

*Check against delivery*

## **COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Forty-ninth session, 11-15 April 2016

### **Briefing for Member States**

New York, 4 March 2016, 15:00 pm to 17:00 pm  
Trusteeship Council Chamber

**Statement by Mr. John Wilmoth, Director  
Population Division/DESA**

Good afternoon, excellencies, delegates, colleagues.

#### **Sign-in sheet**

First, let me kindly remind all participants please to sign in on the sheets that are being circulated in the room, if you have not done so already.

Please write your name, the mission or organization that you are representing, and your email address. This will ensure that the Secretariat has a complete and up-to-date contact list, which will be very useful for distributing information during the coming weeks.

#### **Documentation**

Regarding the documentation for the upcoming session of the Commission, as the Chair, Ambassador Kasese-Bota, has just noted, all documents have been submitted for formal processing. With only one exception, the documents have already been edited and translated, and are now available in the six official languages of the United Nations through the website of the Population Division. For this purpose, please go to [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org), click on "Commission" and then "49<sup>th</sup> session (2016)".

#### **Dates**

As you know, the plenary meetings of the upcoming session will take place from 11 to 15 April. The Bureau decided to start the informal consultations on Tuesday, 29 March. In the first week of these consultations, from 29 March to 1 April, the Bureau has decided that the negotiations will focus exclusively on the resolution on the Commission's methods of work. In the second week, from 4 to 8 April, it is expected that the informal consultations will focus mostly on the resolution on the special theme. In the plenary week, from 11 to 15 April, the informal consultations will focus on resolving any remaining issues. This schedule could be adjusted, as needed, by the co-facilitators.

### **Meeting rooms**

The plenary meetings of the Commission are scheduled to be held in Conference Room 4 of the Conference Building. At this point, we have been able to reserve Conference Room 6 for the informal consultations during the plenary week as well as the two weeks prior.

The Secretariat will assist the co-facilitators in keeping you informed of any room changes. Nevertheless, I recommend strongly that delegations also check regularly the UN Journal for information about any last-minute room changes.

### **Organization of work**

Let me now turn to the organization of work, starting with a review of the various agenda items.

On the first day of the resumed session, Monday, 11 April, the Commission will elect its officers under agenda item 1. Also under this agenda item, the Commission will finalize the election of the members of the Bureau for the current session.

The adoption of the provisional agenda, the organization of work, and the report of the inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau will take place under agenda item 2, also on Monday.

Under agenda item 3, entitled “Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”, the Commission will have before it three reports of the Secretary-General: a report on the special theme of the 49<sup>th</sup> session (E/CN.9/2016/3); a report on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the special theme of the 49<sup>th</sup> session (E/CN.9/2016/4); and a report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/5).

Member States delivering statements under agenda item 3 may wish to build on the three reports of the Secretary-General that will be presented under this agenda item.

Agenda item 4 consists of a general debate on national experience in population matters. It could begin on Monday afternoon or later, depending on the length of the speakers list for the previous item. Under agenda item 4, countries are encouraged to make substantive statements about their national population experiences, with a focus on the special theme of the session or on other population matters of national importance. Item 4 is expected to conclude by the end of Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday morning, the Commission will jointly consider agenda items 5 and 7. As already mentioned by the Chair, Ambassador Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe and Vice-President of ECOSOC, will make a presentation at 10:00 am on Thursday, 14 April, as part of agenda item 5. This presentation is intended to launch a discussion on the relevance of population issues to this year’s annual theme of ECOSOC and, more broadly, on the potential contributions of the Commission to the work of ECOSOC, including the high-level political forum when it meets under the auspices of the Council. We

would encourage delegations to participate actively in this discussion, which is very timely especially in light of the ongoing review of the Commission's methods of work.

The Secretariat has prepared a note on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission, which will be considered under agenda item 7. Delegations are invited to make statements as part of the joint consideration of agenda items 5 and 7. At the end of the joint consideration of these two items, the Commission is expected to take action on a draft proposal, or resolution, on its methods of work.

On Friday morning, the Commission will consider agenda item 6, which includes presentations by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends, the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015, and a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework of the Population Division for the period 2018-2019. Member States are invited to make statements in response to these reports and the note prepared for this agenda item.

On Friday afternoon, the Commission will take action on the remaining draft proposals, including a resolution on the special theme, a decision about the special themes for the next two years, and a decision to adopt the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session. The Commission should also adopt the draft report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session on Friday afternoon.

Immediately following the closing of the forty-ninth session on Friday, 15 April, the fiftieth session will open for the sole purpose of electing the new members of the Bureau. Following the principle of geographical rotation followed by the Commission since 2005, the Asia-Pacific group will chair the Bureau of the fiftieth session.

The Bureau decided to dedicate Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to informal consultations, so there will be no plenary meetings taking place at those times, on the condition that the other meetings are sufficient for accommodating the list of speakers. This plan is reflected in the organization of work.

### **Keynote speakers and other experts**

On Monday, 11 April, between 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm, there will be a keynote address by Ms. Lisa Bersales, Chief Statistician of the Philippines and co-chair of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs). The presentation by Ms. Bersales will provide a global overview of the role of the demographic evidence base in estimating the indicators of the 2030 Agenda. The presentation will be followed by an interactive debate moderated by the Chair, Ambassador Kasese-Bota.

The Chair of the Statistical Commission has been invited to make a statement about linkages between demographic data and the monitoring framework that the Statistical Commission will approve during its session next week. The Chair's participation still needs to be confirmed, but we expect the statement to be delivered on Tuesday morning between 10:00 and 11:00 am.

On Tuesday, 12 April, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, there will be a keynote address by Mr. Andrew Tatem of the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, entitled

“Integration of traditional and new data sources and technologies: from censuses to big data”. This presentation will also be followed by an interactive discussion and debate.

On Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:30 pm, there will be an expert panel and interactive discussion on “Uses of the demographic evidence base for development policy and programme planning and monitoring”. The discussion will be moderated by Mr. Bill Miller of Global Connections. The panelists will be:

- Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General of Statistics South Africa;
- Mr. Vladimir M. Shkolnikov, Head of the Laboratory of Demographic Data, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany;
- Ms. Ann M. Starrs, President and CEO, Guttmacher Institute; and
- Mr. Eduardo Clark, Director of Data for Development, National Digital Strategy, Office of the President of Mexico.

For the interactive discussions following the keynote addresses and the expert panel, delegates are encouraged to share spontaneous remarks in reaction to the speakers’ presentations, rather than reading prepared statements. We will post short summaries of the presentations and biographic information on the presenters on the website of the Population Division prior to the session, which can serve to inform delegates in advance about the topics to be considered.

### **Grounds passes for delegates**

We have been advised by the UN security service that delegates who need grounds passes to attend the upcoming session of the Commission will need to submit their requests to UN Security at least 48 hours in advance.

### **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

We again welcome the participation of representatives of non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC. Pre-registration of NGO representatives will close on 31 March and registration of the pre-registered participants will take place on the morning of 11 April outside the visitors’ entrance on 46th street. We have secured an overflow room to accommodate NGO representatives on the first day of the session, 11 April. NGOs with ECOSOC accreditation can submit their requests to make an oral statement by 8 April. They should send their requests to [CPD49NGO@un.org](mailto:CPD49NGO@un.org).

### **Side events**

We have received expressions of interest from permanent missions, UN entities, and non-governmental organizations to organize side events. If you are considering organizing such an event, please contact us as soon as possible, but no later than 4 April, since room availability is often an issue and cannot be guaranteed. Once we have final confirmations, we will post a schedule of side events on the CPD website.

More information on organizing side events is posted on the website of the Population Division. If you are interested in organizing an event, please send information about it to [CPD49@un.org](mailto:CPD49@un.org).

**Additional briefings**

I also wish to announce that the Population Division and UNFPA will organize a briefing for Member States on the substantive reports of the Secretary-General that have been prepared for the upcoming session, and on the note by the Secretariat on the Commission's methods of work. The briefing will take place on Tuesday, 22 March, from 15:00 pm to 18:00 pm. All interested members of delegations, representatives of non-governmental organizations and UN staff are invited to attend.

In addition, the Chair will organize a briefing for representatives of non-governmental organizations on Tuesday, 5 April, informing them of the preparations for the session and encouraging them to participate in the session by organizing and participating in side events and by delivering oral statements during the plenary meetings.

Thank you, Madame Chair.