

Check against delivery

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Forty-eighth session, 13-17 April 2015

Informal briefing for Member States

New York, 12 March 2015, 13:15 pm to 14:30 pm
ECOSOC Chamber

**Statement by Mr. Barney Cohen, Assistant Director
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Good afternoon, excellencies, delegates, colleagues.

Sign-in sheet

First, let me kindly remind all participants to please sign in on the sheets that are being circulated in the room, if you have not already done so.

Please write your name, the mission or organization you are affiliated with, and your email address. This will ensure that the Secretariat has a complete and up-to-date contact list.

Documentation

Regarding the documentation, as Ambassador Frankinet just noted, all Commission documents were submitted on time and have been edited and translated. They are available now at the Population Division's website, www.unpopulation.org.

Meeting rooms

The plenary meetings of the Commission are scheduled to be held in Conference Room 4 in the Conference Building. The informal working group will meet in Conference Room 6 in the Conference Building.

I would strongly recommend that delegations regularly check the UN Journal for any last-minute room changes, as these sometime may occur.

Organization of work

Let me now turn to the organization of work.

On the first day of the resumed session, Monday 13 April, the Commission will elect its officers under agenda item 1. Also under this agenda item, the Commission will finalize the election of the members of the Bureau for the current session.

Adoption of the provisional agenda, the organization of work, and the report of the inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau are considered under agenda item 2.

Under agenda item 3 on “Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”, the Commission will have before it three reports of the Secretary-General: a report on the special theme of the 48th session (E/CN.9/2015/3); a report on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the special theme of the 48th session (E/CN.9/2015/4); and a report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2015/5).

It is expected that statements under this agenda item will build on the three new reports of the Secretary-General and on other new and emerging demographic challenges that will have important ramifications for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

On Monday, 13 April between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm, there will be a keynote address on the theme of “Population dynamics and sustainable development”. Ms. Agnès Soucat, Director, Human Development, African Development Bank has been invited to deliver the keynote address. H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet, Ambassador of Belgium to the United Nations and Chairperson of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development will moderate the interactive discussion following the keynote address.

On Monday afternoon, agenda item 4, general debate on national experience in population matters, will begin. Countries are encouraged to make substantive statements about their national population experiences, with a focus either on the special theme of the session or on other population matters of national importance. Delegations may also wish to provide suggestions on best practices or lessons learned on the basis of national experience in implementing population policies and programmes. Identification of new and emerging demographic challenges that will have implications for meeting the goals and targets of the new post-2015 development agenda would also be relevant here. Item 4 is scheduled to conclude on Wednesday afternoon.

On Tuesday, 14 April between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm, Professor Suzana Cavenaghi, from the National School of Statistical Science and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will deliver a keynote address on the theme of “Reproductive health, gender and sustainable development.” The keynote will be followed by an interactive discussion moderated by Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.

On Wednesday, 15 April from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, there will be a panel discussion on “Integrating population issues into sustainable development”. The confirmed panelists so far are:

- Professor Lori Hunter from the Department Sociology and the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder
- Professor Jacob R. S. Malungo from the University of Zambia
- Professor Gita Sen, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and Harvard School of Public Health

On Wednesday afternoon, the Commission will commence agenda item 5 on the contribution of this year's Commission to the theme of ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review, or AMR. The AMR theme for this year is "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals (SDGs): What will it take." We are pleased to announce that the Vice-President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Drobnjak, has agreed to make a presentation under this agenda item on 15 April at 3.00 pm. This presentation is intended to launch a discussion on the relevance of population issues to this year's AMR theme and, in view of the transition to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), on the relationship of the Commission to ECOSOC. We would like to encourage you to actively participate in this discussion in order to tie the work of the Commission more closely to the world of its parent body, the Economic and Social Council.

The Bureau decided to dedicate Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning and afternoon to informal consultations, so there will be no plenary meeting taking place at those times. This is reflected on the organization of work.

On Friday morning, the Commission will consider the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014, prepared by the Secretariat, and a note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2016-2017. Member States are invited to make statements in response to the report and note prepared for this agenda item.

This will be followed by action on draft proposals, the consideration of the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session and the adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

Immediately following the closing of the forty-eighth session on Friday 17 April, the forty-ninth session will open for the sole purpose of electing the new members of the Bureau. Following the principle of geographical rotation, as stated in decision 2005/2 on the methods of work of the CPD, the group of African States will chair the Bureau of the forty-ninth session. In this regard, allow me to remind the regional groups to submit their candidates for Bureau members of the forty-ninth session of the CPD to the Secretary of the Commission as soon possible but no later than 2 April.

Ground passes for delegates

We have been advised by the UN security service that delegates who need ground passes to attend the Commission will need to submit their request at least 48 hours in advance to UN Security.

Note verbale and travel annex

The Secretary of the Commission, on behalf of the Secretary-General, sent a note verbale to Members of the Commission and to UN Member States informing them of the forthcoming session. The note verbale to CPD Members included a travel annex. Those delegations that qualify and that wish to have the United Nations pay the travel, but not subsistence expenses, for one member of their delegation are advised to contact the Population Division as soon as possible. The note verbale and the travel annex forms have also been posted on the Population Division webpage.

NGOs

We again welcome the participation of NGO representatives in consultative status with ECOSOC. Pre-registration of NGO representatives will close on 31 March and registration of the pre-registered participants will take place on the morning of 13 April outside the visitors' entrance on 46th street. We have secured an overflow room to accommodate NGO representatives, if there is not enough space in the plenary room. NGOs with ECOSOC accreditation can submit their requests to make an oral statement by 10 April. They should send their requests to CPD48NGO@un.org

Side events

We have received expressions of interest from permanent missions, UN entities, and non-governmental organizations to organize side events. If you are considering organizing such an event, please contact us as soon as possible, but no later than 6 April, since room availability might be an issue. Once we receive final confirmations, we will post a schedule of side events on the CPD website. More information on organizing side events is posted on the website of the Population Division. In case you decide to organize a side event, please send your request to CPD48@un.org.

Reception

Traditionally, the Population Division and UNFPA will jointly host a reception for delegations to the Commission. The reception will be held on Monday, 13 April at 6:00 p.m. The location for the reception remains to be determined.

Briefing on the substantive reports of the Secretary-General

Excellencies, delegates, colleagues, lastly I have the pleasure to announce that the Population Division and UNFPA will organize a briefing for Member States on the thematic reports of the Secretary-General that have been prepared for the session. The briefing will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber on 24 March from 10.00 am-12.00 pm. All interested members of delegations, representatives of non-governmental organizations and UN staff are invited to attend.

Thank you, Madame Chair.