

Satellite Session



Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and CLIMATE CHANGE: Why Do Linkages Matter?

Organisers: German Theme Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) – BMZ, GTZ, KfW, DSW, InWent, DED

Time: 1 September 2009, 18:00-19:30 (followed by a reception hosted by the organisers)

Location: Estrel Hotel Berlin, Sonnenallee 225, 12057 Berlin, Conference Wing, Estrel Room A

Please note: Registration for the satellite session does NOT include the 'NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development', 2-4 September 2009 in Berlin, Germany. The satellite session will be held in English and is open to participants to the Global NGO Forum as well as other interested organisations.

Registration: We advise to register in advance. To do so, please visit: <http://www.gtz-session.mediacompany.com/>
Remaining places may be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the door.

BACKGROUND

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), anthropogenic climate change – induced by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and land use change – is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. Until recently, linkages between population dynamics and climate change had been largely ignored in the international debate on climate change strategies. However, in light of the current global negotiations on climate change mitigation and adaptation, there has been growing interest in exploring the linkages with population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The interaction between population dynamics and climate change is complex and is affected by factors such as economic growth, poverty, land use change and diffusion of technology. Although the industrialised world is historically responsible for the harmful build-up of GHGs in the atmosphere, the consequences will be felt most severely in many least developed and developing countries. In addition, most future population growth and rapid urbanisation in coastal and marginal areas is projected to take place in regions of the world that are already more vulnerable and have less adaptive capacity. Moreover, scientific studies have widely recognised and emphasised that demographic trends such as population growth, urbanisation and changes in household structure correlate closely to levels of GHG emissions and changes in land use patterns. The fastest rate of urbanisation and population growth is taking place in countries with relatively low historic and current per capita GHG emission levels. Nevertheless, an increase of two or three billion people to the existing population – mainly in cities – will inevitably make it even more difficult to reduce global GHG emissions to a sustainable level.

It is argued that traditional climate change mitigation and adaptation measures (such as increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy generation) should be combined with population policies and programmes – including voluntary family planning and universal access to SRH services – delivered according to the international consensus agreed to by 179 nations at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. This should help increase adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, while potentially reducing GHG emissions in the long run.

commissioned by

in cooperation with



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



German Foundation for
World Population (DSW)

Satellite Session



OBJECTIVES

The satellite session aims to provide a general overview of the current discussion on the complex relationship between population dynamics and climate change. Participants will discuss a number of findings on the relevance of population dynamics, SRHR and climate change for civil society.

Specifically the satellite session seeks to:

- Strengthen the understanding of the potential impacts of demographic change (such as ageing, urbanisation, change of household size and composition) on GHG emissions and climate change;
- Identify the effects of climate change on women, men and children, particularly in developing countries as well as adaptation options;
- Discuss how population policies and programmes that aim at universal access to SRHR could be tied into climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Share and discuss examples of good practice that link population and the environment/climate and identify existing opportunities and challenges for civil society.

AGENDA

Welcoming Remarks: **Dr Hedwig Petry**, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)*, Director of Health, Education and Social Protection Division

Key Note Speech: **Robert Engelman**, *Worldwatch Institute*, Vice President for Programmes

Presentations and Interview:

Chair: **Karen Newman**, *Population and Sustainability Network (PSN)*, Coordinator

Panellists: **Dr Karen Hardee**, *Population Action International (PAI)*, Vice President of Research
Ulrike Neubert, *German Foundation for World Population (DSW)*, Director of Development Programmes
Robert Engelman, *Worldwatch Institute*, Vice President for Programmes
To be named, TBC

Open Discussion

Closing Remarks: **Joachim Schmitt**, *German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*, Division 311 - Health, Population Policy

