



## FRAMEWORK OF ACTIONS

for the follow-up to  
the Programme of Action

of the International Conference of  
Population and Development Beyond 2014



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# Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

United Nations

A/69/62

Distr.: General  
12 February 2014  
Original: English

ISBN: 978-1-61800-020-0



## Executive summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/234, in which the Assembly, responding to new challenges and to the changing development environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development, called for an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in 1994, represented a remarkable consensus among 179 Governments that individual human rights and dignity, including the equal rights of women and girls and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, are a necessary precondition for sustainable development, and set forth objectives and actions to accelerate such development by 2015. Achievements over the ensuing 20 years have been remarkable, including gains in women's equality, population health and life expectancy, educational attainment and human rights protection systems, with an estimated 1 billion people moving out of extreme poverty. Fears of population growth, which were already abating in 1994, have continued to ease, and the expansion of human capability and opportunity, especially for women, which has led to economic development, has been accompanied by a continued decline in the population growth rate from 1.52 per cent per year from 1990 to 1995 to 1.15 from 2010 to 2015. Today, national demographic trajectories are more diverse than in 1994, as wealthy countries of Europe, Asia and the Americas face rapid population ageing while Africa and some countries in Asia prepare for the largest cohort of young people the world has ever seen, and the 49 poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, continue to face premature mortality and high fertility.

Our greatest shared challenge is that our very accomplishments, reflected in ever-greater human consumption and extraction of the Earth's resources, are increasingly inequitably distributed, threatening inclusive development, the environment and our common future.

The evidence of 2014 overwhelmingly supports the consensus of the International Conference that respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights are necessary preconditions for improving the dignity and well-being of women and adolescent girls and for empowering them to exercise their reproductive rights, and that sexual and reproductive health and rights and understanding the implications of population dynamics are foundational to sustainable development. Safeguarding the rights of young people and investing in their quality education, decent employment opportunities, effective livelihood skills and access to sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education strengthen young people's individual resilience and create the conditions under which they can achieve their full potential.

The path to sustainability, outlined in the present framework, will demand better leadership and greater innovation to address critical needs: to extend human rights and protect all persons from discrimination and violence, in order that all persons have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from development; invest in the capabilities and creativity of the world's young people to assure future growth and innovation; strengthen health systems to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health to enable all women to thrive and all children to grow in a nurturing environment; build sustainable cities that enrich urban and rural lives alike; and transform the global economy to one that will sustain the future of the planet and ensure a common future of dignity and well-being for all people.

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