributed the zero draft of a resolution on population, education and sustainable development on 6 March 2023. Following three weeks of informal consultations, led by Sylvia Paola Mendoza Elguea (Mexico) and Fnu Imanuel (Indonesia), delegations had agreed 35 of 51 paragraphs ad referendum. From 10 to 11 April, the text was placed under a silence procedure that was broken by a group of 22 countries over their objection to a single paragraph. In an attempt to overcome the remaining differences, the Chair circulated a revised text on 13 April. As the Commission was unable to reach consensus on the revised text, the Chair withdrew the draft resolution on 14 April.

In the proposed text, the Chair reaffirmed the right of everyone to education, as well as the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It highlighted key education challenges, including a growing school-age population in some countries, the lack of qualified teachers, the large number of out-of-school children, the inability of millions of children to meet minimum proficiency standards in reading and numeracy, and gender disparities in adult literacy. The COVID-19 pandemic had reinforced existing inequalities within and between countries, such as the gender gap in education and digital divides. The pandemic had also had a negative impact on access to health care and other services. In the text, countries were called upon to invest in quality education, recognizing that improved educational outcomes were essential to reap the demographic dividend and to close digital divides. Furthermore, the Chair urged Governments to ensure the access of adolescents and young people to full and accurate information and education on sexual and reproductive health, including evidence-based comprehensive education on human sexuality, and stressed the importance of access to education for migrants. The Chair called for greater international cooperation on education and highlighted the importance of high-quality, reliable, timely and disaggregated population data for the planning of educational services.

The report of the Secretary-General on population, education and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2023/2](#)), prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, contained estimates and projections of the school-age population in different regions of the world. The report also included an analysis of the relationship between education and the three components of population change, namely, fertility, mortality and migration, as well as the connections between education and gender equality and the empowerment of women, human capital formation, economic growth and environmental sustainability. In the report, the Secretary-General discussed linkages between demographic variables and trends and access to quality education at all levels, including early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education and lifelong learning.

In his report on the review of programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, education and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2023/3](#)), prepared by UNFPA, the Secretary-General stressed that education was a key determinant of development, relevant for all age cohorts throughout the life cycle, and that it was among the most powerful predictors of population health and well-being and of national economic growth. The education of women and girls, in particular, contributed significantly to the health and survival of children and the eradication of child marriage, early childbearing and unplanned pregnancy. Furthermore, education provided a critical pathway to women's economic and social empowerment. The Secretary-General reviewed programmes addressing

challenges identified during the 2022 Transforming Education Summit, including efforts to improve infrastructure, increase the number of qualified teachers, achieve gender equality at all levels of schooling, support the adoption of health and sexuality education, reduce the digital divide and increase lifelong learning among older persons.

In his report 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.9/2023/4](#)), also prepared by UNFPA, the Secretary-General discussed trends in official and private development aid, aid flows for population-related matters and support for programmes on population, education and sustainable development. Measured in dollars per woman of reproductive age in the developing world, aid disbursements by all official donors had increased from \$4.74 in 2019 to \$6.15 in 2020. Aid in support of education had fallen as a share of total aid but had grown in absolute terms and was larger than suggested by a focus on aid for the education sector alone, because aid to numerous other sectors included components of education, training and research.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2022 ([E/CN.9/2023/5](#)), prepared by the Population Division, contained a review of progress in implementing the Division's programme of work during 2022. The programme of work covers 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 linkages between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and substantive support provided to intergovernmental processes. The objective of the programme of work was to improve knowledge of global population trends, advance an evidence-based understanding of interaction between population change and sustainable development among policymakers and the public, and strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda.

In the afternoon of 10 April, the general debate began with a moderated discussion of the first three of the aforementioned reports of the Secretary-General. Panellists highlighted policy recommendations of the reports, focusing on ways in which the full, accelerated and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development could contribute to the achievement of Goal 4. The experts emphasized the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on educational outcomes in terms of access, participation and equity. Several panellists noted the importance of improving lifelong learning opportunities and closing digital divides. Ensuring that high quality education was available to all – including marginalized groups such as women and girls, migrants and refugees, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples – was another key recommendation. Meeting the educational needs of a growing population of children and young people required increased commitment and long-term and predictable financing from Governments, as well as greater, more efficient and more equitable investments from partners. Several panellists referred to fulfilling the commitments of the 2022 Transforming Education Summit as critical to promoting inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. Questions to the panellists addressed ways in which progress in education could help to achieve the goals of the Programme of Action.

In the morning of 11 April, the general debate resumed with a multi-stakeholder panel on the contribution of key population and development issues to the main theme of the Economic and Social Council during 2023, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. Panellists were requested to consider how the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development could contribute to pandemic recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those Goals being reviewed by the high-level political forum in the current year. The panel also discussed concrete ways to include population issues and challenges in national voluntary reviews and explored how the Council’s functional commissions could work more closely together and reinforce each other’s work. The panellists identified linkages between implementation of the Programme of Action and pandemic recovery, with a focus on education. They highlighted the role of peer educators for protecting and empowering adolescents and young people, stressed the importance of advancing gender equality through education and creating supportive educational environments for students and teachers, and emphasized the need for adequate and sustainable financing to implement the 2030 Agenda, including to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States to the effects of climate change. During the interactive debate, participants emphasized the importance of international solidarity for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and other future global challenges. They also stressed the linkages between education, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In the morning of 12 April, the general debate continued with an expert panel on the special theme for the annual session, “Population, education and sustainable development”. Panellists were requested to provide insights into linkages between demographic change and quality education, to discuss connections between migration and education and to address the importance of digital inclusion and youth engagement in education planning. The experts noted that a key requirement to benefit from the demographic dividend and achieve sustainable development was a well-educated population throughout the life course, starting with early childhood education. Increased funding to accommodate growing numbers of students in developing countries with rapidly growing populations was critical. Vocational training and adult education should be geared towards labour market needs, including in skills and jobs for the circular, blue and green economies of today and tomorrow. Health education programmes should be age- and developmentally appropriate and should engage communities and parents to dispel fears and counter misinformation. Youth engagement in the education planning process was also seen as important. The critical issue of digital inclusion needed urgent attention. The panel observed that access to education facilitated migrants’ integration into host societies, in part by enhancing employability and improving labour market outcomes. During the interactive debate, participants noted with concern the decline in overseas development assistance for education, to the detriment of efforts to achieve Goal 4. In response to questions, the panellists emphasized the importance of a human rights perspective for advancing child and adolescent health and education and pointed to the critical role of the United Nations in this regard. Panellists noted the importance of recognizing the diversity of young people and their needs in education planning.

In the morning of 13 April, the Commission considered agenda item 4, “Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population”, starting with a panel. Panellists provided insights into the demographic situation of their countries or regions and gave summary descriptions of their work on population-related topics and of the work of the institutions they represent. In a second round, they were asked to comment on the work of the Population Division and on connections with work conducted in their countries and

were also invited to offer a recommendation concerning an area where the Population Division could do its work better or differently. The panel highlighted the diversity of demographic patterns and policy issues across countries and regions, including challenges related to: (a) rapid population growth and high fertility, child marriage and adolescent fertility; (b) realizing the demographic dividend in developing countries and reaping the potential benefits associated with low fertility and ageing populations; and (c) the costs and benefits of migration for individuals, families and countries of origin, transit and destination. The panellists thanked the Population Division for its reports, manuals and handbooks and for its global leadership in the production of high quality and internationally comparable population estimates and projections. Suggestions for future work of the Secretariat in the field of population included producing migration statistics using new and different data sources; evaluating the demographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated effects on achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; facilitating the accessibility and use of the data produced by the Population Division through further improvements in the Division's website; and convening regional workshops and consultations with national experts working on population data and analysis.

During the general debate, speakers underscored the importance of education for population and sustainable development and reiterated their commitment to accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and achieving the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several speakers noted the negative impacts of conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic on efforts to provide universal access to education. Delegates highlighted the importance of providing access to quality education for marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, girls and women, and other vulnerable groups. Several speakers highlighted the importance of education in empowering young people and called for ensuring youth participation and leadership. A few countries presented initiatives on digital schooling, which helped to bridge gender gaps in education in urban and in rural areas. Several speakers highlighted that – especially in contexts of rapidly growing populations of children and young people – demographic data, analysis and demographic foresight were needed to plan for required investments in education systems; and stressed the need to provide technical and financial support for these countries. Speakers highlighted numerous other key issues, including the need for sustainable financing of education, the call for free education at all levels, the right all people to education, the importance of education as a gateway to other human rights, the role of education in realizing the demographic dividend, the importance of access to quality education for all people, including migrants, and the role of lifelong learning, especially for ageing populations.

During the closing on 14 April, while countries expressed regret over the failure to achieve consensus on the draft resolution, many also expressed their appreciation to the Chair for his decision to withdraw the text.

Some 365 delegates representing 152 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with the Economic and Social Council registered to attend the annual session. A total of 26 written statements on behalf of individual organizations or groups of NGOs had been submitted in advance and were included among the documents before the Commission. In addition, 34 representatives of NGOs delivered oral statements from the floor. During the general debate, civil society representatives acknowledged that education is a critical component for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the fulfilment of other rights. Speakers gave examples of recent national initiatives to ensure gender equality in access to education, to empower women and girls and to provide them with access to economic and employment opportunities. Several NGOs stressed the importance of respecting the rights of parents and families to choose the type of education their children receive. A large majority of NGO delegates highlighted the positive role of comprehensive education on human sexuality as an effective way to improve health and well-being, to promote gender equality, to reduce sexual and gender-based violence, to combat child marriage and to prevent HIV infections, sexual and gender-based violence, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions. NGOs were also consulted on the draft resolution on the special theme for the session.

In total, some 24 side events were held during the annual session.

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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:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-seventh session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-sixth session;¹

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

Provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

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

Documentation

Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of 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) Assessing the status of implementation 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 during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 5 (E/2023/25)*.

² In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its fifty-sixth session, will hold the first meeting of its fifty-seventh session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions assessing the status of implementation 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 during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

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

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2023: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs³

5. Provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

Documentation

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

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

Draft decision II

Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends

The Economic and Social Council, recalling paragraph 9 of its resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 and its decision 2012/233 of 25 July 2012 and in order to ensure that the biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends is aligned with the most recent demographic estimates and projections, decides to change the timing of the consideration of the report by the Commission on Population and Development to odd-numbered years and, accordingly, decides that the Commission shall next consider the report at its fifty-eighth session, in 2025.

³ The preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2024 is scheduled to be finalized in the first half of 2023.

B. Matter brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decision was adopted by the Commission and is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 2023/101

Special theme for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for its fifty-eighth session, in 2025, shall be “Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages”.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting, on 10 April 2023. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.9/2023/1](#)) and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.9/2023/1/L.1](#)).

4. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the session.

Chapter III

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, education and sustainable development

5. The Commission considered agenda item 3 and its sub-items (a) and (b) from its 2nd to 7th, 9th and 10th meetings, from 10 to 12 April and on 14 April 2023. The Commission held a general discussion on the item at its 2nd to 7th meetings and three interactive panels at, respectively, its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on population, education and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2023/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on review of programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, education and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2023/3](#));

(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.9/2023/4](#)).

6. The Commission also had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.⁴

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 April, the Commission commenced its general discussion on item 3 as a whole, hearing statements by the representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family), Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Argentina (also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu), Ethiopia, Mexico, the Philippines and Indonesia, as well as by the observers for Nepal (on behalf of the least developed countries), Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Uganda, Paraguay, Jordan, Nigeria and Ghana.

8. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 April, under agenda item 3 as a whole, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the reports of the Secretary-General, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Australia). The following panellists responded to questions posed by the moderator: Director of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO, Christopher Castle; Chief of the Population and Development Branch,

⁴ [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/1](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/2](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/3](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/4](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/5](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/6](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/7](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/8](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/9](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/10](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/11](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/12](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/13](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/14](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/15](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/16/CORR.1](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/17](#), [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/18](#) and [E/CN.9/2023/NGO/19](#).

Technical Division, UNFPA, Rachel Snow; Chief of the Skills and Employability Branch, International Labour Organization, Srinivas Reddy (via video link); and Population Affairs Officer in the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Mun Sim Lai.

9. At the same meeting, there was an interactive debate, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Cuba and Indonesia, as well as by the observers for Sweden, Egypt and Nigeria. The representatives of the International Organization for Migration also participated in the discussion, as well as the representatives of Yale International Relations Association and Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina, both non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

10. Also at the same meeting, following the expert panel discussion, the Commission resumed its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Kenya, China, the Republic of Moldova, Turkmenistan, El Salvador, Japan and Honduras as well as by the observers for the Sudan, Guinea, the Gambia, Qatar, Thailand and Burundi.

11. At the 4th meeting, on 11 April, under agenda item 3 (a), the Commission held a multi-stakeholder panel on the contribution of key population and development issues to the main theme of the Council, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Mexico). The following panellists responded to questions posed by the moderator: Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Maria del Carmen Squeff; Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett; Professor of Population Health and Director of the Center for Reproductive Health in Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, Siswanto Wilopo; Director and Lead of the Social Impact Practice at the Boston Consulting Group, India, Seema Bansal (via video link); and the youth advocate and International Coordinator at the Youth Peer Education Network programme (pioneered by UNFPA), Ana Mosiashvili.

12. At the same meeting, there was an interactive debate, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Honduras, Cuba and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for Serbia, Egypt and Ghana. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as of Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, also participated in the discussion.

13. Also at the same meeting, following the multi-stakeholder panel discussion, the Commission resumed its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of Zambia, Cuba, Jamaica, Lebanon, Israel, Australia, India, Portugal, Denmark and Saudi Arabia, as well as by the observers for Malawi, Mongolia, Egypt and Luxembourg.

14. At its 5th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission continued its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Argentina, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Pakistan, Belgium, Canada, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Malaysia, as well as by the observers for Poland, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Brazil, South Africa, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Syrian Arabic Republic, Suriname, Germany, Spain, Slovenia, Senegal, Panama, Algeria, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, Bangladesh, Côte d’Ivoire, Uruguay, Bulgaria and Cameroon.

15. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

16. Also at the 5th meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the observer for Nigeria.

17. At its 6th meeting, on 12 April, under agenda item 3 (b), the Commission held an expert panel on population, education and sustainable development, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Indonesia). The following panellists responded to questions posed by the moderator: Professor in the Department of International Health and Sustainable Development, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, United States, Anastasia Gage; Executive Director of the National Institute of Learning, Costa Rica, Juan Alfaro López; Professor of Population and Family Health and Paediatrics at Columbia University, United States, John Santelli (via video link); Member of the Ministry of Education's Character Education Task Force and the National Council of Community Colleges, Jamaica, Christina Williams; and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology at the American University in Cairo and Cairo University, Egypt, Ayman Zohry (via video link).

18. At the same meeting, there was an interactive debate, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia, as well as by the observers for the Sudan, Guinea, Ghana and Egypt. The representative of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, also participated in the discussion.

19. Also at the same meeting, following the expert panel discussion, the Commission resumed its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of Costa Rica, the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as by the observers for Colombia, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, Guatemala, Peru, Georgia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chile.

20. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Organization for Migration and the African Union. The representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS also made statements.

21. Also at the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

22. At its 7th meeting, on 12 April, the Commission continued and concluded its general discussion and heard statements by the representative of Chad and by the observer for Sierra Leone.

23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observer for the League of Arab States and by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council: International Federation for Family Development; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Rutgers; International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Workers; CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality; Association Tunisienne de la Santé de la Reproduction; Swedish Association for Sexuality Education; Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina; Soroptimist International; SERAC-Bangladesh; International Planned Parenthood Federation; Advocates for Youth; International Federation of Medical Students' Associations; Plan International; World Young Women's Christian Association; New Zealand Family Planning Association; ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together; International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region; Marie Stopes International; Fundación Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe; Swasti; Make Mothers Matter; Family Planning NSW; Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud; Population Matters; Rozaria Memorial Trust; World Organization for Early Childhood Education; World Youth Alliance; FEMM Foundation; International Relations

Students' Association of McGill University; C-Fam; and Center for Reproductive Rights.

Action taken by the Commission

Special theme for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development

24. At the 9th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special theme for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development" (E/CN.9/2023/L.3), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Australia). The Commission was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2023/101).

Resolution on the special theme of the fifty-sixth session

25. Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair introduced his text of the draft resolution entitled "Population, education and sustainable development". Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation (also on behalf of Algeria, Belarus, Cameroon, Egypt, the Gambia, Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Yemen), Belarus, Pakistan, Ethiopia, the Russian Federation (national statement), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Costa Rica, Canada, Argentina, Denmark, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Mexico, Honduras, Portugal, Indonesia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Belgium, El Salvador, the Philippines, Libya, the Dominican Republic, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Malaysia and Ukraine, as well as by the observers for Yemen, Mali, Uruguay, Senegal, Algeria, Iraq, Nigeria, Cameroon, Norway, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), the Gambia, Papua New Guinea, Nicaragua, Spain, Colombia, Ghana, Finland, Chile, South Africa, Georgia, Germany, France and Egypt.

26. At the 10th meeting, on 14 April, following a statement by the Chair, statements were made by the representatives of Mauritania, Jamaica, Mexico, the United States, Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Finland, New Zealand and Norway), Argentina, Israel, Kenya and Zambia, as well as by the observers for Bulgaria, Ghana, Guatemala and Sweden (on behalf of the European Union, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Montenegro and Ukraine).

27. At the same meeting, the Chair withdrew his text of the draft resolution on the special theme for the Commission's fifty-sixth session. Following the withdrawal, statements were made by the representative of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Australia, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia, as well as by the observers for Egypt, Uruguay, Senegal, Algeria and Iraq.

28. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

Chapter IV

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

29. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 8th and 10th meetings on 13 and 14 April 2023. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2022: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/CN.9/2023/5](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2023 and programme performance for 2021: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs ([E/CN.9/2023/CRP.1](#)).

30. At its 8th meeting, on 13 April, the Commission held a panel of national experts on the programme of work in population, chaired by the Chair of the Commission and moderated by the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, John Wilmoth, who made a statement.

31. The following panellists responded to questions posed by the moderator: Director-General of the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, Piedad Urdinola; Director of the Regional Institute for Population Studies at the University of Ghana, Ayaga Agula Bawah; Professor of Economics at the Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland, Elżbieta Gołata; and Professor in the Department of Population Sciences at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Mohammad Mainul Islam (via video link).

32. At the same meeting, there was an interactive debate, during which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Cuba, the Russian Federation, Honduras, China and the Dominican Republic, as well as by the observers for Nigeria, the Sudan and Ghana.

33. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

34. The moderator made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends

35. At the 10th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends” ([E/CN.9/2023/L.4](#)), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Australia). The Commission was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft decision and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

36. At its 10th meeting, on 14 April 2023, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda and documentation of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission in 2024 ([E/CN.9/2023/L.2/Rev.1](#)). Informal consultations on the draft document had been facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Australia).

37. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation of its fifty-seventh session and recommended them to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session

38. At the 10th meeting, on 14 April 2023, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Monei Fetsi Future Rapuleng (Botswana), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session, as contained in document [E/CN.9/2023/L.5](#).

39. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur with its finalization in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

40. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters on 29 April 2022 and from 10 to 14 April 2023. The Commission held 10 meetings (1st to 10th) during the session.

41. At the 2nd meeting, on 10 April 2023, the regular session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Gheorghe Leucă, (Republic of Moldova), who made a statement.

42. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and (by way of a pre-recorded statement) the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization addressed the Commission.

43. Also at the same meeting, a keynote statement was made by Interim Deputy Director General for Science of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and Founding Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital and Professor of Demography, University of Vienna, Wolfgang Lutz.

44. At its 10th meeting, on 14 April, closing statements were made by the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

45. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement and declared closed the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

B. Attendance

46. The session was attended by representatives of 33 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States and intergovernmental organizations, as well as representatives of United Nations system organizations and of non-governmental organizations, also attended. The list of participants is available in document [E/CN.9/2023/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

47. At its 1st meeting, on 29 April 2022, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Gheorghe Leucă, (Republic of Moldova) as Chair and Edgar Sisa (Botswana) and Sarah Linton (Australia) as Vice-Chairs.

48. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 April 2023, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Fnu Imanuel (Indonesia), Sylvia Paola Mendoza Elguea (Mexico) and Monei Fetsi Future Rapuleng (Botswana)⁵ as Vice-Chairs. The Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session was thus composed as follows:

Chair:

Gheorghe Leucă, (Republic of Moldova)

⁵ Monei Fetsi Future Rapuleng (Botswana) was elected at the 2nd meeting, on 10 April 2023, to fill the remaining term of office of Edgar Sisa (Botswana), whose tour of duty in New York had ended in December 2022, after his having been elected by the Commission as Vice-Chair of the fifty-sixth session at its 1st meeting, on 29 April 2022.

Vice-Chairs:

Fnu Imanuel (Indonesia)
Sylvia Paola Mendoza Elguea (Mexico)
Sarah Linton (Australia)
Monei Fetsi Future Rapuleng (Botswana)

49. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Monei Fetsi Future Rapuleng (Botswana), to serve as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

50. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2023/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
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, education and sustainable development.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

51. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2023/L.1).

E. Documentation

52. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-sixth session is listed in the annex and is also available on the website of the Population Division (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD56>).

Annex

List of documents before the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-sixth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
E/CN.9/2023/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.9/2023/2	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on population, education and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2023/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, education and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2023/4	3 (a)	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.9/2023/5	4	Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2022: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/CN.9/2023/CRP.1	4	Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2023 and programme performance for 2021: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs
E/CN.9/2023/L.1	2	Organization of work of the session
E/CN.9/2023/L.2/Rev.1	5	Provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2023/L.3	3 (a)	Draft decision on the special theme for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2023/L.4	4	Draft decision on the timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends
E/CN.9/2023/L.5	6	Draft report of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session
E/CN.9/2023/NGO/1–19	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

