

*Delivered on 9 April 2008*

**STATEMENT TO THE FORTY-FIRST 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 2007: POPULATION DIVISION,  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2008/6)**

**NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR  
THE PERIOD 2010-2011: SUBPROGRAMME 6, POPULATION, OF PROGRAMME 7,  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2008/7)**

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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.9/2008/6, is a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2007. The second document, E/CN.9/2008/7, is a note by the Secretary General on the proposed strategic framework for the activities of the Population Division in the biennium 2010-2011.

Since we cannot examine in this introduction all the results of the work of the Division during last year, please allow me to highlight just a few of our activities:

In the area of **Fertility and Family Planning Studies**, the Population Division was given important responsibilities regarding the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically the monitoring of three reproductive health indicators: contraceptive prevalence, the adolescent birth rate and the unmet need for family planning – the latter monitored jointly with UNFPA. The Division published two databases, one on fertility and the other on marriage, containing data on those subjects for 192 countries or areas of the world. The Division also prepared a wallchart entitled *World Fertility 2007*, paying particular attention to the adolescent birth rate, and another wallchart on contraceptive use throughout the world, which included data on the unmet need for family planning.

In the area of **Mortality and Health**, the Population Division continued its efforts to compile data suitable for the estimation of mortality throughout the world, including documentation of data sources. A database on the subject, including metadata, is being built in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley. Progress has also been made in developing models of mortality patterns to fit the incomplete information available for countries with deficient data. A database on mortality estimates and sources of data for mortality information has been released on CD.

In the area of **International Migration** the Division continued to play a leading role in the coordination of analytical work on the subject throughout the United Nations System. In 2007 the Division convened the Sixth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, which was attended not only by United Nations offices, agencies, funds and programmes, but also by other relevant entities such as intergovernmental organisations outside the United Nations System and Member States. The Division also assisted the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who chaired the Global Migration Group during the second half of 2007, and it has

continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration and Development.

On the analytical front, the Division made significant progress in the development of a database on international migrants stocks by age, sex and country of origin for as many countries as possible. This work has benefited from the collaboration of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank and has received some financial support from UNICEF and UNDP.

In the area of **Population Estimates and Projections**, the Division issued the results of the *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects* and completed the *2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, officially released last month. The biennial population estimates and projections, both for national populations and for urban, rural and city populations, provide the official population data used by the United Nations system. Several organizations rely on population data generated by the Division for the preparation of their own sectoral indicators, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Bank. The national population estimates produced by the Division provide a consistent time series of population data by age and sex from 1950 to 2050, as well as of the key indicators of population change. Academics, the media and research institutions all over the world make ample use of those data.

In 2007, the Division began the development of a database integrating all empirical data used in preparing its population estimates and projections. This is expected not only to make the work more efficient, but also to improve users' access to information on the sources of data.

Efforts were also made to improve methodologies, particularly regarding estimates and projections of urban, rural and city populations.

In the area of **Population Policy**, the Division issued the publication entitled *World Population Policies, 2007*, which documents, for all Member States, government views, objectives and policies concerning interventions to influence the various aspects of population dynamics. The 2007 report focused particularly on population distribution policies. In this context, we would like to highlight the preparations for the launch of the *United Nations Tenth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development*. The Inquiry will be sent to all permanent missions in New York in 2008, requesting information on Governments' views and policies with respect to population and development. The Inquiry is a major instrument for the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. We take this opportunity to appeal to all States Members of the United Nations and non-Member States to respond to the Inquiry, to ensure that it reaches the highest possible level of coverage.

Lastly, in the area of **Population and Development**, most of the activities over the past year were focused on two themes: (1) the socio-economic implications of changing population age structures to support the system-wide five-year review of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, and (2) urbanization. The work on urbanization included the production of two wall charts entitled: *Urban Population and the Environment* and *Rural Population and the Environment*. In addition, the Division held, in January, an *Expert-Group Meeting on Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal Migration*, which examined various facets of urbanization and internal migration and their interrelations with development. Both the wall charts and the unedited proceedings of the meeting are available on the side of this room.

The Division is mindful of the need to ensure that the results of our work effectively reach those who need them, wherever in the world they may be. Practically all of our publications, papers presented at expert meetings, databases and other technical material are made available on the Population Division's website, [unpopulation.org](http://unpopulation.org). We also offer a service that alerts subscribers about the issuance of new publications or the posting of new items on the website. The service has currently over 1,400 subscribers and we invite you all to make this resource known among your colleagues and within your organisations in your different countries.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the second document, E/CN.9/2008/7, it contains the programme plan section of the strategic framework proposed by the Secretary-General for the activities of the Population Division in 2010-2011. The programme plan comprises a statement of objectives, the expected accomplishments of the Secretariat, the indicators of achievement and an outline of the strategy to achieve the objectives. The Commission is invited to take note of this note and provide its comments thereon. The proposed programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its forty-eight session in June. The recommendations of the CPC will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, when it will consider the strategic framework of the Organisation for the next biennium.

Let me end by reiterating our assurances that the Population Division always welcomes and appreciates the views of Member States on our activities and on how we can best continue to support your work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.