

ference will sharpen our understanding of the options open to us, and that it will help us in shaping our own policies the form of which is not yet fully defined.

A crucial factor in the success of this conference will lie in follow-up activities. It is not enough that we describe our population trends and prospects. We must sharpen our tools to estimate their consequences in a world of growing scarcities. And we must work towards more effective institutions and arrangements to meet basic human needs. The consequences of our failure to do so are becoming increasingly severe in an interdependent planet where the balance between growing human needs and the means of meeting them becomes a more distant goal every day.

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