

**Statement on behalf of Norway**  
**Commission on Population and Development, 40th session**  
Closing meeting, Friday 13 April 2007  
*Presented by Helge Brunborg*

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to make a brief statement on behalf of Norway. Let me first congratulate you and all the members of the Bureau, particularly the facilitator, Mr. Thomas Gass, for having led the negotiations so ably.

Mr. Chairman, this session of the CPD has focused on a very important aspect of population and development, changing age structures of populations and their implications for development. The Commission has worked hard in distilling the most important messages from this session and transforming them into guidance [as reflected in the resolution that we have just adopted]. I wish to note that this outcome has been possible in no small part because of the excellent preparation for this session. In particular, I found that the Secretary-General's report on World Population Monitoring laid out the issues very clearly and contains a wealth of information, including a brief but thorough discussion of pension systems and a good description of the benefits of the second demographic dividend. It was a pleasure to read a report that is not only descriptive but also strong analytically. To make it even stronger, I hope that it may be reissued incorporating the results of the latest population projections.

I also want to commend the selection of keynote speakers made by the Bureau. Each of their presentations made valuable additions to the deliberations of the Commission. I hope that in the future the selection of speakers continues to be made on the basis of their expertise on a particular topic.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, permit me to recall that the Commission, at its thirty-ninth session adopted a resolution to improve its methods of work in which member states were invited, *"in order to maintain and enhance the quality and impact of the Commission's debates, to consider including among their representatives at the sessions of the Commission, those with technical expertise in the particular areas of population and development under consideration."* It has become common that negotiations about the Commission themes are carried out mainly by diplomats representing member states of the United Nations, which is very valuable. However, it became clear during the past days that there is insufficient technical expertise among the delegations participating in the Commission's work. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Bureau may remind member states of the recommendation made last year and that this Commission, whose work is valued because of the technical expertise it brings to critical debates on development, might thus be strengthened.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.