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**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
FIFTY-SECOND SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: 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 2018: POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2019/5)**

STATEMENT BY:

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Mister Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of introducing document E/CN.9/2019/5, a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2018.

Mister Chairperson,

The objective of the work programme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda. We are charged to effectively facilitate reviews by Member States and other stakeholders of progress made in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mister Chairperson,

The report describes the work of the Population Division in the substantive areas we cover, including fertility and family planning; health and mortality; international migration; global population estimates and projections; urbanization and spatial distribution; population policies; and population ageing. It also describes our work in intergovernmental support, data dissemination, and technical cooperation.

The work of the Population Division, along with the rest of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is increasingly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would like to highlight in this presentation some of the specific ways in which we have strengthened our work to support the SDGs.

The Division is custodian or co-custodian for three SDG indicators, and a partner agency for several others. In 2018, the Division released *World Contraceptive Use 2018*, a comprehensive data set of survey-based estimates of contraceptive prevalence and of unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age who are married or in a union. The data compiled in *World Contraceptive Use 2018* were used to generate a comprehensive set of annual, model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period from 1970 to 2030, published as *Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2018*. These two data products provide information relevant for the annual update of national, regional and global monitoring of SDG indicator 3.7.1, proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.

In order to advance the relevant analytical methods, the Division published a technical paper on methods for generating model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators pertaining to all women of reproductive age. As a result of that work, in 2019, for the first time, the global reporting of progress on target 3.7 will be based on estimates pertaining to all women of reproductive age and will no longer be restricted to women who are married or in a union.

As custodian for SDG indicator 3.7.2 on the adolescent birth rate, the Population Division provided its annual update on the fertility rate for women aged 15–19, now available for 206 countries or areas for the period from 2000 to 2017. In order to improve the information available for the younger adolescent age group, 10-14, the Population Division reviewed available census, survey and administrative data that can be used to estimate the birth rate for these ages. The Division plans to release analyses based on the data for ages 10-14 during 2019.

In 2018, the Division conducted the twelfth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. The Inquiry, mandated by the General Assembly since 1962 and conducted at five-year intervals since that date, has been periodically updated for the monitoring

of internationally agreed development goals. The Inquiry was revamped in this latest round in response to data needs during the SDG era.

Module III of the Inquiry was updated, following a round of regional workshops and online consultations with Member States, to collect information for the monitoring of SDG indicator 10.7.2 on the Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies. The new module was developed and implemented in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration as co-custodian of the indicator, also with support from OECD as a partner agency. In November 2018, following agreement on how to define and measure the new indicator, its status was upgraded from Tier III to Tier II by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.

In addition, Module II of the Inquiry was updated in collaboration with UNFPA. It is being used to obtain critical information for the global monitoring of SDG indicator 5.6.2 on the number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education, for which UNFPA is the custodian and DESA is a partner agency.

As an aside, the Population Division kindly requests all Governments that have not yet done so to submit their responses to the Inquiry as soon as possible, both for the monitoring of these two SDG indicators and for continuation of the long time series of population policy data made possible by this long-standing survey. These data, and related analyses, will be released later in 2019 as part of the *World Population Policies* suite of outputs.

During 2018, the Division continued its participation in long-standing inter-agency groups, which support collaboration amongst UN system entities on infant, child and maternal mortality, as part of the global monitoring of indicators for Goal 3 on healthy lives and well-being for all.

In addition, the Population Division has participated actively in the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, especially concerning the work of the UN system to build a system for the global monitoring of progress on the SDGs. In this context, we conducted a survey among UN system entities serving as custodian agencies for SDG indicators about their use of data produced by the Population Division. The survey revealed that Population Division data are being used for the global monitoring of more than one-third of indicators currently classified in Tiers I and II – in other words, for one third of the indicators for which there is already an intergovernmental agreement on how to measure them.

Mr. Chairperson,

Some SDG indicators pertaining to sustainable cities depend on data from the Population Division. In May of last year, the Division launched the 2018 Revision of *World Urbanization Prospects*, containing the latest estimates and projections of the urban and rural populations of 233 countries or areas, covering the period 1950 to 2050. The data release also includes estimates and projections of population size, from 1950 to 2035, for nearly 1,900 urban settlements with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2018.

Other major global data sets from the Population Division, including the *World Population Prospects* data set as well as estimated numbers of international migrants, are currently under production and will be released later in 2019.

Furthermore, as we have heard in the discussions this week, population ageing is an increasingly salient concern of all regions of the globe as they plan for the further implementation of the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda. In 2018 the Division updated its data sets on living arrangements of older persons and on household size and composition. Interactive, graphical country profiles from these data sets are available on our website. To build capacity in evidence-based policymaking on ageing, the Division organized a regional workshop in Lilongwe, in June 2018, to present the survey methodology and preliminary findings of the Multiple Indicator Survey on Ageing, which was piloted in Malawi through a joint Development Account project with the DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development. The Division is preparing further capacity development activities related to population ageing and to population estimates and projections in 2019.

Mr. Chairperson,

In addition to the support provided to the Commission on Population and Development, in 2018 the Division supported the General Assembly's biennial consideration of the topic of international migration and development, both by preparing a report of the Secretary-General and by servicing the informal consultations that led to resolution 73/241.

The Division is contributing actively to the nascent UN Network on Migration to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted in December 2018. The Division is the focal point for this work within DESA, which serves as a member of the Network's Executive Committee. In particular, the Division, together with IOM, assisted in the organization of the High-Level Debate on International Migration and Development held by the President of the General Assembly on 27 February 2019 and is currently supporting consultations in the General Assembly on the International Migration Review Forum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, the Population Division remains committed to assisting the work of the Commission on Population and Development, including by providing fact-based, timely and relevant data and analyses across the broad range of topics at the intersection of population and development. We are currently developing our 2020 work programme to make the Division's work more targeted, more accessible and more relevant to countries as they seek to integrate population patterns and trends into their national development planning. We will continue to assist Member States and the international community to review and assess the progress being made toward the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action and toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

As always, the Division welcomes and appreciates the comments of Member States on our work.