

Reports from UN Representatives.

Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

Sustainable cities and comments

By 2050, 70% of the world's population will be living in cities. Businesses, Governments, Civil Society Organisations and Citizens are engaged in pursuing objectives to make cities more competitive, safe, resource-efficient, resilient and inclusive.

Key issues are:-

Access to affordable housing – Infrastructure/ Transport – Access to public spaces – Sustainable buildings.

Urban Agenda for the EU

In 2016 the “Pact of Amsterdam”, an Action Plan to improve the quality of life in European urban areas was established. This partnership focuses on sustainable use of land and on the use of nature as one potential solution to current societal challenges, namely nature-based solutions.

ECOSOC Youth Forum

This year's Forum provided a platform for young leaders globally to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with UN Member States and to share ideas for advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 1.2 billion youth around the world represent 16% of the global population.

At least 1 in 4 young people are effected by violence or armed conflict in some way.

Youth are more likely to be among the working poor. Globally, 3 out of 4 young workers have jobs in the informal economy and over 200 million youth are either unemployed or are working but below the poverty line.

Education has progressed since 2000 but globally 138 million youth of upper secondary age (15-17) are out of school. In low income countries out-of-school rates for upper secondary are close to 60%.

By 2030, 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15, and will need skills, jobs and livelihoods to realize their full potential and lead meaningful live.

NGO Committee on the Status of Women

CSW 63 New York -

Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

The document contains 22 pages including a list of the “key recommendations”.

CSW64/ Beijing+25 (2020)

After Mexico (1975). Copenhagen (1980), and Nairobi (1985) the 4th World Conference on Women took place in Beijing in 1995. The theme of this Conference was “Action for Equality, Development and Peace”. Human Rights of Women” was one of the big issues and from that moment was called “Human Rights are Women's Rights.

In March 2020 the UN New York will hold the Beijing+25 Commemoration.

Ageing

It is estimated by 2040 one third of the population in Europe will be aged 80 years or older.

Independence, self-determination and participation are considered as important rights and key determinants of quality of life.

The living conditions of older persons in their own homes can be improved by electronic connection with the environment.

Smartphones, computers and tablets have been added to the traditional means of individual communication. They can effectively contribute to prevent or overcome feelings of isolation, solitude and abandonment at home.

The objective is to develop technologies adapted to the needs and wishes of older people to strengthen their self-determination, comfort and security.

UN permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The session focused on “the generation, transmission and protection of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge”.

Indigenous peoples make up less than 6% of the world’s population, but account for 15% of the poorest. They live across some 90 countries, represent 5000 different cultures and speak an overwhelming majority of the world’ estimated 6700 languages.

It is estimated that indigenous peoples own and/or occupy approximately ¼ of the earth’s surface.

This land area holds most of the earth’s remaining biodiversity. It also intersects with about 40% of all protected areas. Some estimates suggest that 50% of protected areas worldwide have been established on the traditional territories of indigenous peoples.

The Forum’s 2019 session aimed to contribute to the increasing recognition and respect for traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, based on their right to self-determination and decide their own development priorities. This is important in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for leaving no one behind.

The following points are key findings based on a report – Programme of Action of the international Conference on Population and Development.

Important gains have been made in implementing the Programme of Action – greater access to sexual and reproductive health care, reduced child and maternal mortality, increased life expectancy, reduced incidence of poverty, improved access to education and advances in gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Global life expectancy at birth rose from 65 years in 1994 to 72 years in 2019, but only half of all countries have achieved the targets.

The world’s population is expected to grow, albeit at a declining rate.

Global fertility is projected to reach a level around 2.1 births per woman by the 2060s.

Mortality rates have fallen globally, but remain high in some regions.

Gaps in life expectancy at birth across regions have narrowed.

Use of modern methods of family planning has risen markedly.

Global population is ageing, with important regional differences in timing and speed.

Future population growth will be concentrated in urban areas of Africa and Asia. 56% of the world’s population resides in urban areas, a share that is projected to increase to 68% in 2050.

Number of international migrants continue to increase – between 2000 and 2017, the estimated number of persons living outside their country of birth increased by almost 50%, reaching 258 million in 2017.