

Bali Statement of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Dynamics and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Bali, 23-24 March 2013

1. We, Indonesian and international experts in population and development, met in Bali, Indonesia, for the Expert Group Meeting on Population Dynamics and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
2. We reaffirm that people are at the centre of sustainable development and that sustainable development must improve the lives and livelihoods of both present and future generations. To this end, we must systematically collect and use data on the number, location, age and sex distribution of the population.
3. We recognize that population dynamics affects all three pillars of sustainable development, and thus urge countries to address and integrate population dynamics into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
4. We note that population mega-trends—continued population growth, population ageing, urbanization and migration—constitute important developmental challenges and opportunities in the 21st century. Population dynamics affect economic development, employment, income distribution, poverty, social protection and pensions; they raise the stakes in our efforts to ensure universal access to health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy; and they put increasing pressures on the planet's finite resources, contributing to climate change and challenging environmental sustainability.
5. We recognize that these linkages are influenced by advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and young people to enable them to make free and informed decisions about reproduction, sexuality, marriage and mobility as well as their participation in social, economic and political life within their communities and countries. We recognize that such progress is rooted in the ability to exercise recognized political, economic, and social rights.
6. We acknowledge that population dynamics not only influence development at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels but also are affected by them. We thus encourage local authorities, governments and inter-governmental agencies/organizations to take population dynamics into account while formulating global, regional, national and sub-national, rural, urban, and sectoral development strategies and programmes.
7. We emphasize that we can address and harness population dynamics through rights-based and gender-responsive policies, which ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all, eliminate discrimination, coercion and violence, and promote inclusive and participatory approaches to development planning.

Invest in human capital throughout the life course.

- Ensure the right of universal access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health, providing available, accessible, acceptable, and affordable quality services.
- Increase coverage and quality of education and training at all levels, and promote the development of life skills, including comprehensive sexuality education.

- Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as early and forced marriage.
- Provide increased levels of social protection, including pensions, together with suitable infrastructure for the disadvantaged.
- Promote policies that enable people to balance their roles as workers and care-givers.

Promote the developmental benefits of migration.

- Reinforce and establish bilateral, regional and global partnerships on migration to progressively reduce barriers on movement.
- Protect and fulfill the rights of all migrants, including displaced persons and victims of trafficking.
- Foster integration and reintegration of migrants and returning migrants.
- Anticipate and prepare for migration related to climate change and disaster risk reduction in vulnerable coastal areas, especially cities.
- Ensure migrants are able to save and transfer money securely and at low cost, and provide incentives to invest in origins and destinations for sustainable development.

Create livable and sustainable cities for growing populations.

- Enhance the economic, social and cultural amenities of smaller- and medium-sized cities in order to promote more balanced growth.
- Ensure affordable access to land, housing and all essential services, with special attention to the poor.
- Minimize cities' environmental impact by managing urban sprawl and promoting environmentally-friendly housing, transport, utilities and other public services.
- Encourage coordination and sharing of information and policy implementation among all levels and sectors of government, including local administrations.

Collect, analyze and use population data and projections for development.

- Use population data and projections to formulate development strategies, goals, targets and policies, and to monitor and address inequalities.
- Employ population projections in spatial planning for rural, urban and peri-urban areas.
- Strengthen capacity at all levels to collect, analyze and use population-based data.
- Strengthen collection of data through surveys, vital registration and service statistics.
- Make demographic, socio-economic and environmental data publicly accessible.

Create collaborative partnerships to address population dynamics.

- Strengthen technical and financial assistance to address and harness population dynamics with a focus on the countries with the greatest need.
- Promote new development partnerships, including South-South cooperation, to address challenges associated with population growth, population aging, migration and urbanization, and to foster the exchange of best practices on sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning.
- Facilitate the sharing of data, information and knowledge in population dynamics taking advantage of the continuing advancement of technologies, especially regarding evaluated practices and interventions.
- Strengthen the role of the private sector in contributing to the financing of capacity building, especially with respect to data, including applied demography.