

**STATEMENT TO THE FORTY-SECOND 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 2008: POPULATION DIVISION,  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2009/7)**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011 (E/CN.9/2009/CRP.1)**

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Madame Chairperson, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour of introducing two documents related to the work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The first, E/CN.9/2009/7, is a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2008. The second, E/CN.9/2009/CRP.1, is a note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2010-2011.

Let me start the presentation of the first document with a few words about the strategic framework that guides the activities of the Population Division. For the current biennium, the strategic framework stipulates that the overall objective of our subprogramme is “to enable the international community to better understand and effectively address current and foreseeable population issues and population dimensions of development at the national and international levels”. In order to meet that objective, the strategic framework identifies three accomplishments for the subprogramme. One is to have “effectively facilitated review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly”. Another accomplishment is to have “enhanced awareness of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding, at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth and population ageing”. The third accomplishment is to have “improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, civil society and academia”. All the activities that we implemented in 2008 were meant to further one or more of those three accomplishments.

The report covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the monitoring and analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world

population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; and the analysis of the interrelations between population and development, including issues such as population ageing, internal migration and urbanization. The report also covers the major activities carried out by the Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of technical publications, the organisation of expert group meetings and the dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

Madam Chairperson,

Please allow me to highlight a few of those activities.

In the area of Fertility and Family Planning, the Population Division maintains important databases on fertility, contraceptive use and marriage. In 2008 the Division published new revisions of the fertility and marriage databases, which now cover 224 countries or areas, including all 192 Member States. Updated data on contraceptive use were also issued as Excel data sets and as a wall chart, to meet the needs of different audiences. Based on its expertise on the subject, the Population Division has been entrusted with the responsibility of producing estimates of three indicators for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals related to reproductive health. Those indicators are the contraceptive prevalence rate, the adolescent birth rate and the unmet need for family planning - the last one produced in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund. In 2008, updated estimates for each of the indicators, together with the corresponding metadata (information on definitions and computation methods) were provided to the Millennium Development Database, along with supplementary data on prevalence of modern method use, prevalence of condom use and on the spacing and limiting components of the unmet need for family planning.

In the area of mortality and health, the Division convened the Second Coordination meeting on the estimation of adult mortality, which brought together representatives of key institutions active in the study and estimation of mortality. The Meeting reviewed recent progress in methodological developments for estimating mortality in countries with deficient data and identified further directions for research and collaboration; in particular, the Meeting discussed the results of the Division's efforts to improve the estimation of mortality in populations where international migration is significant and to produce a well-fitted model for mortality over age 60, a subject of great relevance, particularly for middle-income developing countries. The Population Division also participated actively in the coordination efforts led by UNICEF and WHO regarding the monitoring of progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4 on the reduction of infant and under-five mortality. In this regard, the Population Division is preparing child mortality estimates by sex for as many countries as possible in order to shed light on the gender dimensions of mortality at young ages. The results of this analysis, which will be available later this year, are expected to yield valuable information for policy development and implementation. The Division also played a key role in the organization and substantive servicing of the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2008, for which the Division served as focal point for education and health.

In the area of international migration, the Population Division prepared a report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, as requested by the General Assembly, for consideration at its sixty-third session. The report presented options for the follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, based on a survey conducted by the Division of the views of Governments on the subject. The report also contained an overview of the activities on international migration and development undertaken by

all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations in follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. Based on its consideration of the Secretary-General's report, the General Assembly decided to hold another High-level Dialogue in 2013, following a one-day thematic debate that will be held in 2011.

In 2008, the Population Division collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the organization of two meetings – an Expert-Group Meeting and a High-level Meeting on Migration and Development in the Asia and Pacific region, which were held back-to-back in Bangkok in September. The first meeting brought together international experts and policymakers from countries of origin and destination in the Asia and Pacific region, including members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The second meeting was attended by representatives of 22 member states and relevant international organizations, as well as a number of experts serving as resource persons. The Division also organized the Seventh Coordination Meeting on International Migration, which was attended by more than 80 representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and of other relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as a number of civil society organizations, including research institutes.

In response to the growing demand for data on international migrants, the Population Division developed the web-based, interactive United Nations Global Migration Database, which presents the most complete set of empirical data at the national level on the stock of international migrants classified by origin, sex and age. The database allows users to download the information available for any particular country of origin or of destination. The Division is using the empirical data compiled in the Global Database to derive estimates of migrant stock classified by age and sex, enabling users to focus on specific groups, such as migrant children. This activity has received complementary financial support from UNICEF and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and has relied on the data compiled by the Statistics Division of DESA, the World Bank, the University of Sussex and the University of Minnesota.

Lastly in the area of migration, the Division has continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, who is the main link between the United Nations and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Division also provided substantive support to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in his capacity as member of the Global Migration Group, an interagency entity established by the Secretary-General to promote interagency consultation and collaboration in the area of international migration and development.

Madame Chairperson,

The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the mandate of the Population Division. The results of this activity have considerable impact both inside and outside of the United Nations system, as many entities rely on the official population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division. In 2008, the Population Division issued the results of the *2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, which contained estimates of the urban and rural populations of all countries of the world and projections until 2050. It also included estimates and projections of all urban agglomerations with at least 750,000 inhabitants in 2005. The results of the 2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects were made available on the internet through an interactive database as well as on CD-ROM and were also the object of two wall charts. The Division continued to work on the development of DemoData, a database to hold all empirical

data relevant for the production of estimates and projections. At present, DemoData already contains nearly 20 million data records.

In the area of population policy, 2008 saw the launching of the United Nations Tenth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. The Inquiry, which was sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, requests Governments to provide information on their views and policies regarding a wide array of population and development issues. For the first time, the Inquiry was also made available in an online version. The Division also initiated a study on government structures relevant for the governance of international migration; at present, information has been compiled on the government entities involved in the management of migration in over 100 countries. With this study, the Division aims to analyse the diversity of migration management structures in relation to the efforts under way to improve coherence in the management of migration for the benefit of development.

In the area of population and development, work in 2008 focussed mainly on two broad subjects – population distribution, including urbanization, and population ageing. The Division organised an Expert Group Meeting on “Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development”, to discuss the patterns, causes and implications of the changing spatial distribution of the population in different parts of the world. The meeting served also as part of the substantive preparations for the forty-first session of the Commission, which had that subject as its special theme.

With regard to population ageing, the Division is collaborating with ECLAC in undertaking research on population ageing, intergenerational transfers and social protection in five Latin American countries. The Division also assisted the efforts of UNFPA to use the results of this research to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to assess the implications of changing age structures for policy formulation and development planning.

Madame Chairperson,

The second document under consideration, E/CN.9/2009/CRP.1, contains the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2010-2011. The document consists of a programme narrative, including the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the Population Subprogramme and a list of outputs. The programme narrative was reviewed by the Commission last year and was subsequently approved by the General Assembly. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and to review the proposed outputs, which are to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and subsequently to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Madame Chairperson,

Please be assured that we at the Population Division always welcome and appreciate the views of Member States on our activities and on how we can best continue to support the work of Member States in our areas of expertise.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.