

As written

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**Statement by Sweden to the 32nd session of CPD, 22-24 March 1999,
Items 5-7 on the CPD agenda**

Mr Chair,

Sweden would like to take this opportunity to once again, like in our statement yesterday, emphasize the importance of the work done by the Population Division in analysing and publishing patterns and trends in population dynamics. This goes not least for the population projections, which guide our reflexion on the character of the world of our children and the significance of actions today to prepare for a better management of resources in the interest of coming generations.

The Population Division has made great achievements in the methodology of population projections, and is to be commended for its biennial updates. In particular, we appreciate the frequent revisions made in some assumptions behind mortality trends, more precisely the demographic effects of AIDS.

The attention given to fertility scenarios in the projections is warranted, both in terms of the the importance of fertility in population increase and as a contribution to the ICPD process. However, a number of circumstances would motivate better attention to mortality scenarios. AIDS is just one of a series of fatal diseases that may take **increasing** tolls from humanity. Malaria is another. In some regions, undernutrition is widespread and may worsen. Food insecurity is a serious issue of **everday** life for many millions of people. The prospects of growing shortages of water and agricultural land make it unlikely that real advances will be made in reducing undernutrition in the short and medium terms.

Another factor in favour of more differentiated assumptions concerning possible futures of mortality is the wellknown fact that fertility trends not always run independently of mortality trends. Countries with high levels of fertility rarely experience real fertility declines which are not preceded by distinct reductions in infant and child mortality. Thus, projected fertility declines in a sense imply mortality changes which are currently absent from the projection work.

Mr Chair, allow me to quote from the concluding remarks of the European Union to last year's session of the CPD. Referring to the work of the Population Division, the Union underlined the importance /quote/ "to advance work on population projections by considering alternative mortality scenarios which reflect growing uncertainties on the progress of mortality" /end quote/.

We appreciate the sensitivity of the matter in terms of alternative projections for individual countries. However, like the case is with the **longterm** UN fertility projections which are not based on individual country figures, mortality scenarios

could be elaborated for categories of countries. Again, the importance lies in improving our understanding of what would happen if future mortality would level off or return to higher levels.

To conclude: The modelling of alternative mortality developments would be a crucial contribution to the clarification of demographic implications of social, economic and environmental trends in the world. In view of the importance of the matter, we propose that the Commission resolves to debate the pros and cons of alternative mortality projections during its 34th session in 2001, or two years from now. This would give ample time for ~~preparations through scientific exchange on related matters.~~

preparatory studies of the modalities of such a reform.
Thank you mr Chair.

Sweden; CPD 32nd session, 22-24 March 1999