

Commission on Population and Development  
Forty-Third Session  
12 – 16 April, 2010  
Item 5 of the Agenda  
New York, NY

United States Statement on Agenda Item 5.

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2009:

Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mister Chair,

I would like to express the appreciation of our delegation for the reports, ***Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2009: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2010/6)*** and ***Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013: subprogramme 6, Population of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2010/7)*** prepared by the Population Division. My delegation would like to commend the Director of the Population Division, Dr. Hania Zlotnik, and her staff for their continued excellent work relating to the analysis of population trends, monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and in preparing population projections for all of the world's countries. We also would like to commend Dr. Zlotnik for her efforts over the past several years to maintain and upgrade the technical qualifications of her staff.

The Population Division continues to play an absolutely essential role as a source of policy-neutral population expertise—producing analytical reports, compendia of data and policies, and other informational products that are widely used by policy makers, program planners, technical experts in government and academia, and the general public. The products of the Population Division represent definitive international references on a wide range of population-related topics. In our opinion the Population Division has done an excellent job of delivering on their mission under section 9, namely:

- a) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD;
- b) Enhance awareness of new and emerging population issues and increase awareness, at the national level, of certain demographic issues; and
- c) Improve accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, civil society, and academia.

Mister Chair,

in the context of this meeting of the Commission, I would like to highlight and comment on several aspects of the work of the Population Division.

The first of these is in the area of fertility and family planning. In the past year, the Population Division organized an Expert Group Meeting on Recent and Future Trends in Fertility. The meeting brought together a impressive panel of experts both on national trends and on technical issues, and several very productive days of presentations and discussion resulted, and innovative approaches to techniques of fertility projections were explored. We are looking forward to the report of that meeting and indications from the Population Division as to changes, if any, in the methods used to produce their fertility projections.

In the area of mortality and health, we recognize the contribution of the Population Division to the report of the Secretary General on the theme of this current meeting of the Commission. We note that an Expert Group Meeting on Health, Mortality and Development was organized late last year by the Division, and we look forward to the report of that meeting.

We commend the Population Division for their continued work in the issue of International Migration. We note that the Division has produced an updated data set of

annual data which doubles the number of countries covered. However, we note that the current data set covers less than 15 percent of the countries of the world. This situation is less a reflection on the Population Division than on the state of data on international migration available in countries around the world.

Every two years, the Population Division releases a new version of the World Population Prospects. The most recent release, WPP 2008 makes available interpolated annual estimates of demographic indicators in its CD version. We continue to hope for annual and single year of age data as direct rather than indirect outputs in future releases. We note the continued work on the in-house demographic database. We are hopeful that this work will support and enable more detailed demographic projections in coming years.

We would also like to commend the Population Division for their outstanding work in anticipation of this session of the Commission. In addition, I would like to commend the Population Division for their work in identifying the Keynote speakers, whose presentations have greatly benefited our deliberations. This session's speakers have each provided a unique perspective and have enhanced our understanding of the issues under consideration.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to comment briefly on the Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013, presented as a Note by the Secretary-General. We note the conformity between the expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and the indicators of performance on the one hand and the list of expected outputs on the other. We look forward to reviewing these materials as they are produced.

Thank you Mister Chair.