

**STATEMENT TO THE FORTY-THIRD 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 2009: POPULATION DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2010/6)**

**PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2013: SUBPROGRAMME 6,
POPULATION, OF PROGRAMME 7, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2010/7)**

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour of introducing two documents on the work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The first, E/CN.9/2010/6, is a report describing the activities of the Population Division in 2009. The second, E/CN.9/2009/7, is a note containing the proposed programme plan of the Population Division for the biennium 2012-2013.

During 2008-2009, the overall objective of the subprogramme on population was “to enable the international community to better understand and effectively address current and foreseeable population issues and population dimensions of development at the national and international levels”. In order to meet that objective, the strategic framework for 2008-2009 identified three accomplishments for the subprogramme. The first was to effectively facilitate the review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly. The second was to enhance awareness of new and emerging population issues and to increase knowledge and understanding at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth and population ageing. The third was to improve the accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, civil society and academia.

Mr. Chairman, the Population Division fulfilled the achievements established by the strategic framework by carrying out a varied set of activities and producing high-quality outputs for the dissemination of its work. The report of the Secretary-General contains a comprehensive account of the activities and achievements of the Population Division during 2009. I will highlight selected activities and accomplishments that reflect the breadth and depth of the Population Division's work and its continued efforts to innovate.

The Population Division covers all areas of population analysis, as reflected by the work of its substantive Sections, which focus on fertility and family planning, mortality and health, migration, population policy, population estimates and projections, and population and development. Work on those substantive areas lays the groundwork for the reports of the Secretary General on the special themes selected by the Commission on Population and Development or requested by other bodies and for the preparation of substantive studies, wall charts and databases for the dissemination of information.

Mr. Chairman, because most of the work of the Population Division centres on the preparation of estimates of different aspects of population dynamics, a useful vehicle for their timely dissemination is the wall chart. **[Slide]** During 2009, the Population Division issued wall charts entitled *World Fertility Patterns*, *World Contraceptive Use*, *World Mortality*, *Population Ageing and Development*, *International Migration* and *World Population Trends*. As you see, they constitute a colourful array of outputs that are very sought after by NGOs, government offices, universities, schools and libraries. Each provides up-to-date information on relevant indicators for each topic as well as maps, graphic representations of the information contained in them and a summary of the main findings on each topic. The wall charts are posted on the Population Division's website and the data contained in them are generally downloadable in Excel format to facilitate their use.

In order to raise awareness about population issues, the Population Division has been producing newsletters, briefs and fact sheets. **[Slide]** Using the format of short articles, these outputs allow the rapid dissemination of findings about current or emerging issues. In 2009, they included an article on the findings of the latest update of *World Population Prospects*, which provides a full set of national population estimates and projections to 2050;

a policy brief on how to speed up progress in the achievement of key MDGs; articles on international migration trends; overviews of relevant international migration meetings, and articles on urbanization and population ageing. This type of outputs allows the rapid and focused dissemination of policy-relevant information. The Population Division intends to increase the number of outputs of this type in the future.

In addition, the Population Division continues to prepare a number of in-depth and comprehensive reports. **[Slide]** They include recurring publications, such as *World Population Ageing*, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, and *World Population Policies: The 2009 Revision*. Each presents a global review of the latest information available on a general topic and the volumes on *World Population Prospects* constitute just one of the vehicles for the dissemination of the comprehensive set of estimates and projections of national populations prepared by the Population Division.

The Division also produces special reports on specific issues. The report entitled *Child Adoption: Trends and Policies* is such an example. It presents an in-depth analysis of trends and policies on child adoption that breaks new ground in many respects. The report includes a useful compilation of data on child adoptions, discusses separately the characteristics of children adopted domestically and those adopted through inter-country adoptions, and provides guidelines for the improvement of statistics on child adoption, an improvement that is essential to facilitate international comparisons and to assess better the implementation of policies to safeguard the rights and safety of the children involved.

Mr. Chairman,

Because a major part of the output of the Population Division's work involves the preparation of estimates and projections of population indicators and because users of this information usually wish or need to manipulate them further for analytical purposes, an essential means of dissemination of such information is in electronic format, either through databases accessible online or through CD-ROMs containing files in Excel format. **[Slide]** Users of this information range from car companies wishing to explore the potential for expanding their markets to national statistical offices carrying out international comparisons,

and include also journalists, academics, NGOs and virtually all organizations in the United Nations system that need population data in order to calculate other relevant indicators. As you can see, the Population Division has issued datasets on CD-ROM covering all relevant population areas: fertility, contraception, marriage, urbanization, international migration, population ageing, and population policies. These CD-ROMs are popular, providing comprehensive data in well-documented and user-friendly formats.

Several datasets produced by the Population Division are also accessible as interactive databases online. **[Slide]** As everyone knows, the internet has become the preferred medium for dissemination of information and through its interactive databases the Population Division has been able to reach a very large number of users. During 2009, the Population Division posted updates of its databases on population policies, the international migrant stock, populations in urban areas and cities, and on *World Population Prospects*.

Because the Population Division carries out basic research whose products are necessary for and used by the United Nations system, it is actively engaged in coordinating its work and strengthening collaboration with the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. **[Slide]** To do so, it organizes or co-organizes a number of coordination meetings. In 2009, the Division organized the eighth edition of the Coordination Meeting on International Migration, a useful event that brings together representatives of all units in the United Nations system engaged in work on international migration as well as representatives of Governments, research centres on international migration and selected NGOs. The Coordination Meeting has become an important means of ensuring that the outcomes of the Global Forum on Migration and Development are shared in a timely manner with the United Nations system and other relevant organizations.

In 2009, the Population Division continued to be actively engaged in the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation to coordinate with UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank the preparation of estimates of under-five and infant mortality for the MDG database. It has also participated in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the MDGs and is the only unit in the United Nations proper responsible for the monitoring key MDG targets.

During 2009, the Division successfully led a Task Team on Population Estimates set up by the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities to improve coordination within the United Nations system on the use of population estimates. And the Population Division continued to represent the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the Global Migration Group.

In 2009, the Population Division organized or co-organized a number of expert meetings. In collaboration with ESCWA, it co-organized a Regional Workshop on International Migration Statistics held in Cairo, Egypt. In addition, the Population Division collaborated with CELADE, the Population Division of ECLAC, in organizing an Expert Group Meeting on Population Ageing, Intergenerational Transfers and Social Protection, which, among other things, discussed the effects of the economic and financial crises on pensions and the economic status of older persons in developing countries.

In preparation for the current session of the Commission, the Population Division convened an Expert Group Meeting on Health, Mortality and Development, where participants reviewed the main challenges related to health and discussed ways of addressing them. And, in preparation of the next session of the Commission, the Population Division organized an Expert Group

Meeting on Recent and Future Trends in Fertility to discuss the variety of fertility trends around the world and their implications for development.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of its programme on technical cooperation, the Population Division continued to support the development of the web-based multilingual demographic encyclopaedia, “Demopaedia”, which enables collaborative work across borders in different languages. Interest in Demopaedia continues to grow, as indicated by the participation of population specialists in the training session on Demopaedia organized by the Division at the twenty-sixth International Conference on Population last September, the largest gathering of professional population specialists in the world.

In order to support capacity development, the Division scanned and posted online the entire set of its demographic manuals, most of which are out of print but remain in demand. In addition, with the financial assistance of UNFPA and in collaboration with ESCWA, the Population Division organized a Workshop on Strengthening the Analytical Capacity in Census Analysis in Developing Countries, which was held in Beirut, Lebanon, last November.

Mr. Chairman,

These are the highlights of our work. I turn now to a brief presentation of the draft of the proposed programme plan of the Population Division for the biennium 2012-2013 contained in document E/CN.9/2009/7. The document presents the programme narrative, including its 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 fifth Session. The Commission is invited to review the programme plan, provide comments and take note of it.

To conclude, let me note that the accomplishments of the Population Division depend on two major assets. First, we enjoy excellent working relations with the regional commissions, UNFPA, other United Nations agencies and funds, and with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Second, the Population Division is lucky to have a highly qualified, experienced and fiercely devoted staff. It is because of these assets that the work of the Population Division continues to be relevant and valued in the field.

The Population Division also relies on the support and cooperation of Member States. Without the information and data they generate, our work would not advance. In that regard, Mr. Chairman, allow me to point out that many Member States have not yet responded to the Tenth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. We appeal to those present here, who have not yet done so, to provide us with the requested information, which is essential to review progress made in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. And, as always we welcome and appreciate the comments of Member States on our work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.