

**Statement of behalf of Norway**  
**Commission on Population and Development**  
**Forty-third session**

**Agenda Item 5: Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population**  
**Wednesday 14 April 2010**

Helge Brunborg, Ph.D., Senior Researcher

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to congratulate the Population Division for continuing its excellent work. It is hard to imagine what we would have done without the high-quality estimates, projections and analyses coming regularly from the Population Division.

I have noticed over the past year that your web pages have become better and easier to use, although there is still room for improvement. In particular, it has become less complicated to find and use data from your web pages. It should in principle be possible to download all data that you have made available to the public, given that the technological and resource constraints can be solved. Your data are an important public good. The users should benefit from that. There exist several good database programs for storing and disseminating data from web pages, through an interactive process.

The Population Division should also be commended for the large number of wall charts and other user-friendly publications, such as the *Population Facts*.

However, you do not only produce data and user-friendly publications, you are also active in developing and utilizing new research methods. One example of this is new methods to estimate adult mortality, which is very difficult in countries with deficient vital statistics systems. I find your project to develop a Bayesian approach to project fertility and mortality particularly promising. If this is successful you might perhaps venture into more advanced methods to project international migration.

With regard to population projections, we are looking forward to having the results by single years of age for each calendar year. I would also like to see an update of your long-range projections, which was most recently made in 2002 until the year 2300. Such projections are useful for analytical purposes, in spite of being extremely uncertain, of course.

Going into new areas of demographic analysis, such as child adoption, is also valuable and is an example of the creativity and intellectual curiosity of your staff.

Let me finish by again complimenting the Population Division for doing a very good job, given its limited resources and high demand for publications, data and assistance to meetings such as the current session of the CPD.

Finally, since the previous speakers mentioned their population censuses, let me say that the most recent Norwegian census was taken in 2001. This will, in fact, be the last traditional census in Norway. Future censuses will be based on administrative registers and may, in principle, be taken every year.

Thank you for your attention, Mr. Chairman