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Agenda Item 4: Programme implementation and future programme of work
of the Secretariat in the field of population

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Madame Chairperson

I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 50th CPD and 70 years of operation of the Population Division since the first Commission was held in 1947. Throughout the years, the Population Division has successfully managed the organization of the Commission as its secretariat, and the continuous publication of demographic databases and reports concerning all countries of the world.

The publications of the Division used to take the form of book, then a CD-ROM and now they are available on the internet. These demographic data are now accessible to all and an increasing number of citations and usages can be observed in various publications, presentations and training materials, created not only by researchers but also by policy makers and public administrators, even in my own country of Japan. It is timely to include the number of downloads of the Division's online publications and databases among the indicators of achievement of the Population Division's programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 and I hope that this indicator will continue to be presented regularly in the future.

In addition to the World Population Prospects and other databases concerning fertility, family planning, mortality, urbanization or ageing, which have become indispensable assets for all those who are concerned with the population and development, I would like to note the usefulness of the publications for population policy. Through the publications, each country can compare itself to other countries with regard to the policies it might implement and can observe how policy priorities change over time. The 59 policy variables included in the publications, ranging from population size and growth to international migration, explain the variety and width of population policies. The most recent publication of the data booklet of policies on spatial distribution and urbanization is one good example to exhibit the usefulness of the population policy database created and updated by the Population Division.

In the same manner, the data on international migration are important. There is an increasing need, around the world, to better understand the growing number of international migrants under more or less standardized definition and criteria. I hope for the continued publication of data on international migrants, stock data and refinement through revisions.

Thank you.