



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2022

Reconciling the Past and Restoring Multilateral Partnerships for the Future

March 24-26, 2022

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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2022 and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Executive Board. My name is Jasmine Sutherland, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the UNFPA-EB. This will be my second conference serving on staff for SRMUN Charlotte. Previously, I served as the Director of the Security Council at SRMUN Charlotte 2021. I have also participated in seven Model United Nations conferences regionally and internationally as a delegate. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs with a minor in German Studies from Kennesaw State University in May 2017. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Eliza Cyriac. This will be Eliza's first time serving as staff at SRMUN Charlotte, but she has been involved with Model United Nations since 2019 and attended two SRMUN conferences as a delegate. Eliza is currently pursuing degrees in Political Science and History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The UNFPA is the sexual and reproductive health agency of the United Nations (UN), and strives to end preventable maternal death, unmet needs for family planning, and gender-based violence and harmful practices. The UNFPA – Executive Board was established in 1993 through United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 48/162. The Executive Board consist of 36 Member States, serving on a rotating three-year basis and is responsible for implementing UNGA policies through coordination with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), monitoring the performance of the programs run by the Fund, approving of new programs, administering financial plans and budgets, and submitting reports and data to ECOSOC.

By focusing on the mission of the UNFPA-EB and the SRMUN Charlotte 2022 theme of *“Reconciling the Past and Restoring Multilateral Partnerships for the Future,”* we have established the following topics for delegates to discuss at this year's conference:

- I. Expanding on Gender-Based Violence Prevention Methods and Standards
- II. Establishing Sustainable Strategies to Manage Demographic Change

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2022. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 4, 2022, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Eliza and I are elated excited to be serving as your dais for the UNFPA-EB at SRMUN Charlotte 2022! We wish you the best of luck in your research and writing as you prepare for conference, and look forward to working with you soon. Please feel free to contact Director-General Chantel Hover, Eliza, or myself with any questions you may have while preparing for conference.

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History of the United Nations Population Fund – Executive Board

In 1967, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General U Thant, established the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in response to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2211.¹ The trust fund was established to provide aid to Member States, bring awareness to issues relating to population development, and to coordinate efforts to educate Member States on population growth and management.² Despite the trust fund not changing in function or structure, the UNFPA was later renamed the United Nations Population Fund, yet maintaining its prior abbreviation, in December 1987 with the passage of UNGA Resolution 42/430.³ The main focus of the UNFPA is to provide education on sexual and reproductive health and ensure every person's right to exercise their rights within that sphere.⁴ With programs in over 150 Member States, the UNFPA collaborates with Member States to ensure that the rights of young people and women are protected through awareness and education on their rights and mobilizing resources and expertise where needed.⁵

While the UNFPA was established in 1967, the Executive Board was not established until 1993 through the adoption of UNGA Resolution 48/162.⁶ The Executive Board is comprised of 36 Member States, and was created to ensure that the policies carried out by the UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOPS) abide by the requirements of the UNGA, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the UN Charter.⁷ The roles of the Executive Board are to implement UNGA policies through coordination with ECOSOC, monitor the performance of the programs run by the fund, approve of programs, administer financial plans and budgets, recommend new program initiatives, and submit reports to ECOSOC.⁸ Members of the Executive Board serve three-year terms.⁹ As the terms are staggered, new Members are elected by ECOSOC every year to meet the 36 Member State quota.¹⁰ Members are selected based on their geographic location, stipulated in UNGA Resolution 48/162, along with the specific number of Member States from every geographic location allowed on the board at one time: eight from African States, seven from Asian and Pacific States, four from Eastern European States; five from Latin America and the Caribbean States; and twelve from Western European and other States.¹¹ The Bureau of the Executive Board is comprised of a President and three Vice-Presidents, whose official duties are “to prepare and organize Board meetings, facilitate transparent decision-making, and promote dialogue in decision-making.”^{12,13}

The UNFPA is funded exclusively through the voluntary contributions of “donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations, and individuals.”¹⁴ As the UNFPA does not receive funds from the UN regular budget, there is a significant flexibility to how donations can be used, allowing for more rapid and

¹ United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN), UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with support from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). *Background Document on the Population Programme of the United Nations*. March 24, 1994, accessed August 11, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/background-document-population-programme-un>.

² R.M. Salas, “The United Nations Fund for Population Activities,” *International Journal of Health Services*, vol. 3, issue 4, (Fall 1973): 679-687, accessed August 11, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.2190/6CFA-N9FR-L6MD-K5LR>.

³ “UN Population Fund (UNFPA),” *United Nations Dag Hammarskjold Library*, accessed August 11, 2021, <https://research.un.org/en/docs/unsystem/unfpa>.

⁴ “Frequently Asked Questions,” *United Nations Population Fund*, last modified January 18, 2018, accessed August 11, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/frequently-asked-questions#funds>.

⁵ “About Us,” *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/about-us>.

⁶ United Nations Population Fund, “Executive Board Overview,” Executive Board, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/executive-board>.

⁷ “Executive Board Overview,” *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/executive-board>

⁸ “Executive Board Overview,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹ “Executive Board Overview,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁰ “Executive Board Overview,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹¹ “Information Note about the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS,” *United Nations Development Programme*, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.undp.org/executive-board/information-note-executive-board>.

¹² “Executive Board Overview,” *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/executive-board>.

¹³ “Executive Board Overview,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁴ “Frequently Asked Questions,” *United Nations Population Fund*, last modified January 18, 2018, accessed August 11, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/frequently-asked-questions#funds>.

direct support in urgent areas of need.¹⁵ UNFPA funds are divided into two categories: core funds and non-core funds.¹⁶ Contributions towards core funds allow for the UNFPA to put plans strategically and effectively into place that would aid in achieving their core mission and expanding their presence in over 150 Member States.¹⁷ As of May 2021 there were 52 Core Contributors to the UNFPA, with Germany and Sweden being the highest donors over the course of the last decade (2010-2020).¹⁸ Non-core resources consist of funding from issue-based programs and initiatives, such as the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, and the UNFPA Thematic Funds, including Population Data Thematic Fund, Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund, and the Maternal Health Trust Fund.¹⁹

The first International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, organized by the UNFPA remains one of the largest intergovernmental conferences on population and development held, having been attended by 179 Member States in 1994.²⁰ The adoption of the Programme of Action (PoA) at the ICPD is among the most significant international legislations to the UNFPA, as it was the first time reproductive health, rights and gender equality were recognized as essential issues that require a focus in population and development programs.²¹ In 2010, the UNGA adopted Resolution 65/234 in an effort to extend the PoA indefinitely.²² The UNFPA's objectives in the PoA are to empower women to contribute towards sustainable development through participation (i.e. employment, education, health, culture), achieve gender equality through policy-change, and to ensure that women and men are educated on their needs and basic human rights.²³ A second ICPD meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019 to refocus on the goals set in the PoA and how strategies can be implemented to achieve them.²⁴

Today, the UNFPA remains focused on the improvement of sexual and reproductive health and rights across the international community.²⁵ In recent years, the UNFPA has expanded its research and data collection on topics and issues that fall under the umbrella of sexual and reproductive health, such as sexually transmitted diseases, protection of sex-workers, challenges of an ageing population, and youth education and empowerment.²⁶ In response to UNGA Resolution 70/1 in which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was developed, the UNFPA has committed to working towards a world with zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and an end to gender-based violence and harmful practices.²⁷

¹⁵ "Resources and Funding," *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 13, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/funds-and-funding>.

¹⁶ "Resources and Funding," *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁷ "Resources and Funding," *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁸ "Resources and Funding," *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁹ "Resources and Funding," *United Nations Population Fund*.

²⁰ "International Conference on Population and Development 5-13 September 1994, Cairo, Egypt," *United Nations*, accessed July 13, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/population/cairo1994>.

²¹ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*. UNFPA, September 1, 2014, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/programme_of_action_Web%20ENGLISH.pdf

²² UNFPA, *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*

²³ UNFPA, *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*

²⁴ "About the Nairobi Summit." *The Nairobi Summit*, accessed July 13, 2021, <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/content/about-nairobi-summit>.

²⁵ "About Us," *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/about-us>.

²⁶ "Publications," *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 19, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications>.

²⁷ "Vision 2030: UNFPA Strategic Plan 2018-2021," *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed July 19, 2021, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/UNFPA_Strategic_Plan.pdf.

I. Expanding on Gender-Based Violence Prevention Methods and Standards

Introduction

Gender-based violence (GBV) is the harmful acts towards a person based on their gender, and it has been considered a “serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue.”²⁸ GBV has affected every Member State, with a global estimate that one in three women will experience abuse throughout her life.²⁹ GBV, however, is not limited to women and girls as men and boys can be victims as well.³⁰ GBV has many forms and can occur in practically any setting.³¹ In public or private settings, the type of GBV harm can be mental, physical, sexual, and economic.³² The harmful acts do not discriminate against age.³³ GBV can occur through child marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual violence.³⁴ Irrespective of an individual's gender identity or sexual orientation, there's an increase of violent acts because of homophobia, bi-phobia, and transphobia.³⁵ According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), victims encounter sexual and reproductive health consequences, ranging from unsafe abortions, forced or unwanted pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections, to name a few.³⁶ If untreated, GBV has the potential to have long-lasting damages towards survivors, and it could result in death.³⁷

The frequency of GBV cases has increased as victims have fewer opportunities to get away from their abusers. This escalation of cases has happened across many Member States regardless of national and economic status, with France reporting an increase of 30 percent of GBV while Argentina reported an increase of 25 percent.³⁸ GBV, however, is preventable and United Nations (UN) organizations such as the UNFPA have worked to address the issue in its efforts to advance gender equality. UNFPA, and other UN agencies, have passed numerous resolutions and launched programs addressing this global issue with medical treatment, mental health assistance, rape kits for survivors, and more.³⁹ Despite initiatives and efforts, GBV continues to affect people worldwide and the issue has exacerbated since the COVID-19 pandemic.

History

Attention to discrimination and abuse directed at women was first given UN attention with the creation of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on June 24, 1946.⁴⁰ The CSW was responsible for landmark women's rights documents such as the “Convention on the Political Rights of Women” in 1953, the “Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages” in 1962, and the “Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW) in 1967. While these first initiatives focused primarily on the political and economic rights of women, as partnerships across UN entities and non-government organizations (NGOs) with the CSW grew, violence against women began to enter formal agendas and dialogues more explicitly.⁴¹ At the 1975 First World Conference on Women in Mexico City, attention was drawn to the prevalence of violence against women in their own families, though through subtler verbiage, such as emphasizing the need to

²⁸ “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, accessed January 1, 2022, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/gender-based-violence.html>

²⁹ “Gender-Based Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/gender-based-violence#readmore-expand>

³⁰ “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

³¹ “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

³² “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

³³ “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

³⁴ “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

³⁵ United Nations Population Fund. *The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming*. Geneva: Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, November 1, 2019, accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/minimum-standards>

³⁶ “Gender-Based Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

³⁷ “Gender-based Violence,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

³⁸ “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*, accessed September 26, 2021, <https://www.undp.org/publications/gender-based-violence-and-covid-19>

³⁹ “Gender-Based Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁴⁰ “A brief history of the Commission on the Status of Women”, *UN Women*, accessed September 26, 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/brief-history>

⁴¹ “A brief history of the Commission on the Status of Women”, *UN Women*

ensure “dignity” and “security” to each female member of a family unit.^{42,43} The second World Conference on Women, taking place in Copenhagen in 1980, marked the first time violence against women was directly mentioned in a resolution, with an entire section devoted to “battered women and violence in the family.”^{44,45} Building off this slowly growing momentum, it was during the third World Conference on Women, held in Nairobi in 1985, that violence against women was recognized as an international area of concern with special attention paid to the issues of “abused women,” “women victims of trafficking and involuntary prostitution,” and “women in detention and subject to penal law.”⁴⁶

The UNFPA began to include language and goals directly associated with GBV in 1994, revealing in its Programme of Action (PoA) at the 1994 World Conference on Population and Development that the UNFPA was committed to help ensure that women would be able “to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence.”⁴⁷ In 2008, the UNFPA announced its global strategic plan to combat GBV, in which it would spearhead eight internationally coordinated initiatives targeting the different problems and causes associated with GBV.⁴⁸ These actions would include working in:

- (1) Policymaking and legal protection;
- (2) Collecting and analyzing data;
- (3) Addressing GBV through sexual and reproductive health programmes;
- (4) Building violence prevention into humanitarian responses in conflict and natural disasters;
- (5) Reaching out to adolescents and youth;
- (6) Sending messages to men and boys about gender equality and zero tolerance for abuse;
- (7) Joining hands with faith-based networks and traditional cultural leaders;
- (8) Sharpening the focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized people.⁴⁹

The UNFPA has since begun to realize these goals through programs such as the GBV Sub-Cluster “National Law Cards” in South Sudan, the GBV workshops and training programs in Sierra Leone, and the inter-agency GBV Information Management System (GBVSIMS), which works in and has connected diverse Member States such as Colombia, Kenya, Thailand, and Uganda together under the goal of data collection and coordinated communication.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The UN has focused on combatting GBV, particularly with the passage of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)’s A/RES/61/143 and Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1960, and 2106 from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).⁵⁰ Article Four of the UNGA’s A/RES/48/104 stated that Member States “should condemn” violence towards women and shouldn’t use any tradition or religious act to avoid protecting victims.⁵¹ Article Four

⁴² “World Conference of the International Women’s Year 19 June – 2 July 1975, Mexico City, Mexico”, *United Nations*, accessed January 9, 2021. <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/mexico-city1975>.

⁴³ “United Nations Work on Violence Against Women,” *United Nations*, accessed November 17, 2021, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/unwvaw.html>.

⁴⁴ United Nations. *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Quality, Development and Peace*. New York, NY: United Nations, 1980. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/otherconferences/Copenhagen/Copenhagen%20Full%20Optimized.pdf>

⁴⁵ “United Nations Work on Violence Against Women,” *United Nations*, accessed November 17, 2021, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/unwvaw.html>.

⁴⁶ “United Nations Work on Violence Against Women,” *United Nations*.

⁴⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *Addressing Gender-Based Violence*. New York, NY: UNFPA. <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/final%20sexual%20violence%20CSW%20piece.pdf>

⁴⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *Addressing Gender-Based Violence*.

⁴⁹ United Nations Population Fund. *Addressing Gender-Based Violence*.

⁵⁰ “Corporate Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Prevention Response to and Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices (2012-2017),” *United Nations Population Fund*, November 27, 2018, accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/corporate-evaluation-unfpa-support-prevention-response-and-elimination-gender-based>

⁵¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 104, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, A/RES/48/104, (December 20, 1993), <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/eliminationvaw.pdf>

goes on further to establish guidelines for all Member States to follow in an effort to eliminate violence against women. This includes, but is not limited to, more basic actions such as “[refraining] from engaging in violence against women,” and “[recognizing] the important role of the women’s movement and non-governmental organizations worldwide in raising awareness...”⁵² A/RES/48/104 called for more multifaceted action such as, “[developing] penal, civil, labor and administrative sanctions in domestic legislations to punish and readdress the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence.”⁵³ The UNGA also recognized for the development of preventative methods through administrative, cultural, legal, and political practices to promote the protection of women against any form of violence.⁵⁴ A/RES/48/104 was the first resolution to specifically call for the end of violence against women and provided the framework for future resolutions and international conferences such as the subsequent 1994 International Conference on Population and Development that first linked gender-based violence and reproductive health and rights.⁵⁵

In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other international agencies, the UNFPA helped develop the 16 Inter-Agency Minimum Standards that should help people understand how to respond to GBV.⁵⁶ Although the Minimum Standards does heavily focus on supporting women and girls, the Minimum Standards can still provide guidance for men and boys.⁵⁷ The 16 Minimum Standards also provide goals for agencies in areas ranging from empowerment, economic assistance, health care, legal aid, psychological support, and more.⁵⁸

In another UNFPA collaborative partnership with UN Women, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and WHO, The United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence was formed in 2013 to enhance efforts to protection children and women from violence.⁵⁹ This program gives Member States a clear blueprint on how to ensure that the funding and coordination of quality services in all sectors work with services that deal with victims and survivors.⁶⁰ These standards and guidelines are currently being tested in Guatemala, Tunisia, Peru, Egypt, Mozambique, Cambodia, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Pakistan, and Viet Nam.⁶¹ The program also presents guidelines for the coordination and of the forementioned “Essential Services.” Each core element of the program has been identified to ensure the delivery of high-quality services, particularly for low and middle-income countries for women and girls experiencing violence.⁶²

Current Situation

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, existing gender inequalities have worsened and has led to higher risks of GBV.⁶³ The UNFPA believes that the pandemic is projected to reduce progress towards the goal of elimination of

⁵² United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 104, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*.

⁵³ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 104, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*.

⁵⁴ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 104, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*.

⁵⁵ “Global norms and standards: Ending violence against women,” *UN Women*, accessed September 25, 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/global-norms-and-standards>.

⁵⁶ United Nations Population Fund. *The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming*.

⁵⁷ United Nations Population Fund. *The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming*.

⁵⁸ United Nations Population Fund. *The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming*.

⁵⁹ “Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*, December 30, 2015, accessed September 26, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>.

⁶⁰ “Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁶¹ “Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*, accessed September 26, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/joint-global-programme-essential-services-women-and-girls-subject-violence>.

⁶² “Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁶³ “Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response: UNFPA Interim Technical Brief,” *United Nations Population Fund*, March 23, 2020, accessed September 16, 2021, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Gender_Equality_and_GBV_23_March_2020_.pdf

GBV by 2030 by one third.⁶⁴ As the risks of GBV are different across all Member States, the UNFPA has promoted and coordinated facilities and groups that advocate on key issues in response to COVID-19.⁶⁵ As services that would help alleviate and prevent the prevalence of violence, such as the availability of social services and health care services, have become inaccessible the rates and levels of violence are expected to continue to rise.⁶⁶ For example, accessibility to resources such as helplines to report GBV can be limited without the proper support as victims may be overheard.⁶⁷ The drastic inability to access the resources and counseling services provided by these programs have left millions of people vulnerable to GBV and as the systems of support they relied on were cut off overnight.⁶⁸ Lockdowns, the overnight shift to virtual work, and the loss of mobility has left women unable to access public servants who would run, coordinate services, and be used as resources.⁶⁹ To mitigate these issues, adaptations to the pandemic have been made such as introducing “no dial or chat options,” online court hearings, and removing the perpetrator from the home have already been made to mitigate threats of GBV.⁷⁰ The use of the no-chat option makes it easier for victims to report abuse while diminishing the risk of being caught by the perpetrator of violence. Through reporting the issue and having the perpetrator removed from the space of residence the victim will be ensured a safe space to live free from their abuser.⁷¹ It also provides assurance to GBV victims that they would not be left homeless due to them reporting violent incidents.⁷² Although the new methods introduced to guarantee the safety of women from GBV are not perfect, the methods ensure that the work is consistently being done to mitigate and reduce the issue.

In November 2020, Mark Lowcock, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator released USD 25 Million from the UN’s emergency fund to support women-led organizations that prevent and respond to GBV in humanitarian settings.⁷³ The funding went to the UNFPA and UN Women, and both agencies pledged a minimum of 30 percent of the funding to organizations run by women that worked to prevent violence against women and girls and helped victims with attaining access to medical care, safe spaces, mental and health services and counselling.⁷⁴ Lowcock stated, “the COVID-19 pandemic helped reveal the full extent of gender inequality while creating a set of circumstances that threaten to reverse the limited progress that has been made.”⁷⁵ As stress and frustration rises for people through isolation, the rates of GBV also rises.⁷⁶ Lockdowns also forced the support programs of support to move to an online format which was not always readily accessible as technology, internet, electricity, and privacy are not guaranteed to victims of GBV, especially in developing Member States.⁷⁷

⁶⁴ “Update on UNFPA Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *United Nations Population Fund*, January 2021, accessed September 26, 2021, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/main-document/FINAL_UNFPA_response_to_COVID-19_pandemic_-_vffs.pdf.

⁶⁵ “Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response: UNFPA Interim Technical Brief.” *United Nations Population Fund*, March 23, 2020, accessed September 16, 2021, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Gender_Equality_and_GBV_23_March_2020_.pdf

⁶⁶ “Update on UNFPA Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *United Nations Population Fund*, January 2021, accessed September 16, 2021, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/main-document/FINAL_UNFPA_response_to_COVID-19_pandemic_-_vffs.pdf

⁶⁷ “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*, accessed September 26, 2021, <https://www.undp.org/publications/gender-based-violence-and-covid-19>

⁶⁸ “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁶⁹ “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷⁰ “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷¹ “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷² “Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19,” *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷³ “Press Release: United Nations Releases USD 25 Million for Women-Led Projects Battling Gender-Based Violence,” *UN Women*, November 25, 2020, accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/11/press-release-un-releases-funds-for-women-led-projects-battling-gender-based-violence>

⁷⁴ “Press Release: United Nations Releases USD 25 Million for Women-Led Projects Battling Gender-Based Violence,” *UN Women*.

⁷⁵ “Press Release: United Nations Releases USD 25 Million for Women-Led Projects Battling Gender-Based Violence,” *UN Women*.

⁷⁶ “Press Release: United Nations Releases USD 25 Million for Women-Led Projects Battling Gender-Based Violence.” *UN Women*.

⁷⁷ “Press Release: United Nations Releases USD 25 Million for Women-Led Projects Battling Gender-Based Violence.” *UN Women*.

Case Study

Viet Nam

Viet Nam started an initiative to collaborate with pharmacies, mini-marts, and grocery stores throughout the state to act as a source of information and support for women experiencing GBV.⁷⁸ The Viet Nam government established these accessible stores as resource centers by providing leaflets with information to those stores to make available to those seeking help.⁷⁹ Since the establishment of the collaboration, Viet Nam has been seeing promising results.⁸⁰ These measures are necessary as the 2019 National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam showed 63 percent of married women had experienced some form of GBV and children continued to also be at risk.⁸¹ Unemployment, anxiety, and limited access to public spaces have exacerbated rates of GBV. Social media and digital technology have provided a reliable, accessible platform to reach millions of people in an initiative to raise awareness of violence against women and children during the pandemic, particularly through the popular hashtag “#Blueheart.”⁸² The hashtag called on all members of the community including children, neighbors, and local authorities to report instances of violence.⁸³

As the pandemic has notably affected men and women differently, the government of Viet Nam opened 392 quarantine centers, while purposely separating men and the women and children to ensure the safety and the welfare of the more vulnerable groups.⁸⁴ The quarantine centers are all fully equipped to provide psychological counselling and implement measures to ensure that they are protected from sexual abuse and violence.⁸⁵ The Supporting Interventions to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children in Viet Nam under COVID-19 Emergency Context with collaboration with Elimination of Violence against Women and Children in Viet Nam 2021-2025 have distributed 6,644 dignity kits for women for women and children at risk.⁸⁶ The dignity kits include 21 essential items such as sanitary pads to women who live in shelters for quarantine.⁸⁷

Viet Nam has also gone on to implement changes in their strategies to increase resource allocation, strengthen multi-sectoral responses and improve on the evidence-based laws and policies to ensure that the structures in place are effective in preventing and responding to GBV.⁸⁸ Promoting changes in social norms through advocacy and community mobilization is what has been found to be key in ensuring success. The programs have also moved to

⁷⁸ “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*, accessed September 14, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/press-releases/government-viet-nam-government-australia-and-united-nations-agencies-unfpa-unicef>

⁷⁹ “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*.

⁸⁰ “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*.

⁸¹ Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), General Statistics Office (GSO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). *Summary Report: Results of the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2019 – Journey for Change*. MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA, August 19, 2020. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-study-violence-against-women-viet-nam-2019>

⁸² “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*.

⁸³ “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*.

⁸⁴ “New Pioneering Effort to Protect Women and Children in Quarantine Centers during COVID-19,” *UN Women*, accessed November 17, 2021, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/05/new-pioneering-effort-to-protect-women-and-children-in-quarantine-centres-during-covid-19>.

⁸⁵ “New Pioneering Effort to Protect Women and Children in Quarantine Centers during COVID-19,” *UN Women*.

⁸⁶ “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*.

⁸⁷ “The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence,” *UNICEF*.

⁸⁸ Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), General Statistics Office (GSO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). *Summary Report: Results of the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2019 – Journey for Change*. MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA, August 19, 2020. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-study-violence-against-women-viet-nam-2019>

enhance and improve data collection, research, and analysis to ensure that the programs through which solutions are being implemented during the pandemic.⁸⁹

Conclusion

GBV has been a multifaceted issue affecting multiple parties involved. Given the inherent trauma and vulnerability of victims of GBV, prevention of such violence requires the utmost sensitivity and precedence amongst other gender rights initiatives. The mental and physical health of victims are at risk as the violence impedes their ability to live a normal life at their given capacity. As GBV increases, a Member State's ability to grow and prosper is placed at risk, as such severe human rights violations can affect the productivity and health of citizens. Similarly, victims of GBV are often unable to leave their homes or seek safe housing due to the economic stain placed on them due to unemployment and rising costs caused by the pandemic. Although programs such as the "no dial," chat options or online social media campaigns that spread awareness in communities such as #Blueheart as well as online court hearings have been set up to aid victims of GBV, there is still much more that can be done. Hence more programs and services need to be implemented to combat the issue that build upon existing programs such as The United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence or the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation.

Committee Directive

The prevention of GBV is an essential part of the UN doctrine. As Member States are returning to a degree of normalcy with the current vaccine rollouts globally the long-term effects of the pandemic on GBV should be considered. While conducting their research, delegates should consider their Member State combats GBV and become familiar with previous and existing programs. Could the methods used in their Member State's national-level programs be shared in the global prevention of GBV? What mechanism have worked or could be improved on? Delegates should be prepared on how to address the gaps in combating GBV. What existing UNFPA programs can be improved upon or developed to further prevent GBV? What are the different platforms and forms of media that may be available in the differing Member States with some being more effective than others to address GBV? How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected their Member State's progress, or continued inaction, in protecting all populations from GBV?

⁸⁹ "The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Australia and United Nations Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) Step up Effort to Protect Women and Children from Violence." *UNICEF*.

II. Establishing Sustainable Strategies to Manage Demographic Change

Introduction

As of 2021, the global population stands at nearly 7.8 billion.⁹⁰ The fastest growing populations are mostly in developing Member States.⁹¹ As the populations continue to grow and age-structures are shifting, Member States will need to incorporate strategies within their legislature that will allow their society and economy to adapt in ways that can be sustained.⁹² The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is determined to aid Member States in ensuring their citizens have opportunities to develop skills, protect their reproductive health, find employment, and contribute to their Member State's economic growth.⁹³ It is when all these areas are met that sustainable development can be achieved.

The demographic dividend is defined as “the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population’s age structure.”⁹⁴ This shift is significant and most recognizable in regions of Africa and South Asia.⁹⁵ Member States will need to be mindful of the size of its population, how population is distributed, its current and projected age structure, and the rate of growth in its population.⁹⁶ Member States with the highest demographic opportunity for development tend to have a workforce with access to good health, education, employment, and less dependents.⁹⁷ Today, many Member States are developing towards this potential, as they have working-age populations (between 18 and 64), but are still needing policy change to show investment in the “empowerment of [youth], universal education that is tailored to new economic opportunities, and [securing] employment.”⁹⁸

The UNFPA’s role in achieving a demographic dividend involves aiding Member States in assessing their population figures through data collection, strengthening human capital, and partnering with other United Nations (UN) agencies for efficient support.⁹⁹ As the working generation in each Member States starts to age, the faster the window for achieving a demographic dividend begins to close.¹⁰⁰ A dividend can be stunted if Member States do not invest in the health, education, and human rights of their youth.¹⁰¹ Developing Member States are especially vulnerable to missing their demographic dividend due to the lack of infrastructure, political stability, and education.¹⁰² The UNFPA has put a special focus on the education, empowerment, and inclusion of youth in regions struggling to meet their demographic dividend.¹⁰³ Giving youth the tools to need to better their lives and seek opportunities will in turn benefit their surrounds (i.e. creating business, initiating changes on a government level, learning skills for jobs that have been outsourced in the past).¹⁰⁴

⁹⁰ “U.S. and World Population Clock,” *United States Census Bureau*, accessed October 20, 2021, <https://www.census.gov/popclock/>.

⁹¹ “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*, last modified May 6, 2016, accessed October 20, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/demographic-dividend>.

⁹² “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹³ “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹⁴ “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹⁵ “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹⁶ “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹⁷ “Demographic Dividend,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

⁹⁸ *Demographic Dividend Brochure*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2016,

<https://esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Demographic%20Dividend%20Brochure.PDF>

⁹⁹ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *UNFPA Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/strategic-plan>

¹⁰⁰ UNFPA, *UNFPA Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021*.

¹⁰¹ “Youth Offer Solutions to Global Problems, If Leaders Take Action Now,” *United Nations Population Fund News*, July 18, 2017, accessed October 20, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/news/youth-offer-solutions-global-problems-if-leaders-take-action-now>.

¹⁰² “Youth Offer Solutions to Global Problems, If Leaders Take Action Now,” *United Nations Population Fund News*.

¹⁰³ “Youth Offer Solutions to Global Problems, If Leaders Take Action Now,” *United Nations Population Fund News*.

¹⁰⁴ “Youth Offer Solutions to Global Problems, If Leaders Take Action Now,” *United Nations Population Fund News*.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The UNFPA works with Member States to realize and achieve the goals set during the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, where the Programme of Action (PoA) was first introduced.¹⁰⁵ The program “links investments in each person to sustainable development.”¹⁰⁶ The objective behind PoA is to empower women and youth to contribute towards sustainable development through participation (i.e. employment, education, health, culture), achieve gender equality through policy-change, and to ensure that women and men are educated on their needs and basic human rights.¹⁰⁷ In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), adopted Resolution A/RES/65/234 in an effort to extend the PoA indefinitely.¹⁰⁸ Member States will need to invest in these objectives through legislation change, and programs through state sponsorships and non-profit organizations that provide support help to meet their demographic dividend.

With numerous tools offered to Member States, the UNFPA is helping to determine the elements within their population that require change to move toward the demographic dividend.¹⁰⁹ These tools include “census and population surveys [that show] age-structure patterns and projections, current rates of child marriage, unmet need for family planning, coverage and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sex differentials in schooling, among other factors.”¹¹⁰ The UNFPA also assists with changes in national policies on issues that directly affect a Member States investments towards their demographic dividend, such as “status and enforcement of laws on child marriage, protection of women’s rights, and youth policies.”¹¹¹ The UNFPA also guides Member States towards realizing how their support and investment in human rights and their youth can lead them towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were introduced in Resolution A/RES/10/1 in 2015.¹¹² This includes improving youth school participation and providing education on sexual and reproductive health and supporting programs focused on, “youth empowerment, improvements in maternal, newborn and child health; universal access to contraception; prevention and treatment of HIV and sexually transmitted infections; and the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage.”¹¹³

Current Situation

Challenges of an Ageing Global Population

By 2050, there will be an estimated 2.1 billion people in the world that are over the age of 60 and nearly eight in ten of the world’s older persons will be living in developing regions.¹¹⁴ This increase is due to declining rates of fertility, lower rates of maternal death, infant mortality, and increased scientific advances.¹¹⁵ While Developing Member States struggle to find their demographic dividend due to a high fertility rate and an average of 4.6 children born per woman, many developed Member States are facing the opposite problem in that they may have too low of a fertility rate to sustain their workforce.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁵ United Nations. *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2014, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-conference-population-and-development-programme-action>.

¹⁰⁶ “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations. *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2014, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-conference-population-and-development-programme-action>.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 234, *Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014*, A/RES/64/234, (December 22, 2010), <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/65/234>.

¹⁰⁹ “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹¹⁰ “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹¹¹ “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹¹² “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹¹³ “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹¹⁴ “Ageing and Health.” *World Health Organization (WHO)*, October 4, 2021, accessed October 20, 2021, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>.

¹¹⁵ United Nations Population Fund. *Ageing in the Twenty-First Century*. New York, NY and London, UK: UNFPA and HelpAge International, January 1, 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Ageing%20report.pdf>

¹¹⁶ Rose Maria Li, Amy C. Iadarola, and Christine C Maisano. *Why Population Ageing Matters*. Washington D.C.: National Institute on Ageing, 2007, <https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2017-06/WPAM.pdf>

The UNFPA has viewed the older generations as important factors in the journey towards a demographic dividend, as they often serve as leaders and teachers to the younger generations—passing down knowledge learned through life experience that can then be improved upon by the younger generations.¹¹⁷ The UNFPA has addressed various aspects of the ageing dilemma the world is facing in effort to achieve the UN SDGs.¹¹⁸ The SDGs specifically incorporate targets to include the needs of the elderly as a measure of achievement of almost all goals.¹¹⁹ The UNFPA has specifically focused on policies involving healthcare, human rights, and age-inclusive environments to manage the challenges of an ageing world through “policy dialogue, capacity building, data, collection, research and advocacy.”¹²⁰

Investing in Youth

In 2019, there were 1.2 billion people in the world between the ages of 15 and 24.¹²¹ Developing Member States are showing changes in their age structure—transitioning to having larger youth populations. This change presents these Member States with the opportunity to propel towards greater development.¹²² The UNFPA believes that the youth are one of the most important investments for Member States to push their efforts towards a demographic dividend.¹²³ “Investing in the youth’s education and health not only improves their livelihood, but also their employability, productivity, and earnings,” which in turn improves a Member States economy.¹²⁴ The UN has long advocated for more youth support from Member States through several of its agencies. Notably, the 2019 UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/121 highlighted the importance of youth and how crucial the specific demographic is in progressing towards economic, environmental, and humanitarian development and reminds Member States of the,

“commitment to... sustainable development and global prosperity for all, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth, and the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth, backed by increased international support and, inter alia, by providing youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities, in order to realize the opportunity of the demographic dividend offered by the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind, and calls for the increased participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant civil society organizations in the development of such national development strategies.”¹²⁵

The UNFPA urged Member States to invest in their youth populations through empowerment, education, and employment.¹²⁶ Empowering the youth by showing support and respecting their human rights (i.e., right to health care, education, bodily autonomy) allows the youth freedom to pursue skills that will prepare them for entering the workforce and contributing to the economy, thus boosting the overall GDP.¹²⁷

¹¹⁷ “Ageing,” *United Nations Population Fund*, last modified October 13, 2015, accessed November 5, 2022, <https://www.unfpa.org/ageing#readmore-expand>.

¹¹⁸ “UNFPA & the Sustainable Development Goals,” *United Nations Population Fund*, last modified January 22, 2020, accessed November 5, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/sdg>.

¹¹⁹ “UNFPA & the Sustainable Development Goals,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹²⁰ “Ageing,” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹²¹ “International Youth Day, 19 August 2019,” *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, last modified August 12, 2019, accessed November 12, 2021, https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2019/08/WYP2019_10-Key-Messages_GZ_8AUG19.pdf

¹²² Das Gupta, Monica, Robert Engelman, Jessica Levy, Gretchen Luchsinger, Tom Merrick, and James E. Rosen. *The Power of 18 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and The Transformation of the Future*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2014, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/EN-SWOP14-Report_FINAL-web.pdf

¹²³ Gupta, *18 Billion*.

¹²⁴ Gupta, *18 Billion*.

¹²⁵ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 121, *Policies and Programmes Involving Youth*, A/RES/74/121, (December 18, 2019) <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/74/121>

¹²⁶ United Nations Population Fund, *Demographic Dividend Atlas*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/data/demographic-dividend#9>.

¹²⁷ United Nations Population Fund, *Demographic Dividend Atlas*.

Providing basic education and offering opportunities for youth to continue learning allows them the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the world around them and how to make it better.¹²⁸ Once the youth are educated and ready to enter the workforce, they will need to have the opportunity to find work. Member States will need to adjust policies to allow the working-age population ample opportunity to find work with livable wages. This is especially important to prevent a “brain-drain” within their workforce due to individuals not being able to find work compatible to their education and skills.¹²⁹ The lack of employment opportunity will push out those that have the skills and education need to facilitate economy improvements, as they will be able to find another economy that is more accommodating to their interests and skills.¹³⁰

Case Study

Statistics in the African Continent

The African continent has undergone massive growth in population and characterized as “the youngest population in the world.”¹³¹ In 2020, Africa’s total population was at nearly 1.34 billion and is projected to double by the year 2050.¹³² African youths between 10 and 24 years old have comprised of 31 percent of the overall African population in 2015, and that age group represented 21 percent of the global 1.8 billion young people in this age category.¹³³ Sub-Saharan Africa saw the highest fertility rates in the world from 2012 to 2016.¹³⁴ High fertility rates are typically correlated with “high maternal and child mortality rates, high dependency ratios, low women [and youth] empowerment, low investment in education, and youth employment challenges.”¹³⁵

Knowing how important the role of the youth population is to the basis of a demographic dividend, the UNFPA spoke to the body at the 71st UNGA meeting in 2016 to urge a stronger partnership between African Member States and the rest of the international community. In response, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, reiterated that the youth are Africa’s greatest asset and require the investment from leaders in the region to ensure they will have the support to flourish.¹³⁶ Several presidents of African Member States vocalized their support and commitment to the youth in the region.¹³⁷ UNFPA’s Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin shared that “[the UNGA] have estimates that show that if we do this, and we do it right, we can actually add to the GDP of Africa – [USD 500 Billion] every year for 30 years.”¹³⁸ That same year, the African Union (AU) made the decision set the focus of agenda for the upcoming year to the demographic dividend and the investments needed to achieve it.¹³⁹ In 2017, the AU published a report titled *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*.¹⁴⁰ In support of the publication, the Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa was created by the UNFPA to record the growth needed by each Member State on the African continent to achieve a demographic dividend.¹⁴¹

¹²⁸ United Nations Population Fund, *Demographic Dividend Atlas*.

¹²⁹ United Nations Population Fund, *Demographic Dividend Atlas*.

¹³⁰ United Nations Population Fund, *Demographic Dividend Atlas*.

¹³¹ Wan He, Isabella Aboderin, and Dzifa Adjaye-Gbewonyo U.S. Census Bureau, International Population Reports, P95/20-1 *Africa Aging: 2020*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2020, https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p95_20-1.pdf

¹³² He, Wan, *Africa Aging: 2020*.

¹³³ Kathrin Weny, Rachel Snow, and Sainan Zhang. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, September 2017, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA_African_Atlas_KW_RS_SZ.pdf.

¹³⁴ Eyerusalem Siba. *The New Urban Agenda and Demographic Dividend: Investments for Africa's Youth*. Washington D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 2019, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The_New_Urban_Agenda_20190131.pdf

¹³⁵ The World Bank, *Demographic Dividend Potential for Africa*, Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group, April 2015, <https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/Annex-5-Demographic-Dividend.pdf>

¹³⁶ Kathrin Weny, Rachel Snow, and Sainan Zhang. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

¹³⁷ “Nine Wins for Young People at the 71st UN General Assembly,” *Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth*, September 2016, accessed November 5, 2021, <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/10/nine-wins-young-people-71st-un-general-assembly/>.

¹³⁸ “Nine Wins for Young People at the 71st UN General Assembly.” *Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth*.

¹³⁹ Kathrin Weny, Rachel Snow, and Sainan Zhang. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

¹⁴⁰ Weny, Kathrin, *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

¹⁴¹ Weny, Kathrin, *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

With the use of the Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa, the Executive Board of the UNFPA, the UNDP, and the United Nations Office for Project Services published a five-year plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in partnership with the.¹⁴² Over the course of five years (2020-2024), the UNFPA would provide USD 150.3 Million towards the betterment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in five areas: Sexual and reproductive health, Adolescent and youth involvement, Gender equality and women’s empowerment, and population dynamics.¹⁴³ The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a population of 89.5 million.¹⁴⁴ In conjunction with the high fertility rate of 6.2 children per woman, the Member State is expected to be the eighth most populous in the world by 2050.¹⁴⁵ Roughly 32 percent of the population is between the ages of 10-24, placing the Member State high on the list of Member States requiring an “[accelerated]...demographic transition to enable the [Member State to] harness the demographic dividend.”¹⁴⁶ The five-year plan details the various outcome potentials for each topic. For example, the ideal outcome regarding population dynamics is the “improved national and subnational population data systems, including in humanitarian settings.”¹⁴⁷ The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa is helpful in highlighting the different areas in each Member State that require improvement in order to harness the demographic dividend.¹⁴⁸ With the help of the atlas, the UNFPA and its partners are better able to target the areas requiring the most attention to accelerate that Member States progress towards reaching their demographic dividend.¹⁴⁹

Conclusion

As developing Member States look for opportunities to further develop their economy, reaching a demographic dividend will be crucial for any development changes to remain sustainable in the future. The UNFPA supports the PoA objective to “[link] investments in each person to sustainable development,” and urges Member States to invest in their youth population through empowerment, education, and employment to well-equip them ahead of their transition into the workforce.¹⁵⁰ The population ageing challenges seen across many developed Member States should also be taken into consideration as the risk of economies faltering due to the lack of adolescents ageing up to enter and sustain a Member States economy can also have vast implications on a Member States demographic dividend.¹⁵¹ On the opposite side, in regions with a number of developing Member States, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, the issue lies with the high number of youth that are not equipped with the tools and resources to enter into their Member States workforce and impact the economic growth.¹⁵² With the use of tools such as the Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa allows for the areas requiring the most attention to be highlighted and gives groups like the UNFPA a more focused snapshot of how best to allocate funds and resources to assist Member States towards their demographic dividend.¹⁵³

Committee Directive

Keeping your Member States stance and policies in mind, what strategies would help Member States navigate an ageing world? How should Member States incorporate the youth population in impactful ways to reach their

¹⁴² Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *Country programme document for Democratic Republic of the Congo*, DP/FPA/CPD/COD/5. February 3-6, 2020. <https://undocs.org/DP/FPA/CPD/COD/5>

¹⁴³ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *Country programme document for Democratic Republic of the Congo*.

¹⁴⁴ “Population, Total - Congo, Dem. Rep.,” *The World Bank: Data*, accessed November 5, 2021, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=CD>.

¹⁴⁵ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *Country programme document for Democratic Republic of the Congo*.

¹⁴⁶ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *Country programme document for Democratic Republic of the Congo*.

¹⁴⁷ Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services. *Country programme document for Democratic Republic of the Congo*.

¹⁴⁸ Kathrin Weny, Rachel Snow, and Sainan Zhang. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

¹⁴⁹ Weny, Kathrin. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

¹⁵⁰ “Demographic Dividend.” *United Nations Population Fund*.

¹⁵¹ Rose Maria Li, Amy C. Iadarola, and Christine C Maisano. *Why Population Ageing Matters*. Washington D.C.: National Institute on Ageing, 2007, <https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2017-06/WPAM.pdf>

¹⁵² Kathrin Weny, Rachel Snow, and Sainan Zhang. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

¹⁵³ Weny, Kathrin. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*.

demographic dividend? What points can be taken from Africa's population boom and the continent's development towards the demographic dividend? What partnerships could be formed to aid and support Member States going through demographic transitions? Are there existing UN policies and programs in place that could be expanded upon to further improve the investment in youth by home governments to prepare them to successfully transition towards the working-age population?

Annotated Bibliography

I. Expanding on Gender-Based Violence Prevention Methods and Standards

United Nations. *Localizing GBV prevention and response in the context of forced displacement in humanitarian crises*. September 23, 2021. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1c3jbwfgs>

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) hosted a virtual meeting to further highlight the aim to address gender-based violence (GBV) but with a focus on humanitarian crises. Led by the Danish government with partnerships from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Union (EU), and other women-led organizations, the September 2021 event brought attention the good practices and efforts of GBV prevention. The meeting also focused on how to localize GBV mitigation when responding to humanitarian crises yet recognizing the hurdles organizations encounter in their missions.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2011). *Good practices in efforts aimed at preventing violence against women, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, A/HRC/17/23. http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/17/23

The Human Rights Council (HRC) requested a report compiling best practices to prevent violence against women. The report, compiled by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), detailed varied levels of how to address GBV. The report acknowledged GBV prevention can occur through national-level legislation, with noted cases in Mexico and Guatemala for adopting laws addressing violence against women. The document includes other Member State-by-Member State progress, additional policy measures, and challenges towards combatting GBV.

United Nations Population Fund. *Checklist for Preventing and Addressing Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. June 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/checklist-preventing-and-addressing-gender-based-violence-against-women-and-girls>

The UNFPA, and other partners, published a "checklist" for Member States and healthcare providers with guidelines on how to respond to GBV cases, including in the current COVID-19 pandemic, with emphasis on disabilities. The document details the hurdles women and girls with disabilities encounter. While they met encounter similar situations as non-disabled person, many people with disabilities might need to navigate through additional resources. The checklist also has resources on ensuring GBV services such as justice mechanisms.

United Nations Population Fund. *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage*. April 2020. <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/impact-covid-19-pandemic-family-planning-and-ending-gender-based-violence-female-genital>

The UNFPA had set three goals as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, which includes ending GBV and the violent practices of child marriage and genital mutilation. The UNFPA, however, acknowledges COVID-19 can "critically" hinder the agency's progress. In April 2020, the UNFPA, with partnership with Avenir Health and universities in Australia and the United States (US) of America, listed the pandemic's disruptions on progress. The report noted the harmful effects of stay-at-home orders, other restrictions, and the lack of accessing quality health care.

United Nations Population Fund. *A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence: A Programme Guide for Health Care Providers and Managers*. 2001. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/genderbased_eng.pdf

Going back to two decades ago, the UNFPA published a "practical approach" to GBV, to serve as a guide for health care providers and other individuals. This report can provide a perspective on the issue from the start of the 21st century. The guide highlights steps to better integrate GBV prevention measures into

reproductive health facilities and provide an understanding of the connections between violence and reproductive and sexual health.

II. Establishing Sustainable Strategies to Manage Demographic Change

United Nations. *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, 2014, <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-conference-population-and-development-programme-action>

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) took place in Cairo, Egypt and has had one of the most significant impacts of any UNFPA conference to date on UNFPA operations. This is in large part due to its introduction of the Programme of Action (PoA). The PoA presented at the 1994 conference marked the first time the UNFPA recognized reproductive health, rights and gender equality as essential issues that require a focus in population and development programs. These core ideas were further expanded upon to better accommodate society as it stands today. Reviewing the 1994 ICPD report is an essential read for those looking to understand the purpose of the UNFPA in today's international community and how its ideas have been successfully translated into both international and domestic legislature since its creation.

“UNFPA & the Sustainable Development Goals.” *United Nations Population Fund*, January 22, 2020, accessed August 25, 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/sdg>.

September 25, 2015, saw the adoption of Resolution A/RES/70/1, where the SDGs were first introduced. The SDGs (also known as Agenda 2030) consist of 17 goals the United Nations aims to achieve by 2030, with the help of the international community. While all 17 goals are kept in mind when researching and developing reports, the UNFPA's focus leans more towards the following SDGs: Good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality. While these three goals tend to align more with the focus of the UNFPA, readers may find correlations across one or more of the other goals outlined that have not yet been explored in previous UNFPA reports.

United Nations Population Fund. *The UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025*. DP/FPA/2021/8. August 30-September 2, 2021. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/main-document/ENG_DP.FPA_2021.8_-_UNFPA_strategic_plan_2022-2025_-_FINAL_-_14Jul21.pdf

The UNFPA Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 continues to place utmost importance on areas that would directly contribute towards achieving the goals expressed in Agenda 2030. This is the second to last strategic plan that will be dedicated towards Agenda 2030. Similar to the strategic plan of 2018-2021, the newly published strategic plan focuses on methods to achieve the following goals: “ending the unmet need for family planning; ending preventable maternal deaths; and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices.” The report gives readers a comprehensive look at the vision and direction the UNFPA will be leaning towards over the next few years. It also provides an ultimate motive behind action taken by the UNFPA across all areas of discussion.

Weny, Kathrin, Rachel Snow, and Sainan Zhang. *The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa*. New York: United Nations Population Fund, September 2017, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA_African_Atlas_KW_RS_SZ.pdf.

In response to the 2017 African Union's (AU) guide for *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*, the UNFPA developed a tool that would measure a Member State's demographic and economic status. The Demographic Dividend Atlas for Africa gives a synopsis of the “status of development indicators that matter to a demographic dividend: employment and entrepreneurship; education and skills development; health and well-being; and rights, governance and youth empowerment.” The information collected by the Atlas allows for Member States and organizations, such as the UNFPA, to visually see the areas requiring improvement and to identify economic potential. This report gives both a background of Africa's demographic dividend potential, as well as an understanding of how the Atlas is

used. Readers may find it helpful to look at the specific figures provided by the Atlas for each African Member State in order to understand how each Member State's path towards reaching a demographic dividend can differ.

“International Youth Day, 19 August 2019.” *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, August 12, 2019, accessed August 25, 2021, https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2019/08/WYP2019_10-Key-Messages_GZ_8AUG19.pdf

Published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2019 in support of International Youth Day, this report pulls ten key points from the Population Division's more comprehensive report: *World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights*. These ten points provide an understanding of the impact youth have on the international community. Readers may find the report helpful as a quick reference source when contrasting the global impact of youth against that of a specific region or Member State.