

United States Statement on Agenda Item 7
Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of
population in 2010: Population Division, Department of Economic and
Social Affairs

Mr. Chairman,

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 2010: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2011/7)*, prepared by the Population Division. My delegation would like to commend the Director of the Population Division, Dr. Hania Zlotnik, and her fine 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.

The Population Division continues to play an 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.

Mr. Chairman, in the context of the theme of this meeting of the Commission, on progress made toward the internationally agreed development goals, I would like to highlight the essential work of the Population Division.

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The first of these is in the area of fertility and family planning. Given the theme of this forty-fourth session of the Commission, the division has been engaged in several activities. These include an Expert Panel of Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development and the CD-ROM on World Contraceptive Use 2010. These and other division data and analytical products provide essential background for our deliberations at this session of the Commission.

In the area of mortality and health, the division has produced several products that enhance our understanding of the levels and trends in mortality in countries, regions and worldwide. A wall chart on Population and HIV/AIDS 2010 provides an update to the population impacts of this epidemic. The Population Division has also updated their estimates of infant and child mortality and under-five mortality by sex. These estimates and the analysis of the trends in these measures will be featured in an upcoming report. Their analysis has demonstrated a reduction in excess female child mortality in many countries around the world.

The Population Division continues to be a leader in population projections. The division completed work on an update on long-range projections of population to 2300, and their analysis demonstrates the powerful impact even small differences in trends can make in the long run. The new 2010 Assessment will be released shortly and we await those results.

Among the many products and databases released by the Population Division, we would like to particularly commend the division for the new series Population Facts. These short reports fill the need for a readily accessible and easily understood analysis of critical population trends.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, our delegation has taken note of the fact that this will likely be the final meeting of the Commission with Dr. Zlotnik in her current role as Director of the Population Division as she is scheduled to retire in the coming year. This is also the case for the two Deputy Directors in the Population Division, Mr. Thomas Buettner and Dr. Philip Guest. Our delegation would like to express our appreciation to all three of these senior managers, and in particular Dr. Zlotnik, for their contributions over a number of years. Their efforts and dedication have supported this Commission over these years and our deliberations and outcomes have been much improved from this input.

Technically, the Population Division has made great strides in the past decade in improving the rigor of the analytical approaches, in improving the quality and quality of the products produced, and in improving the efficiency of the operation of the Division. Dr. Zlotnik and her deputies have also contributed greatly to the demographic profession and the broader understanding of the field of population and the implication of population trends for the future. All three of these professionals have, either through formal instruction or through mentoring and staff development, helped to develop the next generation of demographers and population specialists.

We offer each of these individuals our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.