

**STATEMENT TO THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM 7. 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 2010: POPULATION DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2011/7)**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013
(E/CN.9/2011/CRP.1/REV.1)**

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M. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to introduce two documents related to the work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The first, E/CN.9/2011/7, is a report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work of the Population Division in 2010. The second, E/CN.9/2011/CRP.1/Rev.1, is a note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2012-2013.

The first document gives an account of the activities of the Population Division by thematic area, based on the organisational structure of the Division in sections: Fertility and Family Planning, Mortality, Migration, Population Estimates and Projections, Population and Development and Population Policies. As a whole, they cover the entire spectrum of demographic issues and their interrelations with development, including policy actions.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to restructure that information in a way that will be shorter and hopefully add some value. Instead of looking at our activities from the angle of our organizational structure, let's view them in relation to our strategic framework - that is the set of objectives and expected accomplishments that is the foundation of our work programme. As you may recall, our strategic framework for the current biennium gives us one broad objective, which is to strengthen the international community's capacity to address population issues and to integrate population factors into the development agenda. In order to achieve that objective, we have three so-called "expected accomplishments". I will summarize them as follows: the first one is to have facilitated the review of progress in the implementation of the commitments made by the international community in the area of population. The second expected accomplishment is to have enhanced

the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the international community regarding the full range of population issues. The third expected accomplishment is to have improved the accessibility of population information and data for all stakeholders.

Clearly, those three accomplishments are interrelated and mutually supportive: review cannot be done in absence of knowledge, and knowledge and awareness need to be informed by readily accessible data. Therefore each of our activities may serve more than one accomplishment and what serves one will ultimately serve them all. Bearing this in mind, let's look at our record of activities in light of the expected accomplishments.

The review of the progress of the international commitments in the area of population refers specifically to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (known as ICPD+5), and the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields, including the Millennium Development Goals process (the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit).

The Population Division contributes to the review of commitments in several ways: first of all, it produces the Secretary-General's report on the theme of the annual session of the Commission on Population and Development. Last year we worked on the report of the Secretary-General on Fertility, Reproductive Health and Migration which you have before you. As usual, the preparation of the report was supported by the convening of an expert group, in this case an Expert Panel on Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development. We also prepared the biennial report on World Demographic Trends that was introduced by my colleague Mr. Buettner a few minutes ago. Regarding the MDGs, the Division, in collaboration with UNFPA, is responsible for reporting annually on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health, namely contraceptive prevalence, the adolescent birth rate and the unmet need for family planning. In 2010, the Division produced updated estimates at the global, regional and subregional levels for each of those indicators along with the corresponding documentation of definitions and methods of computation. In addition to these activities, the Division contributed to the work of the Interagency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, for the monitoring of MDG goal 4, provided inputs to UNICEF for the monitoring of goals 4, 5 and 6 and provided substantive support for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs, which was held last September. Finally, we prepared the biennial report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, for consideration by the Second Committee of the General Assembly, as part of the follow-up to the High-level dialogue on International Migration and Development. Also related to that follow-up, we have continued to provide substantive and administrative support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, with generous funding from the MacArthur Foundation.

Mr. Chairman,

Although our activities for the review of commitments are crucial, most of our stakeholders know the Population Division for our activities that produce fundamental knowledge on population issues and fall under the second of our expected accomplishments (the one on awareness, knowledge and understanding).

Indeed, the most widely known and used of our outputs are those related to our work in the area of population estimates and projections, which are seen as authoritative not only by entities within the United Nations System, but also by stakeholders in Governments, academia and civil society around the world. Many users rely critically on them for their work. Last year

we released the 2009 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects and immediately started work on the 2010 Revision of World Population Prospects, which we plan to release at the end of this month: it will contain some important innovations, including the extension of the horizon of the projections by 50 years, from 2050 to 2100.

While we are on the subject of population projections, I would like to draw your attention to a new set of long-term projections to 2300, which we developed in response to requests for data for modelling future climate change and energy use. They explore six different scenarios, illustrating the effects on population growth and structure of different hypotheses on fertility levels in the future. They send a very strong message that fertility in every country needs to remain very close to replacement level to avoid an excessive increase in the world population. The continuation of fertility and mortality at current levels is clearly not a likely option, as it would yield a population of 3.5 trillion in 2300.

In addition to our work on estimates and projections, every biennium we endeavour to produce, for each of the major demographic themes, a report presenting and analysing the most recent data and information for all countries. We call these reports “World Reports” and in 2010 we issued four of them: one on fertility, one on mortality, one on population ageing and one on population policies. Whenever possible, the reports contain not only a comprehensive set of indicators related to the theme for the most recent period, but also for earlier points in time, enabling the identification of trends. Given the increasing amounts of statistical data involved, the world reports will often have companion CD-ROMs or interactive databases online, which give users additional functionalities.

One of the challenges facing the authors of world reports is the availability of information. In this respect, our World Population Policy reports are especially vulnerable, because we strive to incorporate in them the official views of Governments, as expressed through their replies to periodic United Nations Inquiries among Governments on Population and Development. The last such Inquiry was launched three years ago and so far only about one quarter of the Member States have replied to it. I would like to use this opportunity to renew our appeal for your support for this Inquiry.

Another challenging area is international migration, where the lack of reliable data has been an obstacle. In 2010, the Division continued to develop and maintain the UN Global Migration Database, which is the most complete set of statistics on the number of international migrants enumerated in each country and classified by country of birth or country of nationality, sex and age. We are grateful to UNICEF for their financial support for some of this work.

Finally Mr. Chairman, our third expected accomplishment deals with improved accessibility of our data. We are very much aware that the results of our work should ideally be readily available to all those who need them, even to those users who cannot afford to pay. The Internet goes a long way to meeting that need and we are making practically all of our outputs available online. Indeed, increasingly, many of our outputs will only be available online or on CD-ROM. Last year we started work on redesigning the Population Division website to better cope with the growing amount of documents and databases that it contains. We hope to release a better looking and more functional website in the coming months.

But we are not looking just to the Internet to help us get the message across. We have started a series of policy briefs called “Population Facts”. In a compact format (2-4 pages), each brief highlights the latest evidence on a given subject. In 2010, the Division released 6 such Population Facts, dealing with subjects in the areas of fertility and development, mortality and

migration. We believe that our wall charts are a particularly helpful tool to engage the users of our data in international comparisons, as the information for all countries can be seen at a glance. In 2010 we issued one wall chart on HIV/AIDS and worked on two other wall charts – one on contraceptive use and the other on abortion policies – which have just been released in time for the Commission.

Mr Chairman,

The second document under consideration, E/CN.9/2011/CRP.1/Rev.1, contains the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2012-2013. The document consists of a programme narrative, including the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the Population Subprogramme and a list of proposed outputs. The programme narrative was reviewed by the Commission last year and was subsequently approved with slight modifications by the General Assembly. The document that you have before you reflects the 3 per cent reduction of the budget recently requested by the Secretary-General. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and to review the proposed outputs, which are being submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and subsequently to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.