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THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD IN THE FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FORUMS

Abstract: *The growing population of the Earth raises a number of worrying questions for the world community. Therefore, this issue is being discussed with great attention in various international and national fora. The article highlights some of the more important ones and the general conclusion that can be drawn is that it is necessary to balance three factors: control over population growth, the resources available to a region needed to provide for the population and the ecological situation in the region. Only if these three factors are balanced and the situation normalizes, only then will it be possible to rely on sustainable social and economic development of world society in the long run. New opportunities for modeling the existing socio-economic variables determining the future of demographic reproduction are emerging.*

Key words: *demography, population, scientific forums, natural resources, ecology, ecological disasters, reproduction, migration, refugees, fertility, socio-economic conditions, nature of work.*

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Introduction

Never before in the entire history of mankind has the Earth been inhabited by such a large number of people who use such large amounts of natural resources, thus causing irreparable damage to our planet. The population is growing rapidly: it has doubled in the last 40 years, reaching 6 billion 100 million. But resource use is unevenly distributed: 86% fall on the rich 20% of the world's population in industrialized countries. And developing countries are often unable to feed their populations and are suffering more and more from environmental destruction every year. According to the UN, the number of refugees fleeing environmental disasters now stands at nearly 25 million. This prompts international and national forums to be held with concern to address the world's population. Basic documents for this article are provided by the Institute for Population and Human Studies - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences /BAS/. These documents show the integration around the idea of looking at the world's population.

International Conference "Migration and Displacement in Socialist Countries - Czechoslovakia [6, pp.117-118].

The conference took place from 5 to 8 November 1984 in the village of Nedvedice near Brno, Czechoslovakia, with representatives from the entire former socialist camp. There are four Bulgarian participants. A total of 40 reports were presented.

On topic 1 "General interconnection of migration processes: migration, resettlement and social development" participants in the conference connect the main aspects of migration with the specific socio-economic conditions in different countries. They see migration as a factor in the development of certain economic regions.

On topic 2 "Geographical aspects of migration in socialist countries" is devoted to the geographical structure of migration. Here, participants look at specific geographical issues specific to their countries.

On topic 3 "Demographic, social and other aspects of migration in socialist countries". Aspects such as: the impact of migration on changes in urban

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systems are considered; the peculiarities and problems of the sociological approach in the study of migratory behavior; the role of migration as a factor for changes in the living environment, etc.

On topic 4 "Migration Information System" a report was presented from a comparative study of migration in socialist countries - all the similarities and differences are highlighted.

Topic 5 "Theory, models and forecasting of migration" mostly deals with mathematical methods for forecasting changes in migration processes.

On topic 6 "Migration, migration policy and planned development of resettlement" the focus of the participants is the question of some guidelines for improving the efficiency of migration management.

The conference takes important decisions, including: to put the studies of migration processes in the socialist countries on a planned basis; to strengthen the work on the problems of migration management and migration policy, etc.

Scientific seminar "Population and Society" - Bulgaria [4, p.118-120].

The seminar was held in 1984 as a joint forum between BAS, Bulgarian Sociological Association - BAS and others. At the heart of the forum are urbanization, migration, education and the cultural and technical level of the population, and especially the changes that have taken place in the nature of today's work, changes in life and family environment. The economic independence of the woman, the increase of her social activity, her creative participation in the social production and management, which provokes the formation of new socio-psychological conditions, which also affect the family relations, are emphasized.

European Scientific Conference on Population - Finland [7, pp.127-136].

The conference was held on June 11-16, 1987 in Juvaskilla, Finland, attended by over 400 delegates from all European countries, the United States and Canada.

The first plenary session was devoted to "Demographic perspectives for Europe". The keynote speaker is Academician Milos Matsura - Yugoslavia. He analyzes the achieved fertility in Europe, and according to him the demographic transition in many European countries is over and they are at the level of simple or narrow reproduction. This allows two hypotheses to be made. The first - in 2000 the population of Europe could reach 512 million inhabitants, and according to the second - in the same period it will reach 524 million inhabitants.

The second plenary session raises the issue of "Fertility in Europe". Unemployment and social insecurity in some countries play an important role in the discussion. The role of the so-called individual factors that determine demographic behavior. Particular attention is paid to the child as a value.

The third plenary session addressed the issue of the future of the family. The connection between individualism and the need for democratization in the family has been clarified. Data are shown to increase the age for marriage, increase divorce, increase the number of unmarried people.

The greatest achievement of this forum is finding common ground between researchers from different countries on the problems of the world's population.

Meeting of Mr. Tatsuro Konugi - Deputy Executive Director of the UN Population Fund with representatives of the Bulgarian scientific community - Bulgaria [4, pp.126-127].

The meeting took place on March 18, 1989. At it, Mr. Konugi raised various issues related to the world's population. It examines the relationship between available resources and the environment, requiring global thinking on environmental issues in order to ensure the survival of the human race as a perspective for the 21st century. Concerns about the disparity between population and resources, the demographic boom and the reduction of living and labor resources are global problems and they require the unification of all forces for prudent implementation of demographic policy, economical use of natural resources and environmental protection.

During this meeting plenary sessions are held on topics: Fertility in Europe, The Future of the Family, Inequality in Deaths and others.

European Regional Conference on Population Problems - Sofia [9, pp.115-117].

It took place on 6-12 October 1983 in SOFIA, organized by the United Nations Economic Committee for Europe, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund. Representatives of almost all European countries are present, with a few exceptions. The tendencies and perspectives of the demographic development from the European region are considered. It is noted that the relative share of the region's population in the world population is declining. Countries in the region have low growth, which means that negative growth will occur at the end of the 20th century. A sharp decline in the working age population is expected in all countries of the region. Life expectancy has increased over the last 10 years. Urbanization processes are uneven in the four sub-regions of the European region - most intensively in southern European countries and Eastern European countries.

The proposals and recommendations of this forum relate to several areas of demographic policy: demographic growth, mortality, fertility, family development, external and internal migration and others.

European Seminar on Current Demographic Issues - The Netherlands [8, pp.108-112].

The seminar took place on 25-27 September 1986 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and was organized by the Netherlands Interuniversity

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Demographic Institute under the auspices of the European Population Research Association. The forum discusses the existing links between the concepts of "lifestyle", "lifestyle" and "quality of life". Also considered are: the theory of demographic transition, the rationalization of reproductive behavior, the relationship between regional differences and differences in dynamics, and others.

The issue of "wanted-unwanted" children was discussed at length during all meetings. Although abortion cannot be considered a desirable event, free access to it is an important factor in increasing the rationality of reproductive behavior.

Emphasis is also placed on the place of satisfaction with the formation of demographic behavior in general. The need to study the connections existing between the demographic realization and the attitude to the various forms of power, authority, authority in society is emphasized.

From different points of view, the answer to the question why more and more European women are left childless has been sought. It is stated that conscious childlessness is a socially deviant behavior and requires more in-depth research. It is concluded that conscious childlessness is typically more common in Western European countries than in socialist ones. The debate is also focused on modern contraceptives.

The discussions draw attention to two facts: 1. conscious childlessness must be clearly distinguished from the unconscious, ie. from infertility. The concept of "social sterility" was introduced; 2. Conscious childlessness is a complex decision-making process - most women set professional career goals.

Comparative data on the existing measures for the implementation of the demographic policy of the different European countries are presented.

All the conclusions of this scientific forum are reflected in the Final Report.

International Conference on the Future of the Population - Hungary [10, pp.112-113].

The conference took place on October 17-22, 1989 in Sopron, Hungary. It is entitled "Future changes in the age structure of the population" and is organized by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. It is attended by representatives of many countries in Europe and the United States. The forum takes place in 7 sections.

Most of the reports have a methodological focus, analyzing the possible ways of forecasting the population mainly in the statistical-mathematical aspect. New possibilities for modeling the existing socio-economic variables determining the future of demographic reproduction are considered.

Forecasts for the future of the birth rate have been made, and for Bulgaria a coefficient of 1.60 is indicated - total coefficient.

Modern household is a form of organization of life of people and families, which is already difficult

to fit into traditional notions of the family cycle. New approaches are needed in determining the types of family and types of household, which can only happen after in-depth research on modern types of family behavior. This is the main conclusion that emerges from all the reports presented at the forum.

International Conference on Population and Development - Egypt [11].

The Conference on Population and Development, organized by the United Nations in the Egyptian capital Cairo in 1994, marked the beginning of a new understanding of global problems on Earth. The main goal, then-UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, said in his opening speech was to discuss the steps humanity needs to take to stem the world's population growth. According to UN forecasts from the early 90s of last century by 2050 the population of the Earth will double, ie. will be about 15 billion. This is a number that is not interesting with anything but the big question it raises - does the planet have the resources to feed so many human beings and will this process not pit the poorer and more populated countries against each other against more rich democracies, where the problem of population growth has another dimension? Pope John Paul II himself, in a special papal bull, opposed Boutros-Ghali and the United Nations, arguing that abortion should not be legalized and that birth planning was contrary to Christian dogma.

Despite the difficulties in organizing it, the International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994 under the auspices of the United Nations. It is the largest intergovernmental conference on population and development in history, **with over 11,000 registered participants, including governments, specialized agencies and UN agencies**, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the media. More than 180 countries are participating in the negotiations for the preparation of the Program of Action for Population and Development over the next 20 years. The action program was adopted by acclamation and emphasizes the interrelationships between the population and development. Its goal is to be a key factor in improving the quality of life of all people on the planet.

The conference concludes with conclusions and the adoption of an Action Program for the next 20 years. It is generally agreed that swift efforts are needed to stabilize the world's population and achieve sustainable development. The program aims to outline a framework for improving the quality of life of present and future generations.

Scientific seminar "Population and Society" - Bulgaria [5, p.123-127].

The seminar was organized in 1996 by the Institute of Sociology - BAS. The main demographic processes and the influence that the health condition of the population, the attitude towards health, the

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activity of the medical services and the way of life have on them are considered. The main report also includes the main tasks of social policy in the field of optimizing demographic processes and the health status of the population. A model of the interrelations between the health condition, the main demographic processes and the socio-economic development of Bulgaria is proposed.

It is emphasized that the defining moment in the historical development of living beings is the reproduction of immediate life, which is twofold: the production of livelihoods and the production of their own kind, the continuation of the species. Self-reproduction requires the division of living beings into two sexes as a kind of specialization at the level of the population on the two main alternative aspects of the evolutionary process: first, preservation of the genetic information of the population (conservative, genetic aspect) provided by the female sex and second, its variability (operational, genetic aspect) provided by the male sex. The division of roles in the reproductive process turns out to be essential for the optimal ecological adaptation of the species.

The production of livelihoods, the emergence of employment, deepens sexual specialization in social life. The first division of labor is between the sexes: the woman is primarily engaged in the reproduction of the offspring, and the man - in labor. In patriarchal social relations, however, the balance between the two reproductive activities is rapidly disturbed. Because work determines the well-being of society and availability, it gains greater prestige and a higher place in their value system, and human reproduction is underestimated.

This imbalance becomes most acute in the modern age, especially where social equality between the sexes has been achieved. In the consciousness and value system of the young woman today, professional and social realization stand above her responsibility as a mother and creator of the future man. This leads not only to quantitative but to qualitative deterioration of human reproduction - the creation, upbringing and education of generations.

It is suggested that in the future the social significance of human reproduction will rise, and at the same time will improve the preparation of both sexes for family life and parenthood as an integral part of the overall educational process, the culture of multifaceted and harmonious the developed personality.

At this scientific forum, the problem of population migration is also addressed. The focus is on methodological issues of migration behavior of the so-called. micro-level study of migration. The impact of social policy in the field of migration and the various stages of migration decision-making is also affected. In order to be effective, social policy in the field of migration must be primarily scientific, ie. to

rely on social laws, to reflect real sociological relationships.

Conference on the World Population - Great Britain [2].

For three days, 700 representatives from 109 countries and international organizations discussed in London in 2004 how to slow the rapid growth of the world's population. What is the balance ten years after the Cairo conference?

Every year 70,000 women die during childbirth. In Africa, the probability of a mother giving birth during childbirth is 700 times higher than in Germany, ie. every sixth birth there is a death of the mother. The numbers are appalling, not coincidentally, in 1994 the reduction in the death rate at birth was set as the goal of the Cairo World Population Conference. Ten years later, the current conference in London took stock of what had been achieved.

Some countries have made significant progress, such as Honduras. In 1997, the Honduran government decided to reduce the death rate at birth. Seven years later, the successes are obvious - as in Sri Lanka and Iran. Other countries, such as Africa, have not yet made progress and decisions remain on paper.

Experienced medical staff is also needed to reduce the birth rate, but only half of the world's mothers have been cared for by qualified medical staff. Almost every second pregnancy in the world has complications - both in Germany and in Burkina Faso. Good medical care in Germany is the reason why only one in 11,000 deaths occurs. The gap between developed countries such as Germany and the underdeveloped is terrible. Education and information are needed to close it.

One of the most impressive successes is that since the last conference ten years ago, many more girls have gone to school. The fact that girls receive education ultimately leads to a reduction in child mortality, a reduction in maternal mortality, an improvement in the family's nutrition and an increase in their income. Sending girls to study is the key to success. According to the participants, the conference in Cairo and the current one in London have achieved a lot, although they were not attended by government representatives.

The balance of the London Conference on issues such as the use of contraceptives, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, medical care for pregnant women is relatively good. Of the 133 countries analyzed, 23 showed clear and 17 made little progress. Tunisia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Peru and the Philippines perform best. Improvements are small in South Africa, Namibia and Senegal.

European Conference on Population "Demographic Challenges in Aging Societies" - Great Britain [2, p.162, 163].

The conference took place on 21-24 June 2006 in Liverpool, UK. About 350 reports were presented and 180 poster presentations were presented in the

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poster session. The forum highlights the problem of the aging population in Eastern Europe as a process driven by the profound social, economic and cultural changes observed in the former socialist countries over the past few decades.

The causes and consequences of the declining fertility trends of the European contingent are discussed. A model is presented that reveals the artificially increasing effect that external migration has on the total fertility rate in Albania after the end of socialism.

Russian representatives at the conference present a model explaining the impact of economic uncertainty and changing career orientations on fertile trends in Eastern Europe.

Other topics that received central attention during the conference were those related mainly to the social and economic consequences of the aging population and the political and managerial measures that this problem requires. Ways to reform social welfare systems, restructure the labor market and pension systems, and develop effective policies to reduce the negative effects of low birth rates in Europe have been the subject of numerous reports and discussions during the three-day scientific forum.

The scope of research also includes such issues as the change in perceptions of gender, family, professional career and parenthood, whose impact on the demographic picture of different societies is indisputable. Different trends from different parts of the world are shown, for example: on marital characteristics in Iran; perceptions of old age among women in The Gambia; empirical study of the family in Nepal and others.

The conference also included meetings of some of the current working groups of the European Population Research Association, such as the Second Demographic Transition Study Group or the Anthropological Demography Study Group. The ways to optimize the work of the research networks are discussed, as well as the possibilities for organizing and financing meetings and events as part of the activities of the European Association for Population Research.

Scientific Conference "European Future of Bulgaria and Population Development" - Bulgaria [1, p.217-218].

This scientific forum organized by the Center for Population Research and others took place on May 26, 2005 in Sofia, Bulgaria. scientific units from the country. Both main accents of the multi-accent issues for the development of the population in Bulgaria in connection with its European integration are outlined - 1. demographic accents of Bulgaria's European integration in the economic and social field and 2. Bulgaria and the free movement of population in Europe.

In the first aspect, issues such as:

- Some problems of the labor force in Bulgaria in the first decade of the 21st century - in the context of the European employment strategy;
- The labor market in the border areas of the European Union for planning;
- Coordination of social security systems in the European Union;
- Trends in mortality in Bulgaria and the efficiency of health care in the period of transition to a market economy;
- Juvenile delinquency in Bulgaria - a problem on the way to its European integration;
- Aspects of the changing family model in Bulgaria; and others.

The following issues were discussed in the **second aspect**:

- Bulgarian emigration and the years of transition and social consequences;
- Migration processes during the transition period;
- Gender changes of the new migration from Bulgaria;
- Migration and labor markets in Europe - policies and perspectives;
- Emigration attitudes of employees in Bulgaria;
- Depopulation in Northwestern Bulgaria;
- Depopulation - a major geographical problem of the demographic crisis in Bulgaria;
- Immigration prospects for Bulgaria in the context of the forthcoming EU membership; and others.

The necessary conclusions from this conference are:

1. The demographic condition of Bulgaria contains both features inherent in most countries on the map of Europe, and unique, specific features of the Bulgarian society elements;
2. According to some of the scholars present, the emigration potential of Bulgaria has already been exhausted, and according to others it has not, so a new wave of emigrants can be expected after the country's accession to the EU;
3. The demographic crisis also includes opinions on the possibility of overcoming the demographic crisis by settling in Bulgaria our compatriots living outside its borders;
4. A single opinion is clear: the problems of population development in our country and the tasks of society to overcome the demographic crisis are an important aspect of our European future, and their understanding in theoretical and purely practical terms is a prerequisite for solving them.

NATO report: Population growth - a major issue of the 21st century [3].

Can engineering find a solution to rapid population growth, increased climate change and growing fears of food and water shortages?

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In this century, the world will face the results of the biggest demographic explosion in human history. If action is not taken now, billions of people around the world will suffer from thirst, hunger, miserable living conditions and conflict.

Imagine the growth of two billion people on the planet over the next 40 years in need of food, water and shelter, and add climate change that makes it difficult to meet these basic human needs.

According to the report, if no action is taken now, billions of people around the world will suffer from thirst, hunger, miserable living conditions and conflicts caused by drought, food shortages, urban misery, migration and dwindling natural resources. to meet demand.

A huge increase in demand and a change in food preferences is expected, which means:

- doubling agricultural production in four decades;
- 30 percent increase in water consumption by 2030;
- an additional three billion residents seeking refuge in cities in the middle of the century.

The good news, according to the report, is that a recent report by the United Kingdom's Organization of Mechanical Engineers, entitled "Population - one planet, too many people?", Argues that these upcoming problems can be solved with some engineering technology and sustainable practice. Which means there is no need to delay global action in anticipation of a new technical discovery or an ingenious idea to control population growth.

The world's population is expected to grow to 9 billion over the next four decades (from today's 6.9) and reach its peak of 9.5 billion in 2075.

The report concludes that we are facing a unique opportunity with an abundance of clean technologies and know-how that can help developing countries skip the stage of high greenhouse gas emissions, ie the resource-consuming phase of early industrialization. This is particularly important because it is in these fast-growing economies that the greatest population growth is expected.

The world's population is expected to grow to 9 billion over the next four decades (from today's 6.9) and reach its peak of 9.5 billion in 2075. However, these overall figures do not reflect important regional demographic trends that over the coming decades form three categories with different characteristics that most countries will fit into.

1) Mature post-industrial economies will be characterized by a stable or declining population. For example, the European Union's population is expected to decline by 20% by 2100. Population aging will have widespread effects on social and health insurance and the workforce. Conflicts in the rest of the world, caused by population growth or climate change, will also affect these countries due to disruptions in the supply of agricultural products and other goods.

2) In advanced economies, which are currently characterized by a high degree of industrialization, population growth will slow with rising living standards. For example, in Asia, where today half of the world's population is located, an increase of only 25% with a peak in 2065, after which a decline will begin, similar to post-industrial economies. Although modest, this five-decade-long population growth in the region, combined with high growth in personal income and wealth, will create geopolitical tensions between countries over common natural resources - water and industrial raw materials.

3) The newly developing or underdeveloped countries, which are yet to be industrialized, form the third group. The main feature of these countries is the accelerated population growth, which will have a large share in total growth by 2075. The main region in this category is Africa, where the population of most countries is expected to double or triple by 2050. This will huge pressure on local food production, water supply and energy. Combined with social and political tensions caused by uncontrolled urbanization and a drastic increase in urban misery, internal or cross-border conflicts can arise, destabilizing international trade flows and migrating from conflict zones to stable regions such as Europe.

Geopolitical tensions can arise between these three groups of countries over fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) or low-carbon energy sources. Access to cheap and abundant energy is key to industrialization, poverty eradication, economic growth and post-industrial society.

In conclusion the following can be pointed out:

1. Three factors need to be balanced: control of population growth, the resources available to a region needed to provide for the population and the environmental situation in the region. Only if these three factors are balanced and the situation normalizes, only then can we rely on sustainable social and economic development of world society in the long run.

2. Of particular importance is the relationship between available resources and the environment, requiring global thinking on environmental issues in order to ensure the survival of the human race as a perspective for the 21st century.

3. It is of the utmost importance to bring under control the urbanization, migration, education and the cultural and technical level of the population, and in particular the changes which have taken place in the nature of work.

4. Also of special importance for the world's population are several areas of demographic policy: demographic growth, mortality, birth rate, family development, external and internal migration and others.

5. New opportunities are emerging for the world community to model the existing socio-economic

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variables that determine the future of demographic reproduction.

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