

**UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
“FERTILITY, CHANGING POPULATION TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENT:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE”**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
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BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARIES

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi is a Future Fellow at the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University (ANU) and Professor of Demography (on leave) at the Department of Demography, University of Tehran. His main area of research has been Iran's fertility transition but he has also worked on such areas as family change, reproductive health, international migration, Developmental Idealism, Refugees, and Muslim Demography. He served as the Head of the Department of Demography of the University of Tehran (2002-2006), was a member of the Council of the Population Association of Iran (2001-2010), and served as Vice-President (2009-2010) and President (2011-2012) of the Asian Population Association. He is Chair of the IUSSP Panel on Demography of Refugees (2010-2014), and a member of the Advisory Board of various Demographic journals. Mr. Abbasi-Shavazi is the Laureate of the 2011 United Nations Population Award.

Francesco Billari is Professor of Sociology and Demography and Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Oxford, where he is a Fellow of Nuffield College. Before joining Oxford in 2012, he worked at Bocconi University, Milan (2002-12), and at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (1999-2002). He has held visiting positions and/or advisory body roles at the University of Pennsylvania, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, University of Milan-Bicocca, University of Padua, Catholic University of Milan, INED, Austrian Academy of Sciences and NIDI. He holds a Ph.D. the University of Padua (1998), and a “Laurea” from Bocconi University (1994). He is currently President of the European Association for Population Studies. In 2012ati

evaluation at ‘Making Pregnancy Safer, Geneva and co-author of the World Health Report 2005: Make Every Mother and Child Count) and the UK Department for International Development (as statistical adviser to the AIDS and reproductive health policy team.)

Kirsty Newman is Head of the Evidence into Action Team at the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The team consists of 22 people who all work to support decision makers within DFID and beyond to make use of research evidence in their decision making processes. Before joining DFID, Kirsty worked at INASP (a UK-based development charity) running the Evidence-Informed Policy Making programme. She has also worked for the Wellcome Trust and the UK Parliament on research capacity building programmes. Before moving into international development work, she worked as a research scientist and has a Ph.D. in molecular virology. Kirsty writes a blog about research and international development <http://kirstyevidence.wordpress.com/> and can be found on twitter as @kirstyevidence.

Hans Rosling is Professor of International Health at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. His 20 years of research on global health concerned the character of the links between economy and health in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He has been adviser to WHO and UNICEF, co-founded Médecines sans Frontiers in Sweden and started new courses and published a textbook on Global Health. He is a member of the International Group of the Swedish Academy of Science and of the Global Agenda Network of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. He co-founded Gapminder Foundation (www.gapminder.org) with his son and daughter-in-law to promote a fact-based world view by converting the international statistics into moving, interactive, understandable and enjoyable graphics. He lectures about past and contemporary economic, social and environmental changes in the world and produces thematic videos using the same technique. His award-winning lectures on global trends have been labeled “humorous, yet deadly serious” and many in the audience realize their own world view is lagging many decades.

Tomáš Sobotka is research group leader (“Comparative European Demography”) at the Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Human Global Capital. Currently he leads an ERC-funded project analysing fertility and reproduction in Europe in the early 21st century (EURREP, www.eurrep.org). He holds a Ph.D. in demography from the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). His research focuses on fertility in low-fertility settings, fertility data and measurement, population and family change in Europe and assisted reproduction. He has collaborated extensively with researchers from the fields of population studies, sociology and medicine; his work is has been published in Population and Development Review, Human Reproduction, Demographic Research and many other journals. He has helped launching and expanding several data repositories, including the Human Fertility Database (HFD, www.humanfertility.org) and Human Fertility Collection (www.fertilitydata.org). More details and list of publications are available at http://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/staff/staff_tomas_sobotka.shtml