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United States Statement on Agenda Item 5.

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006: Population  
Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Chairman, I would like to express the appreciation of our delegation for the report, ***Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2007/7)***, prepared by the Population Division. My delegation would like to commend the Director of the Population Division, Dr. Hania Zlotnik, and her staff for their continued excellent work relating to the analysis of population trends, monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and in preparing population projections for all of the world's countries.

The Population Division continues to play an essential role as a source of policy-neutral population expertise—producing analytical reports, compendia of data and policies, and other informational products that are widely used by policy makers, program planners, technical experts in government and academia, and the general public. The products of the Population Division represent the definitive international references on a wide range of population-related topics. In our opinion the Population Division has done an excellent job of delivering on their stated mission, namely:

- a) Ensuring that population issues remain high on the international agenda; and
- b) Enhancing awareness in the international community and among Member States of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

in this context, I would like to highlight two areas of the work of the Population Division, which illustrate this point.

The first of these is in the area of mortality. The Population Division has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the methods of mortality estimation to identify needed improvements in methods to allow better estimation of mortality levels, patterns, and trends, particularly in developing countries, where such data are often deficient. The development of new and better methods for such situations will improve our ability to monitor mortality trends, track progress, and have confidence in the results.

Second, I would like to commend the Population Division for their work on changing population age structures and population aging prepared in anticipation of this session of the Commission. Through a series of expert group meetings, preparation of reports, and other activities, the Population Division has ensured that the Commission has before it a comprehensive look at this issue of growing importance. Finally, I would like to commend the Population Division for their work in identifying the Keynote speakers, whose presentations have greatly benefited our deliberations.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.