

Concept Note for the NGO Committee on the Family, NY - Final

Date: October 28, 2021, Thursday

Title: Exploring Global Fertility Trends, Family Dynamics, and Solutions

Venue: Both virtual and on site

Background:

Global fertility has been declining over the past half century, from almost five live births per woman (1970-1975) to 2.5 births (2015-2020.) In 2019, close to half of the countries of the world had below replacement fertility rates (2.1 live births per woman). Examples of low fertility rates include: 0.9 in South Korea, 1.2 in Spain, and 1.0 in Hong Kong. Although, 40 countries still reported total fertility rates higher than 4.0 births per woman, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, it is projected that the global fertility decline will continue and may reach replacement level (2.1) shortly after the mid-century mark. The global population decline will continue from there. Yet, women in the developed world say, on average, they want between two and three children; while achieving a fertility rate of only 1.6 to 1.75 children. Although there are benefits to lower birth rates, such as those related to environmental impact, there is growing concern about the long-term ramifications of nations' inability to replace their population.

Program:

For this program, experts will be examining fertility data from around the world and the consequences of population decline particularly in the arenas of geopolitics, the environment, economic growth, social stability, poverty reduction, and the impact on family dynamics and quality of life. Some attention will be given to the often little discussed issue that most women indicate their desired family size is not achievable, reflecting a kind of failure of women's empowerment and autonomy. The discussion will also include the success rate of various national policies intended to increase fertility.

Moderator: ?

Proposed Speakers:

Ambassador of Hungary – (5 minutes)

Ambassador of Korea – (5 minutes)

Dr. Valerie Hudson - “Global Fertility Decline: Implications for Families and Society” Or “Societal and Geo-political Implications of Fertility Decline” (20 minutes)

Professor of International Affairs, Texas A&M, Bush School of Government and Public Service. Dr. Hudson is an expert on international security and foreign policy analysis as well as gender and security. In 2009, *Foreign Policy* named her one of the top 100 Most Influential Global Thinkers. Author of *Bare Branches: The Security Implications of China’s Surplus Male Population*.

Dr. Lyman Stone – “Causes & Consequences of Women’s Unmet Fertility Desires: Searching for Solutions” (20 minutes)

Adjunct Fellow at American Enterprise Institute, a Research Fellow at the Institute for Family Studies, and a former International Economist at the US Department of Agriculture. His expertise includes migration, population dynamics, and regional economics.

Questions & Answers: (15-20 minutes)

Closing Remarks: (3 minutes)

Total time: 90 minutes