

United Nations Population Fund

Introduction

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Board held its second regular session from 9-13 September 2013.¹ At its conclusion, the body adopted the report of the annual session, in addition to endorsing UNFPA's Strategic Plan for the term 2014-2017, and approving the 2014-2017 budget.² The Strategic Plan serves as a framework which directs UNFPA's programmatic activities; thus it is an important source of information and guidance for the organization moving forward into 2014 and beyond.

Recent Activities

The strategic plan included considerations from several UN bodies.³ Foremost among them was General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 67/226.⁴ This was the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QPCR).⁵ The QPCR is the mechanism by which the UN assesses the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of all UN development-related activities.⁶ Among its messages was recognition that there is no "one size fits all" approach to development, and that national governments have the primary responsibility for their countries' development, and that sustainable development should be a concern for other UN agencies and bodies.⁷ Preparatory work for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)+20 review conference in Rio, and the United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG) Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health also factored in the strategy creation process.⁸ It is worth noting that the UNFPA Executive Board is shared with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).⁹ Although UNFPA is a subsidiary organ of the UNGA, the Executive Board falls under the supervision of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹⁰ As per UNGA resolutions 56/201 and 67/226, it is the responsibility of the executive heads and governing bodies of UN agencies to monitor and track their progress.¹¹ The Executive Board holds two regular sessions each year, in addition to an annual session.¹² The first regular session was held from the 28th of January to the 1st of February.¹³ The second is scheduled to be held on September 9th; and the annual session is between, on June 3.¹⁴

The African Regional Conference on Population and Development was held from the 30 September until 4 October 2013.¹⁵ It was co-organized by UNFPA, the United Nations Economic Council for Africa (UNECA), and the African Union (AU), as part of a global mandate of regional review of progress towards implementing the goals of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)'s goals.¹⁶ The function of the resulting Addis Ababa Declaration is twofold: it serves as the region's contribution to UNGA's future review of the ICPD and will be incorporated into the work plans of UNECA and the AU.¹⁷

¹ UNFPA, *Executive Board* [Website], 2014.

² UN Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the UNFPA and the UN Office for Project Services, *Report of the Second Regular Session (DP/2014/1)*, 2013., UNFPA, *Compendium of Decisions* [Report], 2013.

³ UNFPA, *the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*, 2013.

⁴ Ibid;

⁵ UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226)* [Resolution], 2013.

⁶ UNDG, *About the UNDG* [Website], 2014.

⁷ UN General Assembly, *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226)* [Resolution], 2013.

⁸ UNFPA, *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*, 2013.

⁹ UNDG, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS* [Website], 2014.

¹⁰ Ibid; UNFPA, *UNFPA in the UN System* [Website], 2014.

¹¹ UNGA, *Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/56/201)* [Resolution], 2002; UNGA, *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226)* [Resolution], 2013.

¹² UNDG, *Information note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS* [Website], 2014.

¹³ UNFPA, *Executive Board* [Website], 2014.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ UNFPA, *Africa Puts Rights of Women and Youth at Heart of Continent's Future Development* [Website], 2014.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Recent Policy Outcomes

Under the title of *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: The Future We Want for Africa*, the Addis Ababa Declaration reaffirmed the goals of the ICPD, such as universal and equitable access to sexual and reproductive health, and universal access to family planning to prevent maternal death and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.¹⁸ In order to harness the potential of and sidestep the challenges inherent in Africa's population boom, there were several main policy recommendations.¹⁹ The first was investing in education, including sex education.²⁰ The second was to formulate work and rights-based policies that would take into account the twin phenomena of urbanization and migration.²¹ Finally, addressing gender-based violence by creating conditions of peace and security was a prerequisite for sustainable and long-term development and socio-economic growth.²²

Policy Implementation

A clear-cut relationship between the different spheres of operation of UNFPA has been established. They are: results, business model, and funding arrangements (including the Resource Allocation System).²³ In order to attain results, all programming must have a fully compliant business model.²⁴ This business model is created via a re-imagining of existing funding arrangements, principally the Resource Allocation System.²⁵ Simply put, in order to achieve the organization's desired objectives, this is done by affecting the funding each objective receives, i.e. the business model.²⁶

There are specific indicators put in place to measure the progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan.²⁷ These indicators are to be shared with other UN agencies whose work overlaps with that of UNFPA, including UNDP, UN-Women, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP).²⁸ The performance indicators cover a wide array of areas of work; gender mainstreaming and equality, response to HIV/AIDS, inter-agency collaboration, efficiency in resource use, and implementation of the QCPR.²⁹

The business model, in essence, is the "where, how, and who of the fund's work".³⁰ The *where* are the countries being targeted, with a new designation depending on their income: low, lower-middle, and upper-middle income countries. A country's income, i.e. its ability to finance its own population activities, determines the *how*; advocacy and policy advice, capacity development, and finally service delivery.³¹ This is a new trend in UNFPA's philosophy refraining from trying to do everything at once, and focusing on delivering "thinking," not "things." This reflects a system-wide shift being called for in the QCPR.³²

Conclusion

The purpose of this update is to highlight the work being undertaken in preparation for the ICPD +20 review. All of this inter-agency, system-wide collaboration and evaluation, in addition to national governments' initiatives, is not the end goal. Indeed, the Beyond 2014 Review is only an element of a larger discussion, if a significant element nonetheless. This year presents the last opportunity for UNFPA and the other 31 members of the UN Development Group (of which UNFPA is a founder) to work towards, and achieve the goals set at the Millennium Summit. That is probably a large part of the reason why the QCPR was called for, and with results and evaluations of the progress on

¹⁸ UNFPA, *Africa Puts Rights of Women and Youth at Heart of Continent's Future Development* [Website], 2014.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ UNFPA, *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*, 2013.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ UNFPA, *Compendium of Decisions* [Report], 2013.

²⁸ UNFPA, *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*, 2013.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) only increasing in number, the role of the UNDG will only increase proportionally.³³

The United Nations Population Fund at NMUN•NY 2014

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was established to deal with issues of population, family planning and reproductive health, and to function within the United Nations system as a leader in striving towards related goals.

At NMUN•NY 2014, we are simulating the **Executive Board** of UNFPA in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Board, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the conference. On the contrary, for the purposes of NMUN•NY 2014, and in line with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of UNFPA in line with the overall function of the organization.

Format: The Executive Board of UNFPA is a resolution writing committee.

Voting: Each Member State present may vote once on procedural and substantive matters. Matters are decided by a majority vote.

Membership: The Executive Board of UNFPA consists of representatives from 36 Member States drawn from five regional groups: African States, Asian States, Latin America and Caribbean States, Eastern European States, and Western European and other States.

Angola	Armenia	Belgium	Brazil
Bulgaria	Canada	China	Congo
Cuba	Ecuador	Ethiopia	Fiji
Finland	France	Germany	Guatemala
Indonesia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ireland	Lesotho
Liberia	Montenegro	Morocco	Nepal
Netherlands	Nicaragua	Niger	Norway
Pakistan	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Sweden
Switzerland	United Kingdom	United Republic of Tanzania	United States of America

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Development Group. (2014). About the UNDG. *United Nations Development Group* [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=2>

This Website is a good starting point for delegates wishing to explore the full range of the UN development-related system. It contains several links that outline the strategic vision of the UNDG and action plans. Finally, it is an excellent example of the UN's quest for reform through pooling of resources and knowledge; delegates should find the UNDG members' roles and contributions to varied issues.

United Nations Population Fund. (2013, September 13). *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report Of The Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/exbrd/pid/12131>

This is probably the most important document leading up to the ICPD +20 review. It is detailed, supported by with quantitative reasoning, and explicit about the UN and international community's failings concerning the MDGs. It is the primary action plan going into the next four years, when it is expected that there will be a lot of reviews and reforms. One of the report's standout points is the detail in the new approach towards implementing UNFPA's vision.

³³ UNFPA, *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*, 2013.

United Nations Population Fund. (2014). Africa Puts Rights of Women and Youth at Heart of Continent's Future Development. *United Nations World Population Fund* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/whats-new/view/id/92/africa-puts-rights-of-women-and-youth-at-heart-of-continents-future-development>

Although mainly a news piece about the conference in question, this source nevertheless can add a lot to delegate understanding of the interplay between UN agencies, national governments, and international frameworks in implementing change when it comes to population activities. It also provides information about the declaration. This through both the process of creating it, and how it will be implemented – valuable to delegates wishing to understand the process.

United Nations Population Fund. (2014). UNFPA In The UN System. *United Nations World Population Fund*. [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about/pid/4629>

This source is a good highlight of the extent of UNFPA's roles and responsibilities within the UN system. This is important from the administrative, legal, and executive sense – it should be a guide for navigating which entity is responsible for handling population-related activities, identifying the different issues regarding them, formulating policies to tackle them, securing funding for implementation, and ultimately evaluating progress made.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2013, January 22). *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226)* [Resolution]. Adopted the report of the Second Committee (A/67/442/Add.1). Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/226

Outlines reform goals for the UNDG. Its purpose is to set key progress indicators and guides for achieving a more holistic and balanced tilt at sustainable development activities undertaken at the UN. It carries the weight and legitimacy of being a General Assembly resolution – this is not simply the opinion of experts, but that of the overwhelming majority of member states. It promises to be the defining guidebook for how the UN development pillar is structured and operates for the foreseeable future, which of course includes UNFPA.

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United Nations Population Fund, Second Regular session. (2013, September 13). *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017: Report Of The Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/exbrd/pid/12131>

United Nations Population Fund. (2014). Africa Puts Rights of Women and Youth at Heart of Continent's Future Development. *United Nations World Population Fund* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/whats-new/view/id/92/africa-puts-rights-of-women-and-youth-at-heart-of-continents-future-development>

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United Nations, Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services, Second Regular Session 2013. (2013, September 13).

Report of the Second Regular Session (DP/2014/1). Retrieved 11 January 2014 from:
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2014/first-regular-session/English/dp2014-1e.pdf>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-sixth session. (2002, March 6). *Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/56/201)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/562/Add.1). Retrieved 10 January 2014 from:
<http://www.undg.org/docs/9477/N0149297.pdf>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2013, January 22). *Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/67/226)* [Resolution]. Adopted the report of the Second Committee (A/67/442/Add.1). Retrieved 9 January 2014 from:
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/226

United Nations, Population Fund, Second Regular Session 2013. (13 September 2013). *Compendium of Decisions* [Report]. Retrieved 11 January 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/exbrd/pid/12131>

I. Health Priorities Post-2015: Opportunities and Challenges for Improving Maternal Health

Introduction

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) coming to an end in 2015, awareness has been growing of the need to develop further strategies to not only maintain achievements reached, but to also continue working to improve living conditions for people all over the world.³⁴ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is fundamentally committed to achieving Goal 5, “Improve Maternal Health”; however progress lags behind and will continue to pose a major challenge for the international community in and beyond 2015.³⁵ With less than two years remaining until 2015, the need to develop new strategies and a comprehensive plan for the post-2015 agenda is now becoming very real.³⁶ Natural disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and armed conflict, such as the situation in Syria, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are constantly reminding us of how fragile the goals achieved are. In all these cases, women and young girls remain the most vulnerable group, and in many cases, maternal mortality is referenced as a marker which indicates ongoing instability for those populations.³⁷ UNFPA works together with other UN agencies and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local communities, foundations, and governments to reach Goal 5 set by the Millennium Declaration by 2015 and beyond.³⁸ A number of regional programs and partnerships have been initialized at the end of 2013 that boost local efforts to improve maternal health, access to reproductive health care, strengthen responses in emergencies, and end sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).³⁹

Consideration on the topic has been taken by the General Assembly, which adopted two draft resolutions based on two reports by the General Assembly Second Committee.⁴⁰ The resolutions on “Woman in development” (A/RES/68/227) and on “Culture and sustainable development” (A/RES/68/223) stressed the important role of women in development and the need for continuous efforts to improve maternal health, as well as health services for women and girls, as part of sustainable development efforts.⁴¹ UNFPA thus works with several UN agencies, among them UN-Women, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the World Bank and its International Development Association (IDA).⁴²

Key documents which underpin the topic include the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, the *Beijing Declaration* (1995), and the *Millennium Declaration* (2000).⁴³ Furthermore, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals remains an important platform for UN agencies and Member States to share information and their progress in achieving the MDGs as well as endorsing certain issues beyond their own sphere of influence.⁴⁴ During the sixth session of the Working Group, which was held from 9-13 December, the Women’s Major Group stressed the importance of targeting maternal health as a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).⁴⁵

³⁴ UN DESA, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UNDP, *Millennium Development Goals – Improve maternal health* [Website], 2014.

³⁷ UNFPA, *UNFPA and UN Women launch Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*, 2013.

³⁸ UNFPA, *Safe Motherhood - Stepping up Efforts to Save Mothers' Lives* [Website], 2014.

³⁹ UNFPA, *A New Midwifery School Brings Hope to Haitian Mothers*, 2013; World Bank, *UN, World Bank boost support for women’s health, girls’ education in Africa’s Sahel*, 2013; UNFPA, *UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Arab States Region*, 2013.

⁴⁰ UN DPI, *Programme of meetings and agenda*, 2013, pp. 11-12.

⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development (A/RES/68/227)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Globalization and interdependence: culture and development (A/RES/68/223)*, 2013.

⁴² World Bank, *UN, World Bank boost support for women’s health, girls’ education in Africa’s Sahel*, 2013.

⁴³ ICPD, *Programme of Action*, 1994; UN-Women, *Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing Declaration*, 1995; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

⁴⁴ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals* [Website], 2014.

⁴⁵ Women’s Major Group & AWID, *Statement on Women at the sixth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013.

Deliberations on the issue further continued during the third International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 - 15 November 2013.⁴⁶ The conference closed with the *Addis Call to Action on the Post-2015 Development Framework*, which underlines the importance of mainstreaming family planning in the development agenda to ensure maternal health and gender equality.⁴⁷ Thirty-five civil society organizations and individuals signed the Call to Action and plan to present it to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the next opportunity.⁴⁸ During the ICFP, additional countries made commitments to expand family planning programs, such as Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mauritania, and Myanmar, that all declared their intention to facilitate access to contraceptives and to use funds to implement national family planning programs, as well as reproductive health care trainings.⁴⁹

Recent Developments

Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care

In November 2013, UNFPA launched a new initiative together with UN Women, the *Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*.⁵⁰ Together, the two agencies want to set up international standards and guidelines for health, safety, and recovery of women and girls.⁵¹ The four-year Programme will, so the two agencies hope, help to “fill the gap between international commitments and country-level activities” to improve women’s health all over the world.⁵²

Further measures to improve maternal health and access to reproductive health care were initiated by the World Bank together with the UN, the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank, and the European Union (EU) upon the visit of their representatives to the Sahel region in early November 2013.⁵³ While countries in the region have been able to reduce child mortality in the past, maternal mortality remains high.⁵⁴ During his visit, Dr. Jam Yong Kim, Director of the World Bank, announced that the Bank would spend an additional \$200 million to establish the *Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographics Project*.⁵⁵ The project’s goal is to improve access and affordability of reproductive health care services, establish specialized training centers for midwives, and to share knowledge on sexual and reproductive health care among women and girls across the region.⁵⁶ UNFPA will receive up to \$100 million of funds in order to support country projects regarding maternal health commodities and services in the region.⁵⁷

Family Planning Policies

Collecting data about the use and prevalence of contraceptives is a crucial factor to improve countries’ family planning policies. The family planning initiatives PMA2020 and Track20 started two new projects in December 2013, each aimed at monitoring the progress of new country-based programs that deliver long-acting reversible contraceptive implants to women in Africa and Asia.⁵⁸ The data collected help to develop auxiliary strategies to reach the goal of the global FP2020 initiative, to provide an additional 120 million women and girls with access to family planning services by 2020.⁵⁹ In January 2014, the United States Agency for International Development

⁴⁶ ICFP, *Home* [Website], 2014.

⁴⁷ ICFP, *Global Conference Closes with Call for Family Planning to Be at Center of Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 1; ICFP, *A Call to Action: Family Planning and the Post-2015 Development Framework: Achieving Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*, 2013.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁵⁰ UNFPA, *UNFPA and UN Women launch Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*, 2013.

⁵¹ Mlambo-Ngcuka, *We must put women and their rights at the centre of the response to violence against women* [Statement], 2013.

⁵² UNFPA, *UNFPA and UN Women launch Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*, 2013.

⁵³ UN DPI, UN, *World Bank boost support for women’s health, girls’ education in Africa’s Sahel*, 2013

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ World Bank, UN, *World Bank boost support for women’s health, girls’ education in Africa’s Sahel*, 2013.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ UN DPI, UN, *World Bank boost support for women’s health, girls’ education in Africa’s Sahel*, 2013.

⁵⁸ Huffington Post, *International Family Planning 2014: Seven Trends to Watch* [Website], 2013.

⁵⁹ Track20, *About Track20* [Website], 2014.

(USAID) launched a project in Togo entitled *Agir pour la Planification Familiale (AgirPF)*.⁶⁰ Operating in six West African states, the goal of AgirPF is to increase the diffusion and quality of family planning counseling especially in urban areas.⁶¹ The program is meant to foster the knowledge about healthy family planning behavior and promote its benefits for people in the region.⁶² To that end the program will work closely together with hospitals, local health centers, and community-based services.⁶³

Maternal Health in Conflict and Post-Conflict or Emergency Zones

In recent months, there are developments on the local level which serve as examples of ways in which to implement existing policy. One such example can be seen in Haiti, which has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the Western Hemisphere, and is still recovering from the devastating earthquake which struck the country in 2010. In October 2013, UNFPA and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) established a new midwifery school, bringing new hope to the country that has still not fully recovered from the earthquake it was hit by in 2010.⁶⁴ The new school is set up in an earthquake resistant building and will train 80 midwives within the next few months.⁶⁵ Further, the school will be a pilot for the establishment of more schools across the country which will have additional services beyond education to serve areas without access to maternal care, such as neonatal care, family planning, and programs to combat GBV and prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.⁶⁶

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

Research published by WHO in 2013 shows that 37% of women in Arab States would at some point in their life experience “physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner.”⁶⁷ This makes the Arab region the region with the second highest prevalence after Southeast Asia.⁶⁸ In response to an in-depth analysis of challenges and possibilities to end SGBV and improve maternal health in the region, UNFPA and representatives of government institutions, parliaments, NGOs, and other UN agencies met in Rabat, Morocco from 28 to 29 November and adopted the *UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Arab States*.⁶⁹ The three-year strategy is supposed to serve as “a road map for Arab States on Prevention and Response to GBV” by establishing a platform for collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, the media, and international organizations.⁷⁰ The strategy provides specific recommendations for ways in which each actor can take action to end SGBV.⁷¹ By setting up this strategy, UNFPA and the involved governments take into account the need to strengthen legal frameworks and the effectiveness of enforcement and implementation mechanisms across the region.⁷²

Conclusion

Maternal health is not just a topic worth consideration on its own merits, but one that has important implications for human development broadly.⁷³ Improving maternal health thus remains a precondition for further development of women and girls, but also for the development of societies.⁷⁴ The international community has undertaken several steps within the last months to strengthen efforts for a post 2015-development agenda, and it has taken the issue of maternal health extremely seriously. The examples above demonstrate that there have not only been considerations

⁶⁰ Family Planning 2020, *USAID Launched Regional Family Planning Project: Agir pour la Planification Familiale* [Website], 2014.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² USAID, *USAID Launches Regional Family Planning Project: Agir pour la Planification Familiale* [Website], 2014.

⁶³ Family Planning 2020, *USAID Launched Regional Family Planning Project: Agir pour la Planification Familiale* [Website], 2014.

⁶⁴ UNFPA, *A New Midwifery School Brings Hope to Haitian Mothers*, 2013.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UNFPA, *UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Arab States Region*, 2013, p. 4.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 17.

⁷⁰ UNFPA & CAWTAR, *Rabat Declaration*, 2013.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, *TST Issues Brief: Health and Sustainable Development*, 2013.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

made on a global scale, but various regional and national initiatives show the variety with which the issue can be addressed. Delegates can take these as inspiration when considering their contribution to the matter.

Annotated Bibliography

International Conference on Family Planning. (2014). *Home* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2014 from: <http://www.fpconference2013.org/>

The website delivers a number of material, and further information on the conference and the topics discussed. The main focus lies within the area of access to family planning and contraception for women as an integral part of women's development. Though the ICFP focuses on family planning, the Media Center section provides a number of press releases and additional information that help understand the wider implication of the topic and its relations to maternal health.

Mlambo-Ngcuka, P. (2013, December 3). *We must put women and their rights at the centre of the response to violence against women* [Statement]. UN-Women. Retrieved 27 December 2013 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/12/executive-director-launches-joint-programme-on-essential-services-for-survivors>

In her speech Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, underlines the importance of common standards for maternal health and the importance of experts from different UN agencies and civil society organizations working together to share information and ideas. In her speech, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka points out areas where women are most vulnerable which might help delegates to choose a focus for their negotiations. Although there is not any further information on the programme available yet, delegates should stay tuned for further publications regarding the initiative throughout the next months.

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Technical Support Team. (2013, June). *TST Issues Brief: Health and Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 6 January 2014 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18300406tstissueshealth.pdf>

This short issue summarizes major challenges and opportunities with regards to health and sustainable development for the post-2015 agenda. While the publication deals with health in general, it also points out the importance and particular challenges regarding maternal health. The publication also mentions some guiding principles, which should be taken into consideration when developing future goals and targets. Delegates may find this source helpful to put maternal health into a broader context of development targets, which could help them develop effective strategies.

United Nations Population Fund. (2013). *UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Arab States Region 2014-2017*. Retrieved 3 January 2014 from: http://arabstates.unfpa.org/webdav/site/as/shared/docs/2013_ArabGBVStrategy_English.pdf

This publication gives a very good insight into the issue of SGBV in the Arab Region, as well as on cultural characteristics, legal frameworks, the work of UNFPA in the region, and existing partnerships committed to combat SGBV. The report is a good resource to understand the issue, but more importantly to get a better understanding of how programs aimed to end GBV can be designed. Taking the initiative by Arab States, it also reflects information contained in the background guide in terms of its remarks on the importance of considering cultural difference. The Regional Strategy can thus be a helpful resource for delegates who prepare their own solutions for other regions in the world.

United Nations Population Fund & Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research. (2013). *Rabat Declaration. Towards an Effective Partnership for the Implementation of the UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Arab States*. Retrieved 4 January 2014 from: http://arabstates.unfpa.org/webdav/site/as/shared/docs/2013_RabatDeclaration_English.pdf

The Rabat Declaration is a good example for regional strategies to improve maternal health and strengthen the fight against GBV. The document lists the different tasks that governments, civil

societies and NGOs have to fulfil in order to reach a common goal. It also highlights the importance of effective data-collection to address the issue, thus giving delegates an additional example for the areas in which UNFPA might need to take further action. The Declaration can also be of help for delegates in developing their own solution strategies.

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II. Impact of Urbanization on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

Introduction

Recent predictions conclude by 2030, close to 60% of the world's population will live in urban areas and roughly 180,000 individuals are moving to an urban area every day.⁷⁵ Almost one billion people are poor, and of this, over 750 million live in urban areas without suitable shelter and basic services.⁷⁶ Demographic and economic changes further influence urbanization and show the importance of finding comprehensive strategies for this challenge, as it can be observed that well-planned urbanization can contribute largely to sustainable development.⁷⁷ Cities usually have better infrastructure than rural areas and thus offer more chances for people living there such as better access to education or health services and more possibilities to be economically successful.⁷⁸ However, a lack of effective planning and unmanaged urban growth will lead to an increase in individuals living in slums, which in turns put those individuals and communities in vulnerable positions in the case of extreme weather events, and also exacerbates inefficient land use.⁷⁹

Considerations on the subject have been taken by various UN entities over the past months such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), and the International Organization for Migration, who have published a joint report called *Population and sustainable development in the Post-2015 agenda*, which explains the linkage between the development challenges of today's world and the population dynamics including urbanization.⁸⁰ When the Population Division of the UN DESA met in October 2013 for an Expert Group Meeting on the priorities for improved survival in regards of the ICPD beyond 2014, they also published a *Report of the Meeting* (ESA/WP/234).⁸¹ Furthermore, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has published a summary on the *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L3640(CRPD.1/3)), highlighting demographic structures, population distributions and urbanization in the region.⁸²

The key international documents that focus on the impacts of urbanization on the ICPD Programme of Action and thus support the progress in this field include the outcome of the ICPD (A/CONF.171/13), the UN-HABITAT resolution on cities and climate change (HSP/GC/22/3), and the resolution on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development (2008/1) by the Commission on Population and Development.⁸³ Besides the UNFPA, there are several actors that continue to deal with the topic such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or the Cities Alliance.

⁷⁵ UNCHS, *Urbanization: Facts and Figures* [Website].

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ UNFPA, UN DESA, UN-HABITAT & IOM, *Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics*, 2013, p. 25.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ UN DESA, *United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Priorities for Improving Survival: ICPD Beyond 2014. Report of the Meeting* (ESA/WP/234), October 2013.

⁸² ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned* (LC/L3640(CRPD.1/3)) [Report], 2013.

⁸³ UN, *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development* (A/CONF.171/13), 1994; UN-HABITAT, *Cities and climate change* (HSP/GC/22/3) [Resolution], 2009; UN CPD, *Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development* (2008/1) [Resolution], 2008.

Recent Developments

Regional Developments

In Latin America, 12 of the 19 countries mentioned progress in urban planning, decentralization, and environmental management and protection.⁸⁴ For example, Chile created the National Urban Development Policy, which recognizes the lack of public spaces and green areas of quality, traffic congestion, poor neighborhoods, and the feeling of loss in culture.⁸⁵ A similar number of countries indicate they have taken detailed procedures to increase access for basic services, housing, and public transportation.⁸⁶

Characterized as small fragile ecosystems, Pacific island countries not only face internal challenges of urbanization, but remain particularly vulnerable to the impacts of unpredictable external forces.⁸⁷ Urbanization has contributed a major shift to the social structures of the Pacific island countries in recent years, and social arrangements are changing rapidly.⁸⁸ The social and demographic transformation is such that, although the family is still the central welfare agency, governments must take on increasing responsibilities in policy areas.⁸⁹ The breakdown of the family structure is increasing and this situation is placing a substantial burden on governmental budgets to support local individuals.⁹⁰ Furthermore, the Planning and Urban Management Authority in Samoa, the Housing Policy Initiative in Fiji, and Papua New Guinea National Urbanization Policy continue to discuss some of the urbanization issues including proactive planning on promoting the growth of small and medium-sized urban centers, urban population growth, promoting environmental management, and ensuring land development.⁹¹

In the Middle East region, the emerging issues stemming from urbanization, ageing, and migration have had an influence on the country's sustainable development.⁹² For example in Kyrgyzstan, it is a top priority to meet the needs of their youth in health, education, and employment.⁹³ The government approved a national youth policy, and women are represented in the Parliament based on a 30% quota.⁹⁴

Gendered Perspectives of Urban Poverty

Recalling the *Programme of Action* at the Expert Group Meeting, Suzanne Petroni, Senior Director at the International Center for Research on Women, mentions the ICPD goals of female health have made solid but uneven progress in terms of reducing maternal mortality, improving coverage of skilled attendance, prenatal care, and contraceptive treatment.⁹⁵ Adolescent girls are subject to a range of sexual and reproductive health risks, often related to premature marriage and pregnancy.⁹⁶ To further note, poverty grows faster in urban areas.⁹⁷ One billion people live in slums, which are overcrowded, polluted, and lack basic services.⁹⁸ Lowering poverty, empowering women, and providing quality reproductive health services improve the access to basic social services.⁹⁹

⁸⁴ ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned (LC/L3640(CRPD.1/3))* [Report], 2013; ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* [Website].

⁸⁵ National Urban Development Policy, *Towards a New Agenda in Chile* [Website].

⁸⁶ ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned (LC/L3640(CRPD.1/3))* [Report], 2013; ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* [Website].

⁸⁷ UNFPA, *Pacific Regional ICPD Review, Review of the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action Beyond 2014* [Website].

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Entre Nous, *From ICPD to Post-2015* [Website].

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Priorities for Improved Survival: ICPD Beyond 2014* [Website].

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ UNFPA, *Linking Population, Poverty and Development* [Website].

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

In October 2013, the Population Division of the UN convened two Expert Group Meetings; one on mortality, and one on fertility, changing population trends and development.¹⁰⁰ During one of those meeting, Professor Hill from Harvard University discussed urbanization and explained how “an increasing proportion of births in developing countries would occur in urban areas [...] as a consequence of the higher socioeconomic status of urban dwellers as well as their superior access to health services.”¹⁰¹ Mr. Hill also determined that even in the slums on the peripheries of large cities, the child mortality was not higher than in urban areas.¹⁰² Research demonstrates infant mortality risks were inversely correlated with the mothers’ level of schooling.¹⁰³ Furthermore, educated women tend to have lower fertility and are less likely to be poor, both of which factors that may reduce child mortality risks.¹⁰⁴

The High-Level Task Force for ICPD encourages Member States to build and capitalize on what has already been accomplished through the ICPD Programme of Action.¹⁰⁵ Reproductive rights and the empowerment of women are the focus of sustainable development and should be the central pillars of the new post-2015 global agenda while also focusing on urbanization.¹⁰⁶ Prioritizing and acting upon these commitments is fundamental to achieving social, economic and environmental justice.¹⁰⁷

Conclusion

Today, many of the population concerns of Member States in the Latin American and Caribbean region relate to human rights or rights for certain population groups, which shows how much the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD-PA) has influenced thinking.¹⁰⁸ There is a vast contrast in various regions between the growing prominence of population issues and the shrinking international financing and support of solutions to the challenges.¹⁰⁹ Public organizations and budgets will have to reinforce and be restructured in order to accomplish the widespread treatment of population and development subjects.¹¹⁰

Future population agendas will be biased, not only because of the amount of people involved but also urbanization will continue, and movement from rural areas will not decrease.¹¹¹ If living conditions are to improve in urban areas, collected deficits will have to be discussed, comprehensive multi-sector planning, and better regulations will need to follow.¹¹² This will also require dealing with the status quo, which will have a significant influence on the costs of urban land, the location of services and infrastructure, and the functioning of transportation.¹¹³ Clear and tactical choices will have to be made with regard to public services, as the sustainability of cities depends on proper management.¹¹⁴ There are some policy issues barely mentioned in the Global Survey, such as the authority of metropolitan areas, their formal delimitation and residential segregation.¹¹⁵ These topics will have to be included because of their importance for democratic, inclusive, and effective progress.

¹⁰⁰ UN Population Division. *Expert Group Meeting* [Website].

¹⁰¹ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Priorities for Improved Survival: ICPD Beyond 2014* [Website].

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ High-Level Task Force for ICPD, *Policy Recommendations for the ICPD Beyond 2014* [Website].

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2013.

¹⁰⁹ ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned (LC/L3640(CRPD.1/3))* [Report], 2013.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ ECLAC, *Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned (LC/L3640(CRPD.1/3))* [Report], 2013.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

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This report, published five months ago, draws out in-depth commentary of the ICPD PoA. Though it primarily focuses on just the Pacific Region, it has specific measures and success in some countries regarding urbanization. Not only that, but it also draws out other scenarios on culture concerns of why urbanization is affecting the specific region.

The High-Level Task Force for ICPD. (2013). *Policy Recommendations for the ICPD Beyond 2014* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2014 from: <http://www.afppd.org/files/3913/7144/5835/policy-recommendations-for-the-ICPD-beyond-2014.pdf>

This website serves as a suitable starting point on what Member States could potentially focus on for the resolutions. The website has strong statistics from developing nations and pulls out a lot of information from the ICPD. Rather than just focusing on the urbanization, the website article draws out rational goals and strategies for the PoA.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. (2013, October). *United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Priorities for Improving Survival: ICPD Beyond 2014. Report of the Meeting* (ESA/WP/234). Retrieved 3 January 2014 from:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/20/Report-of-the-Meeting.pdf>

This report, published only a few months ago, comes from accredited accolade individuals and experts who specialize in public health. The report pulls updated facts of each region and has thorough notes regarding the ICPD. The report analyzes the current status predicts what will happen in the future, and draws good scenarios. Above all, it has broad, but exact details of improving the ICPD.

United Nations Development Programme. (2013, October 30). *Report of the Second Regular Session 2013* (DP/2014/1) Retrieved 2 January 2014 from:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Executive%20Board/2014/first-regular-session/English/dp2014-1e.pdf>

This report, only written a few months ago, comes from an accredited resource. The UNFPA has to report directly to the UNDP. The report shows constructive feedback on what UNFPA has done successfully in terms of implementing the ICPD PoA, but the body also gives recommendations on what the UNFPA could further do. The report also shows what this topic specifically means to UNDP.

United Nations Population Fund. (2013, April). Pacific Regional ICPD Review, Review of the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action Beyond 2014 [Report]. Retrieved 3 January 2014 from:

<http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/news/2013/Pacific%20ICPD%20report%20final%20with%20pics.pdf>

This report, written recently, was from the body we are mirroring. It is a thorough document on what specific countries have done successfully and what could be worked on further. The report pulls updated statistics, and may help delegates further understand what the exact implications for each region are.

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III. Strengthening the International Response to New Trends in Migration

Recent Developments

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Strategic Plan 2014-2017 seeks to address unfinished work relating to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) – a big part of which is addressing the population boom that continues to strain the world’s economic and natural resources.¹¹⁶ Trends in migration and urbanization add to this strain, allowing the UNFPA to emphasize effective policies on these topics in its strategic vision for the next three years.¹¹⁷ The Strategic Plan was adopted at the second regular session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Office for Project Services between 9-13 September 2013.¹¹⁸ Like the work of the UNFPA overall, it focuses heavily on the protection of women and youth and the most vulnerable populations within those groups – particularly migrants, minorities, and sex workers.¹¹⁹ The High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development reported to the UN General Assembly’s 68th session (*A/68/190*) that one way to effectively ease problems of international migration and to better incorporate it into the international development agenda is to invest in collecting data about migration and its impact on communities, families, individuals, and states.¹²⁰ It is difficult to measure something as fluid as international migration, but the impact on economic development is too crucial to overlook; thus, states and the international community alike should work to understand migration through censuses, surveys, and administrative data.¹²¹

Challenges of Migration

A primary challenge migrants face occurs when they attempt to get to their destinations. Some more developed states have policies that make it difficult for migrants to find legal ways to enter, thus fuelling a \$35 billion per year human smuggling trade to cross those borders, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).¹²² The IOM also estimates that in 2013, at least 2,360 migrants died attempting to reach their new opportunity in a new country, while an untold number of others died anonymously crossing bodies of water and deserts.¹²³ This includes the 360 North African migrants who died when their boat capsized within sight of the Italian island of Lampedusa in October of 2013.¹²⁴

The High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of October 2013 reported to the General Assembly that, among other things, it is important for countries to consciously work to improve the perception of migrants – through media, education, and the private sector.¹²⁵ The IOM reinforced this recently, with one representative stating, “the paradox is that while one in seven people worldwide are migrants in one form or another, there has been a ‘harsh response to migration in the developed world.’”¹²⁶

Benefits of International Migration

Pointing out the symbiotic relationship of economic development between migrants and states, Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said, “Migration broadens the opportunities available to individuals and is a crucial means of broadening access to resources and reducing poverty.”¹²⁷ One of the most talked-about benefits of international migration is the remittances developing countries receive from migrants who have traveled elsewhere in search of better economic opportunities. In 2013 alone, the developing world received

¹¹⁶ UNDP, et. al., *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)* [Report], 2013.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Making migration work: an eight-point agenda for action (A/68/190)* [Summary of Report], 2013.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² Nebehey, *2013 believed to be deadliest for desperate migrants: IOM* [Website], 2013.

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

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¹²⁶ Nebehey, *2013 believed to be deadliest for desperate migrants: IOM* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁷ UN DESA, *232 Million International Migrants Living Abroad Worldwide – New UN Global Migration Statistics Reveal* [Press Release], 2013.

\$414 billion, and by 2016 that number is projected to rise to \$540 billion.¹²⁸ The latest numbers by the World Bank show India, China, the Philippines, Mexico, and Nigeria as the recipients of the largest sums of international migrant remittances.¹²⁹ The study showed that remittances grew in all regions of the world except for Latin America and the Caribbean, which decelerated due to economic struggles in the United States.¹³⁰

However, it is important to note that along with the falling rate of unemployment in the United States in late 2012 to 2013, the employment of foreign-born workers has responded better to improvements in the economy when compared to native-born workers.¹³¹ The World Bank notes that in the United States, states where employment rates have gained the most ground are those with the largest populations of immigrants in the country.¹³² With immigration reform on the table in the United States Congress, remittances from migrant workers there may improve to the rest of the world as well.¹³³

This demonstrates the interconnectedness of international migration and the economic health of the developing world; the point is further emphasized by noting that remittances are greater than earnings from information technology exports in India.¹³⁴ Banks are taking note of this transfer of money and have begun charging both senders and recipients high fees for sending such capital, as much as 5% to 15% per transaction.¹³⁵ These fees are not necessarily prohibitive, but certainly can be discouraging to customers and have senders seeking out informal – and less secure – ways of sending money home to support their families and home economies.¹³⁶

Migration and Human Rights

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has historically taken an interest in migrating populations, distinguishing between migrants who *choose* to re-locate and refugees who are typically *forced* to do so, based on their personal and/or political circumstances in their home state.¹³⁷ The paths taken to new destinations by refugees and migrants often overlap, blurring the lines in terms of the legal protections given each group in the receiving state.¹³⁸ Thus, in the UNHCR report to the 68th session of the General Assembly (A/68/450), the office committed itself to evaluating its involvement in mixed migratory activity and would seek to clarify the protections it could extend to each type of group to ensure that refugees and migrants both – regardless of moving because of force or in search of economic opportunity – would be extended their deserved full range of human rights.¹³⁹ Consistent with the primary concern of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017, The UNHCR's evaluation of its practices would also seek to provide a mechanism to protect in particular the most vulnerable populations – women, people with disabilities, youth – a theme.¹⁴⁰ The UNHCR report urged Member States to give all migrant children access to education as if they were native children and all migrants should be able to access health services and other essentials, regardless of legal status.¹⁴¹ Questions of legal status could be addressed by encouraging Member States to take a comprehensive, fair look at channels for legal migration.¹⁴²

On 18 December 2013, International Migrants Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for the consideration of the positive impact of international migration in the post-2015 development agenda, including empathy in policy and spirit for migrants fleeing crises in their home countries.¹⁴³ International cooperation in

¹²⁸ The World Bank, *Migrants from developing countries to send home \$414 billion in earnings in 2013* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ The World Bank, *Migration and Development Brief*, 2013.

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ The World Bank, *Migrants from developing countries to send home \$414 billion in earnings in 2013* [Website].

¹³⁵ The World Bank, *Migration and Development Brief*, 2013.

¹³⁶ The World Bank, *Migrants from developing countries to send home \$414 billion in earnings in 2013* [Website], 2013.

¹³⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration* [Website].

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions: Report of the Third Committee (A/68/450)* [Report], 2013.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Making migration work: an eight-point agenda for action (A/68/190)* [Summary of Report], 2013.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ Ban Ki-moon, *International Migrants Day: Secretary General's Message for 2013* [Statement], 2013.

ensuring migrants are treated with respect and afforded their human rights was the focus of Secretary Ban's call to action on the occasion.¹⁴⁴

Female Migration

Women and girls tend to be the primary targets of human trafficking for the purposes of sex work or forced labor.¹⁴⁵ Aside from the fact that human trafficking is a pervasive threat of violence against female migrants, this activity helps perpetuate the lucrative business of transnational organized crime, allowing for the proliferation of such trafficking of drugs and arms alongside it; clearly not only is this an urgent human rights issue, but also one of combating global crime.¹⁴⁶

According to the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017, female migrants and other women of vulnerable populations will be particularly targeted by the work of the Fund to expand access to reproductive health services and to ensure respect for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights.¹⁴⁷ The adopted Strategic Plan points to collaboration in this area with UN-Women and UNICEF to develop programs that engage men and boys as well as faith communities in discussions on the role of women in society in hope of furthering the dialog to guarantee women, and especially vulnerable women, basic human rights and respect.¹⁴⁸ Seeing that women account for 48% of international migrants, protecting these women is an essential topic of discussion going forward.¹⁴⁹

Conclusion

Given that 3.2% of the world's population is living in a country other than their country of birth, and noting that this number has been on the rise over the past two decades, it is clear that the international community has a difficult job to keep policies aligned with population trends.¹⁵⁰ There are opportunities for mutually beneficial migration policies both in the developed and developing worlds, as indicated by recent statistics collected in the field, and while considering this Member States should also consider public education and awareness building projects, and legislative change as vehicles for reducing xenophobia.

Annotated Bibliography

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, & United Nations Office for Project Services, second regular session. (2013, 9-13 September). *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)* [Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/about/pid/4631>

The Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 was adopted in September of 2013 and will guide the work of the UNFPA greatly. Its focus on women and youth is no surprise given the mandate and mission of the Fund, but the highlighting of equal access to sexual and reproductive health care and goal of ensuring human rights and respect for women around the world is notable and should guide delegate work in committee. This document, as well as the annexes to the document, is a must-read for its outlining of goals relating to progress for the world's population over the next few years.

Nebehey, S. (2013, 17 December). 2013 believed to be deadliest for desperate migrants: IOM [Website]. Reuters. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/17/us-migrants-iom-idUSBRE9BG0YK20131217>

This news article succinctly discusses possibly the biggest problem facing migrants currently: the high risks they take to get to their destination. Strict immigration policies in many countries, particularly richer countries, lead to illegal means of getting into the country which typically also

¹⁴⁴ Ban Ki-moon, *International Migrants Day: Secretary General's Message for 2013* [Statement], 2013.

¹⁴⁵ UN Department of Public Information, *Head of United Nations Crime Prevention Office Says Trafficking in Humans, Drugs Violates Human Rights, Undermines Development (GA/SHC/4067)* [Press Release], 2013.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ UNDP, et. al., *The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2013/12)* [Report], 2013.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ UN DESA, *232 Million International Migrants Living Abroad Worldwide – New UN Global Migration Statistics Reveal* [Press Release], 2013.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

means more dangerous. Paying human smugglers to get a migrant to his or her desired destination is an urgent problem and the death toll from migration seems to be climbing.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2013, October 9). Head of United Nations Crime Prevention Office Says Trafficking in Humans, Drugs Violates Human Rights, Undermines Development (GA/SHC/4067) [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gashc4067.doc.htm>

Delegates looking for evidence connecting human trafficking and organized crime with migration will find this document helpful. Rounding up statements by state representatives to the 68th session of the General Assembly Third Committee, the document addresses organized, transnational crime in general, but clearly links human trafficking with the precarious positions of migrants. Statements are made by many raising concerns about how to keep migrants safe and out of any slave or sex trafficking rings that contribute to the many sins of transnational organized criminals.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013, October). *Making migration work: an eight-point agenda for action (A/68/190)* [Summary of Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/migration_8points_en.pdf

Through eight points, the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development clearly states how migration challenges can be tackled and better integrated into the development agenda, despite its at times nebulous and difficult to define nature. It encourages nations to be more sensitive to the needs of migrants and to avoid feeding the cycle of human trafficking by prosecuting offenders and recognizing the problem more efficiently. Delegates can use this as a quick reference to guide their discussion in a direction suggested by the top experts in the field.

The World Bank, Development Prospects Group. (2013, April 19). *Migration and Development Brief* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationDevelopmentBrief20.pdf>

Going into great detail on remittances from migrant workers back to the developing world, this report provides clear evidence of mutual benefits for local economies in the new home state as well as the former home state of migrants. The report looks at specific regional activity in migration as well as remittances to home countries and how that directly can contribute to development. Delegates may choose to use this as a resource for how the states they represent either benefit from remittances or from populations of migrant workers.

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