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**STATEMENT TO THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM 5. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE
PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THE FIELD OF
POPULATION**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND
PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION IN 2006: POPULATION DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2007/7)**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE
POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, FOR THE
BIENNIUM, 2008-2009 (E/CN.9/2007/8)**

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to introduce two documents related to the work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The first document, E/CN.9/2007/7, is a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2006. The second document, E/CN.9/2007/8, is a note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the coming biennium, 2008-2009.

Regarding our activities in 2006, the first document lists in its annex twenty-two outputs (including expert group meetings, research studies, databases, wall charts and periodicals) prepared by the Population Division. It should be noted that this list includes only the analytical activities carried out by the Division and does not include the numerous outputs related to the substantive servicing of the Commission on Population and Development, ECOSOC or the General Assembly. Indeed, the demands for substantive servicing of the General Assembly were

unusually large last year because of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and its preparations.

Please allow me to highlight just a few aspects of the work of the Population Division during the past year:

In the area of **Fertility and Family Planning Studies**, the Division undertook the preparation of a report entitled *Childlessness: A Global Survey*. Although childlessness is generally higher in developed countries, where in some countries up to one in every five women aged 40-44 is childless, it is also moderately high in South America, Central America and South-eastern Asia. In countries where fertility is low, increasing levels of voluntary childlessness suggest that it would be hard to raise fertility again to replacement level. In addition to the study on childlessness, the Division will release soon two datasets, one on fertility and the other on marriage, containing the most significant statistical indicators on each subject for 192 countries or areas.

In the area of **Mortality and Health**, the Population Division continued to review the methods needed to estimate levels and trends of adult mortality in developing countries, proposing methodological improvements to obtain more timely and robust estimates of age-specific mortality and life expectancy for as many countries as possible. The proposed methodology was discussed at an Expert Group Meeting involving representatives of other institutions, both within and outside the United Nations system, working on similar issues. The meeting was held last November in New York and was entitled "Current issues in the estimation of adult mortality". Some of the results of the ongoing work to document sources of data for the estimation of mortality as well as revised estimates for each country will be reflected in the forthcoming edition of the World Mortality Report.

In the area of **Population Estimates and Projections**, the Population Division produces the flagship publication on *World Population Prospects* every two years. The results of the *2006 Revision* were released last month. They are eagerly awaited by Governments, planners, decision makers, scholars and the media in many countries all over the world. The official United Nations population estimates and projections provide a comprehensive view of demographic trends in each country from 1950 to 2050. They are established with utmost attention to consistency and comparability, and are essential for the derivation of other indicators used by agencies, funds and

programmes of the United Nations system. For those interested in the in-depth analysis of population trends, 2006 saw the issuance of the third and final volume of the *2004 Revision of World Population Prospects*, as well as the release of the *2005 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects* on a CD-rom, and through an online database as well as two wall charts.

In the area of **Population Policy**, the Division continued its work on a pioneering worldwide study of *child adoption* based on data for 195 countries. It includes information on national legislation governing child adoption as well as statistics on the number of domestic and intercountry adoptions, and on adoptions by step-parents. Another activity the Division undertook was to organise a panel discussion on the theme “Challenges of the world population in the twenty first century: The changing age structure of population and its consequences for development”. The presentations made by panellists provided useful input for the preparation of the report for this session of the Commission.

In the area of **Population and Development** the Division published a wall chart entitled *Population Ageing 2006* which presents in a compact form the most significant indicators regarding population ageing for 228 countries or areas in the world. The Division also completed an updated and expanded edition of *World Population Ageing 1950-2050*, a report that presents all relevant indicators on ageing for each country together with a description of major trends. The publication served as basis for the monitoring report presented to this session of the Commission and will be a useful background document for the review and assessment of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Mr. Chairman, I have left for last all of our work in the area of **International Migration**. As you know, in 2006 the General Assembly conducted, for the first time in its history, a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, a major event that was substantively backstopped by the Population Division. Because of the increasing importance of activities related to international migration, almost a third of the report that you have before you is devoted to the numerous outputs related to the High-level Dialogue and its preparatory process. In addition to the substantive servicing of various General Assembly events, which included the preparation of the *Report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development* and several outcome documents, the Division also organised, in collaboration with the Rosselli Foundation and with financial support from the Government of Italy, an International Symposium on International Migration and Development that was held in Turin, Italy.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the second report, document E/CN.9/2007/8, it contains the programme narrative of the population subprogramme approved by the General Assembly in resolution 61/235, as well as information on the proposed outputs for 2008-2009. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative (objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy) and to review the proposed outputs to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me end with our assurances that we always welcome and appreciate the views of Member States on our activities and on how we can best continue to provide you with the data, information, analytical reports and normative documents that you need to support your work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.