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Global Population Policy: ambiguities of approaches and implications (The case of the Republic of Moldova)

Abstract

This article analyzes the macro-level aspects of population policy and examples of reflection of the global agenda in the field of family and demographic policy using a specific country case. The research focus of this article attempts to provide scientifically substantiated answers to several questions. What is contemporary global population policy? Is it merely a conventional set of national policies in this area, or does it represent a distinct type of political, legal, and administrative activity at the level of global population efforts? What are the global subjectivity and institutional forms of this policy? Finally, what are the distinctive essential features of global population policy that constitute it as a global orientations for national demography strategies in contemporary situation?

As a case study, using the example of the Republic of Moldova, is presented detailed examination of the substantive nature, practical character, and current specifics of the activities of global demographic-oriented institutions (using the UNFPA as an example) at the national level reveals a number of conceptual and political contradictions that provide a solid basis for corresponding scientific and political reflection. By clarifying conceptual and practical ambiguities, it reflects the specifics of global regulation, institutional architecture, and the effectiveness of the interrelationship between macro-level and national policy mechanisms in this area.

Keywords: *global politics, global population policy, world demographic policy, world population, population and development, demographic situation, sexual education, demographic crisis.*

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Introduction

Interest in the regulation of population reproduction processes on a global scale has a long history. This issue gained particular prominence in scientific discourse with the writings of Thomas Malthus (late 18th century), who gave it a political dimension by declaring the need to regulate human reproduction due to a number of perceived risks.[1] Malthus's assertions were subsequently unsubstantiated and have been repeatedly and thoroughly refuted [2] [3] [4] [5]; however, they have had a significant impact on many areas of demographic knowledge and population policy.

An equally important milestone in the history of global demographic policy is the surge in neo-Malthusian rhetoric, accompanied by the cultivation of demographic phobias (from mass starvation and resource depletion to lack of living space and threats to biodiversity), which occurred in the second half of the 20th century. A key "defining point" in this regard, in our opinion, is the publication in 1968 of *The Population Bomb* - the famous book by American biologist P. Ehrlich. The essence of this work is the assertion that, due to the aforementioned unconfirmed risks, the world's population needs to be "controlled by reaching zero or negative growth".[6]

The neo-Malthusian prophecies were not destined to come true, and by the end of the 20th century, it became clear that the demographic threat was having an opposite effect. According to international statistics, over numerous past decades, there has been a decline both in birth rates, and with it, in the rate of population reproduction. Present-day demographic forecasts do not meet the expectations of overpopulation, but do point to the prospect of global depopulation.[7] [8]

Currently, considerable attention remains focused on demographic developments on a global scale, as evidenced, for example, by the high citation rate of the recent United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report on the state of the world population. [9] However, the report's statement of declining global fertility and other demographic characteristics clearly outweigh the global political aspects of the demographic sphere. This circumstance emphasizes the need for a comprehensive analysis of relevant policies, which largely determine the vector and prospects of human demographic development.

In terms of research into demographic policy in its global manifestation, one of the few examples is the publications on UN resources dedicated to the global database on population policies, characteristically titled "World Population Policies." However, in the given example, we are dealing with a set of responses from national governments expressing the official position regarding the demographic situation and the policies pursued in specific countries. Meanwhile, in

this article, we seek to reveal the global level and format of population policy, which is defined and shaped, as it will be shown below, not at the country level, but at the level of global institutions.

It must be said that, within the framework of the latest update (the 13th survey round) of the above-mentioned database, there is a very important statement, which briefly reveals the essence of the phenomenon of global population policy in its relationship with national efforts in this area: “In 1994, Member States attending the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo agreed that “population-related goals and policies are integral parts of cultural, economic and social development” and recommended that actions be taken “to measure, assess, monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the goals of its Programme of Action”.[10]

Thus, the official information on the UN Population and Development Study, which contains the above quote, in fact postulates the subordination of national governments' demographic actions to the specific goals and recommendations of global documentation. Furthermore, this aspect demonstrates another facet of the phenomenon of global demographic policy itself, which is expressed in its supranational nature.

An examination of the substantive nature, practical character, and current specifics of the activities of global population-focused institutions (using the UNFPA as an example) at the national level reveals several conceptual and political contradictions that provide an opportunity to understand the specifics of how the global agenda is reflected in family and demographic policy using a specific country example.

The Republic of Moldova was chosen for this case study because, despite its relatively small population (approximately 3 million), it is among the countries with critically low fertility rates (below the replacement level). Furthermore, the Republic of Moldova has been experiencing significant migration outflow for many years, exacerbating its already critical demographic situation. Accordingly, the depressing demographic situation in the Republic of Moldova, from both a scientific and humanitarian perspective, should serve as a reason for taking emergency measures to save its small, declining population from rapid depopulation.

The purpose of this study was to establish the conceptual alignment of the demographically oriented programs of relevant global institutions (using the UNFPA as an example) with the development of Moldova's domestic public policy in the field of demography, taking into account national specifics.

Methods

The document analysis applied in this article, in addition to identifying chronological patterns, was conducted within a historical, political, and event-driven context. At the same time, a systems analysis of the dynamics of the relevant processes and the stages of key phenomena is

aimed at determining the current state and specific dynamics of the object under study. In describing and systematizing geopolitical regulatory actors across a range of macro-level policies, the article, along with factor analysis, employs institutional and structural-functional approaches.

In studying the global political architecture and identifying institutional mechanisms in this area, the author also applies comparative analysis and an activity-based method. The latter allows for a comprehensive reflection of the dynamic features of geopolitical reality and a description of the essential nature, functional specifics, and system-forming cause-and-effect relationships within the current system of global demographic policy.

The case study relied on content analysis of documents and text fragments containing the positions of experts, government officials, and relevant international agencies. Interviews, scientific articles, reports, official statements, regulatory acts, program documentation, etc. were also examined.

In the conceptual and theoretical section of the paper, the author, through reduction, synthesis, and subsequent unification and operationalization of established political terminology, arrives at a comprehensive definition of the concept of "global population/demographic policy." Thus, as a result of the systematization of functional and attributive elements, which are typical and unique to a given political context, the article in its final section offers a definitive solution.

Outcomes. The Phenomenon of World Politics in a Demographic Context

The lack of clear conceptual boundaries gives rise to a variety of interpretations of the global population policies. This statement is true not only in relation to demographic policy at the international and planetary levels, but also in relation to world politics in general. As it will be shown below, such scientific and political categories as "world politics," "global politics," and "international politics" are often unjustifiably confused. While the first two concepts are indeed largely synonymous, there are fundamental differences with respect to the third that require separate clarification.

In this context, the position of political scientist A.D. Bogaturov, should be acknowledged as quite accurate. He asserts that the emergence of world politics as an independent research field in Western political science is diffuse in nature and does not claim an autonomous academic space. It is also noted that the US academic community generally lacks a clear distinction between world politics and international relations.[11]

This view of the current state of research in global politics and international relations is highly applicable to the field of demographic policy. However, cultural and linguistic specifics should also be taken into account. For example, in the English-language scientific and political space, the plural-form term "population policies" [12] is used, which carries not only linguistic

differences, but also additional semantic connotations. This category is practically never used in Russian-language political science discourse related to demographic issues.

Resorting to political science operationalization and aligning with the authors [13] [11, pp. 26, 27, 28], who view global politics as the result of the transformation of international relations, reflecting their current stages, we believe that this view is fully consistent with the logics of the evolution of demographic policy. While some foreign authors see no need to distinguish between such concepts as "international demographic policy" and "global demographic policy," as it will be discussed in detail below, we insist that the former category serves as an intermediate form between domestic and global demographic policy.

The globalization of world development, on the one hand, and the institutional specifics of managing socio-political macro-processes, on the other, support moving away from synonymous interpretations of the terms "international demographic policy" and "global demographic policy."

Global Analogies and Institutional Examples

To fully explore the proposed topic, we present some of the outcomes of our research, which allows us to identify sectoral precedents of political and other regulation on a global scale. The research logics in this case involves uncovering key concepts through analysis (conducted through the study of institutional precedents and analogies) of the underlying phenomenon, which in our case refers to global politics. This approach allows us to clearly demonstrate the global level of formation and implementation of relevant policies in various spheres. It should be emphasized that we are discussing the global level of regulation and institutional support, which does not exclude, but is not limited to, the international level. Emphasizing not only the names of the subjects/actors/regulators cited, but also their target parameters and subsequent descriptions, we present a comprehensive list of global institutions (see the table attached).

The organizations listed above illustrate the functioning of global regulators in areas such as food policy and related humanitarian activities, tourism, the financial sector, postal services, global trade and healthcare, education, science, culture, etc.

All of the above organizations, with the exception of the WTO, are affiliated with the UN to varying degrees. Given this common feature of these global institutions, it should be noted that the UN's positioning, according to information on its official website, is as follows: "The United Nations is the only place on Earth where all the world's nations can come together to discuss common problems and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity." [23] As can be seen from the above quote, the UN clearly emphasizes the global scale of its consolidating, deliberative, negotiating, and decision-making activities.

The aforementioned institutions also have offices in most countries and operate on a global scale and in specialized fields. However, any regulation, especially on a global scale, implies the development and implementation of sectoral policy. Accordingly, global regulatory institutions simultaneously act as political actors at the global level.

Particularly noteworthy in the context of this article is the fact that the above examples of global institutions are distinguished by a number of additional, unique characteristics. First, the global status of these organizations is confirmed not only and not so much by their names, but by the global scale of their activities, country membership, and geographic presence. Second, the development history of these global institutions follows a consistent pattern of transition from initial international status to global status, which is crucial, as it chronologically divides their political stages and activities into international and global (worldwide) ones. Third, an analysis of the stated mission, goal-setting, strategic prioritization, etc., clearly demonstrates that this category of organizations is focused on achieving results on a global scale.

Finally, the political and regulatory framework for the activities of these institutions, in addition to their statutory documents, is based on relevant documentation, including, for example, the following globally significant regulatory frameworks: the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and the Global Health Strategy 2025–2028, etc. Corresponding examples are also available in the resource section (publications, databases): World Tourism Barometer, World Trade Report, Statistical Review of World Trade, Global Database on Trade-Related Technical Assistance, World Health Report, World Report on Disability, etc.

Given such striking examples of specialized policies at the global level in a wide range of areas affecting all of humanity, it is logical to assume a regulatory analogue in the demographic sphere, which provides other social systems/subsystems with the main resource at the level of both subject and object—people. Clearly, processes related to the reproduction of the global population (i.e. all of humanity) also pertain to a specific area of global policy, implemented by specialized global institutions. This statement requires clarification in that global demographic policy, in our view, is not reducible to a set of country-specific and regional models and practices of national demographic policy, but rather has as its object the entire global population. In this case, in our opinion, the subject of demographic policy is the demographic processes, trends and resulting characteristics produced by humanity.

Institutional Architecture and Global Mechanics of Global Population Policy

Unlike the global institutions presented above, the demographic sphere lacks a single leading body or institution with a name reflecting its global status. In other words, the modern system of international relations lacks a conventional global agency for population policy, partly

due to the complexity, multifaceted nature, and multitasking nature of the subject matter. However, such global structures undoubtedly exist. Moreover, there are arguably more of them in the demographic segment than in many other areas of global policy.

At the same time, the concept of global status in the demographic context has repeatedly been discussed at major specialized conferences held under the auspices of the UN. Among such events/activities, there are the global population conferences held under the auspices of the UN in 1954 (Rome), 1965 (Belgrade), 1974 (Bucharest), 1984 (Mexico City), 1994 (Cairo), and 2019 (Nairobi). These conferences resulted in a series of policy documents of global significance: the World Population Plan of Action (1974), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), and the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise (2019).

Naturally, the modern architecture of global demographic policy is also closely linked to the UN, which shapes the relevant political agenda on demographic issues and, in fact, determines the policy itself on a global scale, performing organizational, institutional, coordinating, consensual, global-political, and other important functions. In this case, the UN system is the only official macro-format for the official indoctrination, regulation, and normative approval of this policy in its global expression.

Currently, more than 20 divisions, bodies, and organizations of the UN system participate in population-related activities, the most important of which are the UN Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD), the UN Population Division, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).[24] The example of the latter clearly demonstrates the multi-level and multi-faceted nature of global demographic policy. Thus, as the world's largest provider (on a donated basis) of contraceptives in developing countries, UNFPA is funded through voluntary contributions from donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations, and individuals. UNFPA, as a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly, reports to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, which consists of 36 UN Member States and is governed by ECOSOC. Furthermore, UNFPA actively collaborates with WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, and other organizations.[25]

With regard to mechanisms for implementing global demographic policy, it is worth noting, on the one hand, a political orientation toward the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-1994 PoA), and, on the other, a special mechanism for its implementation. The latter is detailed in the relevant UN General Assembly (GA) resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, which sets out the distribution of functions and interactions among key UN structures within the demographic framework. This document stipulates that the UN GA, in fulfilling its role in policy development, and ECOSOC, in fulfilling

its role in overall guidance and coordination, in accordance with GA resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, as well as the CPD, act as a kind of three-tier mechanism for the implementation of this program framework.[26]

At the same time, the UN General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for formulating and assessing policy on issues related to the implementation of the decisions of the ICPD-1994, organizes a regular review of the implementation of the ICPD-1994 PoA. ECOSOC, in its assistance to the UN GA, promotes an integrated approach and provides system-wide coordination and guidance in monitoring the implementation of the ICPD-1994 PoA and makes recommendations on this matter. In turn, the CPD, as a functional commission assisting ECOSOC, monitors, reviews, and evaluates the implementation of the ICPD-1994 PoA at the national, regional, and international levels and advises ECOSOC on these matters.[26]

A fundamentally important element of the described mechanism for implementing global demographic policy is its transformation to the continental and regional levels. As a rule, global events are preceded or accompanied by regional/continental "analogues" with the participation of UN regional commissions and the clarification of the corresponding goal-setting applicable to a specific region. This is precisely how the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Denpasar, 1992) was held on the eve of the ICPD-1994. This event resulted in the adoption of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, which outlined regional target indicators for demographic policy: the transition from an average family size of 3.1 children to a dominant family size of two children (by 2010), as well as a slowdown in the rate of demographic growth.[27] Overall, five similar regional events were organized at the level of UN regional commissions during the specified period. Accordingly, it is fair to assert the multiplicative principle of delegating implementation in the area of demographic policy, formed on the basis of close global, regional, and intercountry interaction.

It is also noteworthy that the implementation mechanism for this policy is led by global UN events and the documents adopted therein. In this case, national action is catalyzed through the transformation of global goal-setting into monitoring of national progress and stimulation; human rights and "collegial" pressure; and the attraction of donor funding using global-level documentation.[28]

Along with the highest bodies of the UN system, the demographic dimension, including the development and coordination of policy aspects, is the responsibility of such UN agencies as the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission, the Statistics Division, the Commission for Social Development, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Food

Programme (WFP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).[29]

Furthermore, an important role is assigned to such multilateral donors involved in global population policy as the World Bank (WB) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The WB's involvement is historically determined by the firm position of the former Bank President Robert McNamara, first voiced in the 1960s, that population growth hinders economic growth. In 1969, the Division of Health, Nutrition and Population was established within the World Bank. The Bank's strong focus on population issues led to direct support for family planning in developing countries beginning with the 1980s and 1990s. Subsequently, the World Bank's population-focused activities culminated in its support for the 1994 ICPD PoA.[30]

At the official level, interventions aimed at demographic containment are viewed as an important and achievable component of national development policy. The goal of the World Bank's population activities is to promote slower population growth by reducing fertility and mortality rates and ensuring faster improvements in productivity, Gross National Product growth, and mother-and-child health than would be possible if rapid population growth rates were to continue. For this reason, the Bank's population activities were aimed at encouraging national governments to implement fertility reduction policies as a component of country development. A significant tool of influence in this context is the provision of loans and credits for the implementation of population programs.[31]

In turn, the WHO, also part of the UN system, became a platform for active discussions on family planning back in the 1950s. Currently, the WHO has a specialized department whose activities focus on reproductive health and related research. As a logical consequence, sexual and reproductive health, as well as maternal, adolescent, and child health, are part of the fourth of WHO's 13 strategic goals.[30] Thus, in addition to specialized institutions, both the highest governing bodies of the UN and related macro-level organizations are involved in the development and implementation of global population policy decisions.

Republic of Moldova Demographic Situation

With regard to the first of the above-stated goals, it was established that over the past decade and a half, the official position of the Government of the Republic of Moldova has not undergone any radical changes and has remained focused on increasing the birth rate and overcoming the demographic crisis. In 2022–2023, the Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, A. Buzu, and relevant experts repeatedly made similar statements, also noting the problems of an aging population, low birth rates, depopulation, and negative migration. [32]

According to A. Stratan, Rector of the Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova, the Republic of Moldova is one of the countries with the highest rate of population decline in the world. [33] A similar position, noting the low birth rate and depopulation trends of the Republic of Moldova, is shared by Moldovan researchers such as O. Gagauz [34], E. Grigorash [35], T. Tabak [36], and others.

According to the content of reports published within the framework of the “World Population Policies” series [37], from 1996 to 2019, the repeatedly expressed official position of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Moldova regarding the demographic situation in the country and demographic policy was unambiguous. From 1996 to 2011, during relevant surveys organized by the UN, it was stated that the population size and growth rate of the Republic of Moldova were assessed as “too low.”

The official position of the Republic of Moldova on this range of issues has been consistently expressed on the international arena by such representatives of the MFAEI RM as G. Leucă, V. Moraru, A. Nikolenko, A. Popov. Thus, at the 55th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD) (2022), A. Nikolenko, in his statement made at the General Debates, emphasized that the Republic of Moldova "is at the forefront of the global demographic transformation from population growth to its aging", which "is combined with complex migration flows, as well as low birth rates". [38] At the same global event, the head of the Multilateral Cooperation Department of the MFAEI RM, A. Popov, emphasizing the severity of the problems of population aging and low birth rates, along with mass emigration, stated that without an appropriate demographic policy, the development of Moldova will be hampered.

UNFPA in the Republic of Moldova: some assessments and recommendations

The official website of the UNFPA country office notes that this organization has been present in the Republic of Moldova since 1995 and helps address demographic issues by increasing demographic resilience through intergenerational solidarity programs for young people and older people and integrating family-friendly policies into the business environment. [39]

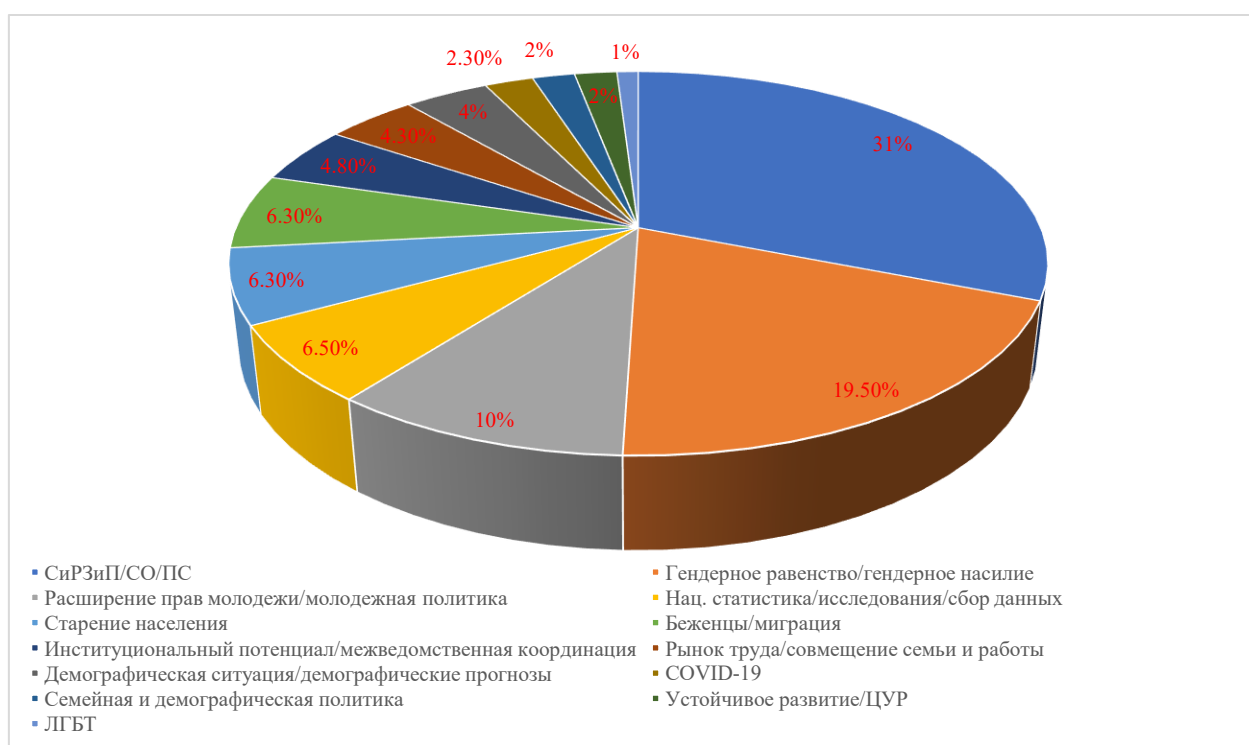
Our study covered the entire collection of publications available on the official website of the UNFPA Country Office in the Republic of Moldova, including official policy documents and activity reports. This collection comprised 399 text units/fragments obtained through a content analysis of 147 publications for the maximum available period—from 2008 to 2024. It should be particularly noted that the "Publications" subsection on the official website of the UNFPA Country Office in the Republic of Moldova, the contents of which comprised the studied collection of publications, due to the specific nature of its information content, reflects the strategic vision, nature, and focus of UNFPA's demographic activities in the Republic of Moldova. The formats of

the publications studied included: country programs, newsletters, reports, reviews, reports, audits, brochures, memos, briefs, guides for educational/outreach programs, infographics, etc.

The results of this study allowed us to group the publications into thirteen main thematic categories and identify the proportion of publications within each category, providing a detailed understanding of the priority, focus, and content of UNFPA activities within specific aspects of the issue under consideration.

According to the results obtained (Figure 1), the thematic focus of publications in the corresponding section on the official website of the UNFPA Country Office in Moldova is distributed as follows: Sexual and reproductive health and rights/sexuality education/family planning (SRHR/SE/FP) – 31% (124 text units); Gender equality/gender-based violence – 19.5% (78); Youth empowerment/youth policy – 10% (40); National statistics/research/data collection – 6.5% (26); Refugees/migration – 6.3% (25); Population ageing – 6.3% (25); Institutional capacity/inter-agency coordination – 4.8% (19); Labour market/reconciling family and work – 4.3% (17); Demographic situation/demographic projections – 4% (16); COVID-19 – 2.3% (9); Sustainable development/SDGs – 2% (8); Family and demographic policy – 2% (8); LGBT – 1% (4).

График 1. Тематическая группировка публикаций с интернет-сайта официального представительства ЮНФПА в Молдове за период 2008 – 2024 гг.



Источник: официальный сайт странового представительства ЮНФПА в Молдове, подраздел «Публикации» - <https://moldova.unfpa.org/en/publications>

As the research shows, demographic policy itself is marginalized in the published literature. Moreover, the problems of population decline, low birth rates, population outflow, and population aging are presented as passive statements in the context of the inevitability of depopulation as a consequence of the demographic transition and European trends, with calls for the need to adapt to demographic change.

Another example of the discrepancy between the approaches and corresponding recommendations of this international body is the fact that among the sexuality education guidelines proposed by UNFPA for Moldova for 10-20-year-olds, there is a practical manual that was originally intended for African countries with high birth rates: Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, and others. This manual is available on the official website of the UNFPA country office in Moldova in Romanian and Russian and is intended for use by coordinators working with adolescents and youth for educational purposes. This methodology has been criticized internationally. According to the analytical findings of the international human rights organization Family Watch International, which has consultative status with the UN ECOSOC, these materials should be excluded from the school educational space. [40] The promotion of such informational, educational, and awareness-raising ideas in Moldova not only contradicts the goals and priorities of the National Strategy (2011-2025) to overcome the demographic crisis but also creates additional threats to the demographic situation.

Conclusions

This analysis of the phenomenon of global population policy reveals its multifaceted specificity, the correlation and degree of correspondence between the terminology used, and the nature of political processes associated with the interstate and supranational formats of population policy. Depending on the level and scale of population policy, not only the semantic meanings and approaches differ, but also fundamental differences in political paradigms arise.

As revealed in the course of working on this article, the synonymous use of international and global aspects within the framework of population policy does not reflect contemporary political realities. Confusing these levels/formats/scales is permissible only in a narrow sense, not reflecting the historical and political chronology and the corresponding segment of the modern political world order.

A number of specific characteristics identified by the author clearly indicate that global demographic policy is not reducible to a set of national (country) policies in this area, but rather represents a system for managing (regulating) demographic processes to achieve goals for all of humanity. The institutional nature and global mechanics of this policy are established systemic attributes of global reality, demonstrating the maximum possible scale and level of implementation, reflecting a certain autonomy of this type of policy, as well as emphasizing its

specificity and uniqueness. Moreover, this policy is not simply regulated but initiated, determined, and shaped by global institutions, assigning national governments the role of co-implementers.

The ramified institutional structure, event agenda, and documentary support, formed on the basis of corresponding approaches and goal-setting, symbolize not only the existence of a global demographic policy as such. The complex nature of the implementation of programmatic frameworks in this area of global governance demonstrates multi-level coordination and interaction involving a very broad spectrum of actors, including, in addition to specialized institutions, entire UN structures in related areas, demographically oriented NGOs, the human rights sector, national action actors, etc.

In the course of the research conducted within the framework of this article, the author's definition of the political phenomenon under consideration is expressed as follows. Global demographic policy is the targeted activity of global demographically oriented institutions, which has a supranational nature and is implemented at the highest level of international interaction, aimed at regulating demographic processes and resulting characteristics of the size and reproduction of the entire planet's population through the implementation of global (international) programs.

The goals and priorities of global demographic policy are achieved through high-level intergovernmental mechanisms within the UN system, which formulate decisions on issues related to the implementation of global program decisions (ICPD-1994), catalyzing national action, and activating national implementation systems. The multiplicative principle of delegating implementation in the area of demographic policy, formed through close global, regional, and intercountry interaction, in this case implies the transformation of global goal-setting into monitoring of national progress and stimulation. This approach, in our opinion, underpin the feasibility and prospects for conducting comprehensive research on a broader subject matter, encompassing the entire range of factors influencing global demographic processes in the modern world.

The results of the case study on the application of global approaches to the formation of national policy lead to the conclusion that the essence of the external demographic influence implemented in the Republic of Moldova, reflecting the global agenda in the area under consideration and largely shaping the national family-demographic policy of the Republic of Moldova, is fully consistent with global-level documents and the functional purpose of UNFPA, but does not always and not entirely correspond to the nature of the demographic challenges in the Republic of Moldova, to a certain extent, hinder the overcoming of the deep demographic crisis in the Republic of Moldova itself.

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Appendix: Table. **Examples of Some Global (Worldwide) Institutions**

Title	Scale of Regulation /Institutional Form / Status / Positioning	Mission / Goal / Strategic Priorities	Previous Status Document / Event	Membership
UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)[	Global / Specialized agency of the United Nations	Promoting tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability worldwide. Encouraging the inclusion of tourism in national and global agendas. Building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism sector worldwide.	International Union of Official Travel Organizations (1947)	60 countries
World Trade Organization (WTO) [16]	Global/ Global international organization	Managing the global system of trade rules. The WTO's primary goal is to improve the well-being of people worldwide. The Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO recognizes that trade should be conducted with the purpose of raising living standards, ensuring full employment, and increasing real incomes while optimally utilizing global resources.	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1947–1994)	66 member countries
World Health Organization (WHO) [17]	Global/ Specialized agency of the United Nations	Connecting countries, partners, and people to improve health, maintain global security, and reach vulnerable populations. WHO leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage. Our "triple billion" targets outline an ambitious plan to enable the global community to achieve health for all people based on evidence-based policies and programs.	International Bureau of Public Hygiene of the League of Nations Health Organization (1907) League of Nations Health Organization (1923)	194 countries
World Bank (World Bank Group) [18]	Global/ Intergovernmental organization // observer in the UN Development Group	Addressing the world's most pressing challenges. Mission: Ending extreme poverty and accelerating shared prosperity on a livable planet. Goal: Creating a world free of poverty on a livable planet.	World Bank (1944–present)	189 member countries
UNESCO [19]	Global/ Specialized agency of the United Nations	Promoting education, science, culture, and communication to build peace, equality, and sustainable solutions worldwide. Strategic goals: making the world more just and inclusive; ensuring that new technologies benefit humanity; creating sustainable societies by sharing scientific advances; ensuring equal and inclusive education for all.	UNESCO (1945) Representatives of 30 states participated in the first session under the current Constitution.	194 countries
Universal Postal Union (UPU)	Global/ Specialized agency of the UN	Promoting the long-term development of efficient, accessible, high-quality universal postal services to facilitate communication between people around the world.	International Postal Congress (1874), attended by 22 countries	192 countries
UN World Food Programme, [21] [22]	Global/ An intergovernmental organization within the UN	The 2030 vision, which underpins WFP's strategic plan for 2022–2026, is: i) the world has eliminated food insecurity and malnutrition 2: Zero Hunger); ii) national and global actors have achieved the SDGs (SDG 17: Partnerships for Sustainable Development).	General Assembly of the United Nations	In over 120 countries.