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PRESS RELEASE

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UNCALLS FOR URGENT ACTION TO ADDRESS EDUCATION CRISIS AS GLOBAL PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED POPULATION REAKS IN 2023

New York, 10 April 2023 The global population of primary school-aged children is expected to reach an all-time high of 820 million in 2023. The number of secondary school children is also on the rise, but the education sector, shaken by the COVID pandemic, is struggling to meet the rising demand. Against this challenging backdrop, the United Nations Commission on Population and Development convenes this week, from 10 to 14 April to discuss the vital impact that investing in quality education has on promoting opportunity and prosperity, advancing gender equality and ensuring environmental sustainability

“School closures and teaching disruptions during the COVID pandemic have worsened existing inequalities in access to and quality of education,” said Mr. Li Jun, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. “Low- and lower-middle-income countries face extraordinary challenges in recovering from the resulting learning losses and in resuming progress towards the universal completion of primary and secondary education by 2030.”

These challenges are felt most sharply in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the primary-school-aged

Five focus areas of this year's Commission on Population and Development

The adverse impacts of COVID on education

The COVID



For more information about the Commission on Population and Development, visit:
www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/CPD

Available for interviews:

- Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
(wilmoth@un.org)
- Ms. Rachel Snow, Chief, Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund
- Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief, Publications, Outreach