



**Expert Group Meeting in Celebration of the
30th anniversary of the International Year of Family, 2024**

28-29 February 2024

Kuala Lumpur

Families and Megatrends

**Interlinkages between migration, urbanization, new technologies,
demographic trends and climate change**

Recommendations

Demographic Change

1. Formulate policies and implement programs to support family formation and cohesion, including enhanced childcare support, reduction of working hours, implementation of flexible working arrangements and parenting education programs.
2. Raise awareness of the significance and consequences of fertility decline as a serious future threat in Asian countries, and take necessary measures.
3. Establish financial assistance, infrastructure support, and mechanisms to enable families to work effectively in their local contexts, to enhance grassroots economies in localities to promote family integration.
4. Recognize the impact of population ageing on the family and take appropriate measures.

Technological Change

5. Devise programs that educate older persons on digital literacy and promote active ageing in the context of traditional skills, technology and cultural heritage.
6. Develop innovative, practical products, services and solutions that can support older persons in their daily activities, while considering cultural sensitivities and realities.
7. Increase accessibility to the benefits of technology, to promote family well-being, while ensuring technological developments are based on cost-benefit analysis.

8. Call for the development and spread of preventive education not only in cities, but also across regions, while taking into consideration partnerships between schools, NGOs, private sector, governmental and non-governmental organizations, towards international cooperation for technology-induced digital crime vigilance.
9. Establish a fund aimed at providing underprivileged older persons with access to technologies.

Urbanization

10. Introduce new housing and rental policies that address the housing needs of low-income individuals and marginalized communities, while considering the demographic shift towards an ageing society, housing for older persons s.
11. Prioritize the integration of innovation and technology in urban development and housing. This involves exploring smart city concepts, adopting Green Building practices backed with innovative technology, leveraging digital solutions for improved service delivery, and implementing innovative construction techniques.
12. Develop and enhance local technology for housing and urban development and utilizing local building materials. This can involve integrating traditional building practices with modern techniques, promoting sustainable materials, and incorporating local knowledge and expertise.

International Migration

13. Introduce incentives to discourage the disintegration of family members by advocating for quality education in all localities and spreading economic and industrial development. This strategic approach seeks to alleviate population concentration in a few megacities, addressing the migration of the working-age population from their home provinces and regions. This, in turn, aims to diminish the necessity of sending children to larger urban centers for higher education.
14. Embrace family-friendly approaches, to encourage family members to reside together and provide mutual support, by applying governmental measures and policies, spanning all sectors that underscore the growing diversity within society.
15. Incorporate designs that foster a multi-generation-friendly environment, ensuring inclusivity and not leaving any vulnerable groups, such as children and older persons marginalized.
16. Strengthen economic incentives and encourage investment and reform of the tax system to alleviate the excessive concentration of population in cities, revitalize rural areas and enhancing the attractiveness of local cities and depopulated areas, by providing support for employment, entrepreneurship, housing allowances, higher child allowances, and support for educational expenses.

17. Strengthen connections between urban and rural areas, facilitating mechanisms for urban residents to support rural communities through short-term stays and financial aid.
18. Implement flexible educational formats at public universities, allowing students to study while residing in underpopulated areas and improve the appeal of schools in underpopulated areas by increasing teacher staffing and developing engaging curricula.
19. Establish research centers and specialized institutions to facilitate research, innovation, and the development of appropriate technology for housing and urban development, while taking into consideration collaboration between governmental, academic and research institutions.

Climate Change

20. Prioritize the development and implementation of comprehensive urban planning policies that account for rapid urbanization and population growth. This involves establishing zoning regulations, integrating risk-sensitive land use planning considering climate change and natural disaster risks, and adopting spatial development strategies to promote sustainable, green, smart, inclusive, and resilient development. Encompass a range of initiatives, including the establishment of public rental housing schemes, organized rental housing systems, Green Building practices, Cooperative Housing projects, and mass affordable housing initiatives. These initiatives will cater to the diverse needs of the population and ensure access to decent housing for all families.
21. Develop a holistic approach that integrates urban agriculture, environmental conservation, and sustainable development, while prioritizing the development of family-friendly cities to promote citizen happiness and enable citizen-centered urban development, while prioritizing the provision of basic amenities and services within housing projects, to ensure that residents have access to essential facilities such as water, electricity, sanitation, and transportation, creating livable conditions in housing developments.
22. Expand prevention education to small cities (rural and mountainous areas) every year, rather than concentrating on large cities including operating prevention education from early childhood (infants and lower elementary grades) in consideration of the fact that the age of violence experience is gradually becoming younger.
23. Share success stories to find sustainable solutions and to bring them to the international community for global cooperation through conferences, forums etc. where experts from international organizations, governments, corporations, civil society, and youth can share their ideas on preventing cyberbullying.
24. Reduce carbon emissions and environmental footprint by making the RRR as a way of life - (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) while noting the direct role that the family plays in this.
25. Educate and guide family members to be alert in dealing with anticipated future disasters, which are expected to arise in diverse forms and occur more frequently, through disseminating information across various platforms, and making necessary preparations including the availability of necessary instruments.