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United States Statement on Agenda Item 5.

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2007: Population
Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Chairman, I would like to express the appreciation of our delegation for the report, ***Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2007: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2007/7)***, 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 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 stated mission, namely:

- a) Ensuring that population issues remain high on the international agenda; and
- b) Enhancing awareness in the international community and among Member States of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

in this context, I would like to highlight several areas of the work of the Population Division which illustrate this point.

The first of these is in the area of mortality. The Population Division has recently produced several products, including the World Mortality Report 2007, and a wallchart, World Mortality 2007, which summarize our current understanding of the levels and trends in mortality in countries around the world. Also in the past year they have continued work on developing models of mortality patterns to better fit the empirical experience of countries. The development of new and better methods for such situations will improve our ability to monitor mortality trends, track progress, and have confidence in the results.

The second area I would like to mention is the extensive and wide-ranging work over the past few years in the area of migration. Of the three components of population change – fertility, mortality and migration – this is the area that can change most rapidly and that has the highest variability between countries. The Population Division's leadership in this area has truly enhanced the visibility of this population topic and it has attracted well-deserved increasing attention over this period.

We would like to commend the Population Division for their outstanding work on population distribution, urbanization, and internal migration prepared in anticipation of this session of the Commission. Through a series of expert group meetings, preparation of reports, and other activities, the Population Division has ensured that the Commission has before it a comprehensive look at this issue of growing importance. 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 understand from the Report to the Secretary General that the Population Division has devoted some of its scarce resources to support the Global Forum on Migration and Development. We note this with some concern, since the Forum is an intergovernmental activity, not a United Nations process, and is not in any way sanctioned or directed by the United Nations. Given the many competing demands on the staff time of the Population Division, my delegation urges the Division to prioritize their work within the UN system.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.