

**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
FIFTIETH 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 2016: POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2017/5)**

**NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE PERIOD  
2018-2019: SUBPROGRAMME 5, POPULATION, OF PROGRAMME 7, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2017/CRP.1)**

**STATEMENT BY:**

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**NEW YORK, 6 APRIL 2017**

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

I have the honour of introducing document E/CN.9/2017/5, a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2016, and document E/CN.9/2017/CRP.1, on the draft programme of work for the period 2018-2019 for the subprogramme on population, which is part of the programme on economic and social affairs.

Madame Chairperson,

As you recall, in 1995, the Population Division was tasked with the monitoring and appraisal of the broad range of topics covered by the Programme of Action of the International Conference

on Population and Development. The work of the Division also has been shaped by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, and by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including those pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition to its extensive analytic output, the Population Division serves as the Secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development and supports intergovernmental activities in the field of international migration and development.

Madame Chairperson,

I am pleased to report that in 2016 the Population Division made significant progress in implementing its programme of work. Please allow me to highlight a few of its activities based on the Division's main substantive lines of work.

On the topic of fertility and family planning, the Population Division published the *World Contraceptive Use 2016*, a comprehensive data set of family planning indicators derived directly from survey information or other sources, as well as the *Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2016*, providing annual estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period from 1970 to 2030. The model-based estimates provide information for the global monitoring of SDG indicator 3.7.1 (demand satisfied by modern methods). Since 2014, the further development of the Division's work on family planning indicators has been supported by extrabudgetary contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Regarding health and mortality, the Population Division completed the *World Mortality Report 2015: Highlights*, which presents a concise overview of levels and trends in mortality for key age groups and includes an analysis of socio-economic inequalities in child mortality. The Population Division has continued to compile and document data suitable for the evaluation of mortality levels and trends using information from civil registration, as well as data on adult and old-age mortality derived from censuses and surveys in countries with incomplete or deficient civil registration systems.

In the area of international migration, the Population Division organized the Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, which was held in New York in February 2016. The meeting took stock of the progress made in implementing the migration-related commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the Declaration of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. It also provided a venue to coordinate activities and initiatives undertaken in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, which took place on 19 September 2016. During 2016, the Division responded to an unprecedented number of requests for briefing notes, talking points and statements on international migration and related issues for senior officials of the United Nations.

Madame Chairperson,

As part of its work on population policies, the Division published a data booklet on “Policies on Spatial Distribution and Urbanization”, presenting information on selected government policies to promote rural development and sustainable urbanization. In 2016, the Division continued its work toward the development of the *Global Abortion Policies* project, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The goal of the project is to develop an interactive, open-access database of information about abortion laws and policies.

As part of the Division’s ongoing review of topics related to population and development, the Population Division continued its work to document the process of urbanization around the world, publishing a data booklet on “The World’s Cities in 2016”, which highlights current and future trajectories of city populations around the globe. The booklet focuses on the period from 2016 to 2030 and is based on data from the *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*.

In 2016, the Population Division initiated the development of an interactive database to archive and display geographic coordinates of city boundaries according to various definitions and the size of the associated populations as enumerated in national censuses. Another example of the Division’s work on population and development is its analysis of population ageing. In the framework of the national transfer accounts, the Population Division released a technical paper in 2016 on “Support ratios and demographic dividends: estimates for the world”.

The Population Division has continued to support intergovernmental processes on topics related to population and development, including migration and development. To this end, the Division worked on the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the special themes of the 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. In addition, for the 49<sup>th</sup> session in April 2016, the Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends. By request from ECOSOC, it also prepared a note on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development.

The Population Division has actively supported intergovernmental discussions of international migration taking place in the General Assembly. In 2016, it prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the consideration of that item by the Second Committee during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, and then supported the intergovernmental negotiation of GA resolution 71/237.

The Population Division supported the work of the Special Adviser appointed to lead the preparation of the Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September, and the work of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. The Division also supported the co-facilitators who led the intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome of the Summit, known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (or General Assembly resolution 71/1).

The Population Division convenes expert group meetings both to advance its analytic work and to strengthen the substantive aspects of its support for intergovernmental processes. In October 2016, it convened an expert group meeting on changing population age structures and sustainable development to gather inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission in 2017. Also, in November 2016, with support from Statistics Korea, the national statistical office of the Republic of Korea, the Population Division convened an expert group meeting on methodologies for evaluating the completeness and quality of vital statistics data derived from civil registration systems.

The Population Division contributed in 2016 to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. It published a comprehensive collection of survey-based estimates of family planning indicators

which informed the Secretary-General's report on global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2016/75), in particular, regarding target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning. During 2016, the Population Division also contributed to the work on indicators to measure SDG targets 3.1 and 3.2 on newborn, child and maternal mortality. The Population Division also worked with the International Organization on Migration and other partners on developing the methodology for measuring SDG indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with well-managed migration policies.

During 2016, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website, which provides access to timely population information. In collaboration with the Communications and Information Management Service of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Division produced four videos on population-related topics. The Division ensured that all briefings for Member States that had been webcasted were made available through the Division's website.

In the field of capacity development, the Population Division organized three workshops in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa as part of a project supported by the Development Account on strengthening capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to the production and use of population estimates and projections. Together with DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Government of Malawi, the Population Division organized a regional workshop on the production and use of survey data to obtain better information on the population of older persons. In addition, the Population Division and the Statistics Division of DESA co-organized a workshop on the collection and use of data on migration and related topics, held in Rome in 2016.

As indicated earlier, Madame Chairperson, these are just a few highlights of the Population Division's diverse portfolio of activities. Finally, the second document under consideration, E/CN.9/2017/CRP.1, contains a narrative description of the Division's work programme, as well as a list of outputs formulated within the proposed strategic framework of subprogramme. The

Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and to review the proposed outputs to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

Madame Chairperson,

Let me conclude by saying that this year we are celebrating both the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development, and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first session of its predecessor, the Population Commission, which met for the first time in 1947. On that occasion, the Secretary-General recognized that the task of building a peaceful world with a richer life for all requires addressing the challenges posed by population trends. He expressed his hope that if we are successful in solving these global problems the generations of tomorrow will be a healthier, stronger, better educated, and happier human race. This observation is as relevant today as it was 70 years ago.

The Population Division remains committed to assisting in the work of the Commission on Population and Development by providing fact-based, timely and relevant data and analysis on topics in the area of population and development. In order to respond to the increasing demand for data, analysis and services, combined with the expectation to absorb these within its limited available resources, the Population Division has been exploring ways to streamline its work by reducing the frequency of production for certain outputs, while reinvesting the time saved toward improving its various outputs. The Division is also investing in becoming more self-efficient, by producing publications in-house and posting them online rather than printing them. The Division is building better data management platforms and seeking more efficient and cost effective means of producing the large, global datasets that are at the core of its work program. The Division is also seeking to strengthen its collaboration with other UN entities and international organizations.

Overall, the Division remains committed to serving Member States and the international community, so that they can make informed judgements about progress toward the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action at the global, regional and local levels and contribute to the follow-up and review of the achievements of the 2030 Agenda.

As always, we welcome and appreciate the comments of Member States on our work. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to complete the questionnaire about the work programme of the Population Division that has been circulating in this room.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.