

Delivered on 5 April 2006

**STATEMENT TO THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM 5. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE
PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THE FIELD OF
POPULATION**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND
PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION IN 2005: POPULATION DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2006/6)**

**MR. ARMINDO MIRANDA
SENIOR POPULATION AFFAIRS OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
POPULATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2005. The report focuses on the activities of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The programme of work of the Population Division is grounded on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions adopted by the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999 for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It also supports the implementation of the outcomes of other relevant United Nation conferences and summits, such as the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of 2005 World Summit. Its main objective is to increase understanding of the nature of demographic phenomena, in particular the interactions between population and development, so that the necessary choices and policy options are made on the best evidence available.

The report lists twenty-three outputs (publications, expert group meetings and other materials) issued or organised by the Population Division in 2005. The list focuses on the analytical activities of the Division and does not comprise therefore the numerous outputs related to the substantive servicing of the CPD, ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

Please allow me to highlight just a few activities and products of the Population Division in major areas of its programme of work in 2005.

In the area of **Fertility and Family Planning Studies**, the Division issued a database called *World Contraceptive Use 2005*, which presents the most recent estimates of contraceptive prevalence for all countries and how contraceptive prevalence has grown around the world since the early 1990's. The gap between developed and developing countries with regard to contraceptive use is closing fast. In the developed countries, 69 per cent of the married women of reproductive age use contraception, In developing countries, the proportion is still some ten percentage points lower, but most developing countries are registering increases of at least one percentage point a year.

In the area of **Mortality and Health**, the Population Division has released the *World Mortality Report 2005*, which is the first attempt to document mortality levels and trends across the full age range for all countries of the world, including an explicit comparison of estimates from a variety of sources. The report provides crucial insights, especially in the context of the ongoing efforts to combat child mortality and AIDS, so as to reach the Millennium Development Goals and to meet the need for data to validate progress made in those areas.

In the area of **Migration**, the Division has been fully involved in substantive preparations for the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. In addition to an expert group meeting held in New York in July 2005, the Population Division, jointly with the Government of Mexico, ECLAC and UNFPA, organised another expert group meeting in Mexico City in November, which focused on the perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean on migration and development issues. Another important contribution is the series of Coordination meetings on international migration organized by the Population Division, which bring together organisations from the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other international and regional organizations active in the area of international migration. The fourth of such meetings was held in 2005, with the participation of some 50 experts, who debated the implications of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) for the work of the United Nations system and the High Level Dialogue. These and other activities of the Population Division in the area of international migration and development, as a package, are expected to play a significant role in laying the substantive foundations for a successful high-level dialogue in 2006.]

In the area of **Population Estimates and Projections**, the Division issued one of its flagship products – the 2004 Revision of *World Population Prospects*, which provides a for every country of the world, a comprehensive picture of demographic trends back to 1950 and forward to 2050, with outmost attention to consistency and comparability. These figures are crucial for the formulation of sound population and development policies, particularly in countries where reliable demographic data are difficult to obtain.

In the area of **Population Policy**, the Division issued a wallchart on *Population and HIV/AIDS 2005* containing the latest available data and information on HIV/AIDS for all countries, with emphasis on Government policies and programmes related to

HIV/AIDS. The wall chart provided an essential backdrop to the high level meeting on HIV/AIDS in the General Assembly in June 2005.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in the area of **Population and Development** I would like to highlight the release of a database called the *Population, Resources, Environment and Development databank*, which combines selected demographic indicators from our own estimates and projections with an array of economic, social and environmental indicators from other international organisations.

Mr. Chairman,

As I indicated, this is only a selection of the Population Division's activities, which are more extensively presented in document /6. We continue to be concerned with issues of rapid access and enhanced useability of our outputs. Increasingly we are backing up hard-copy publication with advance electronic publication, either online through the website of the Division or on CD-ROM, or sometimes both. This results not only in speedier dissemination of our work, but often enables users to further electronically process and analyse the data in ways that were not possible before.

As always we look forward to your views and comments on how our work can increasingly be responsive to your needs.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.