



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
23 January 2014

Original: English

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### Commission on Population and Development

#### Forty-seventh session

7-11 April 2014

#### Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

### Framework of action for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

#### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [65/234](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development and taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues, responding to new challenges and to the changing development environment and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development.

The evidence presented by the review overwhelmingly supports the consensus reached at the International Conference on Population and Development that the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights are necessary preconditions to improving the development, dignity and well-being of all people and that sexual and reproductive health and rights, and an understanding of the implications of population dynamics, are critical foundations for sustainable development. Protecting and fulfilling the human rights of young people and investing in their high-quality education, effective livelihood skills, access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, including comprehensive sexuality education, in addition to employment opportunities, are necessary for the development of their resilience and create the conditions under which they can achieve their full potential.



The path to sustainability, outlined in the framework of action, demands better leadership and greater innovation: to extend human rights and protect all persons from human rights abuses, discrimination and violence, in order that all may have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from development; to invest in the capabilities and creativity of the world's adolescents and youth for their own sake and to ensure future growth and innovation; to ensure the protection, inclusion and equitable participation of older persons in society; to strengthen health systems to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health, so that all women can thrive and children can grow in a nurturing environment; to build sustainable cities that enrich urban and rural lives alike; to harness the benefits of migration and address its challenges; and to transform the global economy into one that will sustain the future of the planet and ensure a common future of human rights, dignity and well-being for all people in the years beyond 2014.

## I. Introduction

1. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in 1994, reflected a remarkable consensus among diverse States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders that the central focus of development is human beings. It also established that increasing access to health and education and protecting human rights, especially those of women and adolescents, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, would ultimately secure a better social and economic future and contribute to slower population growth. The Programme of Action was structured around a set of fundamental principles, defining a new paradigm for population and development that is people-centred and permeates all relevant dimensions of the human condition. It broke new ground also by endorsing a holistic approach to development, which incorporated a strong emphasis on the nexus of human well-being and environmental sustainability.

2. The Programme of Action redefined population policies away from achieving demographic targets and towards empowering people and securing conditions

**Uneven progress since 1994**

5. The evidence of the review overwhelmingly supports the validity of the consensus reached at the International Conference on Population and Development. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people living in extreme poverty as a share of the total population in developing countries fell by more than half (from 47 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010), meaning that almost 1 billion fewer people were living in extreme poverty. Large gains in primary school completion between 1999 and 2009 were achieved, especially among girls; 158 countries now have legislation on a minimum age of marriage at or above 18 years; maternal mortality worldwide fell by 47 per cent between 1990 and 2010; and global fertility fell by 23 per cent.

6. There has been a significant correlation between increasing female literacy, healthier families and stronger gross domestic product growth. The entry of women into the export manufacturing sector in parts of Asia has been one of the key drivers of that region's economic growth. Gains in the educational attainment of girls are also contributing to the success of Asia and Latin America in the knowledge-based economy. Many countries have experienced significant economic development, which has been accompanied by a continued decline in the global population growth rate (from 1.5 per cent per year in 1990-1995 to 1.1 per cent per year in 2010-2015).

7. Progress has been unequal and fragmented, however, and new challenges, realities and opportunities have emerged. For example, progress towards gender equality remains far from universal, with gender-based discrimination and violence continuing to plague all countries. Millions of early, forced and child marriages continue to be conducted in defiance of laws and international human rights obligations. Hundreds of millions of women live in countries in which domestic violence is not a crime, or where laws against it are not enforced. While all members of the population suffer in conditions of structural poverty, the threats to the survival aoorsearies imbeies in ext





allocations and development accountability benchmarking for almost 15 years. Recent reviews of the Goals, however, have highlighted the critical importance of overarching guiding principles such as human rights, equality and sustainability, which were missing from the Goals framework. Also missing were complementary and necessary policy areas, such as inclusive economic growth and a significantly greater and sustained investment in the social sector.

21. Investment across and within countries to redress social and economic disparities is required for inclusive economic, social and sustainable development. Support for groups that are at a structural disadvantage, including women of all ages, people living in poverty and other marginalized and vulnerable groups, is critical to reducing such inequalities. As the United Nations considers a new, global post-2015 development agenda, the goals, objectives and vision of the International Conference on Population and Development, in addition to the findings and recommendations of the review, should be integral to this dialogue.

#### **Population and development beyond 2014**

22. The operational review provides evidence that few Governments and their development partners have achieved either the deep and broad progress in specific sectors or the multisectoral implementation envisaged in the Programme of Action. In the health sector, for example, few countries have made measurable progress towards integrated sexual and reproductive health services or managed to provide comprehensive education on human sexuality to all adolescents and youth. Similarly, decades of attention to international migration notwithstanding, large numbers of migrants, whether documented or in an irregular situation, continue to be excluded from full participation in their societies of destination. In numerous examples across multiple sectors, development efforts continue to fail to ensure universal respect for human rights or consistent investment in the capabilities and dignity of disadvantaged individuals throughout the life course.

23. The results of the operational review point to a way of framing action in population and development beyond 2014 that is built on the five integrated thematic pillars of dignity and human rights, health, mobility and place, governance and accountability, and sustainability. While these aspirations are interlinked and reaffirm one another, they offer distinct organizing dimensions for reviewing the numerous principles, goals, objectives and actions contained within the 16 chapters of the Programme of Action.

24. At the centre of realizing dignity and human rights for all lay eradicating extreme poverty, ending discrimination and human rights violations and ensuring social inclusiveness. Current levels of economic inequality threaten future economic growth, the security of societies and the capacity of people to develop, adapt and innovate in response to changing environmental and other conditions. Discrimination against select population groups remains common in most countries, while discrimination against women is evident in all societies. The cost of discrimination is high, given that it negatively affects physical and mental health, educational attainment and productivity, among other things. Action is needed to eliminate discrimination and marginalization and promote a culture of respect for all. The principal message of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 — that the fulfilment of individual rights and capabilities is the foundation of sustainable development — is even more relevant today, with

ample evidence that investments in substa







studied. Nearly a quarter of men interviewed reported perpetrating rape against a

priorities for education over the coming 5 to 10 years, more than half of Governments highlighted the importance of improving quality standards in education, including the curriculum (61 per cent) and maximizing social inclusion, equal access and rights (55 per cent). Africa was the only region in which a higher proportion of Governments mentioned coverage, pointing towards the unfinished agenda of universal enrolment.

44. For youth overall, Governments responding to the global survey accorded priority to economic empowerment and employment (70 per cent) and social inclusion and education (both 56 per cent). Such priorities underscore the intersections between the right to productive employment and decent work and key links to education, training, social integration and mobility, taking into account gender equality. In addition, the regional review outcomes and the global review emphasized full and effective participation of young people, in addition to the importance of investing in young people as key agents of development and social change.

45. Providing access to decent work for young people is crucial for the progression towards wealthier economies, fairer societies and stronger democracies. This is a concern for both industrialized and developing countries. Of the estimated 197 million unemployed people in 2012, nearly 40 per cent were between 15 and 24 years of age. The global economy will need to create hundreds of millions of new,

with more than 20 per cent of the global population projected to be above 60 years of age by 2050.

48. While population ageing poses social, economic, cultural and other challenges to individuals, families and societies, it also presents opportunities. Many older persons continue to work and provide invaluable contributions to their families, communities and societies well into old age. As people live longer, however, concerns about the financial sustainability of public pensions, health care for older persons and old-age social care benefits, all of which need to be paid over longer periods, are leading to important debates over policy amendments. There are also concerns about the long-term viability of intergenerational social support systems, which are crucial to the well-being of both the older and younger generations. Not all older persons require support, nor do all persons of working age provide direct or indirect support to older persons. In fact, older persons in societies with generous pension schemes often provide substantial financial support to their adult children and grandchildren.

**49. Governments should ensure opportunities for flexible employment, lifelong learning and retraining, which are critical to enabling and encouraging older persons to remain in the labour market — for their own benefit, for that of their families and as an essential resource for successful economies that cannot afford to lose their experience and expertise.**

50. A large majority of the world's older persons have no formal social protection. Many older persons face discrimination, abuse and violence. Older women are particularly vulnerable. **Governments should ensure the social protection and income security of older persons, with particular consideration for older women, those living in isolation and those providing unpaid care, by extending pension systems and non-contributory allowances, by strengthening intergenerational solidarity and by ensuring the inclusion and equitable participation of older persons in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and plans that affect their lives.**

#### **Persons with disabilities**

51. Disability is a circumstance experienced by a majority of people in the world at some point in their lives — some throughout their lives, some for only a phase. While estimates vary, between 15 and 20 per cent of persons aged 15 years or older around the world are estimated to be living with a disability. Of those persons, between 2 and 4 per cent have significant or severe disabilities. Disability is experienced unevenly across countries, with higher-income countries less affected than poorer countries; within countries, women and older persons bear a disproportionate burden of disability. The number of persons with disabilities is growing as a result both of population ageing and the spread of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and dementia.

52. Although understudied, available evidence suggests that disability can be both a driver and a consequence of poverty. Studies in developed and developing countries have shown that disability hampers educational attainment and limits labour market participation. **Governments should monitor and eradicate all forms of discrimination in employment against persons with disabilities and develop enabling policies and programmes to ensure employment that is safe and secure and that provides a decent wage.**

53. Persons experiencing disabilities are more likely than able-bodied persons to experience violations of dignity and rights, including social exclusion, violence and prejudice. The implications of disability, including the need for social support, extend beyond the individual to households and families affected by disability, as reflected in the resources spent on health care, loss of income, social stigma and the need for caregiver support systems. **Governments should monitor and eradicate all forms of direct and indirect discrimination towards persons with disabilities in order to meet their needs in education, employment, rehabilitation, housing, transportation, recreation and communal life. Governments should also design national programmes to support family caretakers and to mitigate the social isolation experienced by many persons with disabilities.**

**Indigenous peoples**

54. There are an estimated 370 million indigenous people worldwide. Many

57. For ethnic and racial minorities, historic and sustained discrimination can lead to intergenerational cycles of poverty and disadvantage. Estimates of global ethnic

**Social cost of discrimination**

60. The past 20 years have witnessed enormous leaps in the scientific understanding of how discrimination and stigma affect both physical and mental health, suggesting that a climate of discrimination curtails the well-being and productivity of persons and nations. Nevertheless, physical harassment, bullying and violence are not the only causes of compromised health and productivity. Similar effects are prompted by pervasive negative stereotypes, the experience of stigma and the fear of discrimination. The costs to society of having substantial proportions of its people undergoing a sustained struggle to protect and uphold their dignity and well-being should be a concern for political leaders, given the evident loss of human resources to discrimination (including the loss to health and productivity) and the potential for increased social instability where human suffering is not addressed.

**61. Comprehensive measures are needed to ensure non-discrimination, equality and the realization of human potential for all population groups. Governments should tackle the multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, disempowerment and discrimination through commitment to equality and non-discrimination for all persons, without distinction of any kind, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights, including the right to gainful employment, residence and access to services, in addition to**



education and information, so that individuals can enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health. Inequalities and

67. The expanding window between the onset of puberty and the age of first marriage may leave a growing number of unmarried young persons without access to much-needed sexual and reproductive health services. Health systems must adapt to ensure that services are accessible and appealing to adolescents and young people so that their needs can be met, irrespective of their marital status.

68. Most adolescents and youth do not yet have access to comprehensive sexuality education, notwithstanding repeated intergovernmental agreements to provide it, support from the United Nations system and considerable project-level experience in a wide range of countries and research showing its effectiveness. Such programmes provide both accurate information about and skills for personal growth and development; puberty; pregnancy and childbirth; contraception and prevention of HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections; interpersonal relationships, human rights and gender equality; and non-discrimination and zero tolerance for violence and coercion. Evidence shows that such comprehensive sexuality education has positive impacts on the knowledge and health-related behaviour of adolescents and youth, in addition to their attitudes about gender equality and norms.

69. Most adolescents also increasingly face pressure towards other activities that threaten their lifelong health, including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol or drugs, which can culminate in diabetes, heart disease and other major causes of premature death in adulthood. Other risk-taking that can result in injury or death, in addition to mental health problems, also tends to begin during adolescence and young adulthood. Increasingly, sexuality education experts and programmes are recognizing that programmes can be expanded to encompass these vital areas of learning, skills-building and decision-making.

**70. Governments should ensure equitable access to high-quality health services for young people, including through digital and reproductive health information, beginning**

including sexual and reproductive health. This percentage increases to 80 per cent in the case of Europe and remains around the world average for the remaining regions (Asia, 66 per cent; Oceania, 62 per cent; Americas, 58 per cent; Africa, 55 per cent).

72. The Programme of Action recognized that sexual and reproductive health services must be designed to meet multiple and overlapping health needs for each person. Furthermore, these services need to be available without coercion or discrimination on any grounds, irrespective of age, marital status or other circumstances. Among the sexual and reproductive health services most needed, especially by women and girls, are contraception; maternal health services throughout pregnancy, delivery and postpartum; safe abortion and treatment for the complications of unsafe abortion, including post-abortion care; prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS; and prevention, timely detection and treatment of cancers of the female reproductive system.

**73. Efforts to strengthen health systems and to fulfil and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights should accord priority to and deliver this diverse mix of health services to meet the varied needs of individuals, especially women and adolescents, throughout the life course and should aim to improve the quality, accessibility and acceptability of such services, including through their effective integration.**

#### **Contraception and unmet need for family planning**

74. Progress notwithstanding, the ability to exercise reproductive rights is neither universal nor equitable. Contraceptive prevalence among married or in-union women rose globally from 58 per cent in 1994 to 64 per cent in 2012. Nevertheless, serious gaps continue to exist by wealth, age, marital status and other characteristics. It is estimated that more than 200 million women worldwide are not using modern contraception, even though they wish to delay or stop childbearing.

75. Global unmet need for modern methods of contraception among married or in-union women declined modestly from 21 per cent in 1994 to 19 per cent in 2012. A total of 90 per cent of women with unmet need live in developing countries, with the greatest unmet need among those in Africa. In 28 sub-Saharan African countries, less than 25 per cent of married or in-union women use a modern method of contraception, with unmet need for modern methods as high as 40 per cent or more. **Governments should take the measures necessary to provide a full range of safe, reliable and good-quality contraceptive s**

77. Given that method preferences and needs vary by individual and may shift during the life course, a range of distinct contraceptive method types is necessary. Moreover, adding method choices typically increases contraceptive prevalence overall. Nevertheless, many women live in countries in which contraceptive delivery and use is dominated by a single method. **A mix of contraceptive methods should be available and accessible to meet the diverse needs of individuals, so that they can choose the type of method that is best for their circumstances. Programme decisions about contraceptive method mix, in particular as regards contraceptive sterilization, intrauterine devices and hormonal implants, must be carefully considered in the light of the capacity of the health system and the skills of service providers in order to ensure the highest quality of clinical care. In addition, outreach strategies and communications content must be designed to facilitate free and informed decision-making about the use of contraception.**

#### **Maternal health**

78. Since 1994, the maternal mortality ratio has declined globally by 47 per cent, from 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 210 in 2010. All regions have made progress, with the largest re

**to counselling to all persons in need, regardless of age and marital status, and should provide information about pregnancy and contraception through the health system, civil society groups, community outreach and school and youth programmes that foster gender-equitable values.**

81. The global survey found that 50 per cent of countries had tackled the issue of providing access to safe abortion services to the extent of the law during the past five years. A larger proportion of countries (65 per cent) indicated that they had addressed the issue of preventing and managing the consequences of unsafe abortion. Significant gains have been made in reducing deaths stemming from unsafe abortion since 1994, most notably in countries that have used the technical and policy guidance for safe abortion from the World Health Organization and the guidelines for post-abortion care. Those countries have made changes in law and practice to tackle abortion as a public health concern, including through access to safe abortion and to post-abortion care and counselling. **Governments should urgently take specific measures to further reduce abortion-related complications and deaths by providing non-discriminatory post-abortion care that meets the World Health Organization guidelines. Governments are encouraged to remove legal barriers preventing women and adolescent girls from gaining access to safe abortion, including by revising restrictions within existing abortion laws, and, where legal, should ensure the availability of safe and good-quality abortion services in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls.**

#### **Sexually transmitted infections**

82. New cases of sexually transmitted infections increased by more than 10 per cent between 2005 and 2008, owing largely to a rise in trichomoniasis and gonorrhoea. The highest rates of sexually transmitted infections are generally found

of decline, new infections have risen in

### Non-communicable diseases

86. In all regions except Africa, deaths from non-communicable diseases exceed those caused by maternal, perinatal, communicable and nutritional conditions combined. In developing countries, where communicable diseases continue to account for a sizable proportion of deaths, mortality relating to non-communicable diseases is occurring at earlier ages than in developed countries, taxing health systems with a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases are responsible for most deaths from non-communicable diseases, while mental health disorders also account for a substantial burden of disability. The growing burden of non-communicable diseases reflects population growth and ageing, in addition to significant changes in risk behaviours, including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, poor nutrition and obesity. Recent intergovernmental agreements have emphasized the paramount importance of prevention in both national and international efforts to tackle non-communicable diseases. **Governments should promote health literacy at all ages, focusing on the prevention of non-communicable diseases, healthy eating and nutrition, stress management and mental health care, the risks of tobacco and other substance abuse and the benefits of physical activity and exercise.**

### Health system strengthening

87. Decades of unprecedented medical advances and innovations in health care notwithstanding, stark inequalities persist in the accessibility and quality of health systems across and within countries. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia continue to have some of the least accessible and most fragile health systems, as measured by indicators such as health worker density, coverage of critical services, health information systems, commodity stock-outs and quality assurance. Within many middle-income and high-income countries, pockets of weak and poor health system coverage or low-quality services abound for particular areas or populations, such as for the poor, older persons, rural residents and residents of urban slums and uninsured or undocumented persons.

88. Further progress in the realization of health for all persons, and of sexual and reproductive health in particular, can be achieved only with sustained attention to strengthening the reach, affordability, comprehensiveness and quality of services and information delivered by health systems. **Governments, with the support of donors, should accord the highest priority to strengthening the structure, organization and management of health systems for all levels of health care, together with the development and maintenance of necessary infrastructure such as roads and clean water.**

89. There is a strong link between low health worker density and poor health outcomes, impeding progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Globally, health workforce shortages are estimated to number 7.2 million, with the most serious shortfalls in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. The global distribution of health workers is such that countries with the highest disease burdens typically have the fewest health workers per capita. Shortages are exacerbated by suboptimal spatial distribution within countries, with a greater proportion of health workers, especially the most highly skilled, concentrated in urban centres. **Governments, with their development partners, should review and improve**

**policies and funding for training, recruiting and rewarding health-care workers, including sexual and reproductive health service providers, midwives and other skilled birth attendants; increase their numbers, strengthen their capacity and enable them to respond to changing health needs, with particular attention to equitable geographic distribution; and ensure a sustainable health workforce that is responsive to the changing needs of the population.**

#### **IV. Mobility and place**

90. Place has both social and spatial dimensions. A secure place is essential to human development, just as human security — freedom from hunger, fear, violence and discrimination — is a precondition for the development and well-being of all persons. A secure place for people on the move is also essential, underscoring the importance of giving attention to international migration and to planning for rapidly growing cities that can integrate and support rural-urban migrants and the urban poor. The core international human rights instruments protect both rights relating to human security, through the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions and those relating to mobility, including a person's right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence and the freedom to leave any country.

91. The scale of the human population living without a safe home underscores the urgent need to enhance global attention to human security. At the end of 2012, at least 10 million persons were stateless and some 45 million persons had been displaced within countries or across international borders. In addition, an estimated 863 million persons were living in slums, meaning that they lacked access to improved sources of water or sanitation, durable housing or secure tenure. Furthermore, millions of persons worldwide were homeless. **To tackle these challenges, Governments should abide by their international obligations and redouble their efforts to find durable solutions for displaced persons. Governments should also promote inclusive land use planning and linked urban and rural health systems and address the need for safe and secure housing.**

##### **Internal migration**

92. Whether people move within or across international borders, be it permanently, temporarily or cyclically, their underlying motivations remain the same: to improve their well-being and life circumstances, to seek employment, to form or maintain a family or to find security. While accurate estimates of internal migration are difficult to obtain, analysis of available data suggests that in 2005 more than three quarters of a billion people worldwide were living in their home countries but outside their region of birth. Increasingly, women are migrating on their own or as heads of households and principal wage earners. Migration tends to be selective, given that migrants from the poorer strata of rural society often lack the resources necessary to move. In situations of mass displacement owing to war, famine or natural disasters, however, entire populations are affected.

93. With most people moving for a variety of reasons, it is difficult to make a strict distinction between voluntary migration and forced displacement. Movement associated with natural disasters is often short-term and local, whereas displacement



as a result of political crises or conflict is more likely to be international and long-term. Movement, whether short-term or long-term, whether voluntary or involuntary, demands resources: resources that the poor are often lacking. **Governments should support people's right to move within their country as a means of improving their lives and adapting to changing social, economic, political and environmental conditions, should prevent and find lasting solutions for situations of forced displacement and should provide all internal migrants with equal opportunities and access to social protection.**

### **Urbanization**

94. The world's urban areas are currently growing at a rate of more than 1.3 million people each week. Globally, most population growth will occur within urban areas over the coming 30 years. Since 2008, for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population has been living in urban areas. Urban settlements vary widely in size: more than 50 per cent of urban residents live in cities or towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, 40 per cent of all urban-dwellers reside in cities with between 500,000 and 10 million inhabitants and about 10 per cent of the urban population is living in megacities with populations of more than 10 million. Between 1990 and 2010, 90 per cent of the growth in the urban population occurred in developing countries, where the population of urban-dwellers increased from 35 to 46 per cent of the total population. The world's urban areas are projected to gain 2.6 billion inhabitants by the middle of the century. Meanwhile, the rural population globally is projected to begin decreasing, with an expected 300 million fewer rural inhabitants in 2050 than today.

95. The sheer scale of urbanization in the coming decades creates unprecedented opportunities and challenges and requires innovative responses. The benefits of proximity, concentration and economies of scale in urban areas facilitate the delivery of basic health, welfare and education services, while maximizing energy and resource-use efficiency. Cities provide major economic advantages for work and entrepreneurship and similar advantages for social and political participation and empowerment. Nevertheless, the rise of urban inequality has also led to increased marginalization in cities, including through the expansion of urban slums, has exacerbated urban sprawl and has limited th



100. Migration is a key enabler for social and economic development in countries of origin and destination. It is also important for the human development of migrants and their families, enlarging their capabilities, opportunities and choices. Migrants are also important for the transmission of what are known as “social remittances”, including the transfer of new ideas, information and technology. There are, however, also social costs relating to migration, including for children and older persons who remain in countries of origin, in addition to the challenge of the brain drain. The migration of highly educated or skilled segments of the population can have a negative impact on development, especially in small developing countries. In destination countries, the skills of migrants are often underutilized owing to difficulties in obtaining legal documentation and recognition for qualifications acquired abroad. **Governments should embrace the contributions that migrants and migration make to countries of origin and destination, take on the challenges associated with migration and improve data collection and dissemination on the contributions of migration and migrants.**

101. As the number of international migrants continues to rise, destination countries are confronted with the challenge of promoting their social, political and economic integration. Integration is often best achieved at a young age, underscoring the importance of education, services and full participation for young migrants in host societies. Racism and xenophobia, fuelled by the global economic crisis, have strained relations between migrant and non-migrant communities in a number of countries. **Governments should promote and effectively protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status. Governments should also provide social protection to all migrants, combat discrimination, hatred and other crimes perpetrated against migrants, safeguard their physical integrity and dignity and the exercise of their beliefs and cultural values in conformity with human rights principles.**

### **Refugees**

102. The number of refugees worldwide, which peaked in 1992 at almost 18 million, was 15 million people in 2012. The countries whence the largest numbers of refugees originated in 2012, as reported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, include Afghanistan (2.6 million), Somalia (1.1 million) and Iraq (750,000). The three main developing countries hosting refugees were Pakistan (1.6 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (870,000) and Kenya (565,000). Jordan and Lebanon have been particularly affected by the

refugees. The continued presence of large, protracted refugee situations is a stark reminder of the need for the international community to redouble its efforts to provide durable solutions to the plight of refugees. **Governments, supported by the international community,**

### Strengthening the knowledge sector

107. Considerable weaknesses exist in the knowledge sector relating to population and development in countries of the global South, including incomplete or unreliable data from civil registration, sample surveys and censuses, limited use of innovations such as geographic information systems and, more generally, an underdeveloped capacity for using data for development. There is a pressing need to strengthen capacity in demographic studies and related social sciences and to improve productive linkages between population and health researchers and development planners and policymakers, allowing population data to foster knowledge-driven governance at the national and subnational levels.

108. Since 1994, new institutions relating to the objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development have been created, in particular in the areas of population dynamics and sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment and adolescents and youth. New types of data have begun to be collected and new methodologies and technologies have been adopted for the collection of conventional data. While there is significant potential yet to be realized, in particular with regard to upgrading systems of data collection, processing and dissemination for greater efficiencies and cost savings, progress in many countries has not yet been sufficient to foster effective knowledge-driven governance and development planning and strategies. **Governments must urgently strengthen their leadership in overall planning for the knowledge sector, including resource allocation and investments in human resources.**

109. Pressing needs in the knowledge sector include increasing the number and quality of human resources, strengthening civil registration and other administrative data sources and migration statistics, integrating new methods and technologies, circulating and disseminating data and democratizing data use and ensuring that population data inform policy decisions. A shift should be made from dependence on survey data to a balanced use of all relevant data sources, including civil registration and other administrative data sources. **Governments and international**

various levels of government, and that women have opportunities to serve in legal institutions as lawyers and judges.

111. Since the International Conference on Population and Development, several countries have established separate chambers with female judges for adjudicating cases of violence against women. When law enforcement positions are open to women, they can play significant community roles and serve as focal points for women facing abuse. **Governments should guarantee and facilitate the active participation of all people, including through non-governmental actors, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes and in the high-quality delivery of basic social and health services to all. Representatives of those living in poverty, of groups who frequently experience discrimination, exclusion or marginalization and of other intended beneficiaries of development programmes should be intentionally included and empowered. Institutions, including international organizations, should devise mechanisms to enable such groups to be part of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.**

#### **Building better accountability systems**

improving the well-being of the poor, at high income levels the benefits of further consumption increases are far more limited. While global population growth is slowing, levels of production and consumption have risen and are expected to continue to rise as long as natural resources can sustain them. Ever-rising levels of consumption by the wealthiest, coupled with a rapid expansion in the number of persons with sufficient resources to consume at levels that adversely affect the environment, threaten to destabilize essential environmental systems, in particular those relating to climate.

115. The risks of ignoring the planet's environmental constraints in pursuit of ever-rising production and consumption levels are becoming more apparent. Some experts have suggested that human activities have already surpassed or will soon surpass ecological thresholds with regard to critical Earth systems and natural cycles. Among the most urgent concerns are threats to biodiversity, the nitrogen cycle and climate change, with other serious concerns including degradation of land and soils, excess production of phosphorus, depletion of stratospheric ozone, ocean acidification, depletion and degradation of freshwater resources, changes in land use and land cover and air and chemical pollution. **A fundamental change to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption is required to slow the depletion and degradation of natural resources, to refocus development aspirations on achieving human rights and dignity for all and to enrich and sustain prospects for economic and social well-being for all future generations.**

116. Technology has historically been relied upon to relieve natural resource constraints and environmental impacts. Technological progress can and should contribute to efforts aimed at reconciling economic growth, consumption and environmental resources. While some technologies are proven and being deployed widely, innovation to develop new technologies will be critical to achieving the ambitious reductions in environmental impacts that will be required in coming decades. Improvements in both energy efficiency and conservation are necessary for a sustainable future. **Governments should remove all barriers to sustainability through increased use of clean technology and innovation and should promote and develop sustainable production and consumption patterns through research into clean technologies and technical cooperation between countries and regions, including mutually agreed sharing of all relevant technologies.**

117. Change in consumption begins at the societal level. Governments should ensure the provision of efficient basic public infrastructure and services, including clean water, a strong, functioning public health system that is accessible to all, universal public education, energy-efficient public transport systems, regulated and reliable utilities and affordable housing. Similarly, Governments should ensure the provision of incentives to facilitate a transition to greener production systems while reducing subsidies for non-renewable energies. The provision of such services and





Subsequently, it began to increase at a more rapid pace, reaching \$7.3 billion in 2005 and \$10.5 billion in 2008. Thereafter, the funding level increased much more

generate the resources necessary to finance their own population and development programmes, relying to a large extent on donor assistance.

overwhelmingly supports the consensus of the International Conference on Population and Development that the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights are necessary preconditions to improving the dignity and well-being of people and to empowering them to exercise their reproductive rights and that sexual and reproductive health and rights, and an understanding of the implications of population dynamics, are critical foundations for sustainable development. In addition, safeguarding the rights of young people and investing in their high-quality education, decent employment opportunities, effective livelihood skills and access to sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education strengthen young people's resilience and create the conditions under which they can achieve their full potential. Building a world that ensures the dignity of people therefore creates a solid foundation for the achievement of the global collective goal of sustainable development. By updating and advancing the rights-based agenda laid out in the Programme of Action, Governments can achieve the goals set forth in 1994, while building a stronger foundation for integrated and sustainable development into the future.

#### **Follow-up action**

131. Effective collective action on the global challenges outlined in the framework, on the basis of the findings of the review, will require the leadership of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, in undertaking a review of the existing institutional and governance mechanisms for tackling global issues with a view to ensuring effective coordination, integration and coherence at the national, regional and global levels consistent with the scale of the comprehensive response required to ensure rights-based sustainable development.

132. The General Assembly, at its special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, has the defining opportunity to act on the findings and recommendations on the operational review for the further implementation of the Programme of Action beyond 2014. The Assembly is invited to consider ways to integrate the findings and recommendations of the review into the initial consideration of the post-2015 development agenda and into the preparations for the special session, in order to fully extend the principles of equality, dignity and rights to future generations and ensure sustainable development.

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