

**STATEMENT TO THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM 6. 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 2011: POPULATION DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2012/7)**

**PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2015: SUBPROGRAMME 5,
POPULATION, OF PROGRAMME 7, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
(E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1)**

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M. 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, E/CN.9/2012/7, is the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work of the Population Division in 2011. The second, E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1, is the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 for our subprogramme.

The first document gives an account of the activities of the Population Division by thematic area, based on the organisational structure of the Division in sections: Fertility and Family Planning, Mortality, Migration, Population Estimates and Projections, Population and Development and Population Policy. Together, these six sections cover the entire spectrum of demographic issues and their interrelations with development, including policy issues.

As you may recall, the strategic framework for 2010-2011 gave us a broad objective: to strengthen the capacity of the international community to address population issues and to integrate population factors into the development agenda. In order to achieve that objective, three “expected accomplishments” were identified:

1. to have facilitated the review of progress in the implementation of the commitments made by the international community in the area of population;
2. to have enhanced the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the international community regarding the full range of population issues;
3. to have improved the accessibility of population information and data for all stakeholders.

Those three accomplishments are interrelated and mutually supportive: a review of progress towards meeting international commitment requires knowledge and awareness, which, in turn, require access to population information and data. Bearing this in mind, I invite you to consider the Population Division's record for 2011:

The review of the progress of the international commitments in the area of population refers specifically to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (known as ICPD+5), and the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields, including the Millennium Development Goals process (the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit).

The Population Division contributes to the review of commitments in several ways: first of all, it produces the Secretary-General's report on the theme of the annual session of the Commission on Population and Development. Last year we produced the report of the Secretary-General on Adolescents and Youth, which you have before you. The preparation of the report was informed by the discussions on that topic of an expert group meeting, which was convened in July of last year.

Regarding the MDGs, the Division, in collaboration with UNFPA, is responsible for reporting annually on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health, namely the adolescent birth rate, contraceptive prevalence, and the unmet need for family planning. In 2011, the Division produced updated estimates at the global, regional and subregional levels for each of those indicators along with the corresponding documentation of definitions and methods of computation. The Division also contributed data on infant and child mortality estimates to the Interagency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, led by UNICEF, for the monitoring of MDG goal 4, which calls for a reduction of infant and child mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015.

As part of the follow up to the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2006, we provided substantive servicing to the Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development organized by the President of the General Assembly on 19 May 2011, as a preparatory step towards the second High-level Meeting on Migration and Development to be held in the General Assembly in 2013. Also related to that follow-up, we have continued to provide substantive and administrative support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, with continued generous funding from the MacArthur Foundation.

Mr. Chairman,

Although our activities for the review of commitments are crucial, most of our stakeholders know the Population Division for our activities related to the second "expected accomplishment" – those that produce fundamental knowledge on population issues and aim to foster awareness, knowledge and understanding.

Indeed, the most widely known and used of our outputs are those related to our work in the area of population estimates and projections, which are seen as authoritative not only by entities within the United Nations System, but also by stakeholders in Governments, academia and civil society around the world. This line of work goes on continuously, and results in revision of total population figures, called "World Population Prospects" and urban population figures, called "World Urbanization Prospects" issued in alternating years. In 2011, we published the

2010 Revision of World Population Prospects, which received widespread attention, particularly as the world population grew to surpass 7 billion in October of last year. Also in 2011, we embarked on the production of the 2011 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects, which was released a few weeks ago.

In addition to our work on estimates and projections, every biennium we endeavour to produce, for each of the major demographic themes, research studies presenting and analysing the most recent data and information for all countries. Such studies are usually called “World Reports” and in 2011 we issued three of them: one on fertility and two on mortality. The reports contain a comprehensive set of indicators related to the theme and, where possible, cover a long period to enable the identification of trends. Given the increasing amounts of statistical data involved, the world reports will often have companion CD-ROMs or interactive databases online, which give users additional functionalities. Sometimes a stand-alone database on CD-ROM or DVD can be issued in advance of the analytical report. In 2011, a total of 11 databases were issued on such media.

Finally Mr. Chairman, our third expected accomplishment deals with improved accessibility of our data. We are very much aware that the results of our work should ideally be readily available to all those who need them, even to those users who cannot afford to pay. The Internet goes a long way towards meeting that need and we are making practically all of our outputs available online. Indeed, increasingly, many of our outputs will only be available online or on CD-ROM or DVD.

But we are not looking just to the Internet to help us get the message across. One vehicle that we find helpful is the “wall chart” medium. We believe that our wall charts are particularly suitable to engage the users of our data in international comparisons, as the information (up to about a dozen indicators) for all countries can be seen at a glance. In 2011 we issued eight wall charts covering issues such as contraceptive use, abortion policies, fertility policies, world population, mortality, rural and urban population and international migrants.

Another important channel for making our work better known and more accessible is through expert-group meetings – both those that we organize ourselves and those in which staff of the Population Division actively participate or help organize. The report makes reference to many such meetings that, while serving different purposes, also serve our outreach strategy.

Mr Chairman,

The second document under consideration, E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1, contains the proposed programme plan for the activities of the Population Division during the 2014-2015 biennium. The document presents the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy of the population subprogramme. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, whose recommendations will subsequently be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The Commission is invited to review the programme plan, provide comments and take note of it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.