

**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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and

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**A. Background**

The Commission on Population and Development held its 50<sup>th</sup> session in New York from 3 to

development. The topic was considered in two reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the session, in plenary statements made by Member States and in the discussion on the draft resolution.

Across the board, the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development emphasized that taking account of changing population age structures as part of development planning is essential for achieving the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the eradication of poverty. The reports of the Secretary-General documented the changes taking place in the age distribution of human populations. On a global scale, these changes include a decline in the number of children and youth as well as a decline in the number of young people in the working age population, and rapid growth in the share of older persons. In light of these changes, which inevitably accompany the transition toward longer lives and smaller families, the reports draw attention to a range of policies that can contribute to sustainable development in general and to the eradication of poverty in particular (SDG target 1.1).

For countries with high levels of fertility and youthful populations, policies recommended in the reports include: ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (target 3.7), upholding reproductive rights (target 5.6), eliminating harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage (target 5.3), and expanding investments in human capital