

2023 第九届 广东省中学生模拟联合国 大会

**2023 Guangdong High School
Model United Nations Conference**

英文（初中）委员会
背景文件

**English Group
(Junior High School)
Background Guide**

2023. 10. 04–2023. 10. 05

委员会：人口与发展委员会

Committee: Commission on Population and Development

议题：城市化与人口增长

Topic: Urbanization and a Growing Human Population

工作语言：英语

Language: English

1. Background

As per the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the global population has tripled since the mid-20th century and is projected to reach 10 billion by the mid-2080s. In 2021, the United Nations (UN) estimated that around 56% of the world's population lived in urban areas, and this trend continues to grow (World Bank, 2018). By 2050, this urban population is expected to rise to 68%, encompassing roughly 6 billion individuals (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018). This shift is driven by people moving from rural to urban areas due to increased technological advancements and educational prospects.

The rapid growth of cities, coupled with a significant increase in population, has reshaped urban living. If properly managed, this trend could lead to substantial positive outcomes, such as reducing inequality and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through increased opportunities. However, a population surge in a specific area could also pose risks, potentially leading to challenges in accessing clean water and sanitation, exacerbating socioeconomic disparities, and potentially degrading overall quality of life if urban planning is lacking.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) published a report in 2019 that discusses the vulnerability of large cities with inadequate urban planning to natural disasters. These disasters include extreme heat, seismic events, and volcanic eruptions, which

could disproportionately affect impoverished communities (Gu, 2019).

Article IX of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 says that urbanization is important for a country's growth. It's about countries changing from mostly rural areas to more urban ones (UNPF, 194). In 2018, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) talked about megacities and the problems they bring. Megacities are super big cities with at least 10 million people. According to the World Urbanization Prospect of 2018, there might be 48 of these megacities by 2050, up from 33. Most of the new megacities will likely be in Asia and Africa because of how people are moving.

Where these megacities are and how old they are will affect how rich or poor people are and how well their cities are set up. The future megacities in Latin America, Asia, and Africa might have different ideas about how they should grow compared to the older ones in Europe and North America. The UN Habitat's World Cities Report in 2022 talks about things like money, culture, diversity, and the fact that people are getting older in cities (UNHSP, 2022).

As the population increases, there are more older people who might not have as much support. According to the UNDESA's *Leaving No One Behind in An Ageing World Report* (UNDESA, 2023), by 2050, there could be one billion people aged 65 or older. The UNDESA suggests that to handle the fast population growth and urbanization, we should plan how cities grow. The UNDESA's *World Social Report* from 2020 explains how urbanization could be good for helping the environment, making things fairer, and helping development.

2. International and Regional Framework

In 1994, the ICPD involved 179 Member States that agreed on a plan called *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development* (UNPF, 1994). This plan aimed to deal with challenges that connect population, economic growth, and sustainable development as cities grow. It's like a roadmap for addressing these important issues together.

One part of this plan, Chapter VI, talks about a healthcare strategy. The goal is to control how many people there are and how we use resources, so we don't do harm to the planet. Chapter IX talks about countries needing policies that spread people out in a way that's fair. They want to make sure everyone has equal opportunities. The plan also says countries should help move businesses and industries from cities to rural places and from rich areas to poor ones. This can make things more balanced and fairer.

Chapter XI is about giving everyone access to good education. This helps reduce the differences

between city and countryside and lets people move up in society. The plan also mentions education about important things like health and having babies. It talks about the good parts of moving to new places and the problems that can come with it.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important guidelines that focus on managing urbanization and population growth. One of these goals, Goal 4 (Quality education), wants to make sure everyone gets a good education. It's about having fair and open learning environments for everyone, including those in tough situations. It also talks about having good teachers and resources for all.

Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth) is about making sure everyone has good job opportunities. It doesn't matter if you live in the city or the countryside, you should have a chance for a good job.

Goal 10 (Reduce inequalities) is all about making sure everyone is treated fairly. No matter your gender, race, or how much money you have, you should be included and treated well.

Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) is about creating cities that are good for everyone. This includes better transportation, businesses, and public spaces that are safe, open, and environmentally friendly.

The New Urban Agenda (UNCHSUD, 2017), which was agreed upon during the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) in 2016, talks about how urban development connects to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Goal 11. This agenda gives direction to many different groups that can help make cities better and more welcoming for everyone.

The New Urban Agenda has a vision of cities where fairness, safety for people and nature, and good living conditions are the main things to think about when planning how cities grow. It wants to include all people, no matter how old they are, their gender, or where they come from.

This agenda also has advice and ideas for cities. It talks about how cities should be planned, how to make sure people have safe and good homes, how to include everyone, and how to protect the environment. It also talks about making roads safer.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) made a plan called Sustainable Urbanization for Global Progress and Security. This plan helps cities get ready for and manage growth in jobs, education, and safety. It wants to make cities better places to live in.

The European Union (EU) also has plans for cities and the growing population. One of these plans is called Cohesion Policy (European Commission,2023), which is for the years 2021 to 2027. It uses real-time data to solve problems that come with more people living in cities. It also lets people get involved by giving them access to information online. Another EU program is called URBACT. This helps cities learn from each other and share good ideas to solve problems together. In 2021, the EU International Urban Cooperation Programme started a second phase. This helps cities from different places work together on common challenges like making cities greener and better for everyone.

3. “Urban Migration and Population Growth: Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities for Cities”

On November 15, 2022, the global population reached a milestone of 8 billion people (UNDESA, 2022). This quick rise in population shows the progress made in areas like public health, sanitation, and food. The World Urbanization Prospects of 2018 explained that cities are growing because more people are being born and because of people moving from one place to another. This growth happens naturally when there are more births than deaths. And when people move to cities, they're often younger and plan to stay in cities longer, which leads cities to grow and change.

The UN Habitat World Cities Report (UNHSP,2022) in 2020 says that migration, or moving from one place to another, is a big reason why cities are getting bigger. About one out of every seven people is a migrant. As more people move, cities need to be ready. They should have good plans to help new people settle in. This means having affordable housing, jobs, and schools for migrants. Most migrants end up in big cities, and they might not get all the benefits of city life like good jobs and homes. But if cities make fair rules, migrants can fill gaps in the workforce and help the city grow in many ways, socially, economically, and culturally.

During the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in 2023, a key topic of discussion was how important data is for understanding population trends, migration, and the differences among different groups of people. Collecting data helps Member States find solutions to challenges caused by the connections between migration and urbanization.

This session also emphasized the value of young migrants in cities. When given proper education and support, young migrants can bring fresh ideas and creative thinking to urban areas. Unfortunately, resources like education are often harder for migrants, including children,

to access. This might be why some migrants don't have the same chances as others, especially if they haven't had formal schooling.

During this session, experts talked about how investing in opportunities and education for migrants can lead to a society that's better off economically and healthier overall.

4. “Sustainable Solutions for Megacities: Navigating Environmental Challenges and Inclusive Development”

Megacities are dealing with tough issues like climate change and other problems related to the environment. To make these cities sustainable, solutions that work with nature – like planning rules and fair distribution of resources – can help a lot. This way, everyone's voice is heard when planning the city.

Even though many governments have promised to have zero emissions, there's a lot of work to do. Over 400 goals have to be reached to achieve the goal of zero emissions in the energy sector by 2050. This means we need big changes to move towards clean energy.

One of the important yearly topics that the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) focused on during 2022-2023 was “just sustainable green transition for developing countries.” This theme aimed to help cities recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild them in a way that's good for everyone.

During the 21st session of the Committee for Development Policy, the focus was on giving power to people and making sure everyone is included in decision-making through strong government and global systems. This would help countries with less development make changes that involve technology, fairness in government, and stronger economies.

In the fifty-fifth CPD session, they talked about how important it is to have a strong economy that doesn't harm the environment. They also talked about climate change hurting countries with less development and the need to manage risks from natural disasters.

With more kids living in big cities and megacities, getting a good education is crucial. In 2023, there will be around 820 million kids of primary school age around the world (UNCPD, 2023). But the COVID-19 pandemic made the education crisis worse, especially for kids who don't have access to technology or other resources. UNESCO, the United Nations organization for education, made a Global Network of Learning Cities to help with education needs and sharing

knowledge. UNESCO describes a learning city as a place that includes everyone, uses modern technology, and appreciates different cultures. This shows how important cities are, as they're diverse and can make local plans to help everyone.

5. Summary

The most recent session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in 2023 focused on population-related issues and sparked discussions that are shaping new ideas and frameworks for the world's population. The CPD has the power to take action and make sure the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is followed.

During its next session in 2024, the CPD will once again discuss "Sustainable Development, particularly inclusive economic growth." This builds on the work done previously about population trends, city planning, and making sure everyone is included. The CPD is working to help create a sustainable future for the world's population.

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