

UN Commission on Population and Development
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Item 6 of the Agenda

United States Statement on Agenda Item 6
Programme implementation and progress of work
in the field of population in 2012

Mister Chairman, I would like to express the appreciation of our delegation for the report of the Secretary-General on ***Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2012: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2013/6)***. My delegation would like to commend the staff of the Population Division for their continued excellent work relating to the analysis of population trends, monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, preparing population projections, and making information about their work available to the community of nations.

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 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.

Mister Chairman, in the context of the theme of this meeting of the Commission, "New Trends in Migration," I would like to highlight several of the accomplishments of the Population Division during the past year.

Especially noteworthy, the Population Division produced and released a new set of estimates of international migrant stocks by destination **and** origin for 1990, 2000, and 2010, giving analysts and the public new insight into the role of international migration in the development process; prepared a background paper on the potential for international migration in poverty

reduction for the 2013 High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development and as input into the General Assembly's review of the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action in 2014 (A/67/254); and provided for the dissemination of data through the United Nations Global Migration Database and a series of publications, including the very accessible fact sheet "Migrants by origin and destination: The role of South-South migration" (No. 2012/3). The Population Division's work in compiling and estimating migrant stocks and flows provides the empirical foundation for discussions of international migration by the Commission and contributes to the Division's estimates and projections work, which informs the Commission's work on other topics.

In the area of population projections, my delegation congratulates the Population Division for its success in marrying stochastic projections of life expectancy for all countries without generalized HIV epidemics with its existing stochastic projections of fertility to generate probabilistic projections of population during 2012. As the Secretary-General's report notes, calculated confidence intervals on projections for less and least developed countries are generally higher than those implied by the high and low variants of the deterministic projections prepared prior to 2010, while the uncertainty associated with projections for more developed countries is much lower. The CPD document and the Population Division's website on Probabilistic Projections underscore the fact that projected changes in size, distribution, and composition of national and regional populations in the 2012 revision and beyond will be more data driven, less subject to analysts' judgment, and arguably better able to inform our discussions.

In the area of fertility and family planning, our delegation would like to thank the Population Division for its work on model-based estimates and projections of contraceptive prevalence and unmet need, which relates directly to Millennium Development Goal 5, target 5.B (universal access to reproductive health). In the area of health and mortality, we would like to draw attention to the Population Division's impressive work on changing levels and trends in mortality by cause. This is just another example of how

the Population Division's work supports this Commission's work in monitoring implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would also like to commend Population Division for two other elements of its work touched on in the Secretary-General's report. The first is the emphasis the Population Division places on dissemination of its work. Document E/CN.9/2013/6 highlights efforts throughout the division aimed at making its methodological reports, papers from meetings, subject area products and databases, and the shorter and very accessible fact sheets available to the world community of demographers and statisticians, officials, policy analysts, educators and researchers. The second is the effort made by Population Division to leverage UN funds through interagency cooperation. Building partnerships through expert group meetings, with university researchers, and with other groups (such as the Global Migration Group, as well as the Statistics Division of the United Nations, the World Bank and the University of Sussex in developing the Global Migration Database) further enables the Population Division to support the work of this Commission and expand our understanding of population-development interrelationships with its relatively small staff.

Finally, we would like to thank the Population Division for its outstanding work in anticipation of this session of the Commission, including its work in identifying the Keynote speakers, whose presentations greatly benefit our deliberations. This session's speakers provide a unique perspective and will enhance our understanding of the issues under consideration.

Thank you Mister Chairman.