

Population Headliners



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States should promote jobs and education for older people, says Commission on Population and Development

Governments should tackle the implications of the ageing of world population by increasing the self-reliance of older persons, including by promoting their continued participation in the workforce and their continuing education, the United Nations Commission on Population and Development stated on the last day of its Fortieth Session in New York.

Concluding its annual meeting which was held from 9 to 13 April, the Commission, also called on Governments to invest in young people, to have in place policies ensuring adequate economic and social protection and to ensure the sustainability and solvency of pension schemes. It invited Governments to set up mechanisms assisting individuals to accumulate assets through personal savings and investment, so as to cover consumption needs at older ages.

"These are real challenges posed by ageing populations", WHO expert Somnath Chatterji told the Commission, "including higher costs for social services, possible labour shortages and higher costs for pensions and health care".



The Commission on Population and Development concluded its 40th session in New York (United Nations Photograph by Eskinder Debebe).

Asia and the Pacific is home to 400 million older persons, the largest number of older persons [for a region] in the world. According to UNESCAP, represented by Ms. Keiko Osaki, Chief, Population and Social Integration Section, Emerging Social Issues Division, the number of

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2.5 billion increase in world population by 2050: United Nations estimates

The world's population is on track to surpass 9 billion persons by 2050, according to the newly released 2006 Revision of the United Nations population estimates and projections, which also predict that the number of elderly persons will hit 1 billion.

"One of the surprises is that population growth is most concentrated in the 60 plus age group", Hania Zlotnik, the Director of the United Nations Population Division said during the launch of the report recently in New York.

"The place where the action is is the older population", she said. "The biggest change will occur in the developing world, and developing countries will have to cope with the situation" by investing in both education and care of the elderly.

According to the new estimates, the world population will likely increase by 2.5 billion over the next 43 years, passing from the current 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050.

As a result of declining fertility and increasing longevity, the populations of more and more countries are ageing rapidly. Between 2005 and 2050, half of the increase in the world population will be accounted for by a rise in the population aged 60 years or over, whereas the number of children (under age 15) will decline slightly.

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