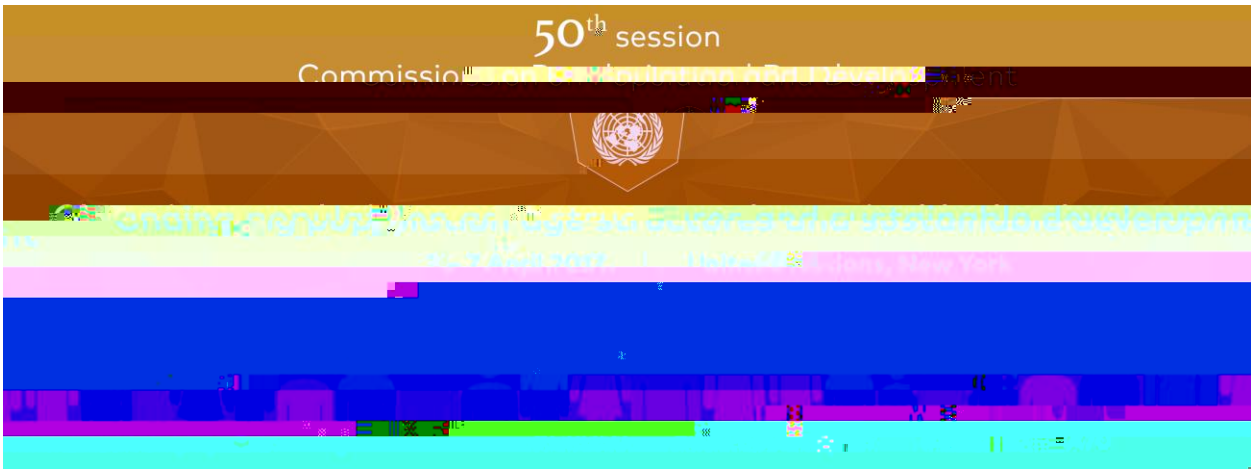
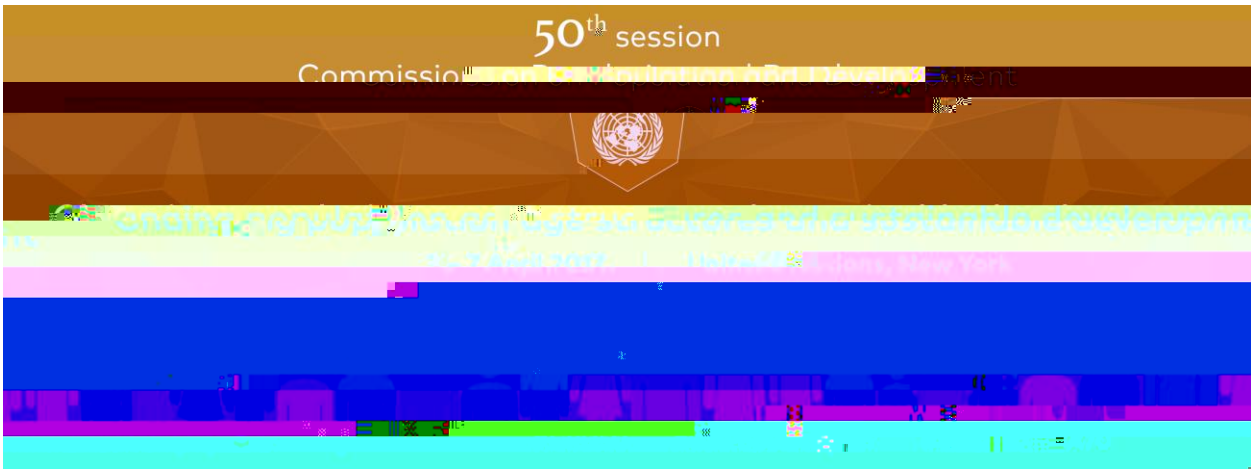


Contribution of the 50th session of the
Commission on Population and Development to the
2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development

New York, 10-19 July 2017

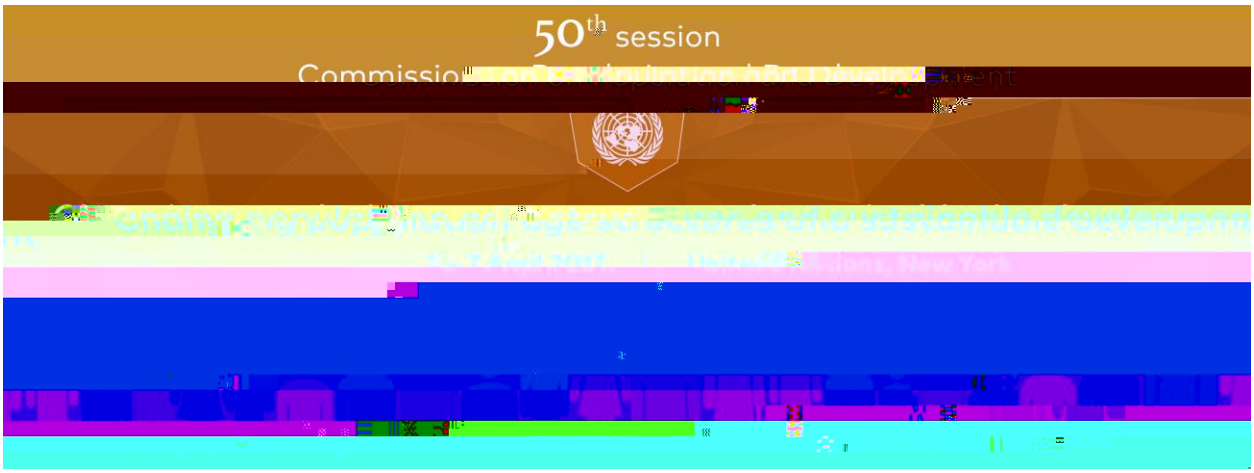
The Commission on Population and Development held its 50th session on 15 April 2016 and from 3 to 7 April 2017. Its special theme was



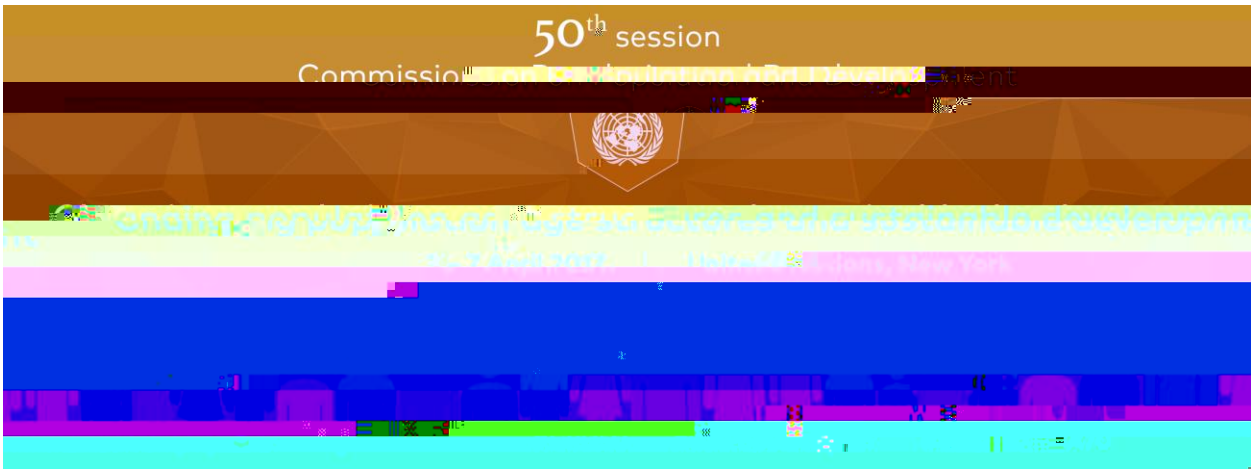
housing, water and sanitation." Further, Principle 7 of the Programme of Action proclaims: "All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of *eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development*, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world ...." [emphasis added]. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda has focused global attention on the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind", and is grounded in the respect for human rights which has been at the centre of the Programme of Action for more than two decades.

Across the board, the 50th session of the Commission on Population and Development emphasized that taking account of changing population age structures as part of development planning is essential for achieving the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the eradication of poverty and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The reports of the Secretary-General documented the changes taking place in the age distribution of human populations. On a global scale, these changes include a decline in the number



A final area of focus related to “leave no one behind” was the centrality of strong population



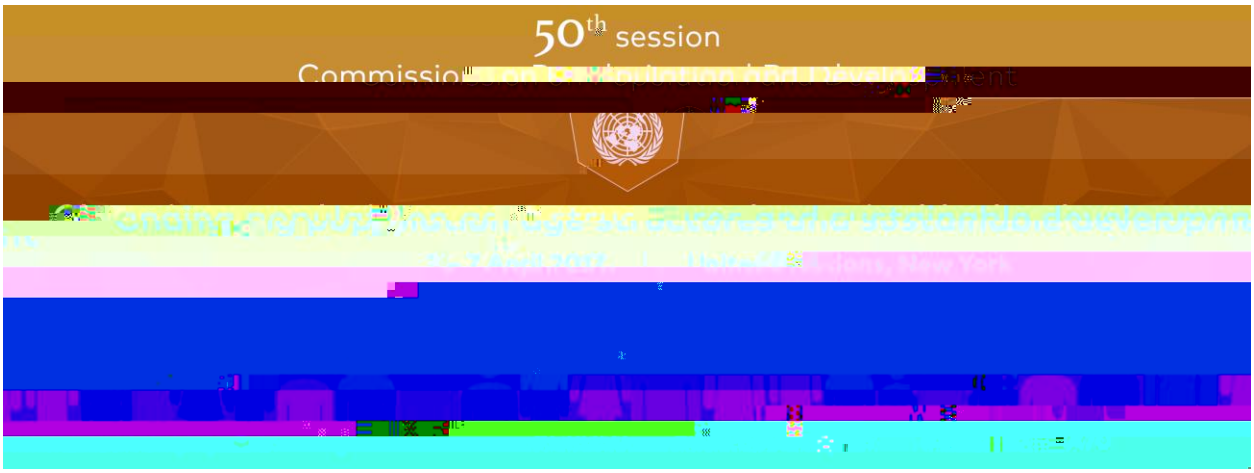
movements were affecting the culture, customs and traditions in host countries. There was also pressure on labour markets, with a growing number of young refugees seeking employment in the informal sectors of the economy, sometimes competing with low-skilled native-born workers.

However, Member States also remarked on the skills and experiences of migrants and refugees, which could benefit the labour market, and society in general, in countries of destination. Overall, Member States called on the international community to come together by providing not only short-term humanitarian assistance but also long-term development assistance that would benefit the migrants and refugees and the host communities. Member States expressed their support for protecting and promoting the human rights of all migrants and for facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, recognizing that international migration tends to make the populations of host societies younger and thus attenuates the speed and impact of population ageing.

Some Member States also remarked on the challenges linked to climate change and pointed out that children, youth, girls, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, in particular those living in poverty, experience differential, often heightened, climate-related vulnerabilities. They called on the international community to make strong commitments to mitigate climate change and to establish participatory adaptation mechanisms, plans and programmes to reach the most vulnerable people affected by climate change.

A few Member States remarked that security concerns and the threat of terrorism have made it difficult to sustain progress in social and economic development. Security, they noted, is the bedrock that underlies development, including for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Maybe here we can a bit reflect of the importance of goal 16, quite related.

5.



During the 50th session of the Commission, Member States emphasized the importance of strengthening the demographic evidence base for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In practical terms, upholding the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind" and of "reaching the furthest behind first" will require data disaggregated by individual characteristics, including age and sex, which can be used to locate people in vulnerable situation and to document their circumstances. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the high-level political forum reiterate the commitment to support the collection, dissemination and analysis of demographic data disaggregated by age, sex, and other relevant characteristics. Also, attention for particular age groups that are often not measured, such as 10-14 year-olds and persons aged 65 or over, is of paramount importance.

For more detailed policy recommendations, see also section 6.

6. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication

Anticipate demographic trends and their likely impacts on society and actively plan ahead, in particular regarding long-term shifts in the population distribution by age, keeping in mind that children and older persons are vulnerable by virtue of their age;

Empower women and girls and promote gender equality,