

## Committee: Economic and Finance

### Question of: Diminution of the Birth Index

Students Officer: Felix Warak & Marta Guinea

#### Introduction:

The birth rate index is measurement index which indicates the amount of births of one respective country on 1.000 inhabitants annually. The term birth rate is part of the overall demography and just like demography, it is always under short- and long-term change. The birth rate stands in contrast to the fertility rate which determines the number of children are born on average per women in a country.

Developing and poor nations have been known to give birth to more children which are eventually more and more poor in contrast to the richer born children as the parents only have very limited financial access and often health related problems. A high birth rate is 30 or higher while the current 5-year average is 18.2.

The United Nations expect that the birth rate will drop worldwide in the future in general to a value of 13.4 in 2045 even though this value will largely have to do with the reduction of births in industrial nations while regions like sub-Saharan Africa faces large problem due to over population. In 1950 the birth rate was 37.2. From the birth rate, the UN also estimates the birth rates per second and minutes.

#### The Issue:

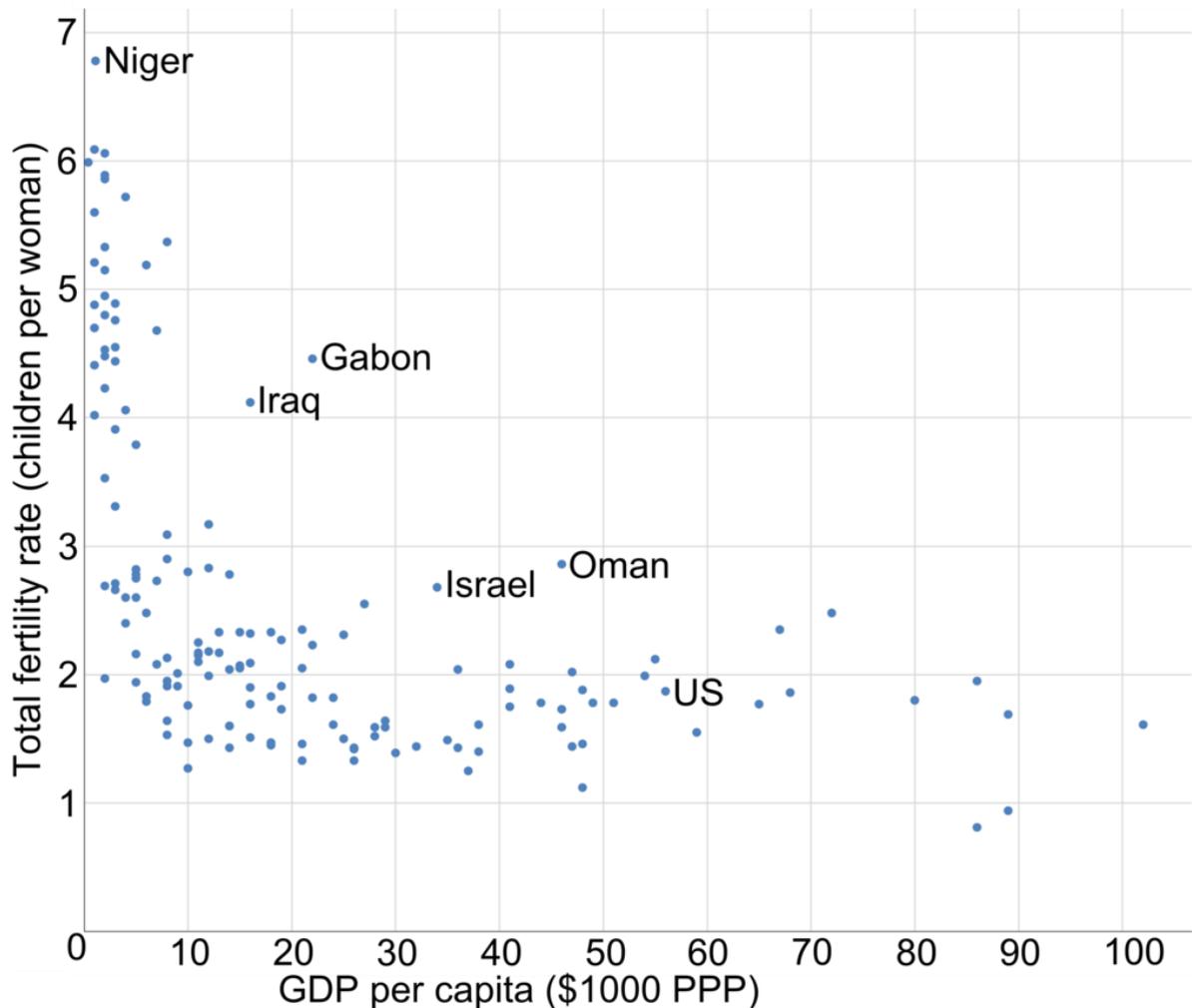
##### Uneven development of births

While the birth rate development of industrial nations is currently decreasing the birth rate of developing and emerging nations face massive overpopulation due to an extremely high birth rate. Angola and Niger have the top rank with a birth rate of 44.2. The whole Top 10 list is filled exclusively with Sub-Saharan nations. Only the 12<sup>th</sup> place is taken by Afghanistan. Japan is the nation with the lowest birth rate of all nations, except of the micronations of Andorra, Monaco and Saint Pierre and Miquelon. The far east Asian nation which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest economy in the world has a birth rate of 7.7. The Top 6 biggest economies United States, China, Japan, Germany, France and the United Kingdom are all not part of the Top 100. Their value is therefore below 17 and under the worldwide average.

The low birth rate causes the aging of the given society. The demographic economic paradox describes the fact that low income families and nations always have a higher amount of birth. The five main thesis of the demographic economic paradox:

1. Women are more likely to be independent and not rely on others; therefore, if they make their own decisions, then they often want to have fewer children, and a career.

2. With the rate of people going further into education and school, this allows people to obtain more education in that postpones the start of families.
3. Many individuals are moving from rural areas into the city live so that families do not have to do intensive agricultural labor work.
4. Lessened childhood mortality in wealthier societies means that not as many children are dying at a young age, and therefore the imperative to have more children is reduced.
5. The rate of public health is improving and leads to a longer life expectancy. This ultimately means that fewer individuals are needed to do society work.



### Factors of fertility

There are several different factors which influence fertility and birth rate. One thesis is that in religious families more children are born as well in lower educated family where the birth rate is a lot higher than in families with academic education. In rural areas more children are born, this is one of the reasons why regions with a high rural population have a higher birth and fertility rate matched with high rate of child death due to low health care availability.

Historically there have been numerous political programs, often by notorious dictatorships such as Romanian Ceausescu who forbid condoms and other types of abortion. His governments plan was to rise the Romanian population to at least 30 million which would have been a rise of over 30% at that time. Abortions and birth prevention methods were strictly forbidden, and people were sentenced to over 20 years imprisonment. In extreme contrast to

the family politics of Ceausescu is the one child politics of the Chinese government since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After a rapid decrease of population, the government started to loosen the law.

The fertility rate is another measurement index which defines the average number of births per woman. The fertility rate easily defines if a society is rising, value higher than 2.1, or declining, value lower than 2.1. A value of exactly 2.1 is called “population replacement” as the number of populations stays exactly or almost the same.

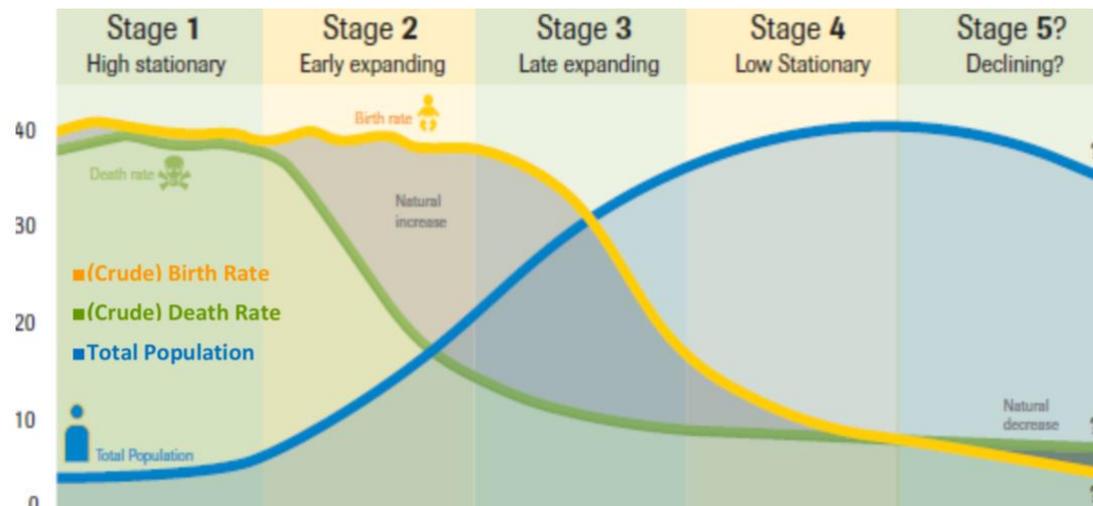
### Key Events

Event/Date	Explanation
17 June 2014	A Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, it contains an overview of the global rates of birth registration, a universal human right recognized in a number of international instruments.
22 January 2018	A review of progress in the implementation of the right development. Where they discuss about this topic
2000-2010	Between approximately 2000 and 2010, birth registration levels improved, with the global average rising from 58 per cent to 65 per cent. At the same time, the number of unregistered children declined.
1970	Fertility decline gained momentum starting in the 1970s. Unlike the earlier reductions in fertility, this decline was universal, including every region and sub-region. At the world level, total fertility fell from an average of 4.5 births per woman in 1970-1975 to 2.5 births per woman.
8 July 1982	Report to ECOSOC on the work of the UNFPA, statement made to the Economic and Social Council at its Second Regular Session of 1982, United Nations, Geneva. They discussed about Most of the countries which have experienced the largest decline in birth rate are in the Asian region.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

### The Demographic Transition Model (DTM)

The Demographic Transition Model is a model used to show the expected development of states in terms of population growth. This model suggests that a country cycles through different phases in terms of population during the course of its development. Below you will find a graph showcasing the different stages of population growth during a country's development according to the Demographic



Transition Model.

### UN Population Fund

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) started operations in 1969 to assume a leading role within the UN system in promoting population programmes, based on the human right of individuals and couples to freely determine the size of their families. At the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), its mandate was fleshed out in greater detail, to give more emphasis to the gender and human rights dimensions of population issues, and UNFPA was given the lead role in helping countries carry out the Conference's Programme of Action. The three key areas of the UNFPA mandate are reproductive health, gender equality, and population and development.

One of the most notorious policies of forceful attempts to increase the Fertility rate occurred in communist Rumania between 1967 and 1990. Communist leader Nicolae Ceausesch adopted a very aggressive natalist policy that included outlawing abortion and contraception, routine pregnancy tests for women, taxes on childlessness, and legal discrimination against childless people. These policies increased birth rates for a few years, but this was followed by a decline due to increased Illegal abortion.

## Possible Solutions

- Projections of future fertility levels and trends prepared by the United Nations Population Division rely on the theory of demographic transition: as a country moves from a pre-industrial to a post-industrial stage fertility declines reflect a new demographic regime (Caldwell, 2006). Broadly speaking, there are three phases of a fertility transition: (a) a high-fertility, pre-transition phase, (b) a fertility transition phase, the phase when fertility is declining from a high pre-transitional level to a low post-transitional level, and, (c) a low-fertility, post-transition

phase. Once a country reaches the post-transitional stage, it is assumed that fertility will fluctuate around or below the replacement level.

- All countries with a diminution of the Birth Index can let in more immigrants into societies with declining birth rates and aging populations.
- Protected funded time off work of up to a year split between the parents as they choose. Give them the right to ask to work part time on becoming parents etc. Countries can also offset the costs by providing free childcare or encouraging a system of communal childcare from an early age so you can have the parents back in work sooner. Maybe universal basic income or even paying people to be full time parents.

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