

**UN Commission on Population and Development
48th Session**

**United States Statement on Agenda Item 6
Programme implementation and progress of work
in the field of population in 2014**

Madam Chair, 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 2014: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs*.

Our delegation commends the staff of the Population Division for their continued excellent work relating to the analysis of population trends, monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Program 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 technical experts in the governments of member states, multilateral organizations, academia, and the general public. These products represent definitive international references on a wide range of population-related topics.

In our view, the Population Division has done an outstanding job of delivering on its expected accomplishments, including the task of effectively facilitating the review by member states of progress in the implementation of the Program of Action as well as progress toward population-related goals as part of the Millennium Development Goals and other United Nations conferences and summits.

In the context of the theme of this meeting of the Commission, I would like to highlight some key accomplishments of the Population Division during the past year.

In particular, we would like to commend the Population Division for its core efforts at estimating and projecting the populations of countries throughout the world. In February 2014, the Division released a report that detailed the methodologies used to produce *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*. That report helped to clarify the methods through which country estimates and projections were accomplished. This was followed in July by the release of a full set of probabilistic population projections. The Division also issued in June *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*, a major effort to describe the current and future size of urban agglomerations throughout the world.

The Population Division has also made major contributions to our collective understanding of world health and mortality trends through its participation in the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), collaborating in the preparation of a report on *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality*. It has also contributed to the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group. Both efforts help to monitor progress towards targets set by the ICPD Program of Action.

Madame Chair, our delegation would also like to commend the Population Division for the continued expansion of its website, making population information increasingly accessible to the global community. Our delegation notes that, in addition to a wealth of excellent research reports, a dozen web- or electronic-media-based datasets are now available to on-line users. The Population Division has more than met its obligations, set out in the *Subprogramme 5 of the Biennial Programme*, contained in E/CN.9/2014/5, to improve accessibility and the timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society, and academia.

Our delegation would like to thank the Population Division for its work in 2014 in an area that is likely to become increasingly important during the next two decades – documenting the interrelationships, challenges, and progress made toward integrating population issues into the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs aimed at sustainable development. Pursuant to this goal, the Division has written a brief on *Population Ageing and Sustainable Development*. It also published a wall

chart on population and development in small island developing States. Equally important contributions towards this issue are the many databases it has developed, such as the *Population Ageing and Development Database 2014* and *Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2015* (web datasets).

Finally, we would like to express appreciation to 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 provided a unique perspective and enhanced our understanding of the issues under consideration.

Thank you.