

STATEMENT BY Dr. Eduardo Rios-Neto, Delegation of
Brazil to the Forty-second session of the Commission on
Population and Development –

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Agenda Item 5

Madame Chairperson,

Let me congratulate the Population Division at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the wonderful job in the provision of comparative population statistics in a global perspective, particularly the report on the World Demographic Trends just presented.

The Population Division provides a high quality pattern of demographic analysis. Governments and the scientific community got used to appreciate these publications. We expect the updated publications every year. The Population Division data is particularly crucial for the elaboration of comparative analysis among countries and regions. Let me take this opportunity to stress the relevance of the United Nation's regional commissions, working in cooperation with the population division. Particularly, I would like to mention the ones in my region, the Latin American and Caribbean, namely, CEPAL and CELADE.

Madame Chair, let me take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of designing alternative scenarios for fertility projections in the world, a type of study that the Population Divisions has already undertaken in the recent past.

As the report states, in 2009, only 11 countries had over 100 million inhabitants. That list includes Brazil and the United States. Let us take the Brazilian case for a minute. Brazilian fertility in 2007 is 1.95 children per woman in reproductive age. Madame Chair, if it were not for the operation of population momentum or population inertia, Brazil would contribute less for global population growth in the next years than the United States. This is just to emphasize the importance of a permanent evaluation of future fertility scenarios, particularly focusing in those countries that may be making the transition to below replacement level.

Madame Chair,

I also would like to emphasize the relevance of the 2010 round of the demographic censuses. I can assure that Brazil is updated in the planning of that round and committed to innovations in data collections next year. In time of current global financial crisis many countries may face problems in the collection of their censuses. I urge the United Nation to keep commitment with the 2010 round. This will be a crucial step towards the assessment of the achievement of the millennium development goals in 2015.

THANK YOU.