

**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
FORTY-NINTH SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: 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 2015: POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2016/7)**

**PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2019: SUBPROGRAMME 5,
POPULATION, OF PROGRAMME 7, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1)**

STATEMENT BY:

**MS. SABINE HENNING, SENIOR POPULATION AFFAIRS OFFICER, POPULATION DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

NEW YORK, 15 APRIL 2016

Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of introducing document E/CN.9/2016/7, a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2015, and document E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1, on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 for the subprogramme on population.

Madame Chairperson,

As you recall, in 1995, the Population Division was tasked with monitoring and appraising the broad range of areas covered by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on

Population and Development. The work of the Division also has been shaped by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, and by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In addition to its extensive analytic output, the Population Division serves as the Secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development.

Madame Chairperson,

I am pleased to report that in 2015 the Population Division made significant progress in implementing its programme of work. Please allow me to highlight a few of its activities.

In the area of fertility and family planning, the Population Division published *World Contraceptive Use 2015*, a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators, and *Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2015*, the annual estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period 1970-2030. The publication *Trends in Contraceptive Use Worldwide 2015* highlights indicators of family planning in 2015 and projections to 2030. *World Fertility Data 2015* is the most comprehensive collection of time-series data on fertility worldwide to date. The publication *World Marriage Data 2015* is also our most comprehensive release of data on marital and union status for the period 1970 through 2014 for more than 220 countries or areas.

In the field of mortality, the Population Division published a wallchart entitled *World Mortality 2015*, which presents key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels. To complement the forthcoming *World Mortality Report 2015*, the Population Division issued an online dataset of mortality-related indicators for all countries and areas of the world. Using data from the Demographic and Health Surveys, it conducted an analysis of child mortality disaggregated by income for fifty low- and middle-income countries. This analysis was published as a technical paper, and the Population Division published another technical paper exploring a method for estimating long time series of life tables for developing countries.

On the topic of migration, the Population Division issued *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision*, a new set of global migrant stock estimates disaggregated by age and sex and by country of origin for 232 countries and areas since 1990. The Division also issued the dataset

entitled *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2015 Revision*, which contains official data on annual inflows and outflows of international migrants for the more than 40 countries for which such data were available. In addition, the Division participated in various activities organized by the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group and provided administrative and substantive support to the Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration and his team. The Division also provided substantive support to migration-related high-level events organized by the Secretary-General (30 September 2015) and the President of the General Assembly (20 November 2015) and to United Nations-wide efforts and initiatives responding to ongoing refugee and migratory crises.

Madame Chairperson,

In the field of population estimates and projections, the Population Division issued *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world with all related outputs. These data and the accompanying analysis are used extensively within the United Nations system and by the general public. The Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world, with results presented through the year 2100.

On the topic of population policy, the Population Division continued to implement the *United Nations Eleventh Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development*, a record of government views and policies on various key aspects of population and development. The Division also made progress on the forthcoming 2015 revision of the *World Population Policies Database* and, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, started implementing the *Global Abortion Policies* project, an interactive, open-access database and repository of current abortion laws and policies for all countries of the world.

In the area of population and development, the Population Division published the report *World Population Ageing 2015: Highlights* and a full report with the same title, presenting up-to-date estimates and projections of the number of older persons and their share of the total population for all countries and regions in the world. Recognizing the growing number of older persons in

Africa, the Population Division published a *Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa: 2004-2015*, an updated inventory of research activities on ageing in the region that have been carried out since 2004. The Population Division released the 2015 edition of *Profiles of Ageing*, which provides up-to-date data on ten selected sociodemographic indicators of ageing and older persons.

The Population Division continued to support intergovernmental processes. It prepared two reports of the Secretary-General and other documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2015. In preparation for the forty-ninth session, the Division conducted a broad consultation process with Member States on the Commission's methods of work, which informed the preparation of a Note by the Secretariat on the same topic as input to the current session.

The Population Division made regular technical contributions to the global monitoring of six MDG indicators, specifically, infant and under-five mortality, maternal mortality, the adolescent birth rate, contraceptive prevalence, and the unmet need for family planning. Population estimates produced by the Division also served as denominators for monitoring progress toward the MDGs on the topics of poverty, education and health. The Population Division took part in system-wide consultations and reviews of the post-2015 development agenda and provided technical input for the development of the indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

During 2015, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide access to timely population information for use by Government officials, academic and private sector researchers, and civil society. The Population Division has increased its efforts to promote awareness of population issues via social media, such as Twitter and Facebook. The Division, in collaboration with partners, has contributed to capacity-development for work on the analysis and use of migration statistics, the estimation of maternal mortality and the production of population estimates and projections.

As I indicated earlier, Madame Chairperson, these are just a few highlights of the Population Division's diverse portfolio of activities.

Finally, the second document under consideration, E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1, contains the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, and strategy of the population subprogramme for the biennium of 2018-2019. The proposed programme plan, with appropriate modifications, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, whose recommendations will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The Commission is invited to review and comment on the programme plan, and to take note of the document.

Madame Chairperson,

Let me conclude by saying that this week we have heard much about the importance of strengthening the demographic evidence base for informed policy-making and planning. It should be added that a strong demographic evidence base is critically important to the mission of the Population Division. We are consumers of the evidence provided by you, the Member States, other United Nations entities and civil society organizations through censuses, surveys or other data sources, but we also contribute to it in our reports, databases, wallcharts and capacity-building activities. As the Secretary-General declared in his opening statement, “We all understand that people can never be reduced to mere numbers. At the same time, statistics are essential for tracking progress. When people are not counted, they are excluded. To live up to the commitment to leave no one behind, we have to make sure everyone is counted.” The Population Division is committed to providing the demographic evidence so no one is left behind, and we continue to be committed to monitor and appraise the Programme of Action of the ICPD at the global level, as we are mandated to do, and as documented in the report I just introduced. And, as always we welcome and appreciate the comments of Member States on our work.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.