Population and Sustainable Development: Synergies between ICPD and Agenda 2030

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ICPD+20 Review in UNECE

Focus on 4 “Hot Questions”:

1. Is population ageing a threat to UNECE countries?
2. Is migration a threat or an opportunity for development?
3. Is fertility in the region too low?
4. Are ECE societies becoming less equal?
New “hot questions” asked today:

• Has Population disappeared from the international policy agenda?
  “Population” or “demographic” are not mentioned a single time in Agenda 2030. The topic is hardly discussed in IPCC reports.

• Population and Climate Change:
  What can be done to keep world population below 10 billion? How to enhance the resilience/adaptive capacity of populations to already unavoidable climate change?

• Migration: Does Europe need migrants for demographic reasons?
  Studying the longer-term implications of different possible migration patterns by age, sex, education and labour force participation.
Cairo 1994 ICPD:

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development

1.9 The population and development objectives and actions of the present Programme of Action will collectively address the critical challenges and interrelationships between population and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development. In order to do so, adequate mobilization of resources at
Objectives

3.4 The objectives are to fully integrate population concerns into:
   (a) Development strategies, planning, decision-making and resource allocation at all levels and in all regions, with the goal of meeting the needs, and improving the quality of life, of present and future generations;
   (b) All aspects of development planning in order to promote social justice and to eradicate poverty through sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development.

3.7 Governments should establish the requisite internal institutional mechanisms and enabling environment, at all levels of society, to ensure that population factors are appropriately addressed within the decision-making and administrative processes of all relevant government agencies responsible for economic, environmental and social policies and programmes.
Agenda 2030: 17 Goals, 169 Targets
ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States
Education-specific period TFR in 58 DHS countries (multiple time points)
Chart 1. Historical trend and projections according to the medium scenario (SSP2) for the world population by six levels of educational attainment (see color coding). The additional lines superimposed...
Implementing SDG3 and SDG4 leads to significantly lower world population growth than in the case of the medium scenario.

**Fig. 1.** Future world population growth as projected according to the three SSP scenarios, the range of SDG scenarios presented here, and the probabilistic ranges given by the UN population projections.
EC-JRC/IIASA Centre of Expertise on Population and Migration

IIASA and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC) have launched a new research partnership to provide science-based knowledge on migration and demography to support EU policy.
Female labour force participation rates for all EU28 countries combined, by education, age and sex, 2015

Source: Adapted from Loichinger (2015)
Education specific labour force projections for the EU

Total labour force in EU26 countries, 2003-2053, by scenario, accounting for education (solid lines) or not (dotted lines)

Source: Adapted from Loichinger (2015)
Alternative economic dependency ratios in EU26 countries, 2008-2053, accounting for education (solid lines) or not (dotted lines)
How do alternative migration scenarios change the future economic dependency ratio?

Migration scenarios:

**Medium**: Average in- and out-migration rates of the past 60 years at the national level

**Double**: Double these rates

**Zero**: No migration

NB: Constant, equalisation and Swedish scenario refer to the underlying participation scenario. Medium, Double Migration, Zero Migration and Low fertility refer to the population scenario that participation rates are combined with.
New “hot questions” asked today

• Has population disappeared from the international policy agenda?
  
  Yes, to some extent, as it is wrongly considered as “too controversial”. A multi-dimensional population framework with a focus on education and health is uncontroversial and “does the trick” in producing reduced population growth.

• What can help keep world population below 10 billion?
  
  Implementing SDG3 and SDG4.

• Migration: Does Europe need migrants for demographic reasons?
  
  Migration policies are political decisions. But demographers should not offer simplistic arguments, rather consider heterogeneity (by age, education, LFP) of native and migrant populations to provide appropriate scientific background for political decision-making.
A 21st Century Population Policy Paradigm:

Fostering the Human Resource Base for Sustainable Development

Policies that strengthen education and health can lead to:

• **Empowerment of women and men of all ages, in all settings.**
• Better ability to cope with consequences of population ageing.
• Better integration of migrants and fewer inequalities.
• Lower child mortality, better reproductive health and lower fertility in current high-fertility countries.
• **Sustainable Development through higher mitigative and adaptive capacity to environmental change.**