

Economic and Social Council
2017 Session

Commission on Population and Development
Fiftieth Session

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Closing Remarks

Statement by Ms. Marianne Tønnesen
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Madam Chair,

Norway, too, would like to commend the Population Division on its good work.

The report on *Changing population age structures and sustainable development* provides an excellent summary of the challenges and the possibilities we are facing.

The report on the Population Division's program implementation shows a wide range of activities, including releases of large datasets and reports, training workshops and the contributing to high-level meetings.

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We also want to emphasize the importance and high value of your work with the World Population Prospects and your population projections for every country. These projections have a unique position in the world. Even in countries like Norway, where we make our own population projections, we use the UN projections as a benchmark, and we look to the Population Division for innovations and improvements of projection methodologies.

In the field of population, high quality data are invaluable. Trustworthy data provide a necessary fundament for all discussions about the challenges and opportunities associated with a changed population, and eventually also for all well-designed policies.

In a world where we often meet unreliable information and faulty data – perhaps to an even increasing extent – it is extremely important to have agencies that provide impartial and research based data. We may disagree about many population policy issues, but when we at least agree about the basis for the debates, it is easier to discuss different policy objectives and different ways to achieve these objectives.

That is why the Population Division is so important. In the endeavor to provide the best possible basis for population discussions and policies, close cooperation between the Population Division and the UNFPA is essential in the preparation of reports to the CPDs annual sessions.

Norway wishes you all the best for your work and your activities the next year, including the preparations for the next population projections.

Thank you.

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