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United States Statement on Agenda Item 6.

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat  
in the field of population

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 2011: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2012/7)* and the accompanying note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (E/CN.9/2012/CRP.1). 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 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. The collective understanding of the progress made toward these international goals would be severely limited without the contributions of the division.

However, even measured against the Population Division's perennially exceptional performance, 2011 – the final year of the tenure of Director Hania Zlotnik and Deputy Director Thomas Buettner – has been noteworthy.

Mister Chairman, in the context of the theme of this meeting of the Commission, on adolescents and youth, I would like to highlight several of the initiatives of the Population Division.

Two of these are in the area of mortality and health. First, the division completed and issued a report on Sex Differentials in Child Mortality highlighting the importance of estimating gender-specific child mortality rates to better inform programs aimed at improving childhood survivorship and to feed into the work of the UN's Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME). Second, in November of 2011, the division organized an expert group meeting on "Mortality Crises" to look more closely at the treatment of natural disasters, famine, violence, and non-communicable disease in its population estimates and projections. Both initiatives should improve Population Division's estimates and projections and the foundation for better understanding the place of adolescents and youth in global demography today and in the coming decades, and in assessing levels and trends consistent with progress in implementing the Programme of Action and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Under the heading of world population estimates and projections, the division has, for the first time, developed and incorporated a probabilistic model to describe uncertainty in the future path of fertility in the medium variant of projections published in *World Population Prospects: the 2010 revision*. The Division deserves congratulations for this accomplishment.

In the area of fertility and family planning, my delegation is pleased to draw attention to the *World Fertility Report 2009* mentioned in the Secretary-General's report. This report provides a cross-national examination of fertility trends, combining these with estimates of key proximate determinates of fertility and national policy positions on fertility. The report's final chapter, on fertility and nuptiality trends among women ages 15-19 and 20-24, is pertinent to our discussions this week because, in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the adolescent birth rate is one of the indicators used for tracking the improvement of maternal health.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would also like to commend Population Division for the emphasis it places on dissemination of its work. The Secretary-General's report highlights efforts throughout the division aimed at making its methodological reports, papers from meetings, and subject area products and databases available to the world community of demographers and statisticians, officials, policy analysts, educators and researchers. We know from first-hand experience how different it is today from a decade ago when colleagues around the world did not have easy access to these resources.

Our delegation would also like to thank Population Division for continuing to make its MORTPAK software package available to demographers around the world. The U.S. Census Bureau is pleased to have served as a partner with the division in sharing this software with workshop participants from developing countries in 2011, as it has for

more than 20 years. Census Bureau demographers applaud the ongoing Population Division effort to update the Windows version of MORTPAK for a new generation of users.

We would also like to commend 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 have greatly informed our deliberations. This session's speakers provide a unique perspective and will enhance our understanding of the issues under consideration.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to comment briefly on the draft programme of work for the 2014-2015 biennium, presented as a Note by the Secretary General (E/UN/CN.9/2012/CRP.1). We are impressed with the comprehensive programme of work proposed by the Division, and by the strategy for accomplishing this work, which underscores the importance of providing substantive support to the Commission on Population and Development and other United Nations bodies, information dissemination through multiple channels, and capacity development through training and the sharing of technical materials.

Thank you Mister Chairman.