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Commission on Population and Development Background Guide 2023

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). This year's staff is: Director Emma Bott and Assistant Director Cristina Sedano. Emma Bott (she/her) has a Bachelor of Management and a JD while currently working on her Master of International Public Policy. She is currently a practicing lawyer in family, criminal, civil, immigration, refugee, animal and wills and estates law. Cristina Sedano (she/her) has two bachelor's degrees (Environmental Studies and Geography) and a masters degree (Social Sciences and Globalization with a Sustainability concentration). Cristina currently works as an Environmental Scientist for the California State Water Resources Control Board.

The topics under discussion for CPD are:

1. Urbanization and a Growing Human Population
2. Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production in a World of 8 Billion People

The CPD was established by ECOSOC in 1946 with the focus of human development and population-related social issues. The CPD provides follow-up action on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (PoA) adopted in 1994. The research and subsequent recommendations of the CPD make them a leader in debates involving population trends. Policy work is the focus of the CPD. The CPD held its fifty-sixth session from April 10-14, 2023 and the fifty-seventh session is scheduled to occur on April 29, 2024 to May 3, 2024.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a [position paper](#). Guidelines are available in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

The [NMUN website](#) has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:

1. The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretary-General Zack Parker at usgzack.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Ana Williamson at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,
Emma Bott, Director
Cristina Sedano, Assistant Director



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Committee Overview

Introduction

On 15 November, 2022, the world population reached 8 billion people.¹ Due to the rapid population growth, it is essential for the international community to identify and monitor population growth, population ageing, migration, and urbanization.² The Programme of Action (PoA), adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, identifies the links between a myriad of population and development issues, including accessibility for older populations and persons with disabilities, migrants, sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and sustainable development.³ The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the PoA.⁴ CPD continues to lead debates about population trends and serves as a critical body that conducts research on these issues and provides suggestions to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).⁵

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The roots of CPD are found in the Population Commission, established by ECOSOC in 1946, aiming to offer a platform for Member States, civil society, and other key stakeholders to discuss international issues on human development and population-related social challenges.⁶ As one of the ten functional commissions of ECOSOC, the Population Commission was mandated to follow-up on the 1994 PoA.⁷ The body was renamed that year to CPD to highlight its comprehensive approach to addressing issues related to the challenges of population and development, as outlined in the PoA.⁸

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive, the mandate of CPD can be summarized as:

- **CPD will generally:** conduct studies on population and development themes; request United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) or the Secretary-General to conduct research; monitor, review, and assess the PoA; contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; provide policy recommendations on population and development for both ECOSOC and the UN system as a whole.⁹
- **CPD will not generally:** request individual Member States or non-governmental-organizations to take certain action; take direct action to address the identified issues.¹⁰

Governance, Funding, and Structure

The Commission comprises 47 members elected to serve four-year terms following a specific geographic distribution, with 12 seats for African states, 11 Asian-Pacific states, five Eastern European states, nine

¹ United Nations Population Fund. #8BillionStrong. 2022.

² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/423)*. 2019.

³ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014.

⁴ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2018/2)*. 2018.

⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d.

⁶ Ibid; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Resolution 3 (III) Population Commission (E/RES/3 (III))*. 1946. p. 1.

⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d.

⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014. pp. viii-xiii.

⁹ United Nations, Conference on Population and Development. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8)*. 2016.; United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994.

¹⁰ United Nations, Conference on Population and Development. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8)*. 2016.

Latin American and Caribbean states, and 10 Western European and Other states.¹¹ The Commission meets annually in New York City, while the Bureau of CPD holds inter-sessional meetings to prepare for the annual meetings.¹²

The general administration of CPD is funded by the main budget of the United Nations (UN), but the Commission has also welcomed Member States and government agencies to provide support to its work.¹³ General Assembly resolution 50/124 on “Implementation of the PoA of the International Conference on Population and Development” (1996) encouraged voluntary donations from Member States, particularly developed states, to ensure that the goals in the follow-up of ICPD could be met.¹⁴

Both CPD and UNFPA were tasked with following up on the PoA.¹⁵ CPD was designed to fully support ECOSOC and play the primary role in the follow-up process with its three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism, which includes monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the ICPD PoA.¹⁶ On the other hand, UNFPA, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, was mandated to take the lead in helping countries carry out the PoA by providing technical support and guidance with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.¹⁷ UNFPA will continue to accelerate the implementation process of the PoA at the operational level.¹⁸ In contrast, CPD monitors and assesses the progress made from a policy perspective.¹⁹ CPD also focuses on acknowledging major achievements towards this goal and drawing attention to areas that need improvement.²⁰

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the forty-seventh session (E/CN.9/2014/7)*. 2014. Retrieved 27 February 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2014/7>

This report, which was adopted 20 years after the adoption of the PoA, provides an overview of the achievements that CPD has made in this timespan. It covers a variety of population issues, including population growth, ageing, urbanization, and several more. The report further addresses questions on the importance of human rights and paths to sustainability. Delegates will be able to get a good overview of the work that CPD has done in this timespan and thereby get a good understanding of how CPD works to achieve its mandate.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d. Retrieved 27 February 2023 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/CPD>

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- ¹¹ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2022-23*. 2022.; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Commission on Population and Development*. n.d.; United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/50/124)*. 1996.
- ¹² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Commission on Population and Development, fifty-fifth session (2022)*. n.d.
- ¹³ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the forty-seventh session (E/CN.9/2014/7)*. 2014.
- ¹⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/50/124)*. 1996. p. 4.
- ¹⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994; United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014.
- ¹⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994. p. 5.
- ¹⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *How We Work*. 2022; United Nations Population Fund. *International Conference on Population and Development Principle of the ICPD*. 2022.
- ¹⁸ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *The UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025*. 2021. p. 23.
- ¹⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/122)*. 2014. p. 20.
- ²⁰ Ibid.



This webpage provides a clear overview of the Commission's mandate, main functions, and membership. It can also direct delegates to other relevant sources, such as previous CPD sessions, resolutions, and decisions. Delegates will find this page useful because it provides a short and comprehensive introduction of CPD, thereby serving as the ideal starting point to their research on the Commission.

United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/49/128)*. 1994. Retrieved 27 February 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/49/128>

The resolution documents the updated mandate and new name of CPD. The adoption of the ICPD PoA led to the expansion of CPD's mandate to monitor, review, and assess its implementation. This resolution allows delegates to gain a clear understanding of CPD's mandate and history. Moreover, this document also discusses the role of Member States in supporting the implementation of the PoA at a national level.

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1. Urbanization and a Growing Human Population

*“Urban areas are at the heart of many great challenges, opportunities, and promise.”*²¹

Introduction

Per the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world’s population is about three times larger than it was in the mid-twentieth century and is estimated to reach 10.4 billion by the mid-2080s.²² The United Nations (UN) Population Division estimated in 2021 that approximately 56% of the world’s population had resided within urban areas and the trend shows an increase year over year.²³ By 2050, this percentage is expected to rise to 68%, which is approximately 6.25 billion people because of a migration shift from rural communities to urbanized cities due to an increase in technological and educational opportunities.²⁴ Rapid urbanization combined with significant population growth has changed the essence of our urban settlements, where if properly managed can yield significant positive change in reducing inequality and achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) through increased opportunities.²⁵ However, an increase in population in a location can also potentially yield significant risks to access to clean water and sanitation, increase the socioeconomic gap, and overall provide a poorer quality of life if conducted without proper urban planning.²⁶ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) *Exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters for world’s cities* (2019) report also explains how big cities with larger populations and inadequate urban planning are more susceptible to natural disasters such as extreme heat, seismic activities, and volcanic eruptions which could more negatively affect those who are impoverished.²⁷

Article IX of the *International Conference on Population and Development* (ICPD)’s (1994) *Programme of Action* (PoA) defines urbanization as an integral part to social and economic development where countries are transitioning from rural to urbanized societies.²⁸ The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) 2018 *World Prospectus Report* highlights the emergence of megacities and the issues that arise with them.²⁹ The *World Urbanization Prospect* (2018) defines these megacities as cities that possess a general population size of at least 10 million people.³⁰ Based on current migration trends, the number of megacities is expected to rise from 33 to 48 by 2050 with most new megacities being expected to emerge in Asian and African regions.³¹ Depending on the location and ages of these megacities, there will be variation in the equity of wealth and priority of infrastructure amongst their citizens.³² The future megacities that are estimated to be located in Latin America, Asia, and Africa are estimated to have different ideologies regarding their urban development when compared to older and current megacities that reside throughout Europe and North America.³³ UN Habitat’s *World Cities Report Envisaging the Future of Cities* (2022) highlights socioeconomic factors, cultural diversity, ageing of the

²¹ Ki-moon. *UN Underscores importance of good urban planning for sustainable development*. 2014

²² United Nations Population Fund. *Global Issues: Population*.

²³ World Bank. *Urban Population (% of Total Population)*; United Nation Population Division. *World Urbanization Prospects: 2018 Revision*.

²⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Urbanization Prospects. The 2018 Revision*. 2018. p. xix.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Luoma. Population Education: A Program of Population Connection. *How Does Population Growth Impact Rapid Urbanization*. 2016. p. xix.

²⁷ Gu. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters for world’s cities*. 2019. pp. 1-2.

²⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *International Conference on Population and Development. Programme of Action 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014. p. 95.

²⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Urbanization Prospects. The 2018 Revision*. 2018.

³⁰ Wood. World Population History. *Urbanization and the Megacity*. 2016.

³¹ Ibid.

³² World Economic Forum. *Here’s what you need to know about megacities of the future*. 2018.

³³ Ibid.

population, and climate demographics as the key elements contributing to the current and future trends of lack of uniformity amongst megacities.³⁴ With the increase in population, there is also an increase in the elderly that are at risk of being left behind in society, according to UN DESA's *Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World* report, where the number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide is expected to reach 1.6 billion by 2050.³⁵ UN DESA recommended managing the upkeep of infrastructure with rapid population growth and urbanization by understanding and planning the rate of growth within an area.³⁶ Chapter 4 of the UN DESAs *World Social Report (2020)* describes how urbanization has the potential to become a positive force for a multisectoral approach for sustainable development, including reducing inequity.³⁷

International and Regional Framework

At the 1994 ICPD, 179 Member States adopted a programme of action (PoA) titled *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development* that provided population and development objectives to “collectively address” the important challenges and interconnectedness between population and sustained economic growth within the context of urbanization and sustainable development.³⁸ Chapter VI of the PoA calls for a healthcare plan that will contribute to the stabilization of the world population and resilience towards unsustainable patterns of production and consumption with the goal of sustainable development and economic growth.³⁹ Chapter IX requests Member States to develop population distribution policies that are congruent with other development plans with emphasis on the promotion of multifactorial equity.⁴⁰ The PoA also asks States to help incentivize the redistribution and relocation of business and other industries from urban to rural communities and wealthy to impoverished areas to reduce isolation and urban bias.⁴¹ Chapter XI recognizes the necessity of universal access to quality education to decrease disparities between rural-urban and urban-rural migrations and promote social mobility.⁴² The POA also suggested education plans relating to formal schooling, reproduction, and health including the benefits of migration and the challenges associated with this trend.⁴³

The SDGs particularly highlight key factors that are necessary for proper management between urbanization and population growth.⁴⁴ Goal 4 (Quality education) emphasizes equal and accessible education by building inclusive learning environments and providing any necessary assistance for all persons, including those within vulnerable environments.⁴⁵ In addition, Goal 4 highlights the need to create an environment where all persons possess access to quality teachers and educational resources.⁴⁶ Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth) promotes inclusivity and full and productive employment for all persons to fully access the job market whether they live in rural or urban areas.⁴⁷ Goal 10 (Reduce inequalities) emphasizes the social, economic, and political inclusion of all persons

³⁴ United Nation Human Settlements Programme. *World Cities Report 2022 Envisaging the Future of Cities*. 2022. p. xix

³⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2023 Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*. 2023, p. IV

³⁶ United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050*. 2018. p. xix.

³⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2020 Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World*. 2020. p. 3.

³⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development. Cario, 5-13 September 1994, 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014. p. 20.

³⁹ Ibid., pp. 60-61.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 110-111.

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 111.

⁴² Ibid., pp. 134-135.

⁴³ Ibid., p. 93.

⁴⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Sustainable Development. *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*. 2022.

⁴⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development. *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*. 2022.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development. *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*. 2022.

regardless of gender, race, and socioeconomic status.⁴⁸ Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) emphasizes the creation of sustainable cities for all, including transport systems, businesses, and universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, and green public spaces.⁴⁹

The *New Urban Agenda*, adopted at the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) in 2016, explains the relationship between the urban development agenda and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), particularly Goal 11.⁵⁰ The *New Urban Agenda* provides guidance for a wide range of actors that can contribute to more accessible and inclusive urban development and infrastructure.⁵¹ The agenda also promotes its vision of human settlements where equality, both human and natural safety, and quality of life are at the forefront of city planning and the inclusivity of all citizens regardless of age, gender, or nationality.⁵² The *New Urban Agenda* also provides support and ideas for cities on subjects such as urban territorial planning, adequate housing for safe living environments, policies on social inclusion and environmental protection, and road safety.⁵³

The United States Agency for International Development developed a framework called *Sustainable Urbanization for Global Progress and Security* to help cities prepare and manage economic growth, employment opportunities, promote education, and prevent violence within urban settings.⁵⁴ The European Union (EU) has various frameworks and plans regarding urbanization and the growing population including the *Cohesion Policy*, for the period of 2021-2027, which provides real time data to address urbanization issues and allow citizens to become more involved in the process by giving access to data information online.⁵⁵ The EU is also implementing URBACT, which is a program that allows cities to learn from and promote ideas to work with each other to develop sustainable solutions to urban challenges.⁵⁶ In 2021, the EU International Urban Cooperation Programme launched a second phase of the programme to create international relations regarding common urban territorial challenges, ecological transitions, and sustainable cities.⁵⁷

Role of the International System

During the 32nd session of the CPD, several issues were identified pertaining to migration, data collection, ageing population, and youth development as obstacles towards successful population growth and structure.⁵⁸ During the 33rd session of the CPD, the committee acknowledged the importance of gender equality and dimensions for all aspects of population growth and urban development, thus it was designated the theme of the 35th session of the CPD.⁵⁹ At the 47th session in 2014, the CPD reported that the full implementation of the ICPD PoA was essential towards achieving the goal of poverty eradication and achievement of sustainable development, including addressing inequalities amongst people in both urban and rural areas.⁶⁰ The Population Division of UN DESA is the main unit of the Secretariat tasked with assisting the CPD in the implementation of their policies.⁶¹ Since 2015, the Population Division has worked with CPD to produce estimates and projections of population size, trend, and demographic

⁴⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development. *Reduce inequality within and among countries*. 2022.

⁴⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development. *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable*. 2022.

⁵⁰ United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. *The New Urban Agenda*. 2017.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid., 5-7.

⁵³ Ibid., pp. 25-29.

⁵⁴ United States Agency for International Development. *Sustainable Urbanization for Global Progress and Security*. 2020.

⁵⁵ European Commission. *Sustainable Urban Development*. 2023.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the thirty-second session*. 1999.

⁵⁹ United Nations Commission on Population Development. s. 2000. p. 3.

⁶⁰ United Nations Commission on Population Development. *Report on the forty-seventh session*. 2014. p. 12

⁶¹ United Nations Population Division. *Population Division Resolutions and Decisions of the Commission on Population and Development 2023*.

datasets that are used in the publication of World Population Prospect annual report.⁶² The *2022 Revision of World Population Prospects* is the 23rd edition of official United Nations population dataset and it presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 194 Member States by utilizing analyses of historical demographic trends.⁶³ In addition, the report provides future population projection with plausible outcomes until the year 2100.⁶⁴ The 56th Session of the CPD on “Population, Education, and sustainable development” (2023) highlighted ten key messages that include women’s equality and better education for all while also requiring major educational investments for the growing child population.⁶⁵ Additionally, during the 56th Session of the CPD, education was noted to be the foundation for human development and stated that in order to achieve sustainable development, access to quality education, sexual reproduction education, and gender equality need to be prioritized.⁶⁶

The UNFPA is an international development agency tasked with promoting inclusive urbanization and positive population development.⁶⁷ UNFPA works with governments, the UN system, and civil society to sustainability and urbanization.⁶⁸ With collaboration from the International Institute for Environment and Development, the UNFPA works to promote social inclusion and realization of human rights in the context of urbanization through the development of the *New Urban Agenda* and by providing new ideas for urbanized areas.⁶⁹ UN DESA also promotes the effective implementation of international frameworks geared towards population growth and development also by providing accessible population data and studies as resources for urban planning.⁷⁰ In 2021, UN DESA constructed a report to highlight the linkage between global population growth and socioeconomic factors of sustainable development entitled *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development* which examined the connections between population growth and key aspects of social and economic development, including poverty, hunger and malnutrition, health, education, gender equality, economic growth, and decent work.⁷¹ A series of publications from the UN and CPD have explored that a growing global population can have a detrimental effect to the environment due to an increase in anthropogenic activities thus causing more climatic issues.⁷² In 1962, the Population Division, UN DESA, and CPD were mandated by General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) on “Population growth and economic development” to conduct the *United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development*.⁷³ The inquiry monitors the implementation of the ICPD PoA and other international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda.⁷⁴ The inquiry also consists of quantitative and qualitative assessments and modules that inform Member States of SDG indicator 10.7.2 on policies to facilitate orderly and responsible migration and mobility of people, as well as assess migration policy responses.⁷⁵

The UN Climate Change’s 24th Session of the *Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)* (2018) emphasizes the importance of collaboration amongst stakeholders and sectors with the common vision to jointly achieve a shared desired goal with their *Global Platform for Sustainable Cities*.⁷⁶ Lack of planning and low investment in infrastructure can contribute to unsafe buildings, the creation of impoverished areas, and unequal social classes that

⁶² United Nations Population Division. *Population Policies*. 2023.

⁶³ United Nations Population Division. *World Population Prospect 2022*.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Population, Education, and Sustainable Development*. 2023. pp. 1-2.

⁶⁶ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-sixth session*. 2023 p. 3.

⁶⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *About Us*. 2023.

⁶⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *Urbanization*. 2022.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ United Nations Population Division. *World Population Prospect 2022*.

⁷¹ United Nations Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2022.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ United Nations Population Division. *The United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development*. 2022.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ World Bank. *Global Platform for Sustainable Cities COP24. Integrated Approach to Urban Planning: The Importance of a Multi-sectoral and multi-level Approach*. 2018. p. 2.

reinforce current systematic disadvantages such as social divides within areas.⁷⁷ The Global Monitoring Framework, which was created to monitor data trends regarding the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and other regional programs, provides resources and data to allow for new framework implementation.⁷⁸

Population Growth and Migration

15 November 2022 marked the day that the world's population reached 8 billion people.⁷⁹ This rapid increase in population is a testament to achievements in public health, sanitation, and nutrition.⁸⁰ According to the *World Urbanization Prospects (2018)*, there are many sources of urban growth including natural increases of urban population and migration.⁸¹ Natural increases are due to increased births compared to deaths; the increase in migration to urban setting brings people who are younger and will live in urbanized areas longer, which require cities to grow and reclassify.⁸² According to the UN Habitat World Cities Report *The Value of Sustainable Urbanization (2020)*, migration is a driver in increased urbanization, with one in every seven people being a migrant.⁸³ With an increase in migration rates, cities need to be better prepared with proper frameworks to integrate migrants through affordable housing, employment and education.⁸⁴ Most migrants are found in large, urbanized areas and are often excluded from the benefits that urbanization provides such as employment opportunities and better housing standards.⁸⁵ If inclusive policies are implemented in urbanized areas, migrants will ease skill shortages and also contribute to social, economic, and cultural growth of an area.⁸⁶

During the 56th session of CPD in 2023, one of the key discussions was the importance of data to address population trends, migration, and divided demographics.⁸⁷ The importance of data collection is crucial for Member States to address problems that arise through the relationship between migration and urbanization.⁸⁸ The 56th CPD session also highlighted the opportunities young migrants can bring to the various urbanized areas they reside in; with proper education and support, youth can bring new ideologies and innovative thinking.⁸⁹ Resources for migrants (including children) regarding education are often less accessible, which could explain why some migrants may not have the same opportunities as others, including when some have no formal education.⁹⁰ Expert analysts discussed during the session how investing in opportunities and education for migrants allows for the creation of a prosperous and healthier society.⁹¹

Sustainable Development and Urbanization

Megacities face the challenges of climate change and other environmental problems; nature-based solutions including policy planning, urban city planning, and socio-economic equality will aid in implementation of sustainable cities by allowing more equality in the planning process.⁹² While many national and subnational governments have made net zero emission pledges in recent years, more than

⁷⁷ Bajar. *The Impact of Infrastructure Provisioning on Inequality*. 2018. p. 2.

⁷⁸ United Nations Human Settlements Programme. *The Global Urban Monitoring Framework*. 2022. pp. 1-4.

⁷⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *A World of 8 Billion*. 2022. p.1.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, pp.1-4.

⁸¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Urbanization Prospects. The 2018 Revision*. 2018. p. 12.

⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 12.

⁸³ United Nations Human Settlements Programme. *World Cities Report 2020 The Value of Sustainable Urbanization*. 2020. p. xvii.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 63.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 144.

⁸⁷ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Fifty-Sixth Session*. 2023.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² United Nations Human Settlements Programme. *For A Better Urban Future, World Cities Report 2022 Envisaging the Future of Cities*. 2022. pp. 140.

400 milestones need to be met to achieve the net zero goal in the energy sector by 2050 and there needs to be major transitions to the clean energy economy.⁹³

One of the many annual themes that CPD focused on for the 2022-2023 year was “just sustainable green transition for developing countries”.⁹⁴ The CPD annual theme for 2022-2023 focuses on cities recovering from the detrimental effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and key points in rebuilding sustainable cities.⁹⁵ During the 21st session of the Committee for Development Policy, one of the focuses was on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness through strong governmental and multilateral systems.⁹⁶ This would then aid least developed countries in transitions of growing technology, inclusiveness of all people in governmental affairs, and build stronger economies.⁹⁷ The fifty-fifth session of the CPD emphasized the need for a sustainable economy and raised concerns for climate change affecting least development countries, stating the need for risk management practices for natural disasters.⁹⁸ With an increase in child population across large urban areas and megacities, access to education becomes more important; in 2023 the global primary-level school-age population will peak at 820 million.⁹⁹ With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the learning crisis increased with prolonged school closures which more negatively affected disadvantaged communities due to accessibility to technology and other resources.¹⁰⁰ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) created the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities to better address the needs of education and help facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange of information within all settings.¹⁰¹ UNESCO describes a learning city as a place where inclusivity, modern technology, and cultural differences are taught and embraced highlighting the continued importance of cities as they bring diversity and can implement strategies on a local level.¹⁰²

Conclusion

The most recent session of the CPD in 2023, highlighted issues regarding population, and discussion continue to lead the way for new ideas and frameworks for the global population.¹⁰³ The CPD mandate empowers it to take action to ensure implementation of the ICPD PoA.¹⁰⁴ With the agenda item of “Sustainable Development, particularly inclusive economic growth” confirmed to be discussed once again during its 57th session in 2024, the CPD will build upon previous work on population trends, urban development planning, and inclusiveness of all persons to further contribute to the goal of attaining a sustainable future for the global population.¹⁰⁵

Further Research

As delegates continue their research, they should consider the following questions: Which measures are necessary for CPD to continue working towards achieving the SDGs and ensure equality increasing populations? How can CPD work towards safe and sustainable cities while combating climate issues specific to megacities? In what ways can Member States ensure safe infrastructure for the growing

⁹³ United Nation Human Settlements Programme. *For A Better Urban Future, World Cities Report 2022 Envisaging the Future of Cities*. 2022. pp. 143.

⁹⁴ United Nations Committee for Development Policy. *Just Transition*, 2023. p. 1-3

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ United Nations Committee for Development Policy. *Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality*. 2019. pp. 1-3

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2023.

⁹⁹ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Population, Education, and Sustainable Development*. 2023. pp. 1-2

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. *UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities*. 2023.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ United Nations Commission on Population and Development. *Fifty-Sixth Session*. 2023

¹⁰⁴ International Conference on Population and Development. *Programme of Action 20th Anniversary Edition*. 2014

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Population Division. *Resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development*. 2022.

population such as safe buildings that aren't susceptible to natural disasters? How can Member States promote the transition to the green economy and aid in megacities becoming more sustainable?

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<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD56>

The most recent CPD session will help delegates with a better understanding of the most compelling issues corresponding to the increasing population rates. This session contains various presentations discussing migration, climate change, the growing population, education, and population rates. The website will help delegates find recent quotes from the session, up-to-date statistics, and the subjects that will be addressed at next year's session.

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. *The New Urban Agenda*.

2017. Retrieved 23 June 2023 from: <https://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

The New Urban Agenda is a key document for understanding the various elements of sustainability and urbanization. The document provides commitments from Member States on areas such including the environment, inclusivity, and poverty eradication as well as commitments for the effective implementation of the agenda. Delegates will find this document useful in understanding current global priorities, as well as determine opportunities to implement solutions towards the topic in committee.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development 2022*. 2023. Retrieved 21 May 2023 from:

https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesa_pd_2022_global_population_growth.pdf

This publication is a good start to research the topic as it discusses various population trends. This work provides information on rapid population growth and maintaining a sustainable city. The various charts and graphs will help delegates understand the future of population increases and will also provide context to sustainable urbanization solutions.

United Nations Population Fund. (2014). *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development 20th Anniversary Edition*. Retrieved 21 May 2023 from:

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/programme_of_action_Web%20ENGLISH.pdf

The International Conference on Population and Development produced the Programme of Action of ICPD, which is the primary document for the United Nations Population Fund. The document outlines the mandate of CPD to monitor and assess its implementation process. At the ICPD, Member States outlined four goals: universal education, reduction of infant and child mortality, reduction of maternal mortality, and access to reproductive and sexual health services. This Programme of Action helps delegates understand the history and mandate of CPD.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. *World Cities Report 2022 Envisaging the Future of Cities*. 2022. Retrieved 20 May 2023 from:

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/06/wcr_2022.pdf

This publication is good for ideas to further implement sustainable solutions to urbanized areas. This report provides a vision for the future of cities which include education, green energy, and gender and age equality to provide better places of living for citizens while also providing facts and figures. This publication is great for delegates to aid them in their solution findings and implementations.

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2. Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production in a World of 8 Billion People

“Focusing on the numbers alone distracts us from the real challenge we face, securing a world in which progress can be enjoyed equally and sustainably.”¹⁰⁶

Introduction

During the week of November 15, 2022, the global population reached and surpassed 8 billion people.¹⁰⁷ By the 2080s, the population is expected to grow to 10.4 billion.¹⁰⁸ The leap from 7 billion people to 8 billion people took only 12 years with the increase to 9 billion expected to take 14.5 years.¹⁰⁹ The increase in population is in large part to major improvements in public health leading to increased life expectancy.¹¹⁰ The population trends faced by different countries vary with some seeing population growth while others see population decline.¹¹¹ For example low-income and lower-middle-income countries account for 70% of the population growth from 7 billion to 8 billion and are anticipated to account for 90% of the population growth from 8 billion to 9 billion.¹¹² While the 65 years and older population is growing in high-income and upper-middle income countries.¹¹³ In countries where there is an older population and slower population growth, there is also lower fertility and women having on average 2.1 births per woman.¹¹⁴ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem, advocates for solutions that are focused on the region, the demographics, and the needs of the regions.¹¹⁵ In Europe, the median age is 41 years old while the median age is 17 years old in sub-Saharan Africa, and therefore the solution needs between the regions are different focusing on the data collected, even though UNFPA has stated that reproductive rights are core to all the policies.¹¹⁶ The population growth was concentrated in low income and lower-middle income countries.¹¹⁷ The low-income and lower-middle income countries have high fertility rates and there has been limited economic development.¹¹⁸ There is an established link between high fertility and limited empowerment and choices for women and girls.¹¹⁹ When women have educational and employment opportunities they have altered incentives and intentions towards marriage and child-bearing leading to less fertility and increased access to sexual and reproductive health care.¹²⁰ This expeditious population growth causes development challenges and difficulties due to heightened demand for investment into resources.¹²¹ The developmental challenges and difficulties include: schooling; water and sanitation; availability of public health and housing; employment opportunities; and increasing poverty.¹²² These challenges create the need for a substantial increase in public expenditures.¹²³ When there are rapid increases in numbers of

¹⁰⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Press Release: As the world’s population hits 8 billion people, UN calls for solidarity in advancing sustainable development for all.* 2022.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *As the world’s population hits 8 billion people, UN calls for solidarity in advancing sustainable development for all.* 2022; World Economic Forum. *World population just passed 8 billion. Here’s what it means.* 2022.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion.* 2022. p. 3.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion.* 2022. p. 1.

¹²² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion.* 2022. p. 3.

¹²³ Ibid.

children and youth, it becomes more difficult for countries to ensure equitable and inclusive education and access to health care.¹²⁴ In addition domestic material consumption increased over 65% globally between 2000 and 2019.¹²⁵

With increased population and increased demands on the planet's resources there is increased need for economic development to sustainability with sustainable consumption and distribution.¹²⁶ Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) allows for the alleviation of the pressures and concerns around economic development and resource extraction surrounding population growth.¹²⁷ The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) focuses its work around the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Programme of Action).¹²⁸ One of the focuses of ICPD Programme of Action is to end poverty through sustainable economic development.¹²⁹ Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential as the population continues to increase.¹³⁰ SCP involves increased resource efficiency and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles focusing on economic growth without environmental degradation.¹³¹ SCP focuses on applying a thought process focused on life cycles of resources including through the extraction of resources; product development; distribution of products; marketing of products; use of products; reusing products; and disposing of waste.¹³² The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) supports the implementation of sustainable public procurement, which is when public organizations meet needs in a way that reduces greenhouse gases, improves resource efficiency, and supports recycling.¹³³ Economies can address climate change, biodiversity changes, and social needs by implementing circular economies that reuse product materials to improve sustainability.¹³⁴

International and Regional Framework

The ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) was adopted in 1994 at the Conference on Population and Development and focuses on goals and rights for the global population.¹³⁵ The document was developed with input from 179 participating governments, United Nations (UN) agencies, regional and cultural delegates, non-governmental organizations, and regional organizations.¹³⁶ The ICPD Programme of Action was instrumental in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it provided a foundation for the MDGs, and made substantial improvements to health, education, gender equality and poverty reduction.¹³⁷ The document focuses on population growth and distribution; economic development; sustainable development; reproductive rights and health care; health, morbidity, and mortality; migration; and urbanization.¹³⁸ One of the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action is to develop strategies that eradicate poverty through economic growth that is sustainable.¹³⁹ Sustainable economic growth is when

¹²⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 3.

¹²⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production*.

¹²⁶ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.5.

¹²⁷ Ibid; United Nations Environment Programme. *Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies*.

¹²⁸ United Nations Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*.

¹²⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*. 1994. p. 18.

¹³⁰ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.5.

¹³¹ United Nations Environment Programme. *Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies*.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ellen Macarthur Foundation. *What is a circular economy?*

¹³⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*. 1994. p. x.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid

¹³⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*. 1994. p. iv-vii.

¹³⁹ Ibid., p. 18.

the developmental activities utilize sound resource use and minimize waste during the product life cycle.¹⁴⁰ The document also calls for the reduction of unsustainable consumption.¹⁴¹ Examples of unsustainable consumption include increased resource use and consumption, larger household space, increased travel by car and plane, and increased food waste.¹⁴²

The preamble of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) states a commitment to protecting the environment from degradation through sustainable consumption, sustainable management of resources, and actions to combat climate change.¹⁴³ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were developed to continue the achievements of the MDGs which were set to expire in 2015.¹⁴⁴ While the MDGs were not fully realized, they did make significant achievements, however those achievements were unequal.¹⁴⁵ Ensuring sustainable consumption and production in a world of 8 billion relates to multiple sustainable development goals.¹⁴⁶ SDG 2 (No hunger) with target 2.4 of the goal focuses on sustainable food production systems and agricultural practices that are resilient as not to contribute to environmental degradation.¹⁴⁷ SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) through target 11.6 focuses on reducing the environmental impact of cities and communities.¹⁴⁸ SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) is for responsible consumption and production to create a sustainable livelihood for current and future populations.¹⁴⁹ Target 12.1 is to develop and implement a 10-year framework focusing on sustainable consumption and production.¹⁵⁰ The framework would include developed countries leading the action on sustainable consumption and production with consideration given to capabilities and the developmental stage of developing countries.¹⁵¹ In addition target 12.B calls for the development and implementation of tools to monitor sustainable development impacts.¹⁵²

The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) (AAAA) indicates the importance of international cooperation in implementing the work of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁵³ The AAAA calls for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization to ensure developing countries prosper with regards to economic growth and diversification.¹⁵⁴ Inclusive and sustainable development is when technological solutions are environmentally sound and allow for all people to improve their living standards.¹⁵⁵ The New Urban Agenda (2016) indicates the expectation that by 2050 the urban population will double.¹⁵⁶ By planning of cities and human settlements, the New Urban Agenda will assist with the promotion of sustainable economic growth.¹⁵⁷ The New Urban Agenda also focuses on SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and

¹⁴⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*. 1994. p. 18.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p.21.

¹⁴² European Environmental Agency. *Unsustainable consumption – the mother of all environmental issues?*.

¹⁴³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. p.2.

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Fund. *From MDGs to SDGs*.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

¹⁴⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities*.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid*; United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. p.23.

¹⁵¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*.

¹⁵² *Ibid*; United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. p. 23.

¹⁵³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*. 2015. p.4.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p.6.

¹⁵⁵ United Nations Industrial Development Organization. *Progress by innovation*. 2023.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016. p. 2.

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

communities) to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient, and sustainable by meeting their social and ecological functions.¹⁵⁸ The human settlements envisioned in the New Urban Agenda are resource efficient while land and resources will be used sustainably with a focus on sustainable consumption and production patterns.¹⁵⁹ The New Urban Agenda is committed to a smart city approach that focuses on sustainability and uses Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to ensure a high quality of life for inhabitants and efficient operations and services to ensure economic, social, environmental, and cultural needs are being met.¹⁶⁰ The New Urban Agenda calls for the integration of food security and meeting the nutritional needs of urban residents.¹⁶¹ The New Urban Agenda is also committed to environmentally sound waste management.¹⁶²

In 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, otherwise known as Agenda 21, was adopted.¹⁶³ Agenda 21 is an action plan that provides global, national, and local actions needed to minimize the human impact on the environment.¹⁶⁴ In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development reaffirmed the commitments of Agenda 21.¹⁶⁵ Previously the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) acknowledges the responsibility of all countries in combatting climate change.¹⁶⁶ The Paris Agreement (2015) continues the position that all countries are responsible from battling climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁶⁷ The Paris Agreement affirms the importance of implementing sustainable management of resources to build resilience for social, economic, and ecological systems within the country.¹⁶⁸ In 1994, the Oslo Symposium defined SCP as using services and products to meet needs but limit the use of resources and emissions to protect the environment for future generations.¹⁶⁹

Role of the International System

In 2021, CPD focused on the intersections of population, food security, nutrition, and sustainable development, recommended that sustainable food production was necessary for healthy populations, and identified the importance of food security of vulnerable peoples.¹⁷⁰ In 2022, during the fifty-sixth session, the CPD emphasized the link between population growth and the need for sustainable economic growth.¹⁷¹ A subsequent resolution was passed acknowledging the impacts on unsustainable consumption and production while acknowledging the need for sustainable innovation.¹⁷² The session also focused on general debate for the continued national, regional, and international implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.¹⁷³ They also discussed population, education, and sustainable development.¹⁷⁴ The session included reports of the Secretary-General, expert panels, and multi-

¹⁵⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016. p. 3-4.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 4-5.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 13; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. *Smart Sustainable Cities*.

¹⁶¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016. p. 22.

¹⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 14.

¹⁶³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Agenda 21*. 2022.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 104; United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. 1992.

¹⁶⁷ Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Paris Agreement*. 2015.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Consumption and Production*. 2022.

¹⁷⁰ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.5)*. 2021.

¹⁷¹ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fifth session (23 April 2021 and 25-29 April 2022)*. 2022

¹⁷² United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022.

¹⁷³ United Nations Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development, fifty-sixth session (2023)*. 2023.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

stakeholder panels.¹⁷⁵ At the end of the session, the report of the CPD was adopted and a provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session was adopted.¹⁷⁶ The fifty-seventh session will be occurring April 29th to May 3rd, 2024 focusing on an assessment of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁷⁷

In resolution S-21/2 (1999), the General Assembly adopted a resolution on “Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”.¹⁷⁸ The resolution advocates for poverty eradication programs focused on female-headed households; provision of micro-credit for lower-income families; and draft stronger food, nutrition, and agriculture policies.¹⁷⁹ The UN General Assembly has hosted three world conferences on population.¹⁸⁰ The 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest resulted in the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action.¹⁸¹ The 1984 International Population Conference in Mexico City provided the Recommendations for the Further Implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.¹⁸² Cairo, Egypt hosted the third International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 resulting in the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action.¹⁸³

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) focuses on sexual and reproductive agency including on family planning.¹⁸⁴ The UNFPA works toward ending the unmet need for family planning by providing reproductive health care access; access to modern contraceptives; safe birth supplies, dignity kits, and other necessary materials; and data collection.¹⁸⁵ In 2014, the regional commissions worked with the UNFPA to review the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.¹⁸⁶ The regional reviews were a part of the global review of the ICPD.¹⁸⁷ The regional reports identified population and development trends and provides solutions to the identified issues including population dynamics and sustainable development; family, sexual and reproductive health; and inequalities, social inclusion, and rights.¹⁸⁸ Overall the regional reviews worked to create a stronger link between the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁸⁹ UNFPA worked with Kenya and Denmark to convene the Nairobi Summit, which focuses on the 25th Anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action and the initiatives needed to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action.¹⁹⁰

Food Production, Consumption, and Waste

The global food production increase has occurred more rapidly and outpaced population growth.¹⁹¹ The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has indicated that the current food production system is unsustainable due to high levels of food waste in certain countries.¹⁹² UNDESA has noted a

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ United Nations Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development, fifty-seventh session (2024)*. 2023.

¹⁷⁸ United Nations Population Division. *General Assembly, United Nations, General Assembly. Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/RES/S-21/2)*. 1999. p.1.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid., p.6.

¹⁸⁰ United Nations Population Division. *General Assembly*.

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations Population Fund. *About Us*. 2022.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. *Population and Development*.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4.

¹⁹² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 72.

shortage of available land for fulfilling food demands, and in some countries leading to food shortages when there is inadequate distribution and the current food choice demands have greater environmental land impacts.¹⁹³ The ever increasing demand for food is driven by population growth, and changes in demand for the amount and type of food.¹⁹⁴ Agricultural production has greatly expanded, but it does come with high costs to the environment.¹⁹⁵ The amount of land required for agriculture and food production is consistently expanding.¹⁹⁶ In Oceania, Sub-Eastern Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, and West Asia, almost all unprotected land is used for agricultural purposes.¹⁹⁷ The amount of uncultivated animal-based food production accounts for 20-30% of the greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁹⁸ After harvest and before products reached the market, 13.3% of the world's food was lost (2020) because of severe disruptions to the global supply chain and to the higher food costs.¹⁹⁹ It is estimated that 17% of the food available to consumers is wasted directly by consumers, food services, or food retailers when there is an oversupply of food products.²⁰⁰

The largest global emissions from food comes from food waste and consumption of meat products because of the resources required to feed and process the product.²⁰¹ Between 8-10% of global greenhouse are caused by food waste being disposed of in landfills.²⁰² Forestry, including rainforests can also be lost to agricultural purposes.²⁰³ Between 720 billion and 811 million people globally were suffering from hunger in 2020.²⁰⁴ In addition, 2.4 billion people were moderately or severely food-insecure in 2020.²⁰⁵ Greenhouse gas emissions from food production are caused by “food storage, transport, packaging, processing and distribution.”²⁰⁶ Current production estimates that enough food is produced globally to feed everyone globally.²⁰⁷ People living in vulnerable situations are more likely to face food insecurity including women, children, youth, elderly people, indigenous people, and displaced people.²⁰⁸ For example, the war in Ukraine has disrupted global food supply chains as Ukraine was a significant agricultural exporter.²⁰⁹ In addition, COVID-19 has been disruptive to the global food supply chain and has seen an increase in food prices leading to a significant impact on sustainable consumption and production in regards to food provision.²¹⁰ During COVID-19, restaurants and cafes focused on delivery

¹⁹³ Ibid., p. 111.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid., p. 95.

¹⁹⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022, p. 4.

¹⁹⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 111.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid., p. 111.

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022, p. 4.

¹⁹⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.*; United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.2.

²⁰⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.*

²⁰¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Tackling climate change, one bite at a time, UN enlists chefs to lead in campaign for sustainable food.*

²⁰² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.*

²⁰³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Tackling climate change, one bite at a time, UN enlists chefs to lead in campaign for sustainable food.*

²⁰⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 2 Zero Hunger.*

²⁰⁵ Ibid.

²⁰⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4.

²⁰⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 70.

²⁰⁸ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.5)*. 2021. p. 7.

²⁰⁹ World Economic Forum. *Food Systems 2022: Outlook*.

²¹⁰ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.2; The University of

which caused increased packaging waste and transportation costs.²¹¹ COVID-19 also led to a global food supply chain that was not sustainable.²¹²

Innovative approaches such as agroecological practices, like reducing transportation costs and utilizing renewable and local transportation can be used for sustainable food systems and agricultural production.²¹³ Target 12.3 of the 2030 Agenda focuses on decreasing global food waste by half at the retail and consumer level while also reducing post-harvest losses along production and supply chains.²¹⁴ Target 2.4 of the 2030 Agenda calls for the implementation of sustainable food production systems.²¹⁵ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has recommended the use of smart policies throughout the food system for production and consumption.²¹⁶ These smart policies include addressing food waste along with information about packaging and labelling.²¹⁷ Populations also benefit from sustainable food production as they improve nutrition, promote healthy diets, and prevent diseases.²¹⁸ These actions can include: improved land and water use; restoration of degraded land; improved processing, storage and infrastructure surrounding food; and education to assist people in making healthier decisions about food production and consumption by promoting healthier and more sustainable diets.²¹⁹

Circular Economies

The CPD has recognized that sustainable economic development includes sustainable industrialization which is the technological solution for environmentally sound industrialization.²²⁰ The life-cycle of the products are extended and value is added in a circular economy.²²¹ This element of the circular economy varied from the linear economic model where resources are disposed of at the end of their first lifecycle.²²² There are three key principles to circular economies: (1) elimination of waste and pollution; (2) circulating products and materials; and (3) regenerating nature.²²³ Waste and pollution cause significant environmental damage through the disposal of products and the extraction of new resources.²²⁴ Sustainable consumption and production allows for economic development while reducing

Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School. *COVID-19: A game-changer for sustainable consumption and production?*. 2020.

²¹¹ The University of Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School. *COVID-19: A game-changer for sustainable consumption and production?*. 2020.

²¹² Ibid.

²¹³ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.5)*. 2021. p. 6; Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. *Agroecology and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. 2023.

²¹⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*.

²¹⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 2 Zero Hunger*.

²¹⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 95.

²¹⁷ Ibid., p. 95.

²¹⁸ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population, food security, nutrition, and sustainable development. (E/CN.9/2021/L.5)*. 2021. p. 6.

²¹⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 111; United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *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: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2023/3)*. 2022. p. 3-4.

²²⁰ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.6; United Nations Industrial Development Organization. *Progress by innovation*. 2023.

²²¹ European Parliament. *Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits*. 2023.

²²² Ibid.

²²³ Ellen Macarthur Foundation. *What is a circular economy?*.

²²⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 97.

economic damage and improvements to human health.²²⁵ The circular economy model focuses on resource efficiency through sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling.²²⁶ The concept focuses on ensuring there is further value in products and materials.²²⁷ A circular economy would decrease the rate at which natural resources were used, and therefore there would be less impactful on the environment by less loss of landscape and biodiversity.²²⁸ Circular economies are anticipated to see an increase in competitiveness and innovation leading to economic growth and more jobs.²²⁹ The City of San Francisco passed legislation in 2018 to ensure that any carpets in their buildings would be Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver in addition to not containing concerning chemicals.²³⁰ The New Urban Agenda commits to protection and preservation of green spaces within cities.²³¹ This includes consideration of environmentally sensitive areas and their role in the ecosystem.²³² The maintenance of the ecological function of the land is a commitment of the New Urban Agenda.²³³ Water management can also be utilized by having sustainable water management systems.²³⁴ UN DESA has provided recommendations for resource-efficient patterns for consumption and production of products.²³⁵ This can include be a shift to products that require lower energy and material demands.²³⁶

As the population reaches 8 billion people, the proper and safe management of chemicals and waste becomes increasingly important.²³⁷ Currently, 2.01 billion tons of municipal solid waste that are produced each year.²³⁸ It is predicted that 2.2 billion tons of waste will be produced a year by 2025.²³⁹ There is also an increasing amount of unrecycled electronic and plastic waste which leading to environmental damage and increased material footprints.²⁴⁰ Minimizing waste is key objective of circular economies and decentralized decision-making in regards to waste disposal can increase access to sustainable waste management.²⁴¹ When the product has come to the end of its life, materials can be recycled therefore remaining in the economy.²⁴² This means the life-cycle of the products are extended and value is added.²⁴³ This element of the circular economy varies from the linear economic model where resources are disposed of at the end of their first lifecycle.²⁴⁴

The European Union has implemented new laws (as of November 30, 2022) with the purpose of reducing packaging waste, implementing clear labels, and utilizing bio-based packaging.²⁴⁵ Governments can also provide incentives or enforce regulations that require steps to limit or repair damage to the

²²⁵ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fifth session (23 April 2021 and 25-29 April 2022) (E/2022/25-E/CN.9/2022/7)*. 2022. p. 3.; United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.4.

²²⁶ European Parliament. *Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits*. 2023.

²²⁷ Ibid.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ Ibid.

²³⁰ Ellen Macarthur Foundation. *Cradle to Cradle carpets for city buildings: San Francisco*.

²³¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016. p. 13.

²³² Ibid.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Ibid., p. 21.

²³⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4.

²³⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 97.

²³⁷ United Nations Environmental Programme. *Why does chemicals and pollution action matter?*.

²³⁸ World Bank. *What A Waste 2.0 Trends in Solid Waste Management*. n.d.

²³⁹ United Nations Environmental Programme. *Why does chemicals and pollution action matter?*.

²⁴⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 97.

²⁴¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016. p. 22.

²⁴² European Parliament. *Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits*. 2023.

²⁴³ Ibid.

²⁴⁴ Ibid.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.; European Commission. *Biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics*.

environment.²⁴⁶ Exponential population growth combined with patterns of increased consumption and production has caused environmental degradation.²⁴⁷ This includes “global warming, climate change, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity.”²⁴⁸ While the human population has more than doubled between 1970 and 2020, wildlife populations have declined by two-thirds of the population.²⁴⁹ The increasing consumption demand has been more harmful to the environment than population growth, while population growth is projected to slow down in the upcoming decades, therefore causing economic demand to become a more important cause of environmental degradation.²⁵⁰

Conclusion

In November 2022, the world’s population reached 8 billion.²⁵¹ Population growth contributes to poverty and climate change, which are barriers for sustainable development.²⁵² Population growth necessitates the need for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.²⁵³ The CPD focuses its work around the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.²⁵⁴ The global food production system has outpaced population growth although individuals are still facing hunger and food scarcity.²⁵⁵ SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) of the 2030 Agenda looks to reduce global food waste.²⁵⁶ The New Urban Agenda commits to waste management that is environmentally friendly and decentralized to make for more accessibility.²⁵⁷ Two major contributors to environmental degradation include population growth and unsustainable consumption and production trends.²⁵⁸ With population growth set to slow down in the coming decades, unsustainable consumption and production trends are set to become the largest drivers of environmental degradation.²⁵⁹ Innovative solutions to solving these challenges can include adopting new models of consumption and production, such as the circular economy model.²⁶⁰

Further Research

As delegates continue their research, they should consider the following: What are some new barriers and possible solutions to the implementation of the ICPD? How can urban development assist in sustainable consumption and production? What could be some priorities for future CPD sessions? How can the CPD and UN Environmental Programme work together? How can future agricultural land shortages be avoided? How can food protected transportation be protected from disruption? How can

²⁴⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. 2021. p. 97.

²⁴⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ Ibid.

²⁵⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 106.

²⁵¹ United Nations Population Fund. *As the world’s population hits 8 billion people, UN calls for solidarity in advancing sustainable development for all*, 2022.

²⁵² Ibid.

²⁵³ United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. p.5.

²⁵⁴ United Nations Population Division. *Commission on Population and Development*.

²⁵⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 72; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 2 Zero Hunger*.

²⁵⁶ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. *Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*.

²⁵⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*. 2016. p. 14 & 22.

²⁵⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Future of the World Policy Brief No 140: A world of 8 billion*. 2022. p. 4.

²⁵⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population. *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. 2021. p. 106; United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fifth session (23 April 2021 and 25-29 April 2022) (E/2022/25-E/CN.9/2022/7)*. 2022. p. 3.

²⁶⁰ European Parliament. *Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits*. 2023.

waste management be improved in individual nations? What actions can be taken to decrease environmental degradation?

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This resolution of the CPD focuses on food security. The resolution highlights the importance of sustainable food systems in ensuring that sustainability of food production. The issue of inconsistent food security is addressed by acknowledging that vulnerable populations are at risk. Delegates can better understand issues pertaining to food production, transportation, and consumption.

United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Report on the fifty-fifth session (23 April 2021 and 25-29 April 2022) (E/2022/25-E/CN.9/2022/7)*. 2022. Retrieved 10 February 2023 from: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/348/99/PDF/N2234899.pdf?OpenElement>

The report on the Fifty-fifth session of the CPD discusses population and sustainable growth with a focus on inclusive economic growth. The report highlights how sustainable consumption helps achieve economic development while reducing environmental harm. The report also summarizes the five Secretary-General reports discussed at the session. This document will provide delegates with the key priorities and themes discussed at the session.

United Nations, Commission on Population and Development. *Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth (E/CN.9/2022/L.6)*. 2022. Retrieved 9 February 2023 from: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N22/331/55/PDF/N2233155.pdf?OpenElement>

This is the 2022 resolution from the CPD from the fifty-fifth session. The resolution acknowledges the harmful impacts on unsustainable consumption and production on the environment. The resolution discusses the effects of COVID-19 on food prices, production and consumption, sustainable industrialization in sustainable development, and education, training, and job opportunities. Delegates can use this resolution to understand various priorities and actions of the CPD.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 11 February 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

The Sustainable Development Goals are fundamental to the work of the UN, especially regarding sustainability. Delegates should focus on goal 12 and the progress on the targets laid out under goal 12. Targets 1 and 2 specifically relate to food production, consumption and waste. There are other goals that delegates should be familiar with such as SDG 4; SDG 5; SDG 7; SDG 8 and SDG 11.

United Nations, General Assembly. *New Urban Agenda*. 2016. Retrieved 11 February 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/256>

The New Urban Agenda provides detail regarding population increases, although it is more focused on populations in urban settings. The New Urban Agenda is a key international framework, providing recommendations for infrastructure to manage waste and to reduce environmental degradation. It will be a key source for delegates in understanding how to effectively manage population growth.



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The University of Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School. *COVID-19: A game-changer for sustainable consumption and production?*. 2020. Received 30 April 2023 from: <https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/news/covid-19-a-game-changer-for-sustainable-consumption-and-production/>

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