



POPULATION *Newsletter*

Number 80

December 2005

UNITED NATIONS FOURTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations organized the Fourth Coordination Meeting on International Migration from 26 to 27 October 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The main objectives of the Meeting were: (a) to discuss the implications of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) and its recommendations for the work on international migration of the United Nations system and for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) that the United Nations General Assembly would conduct during its sixty-first session in 2006; and (b) to share information on recent activities of participant organizations that were most relevant for the HLD or that should be considered in the substantive preparations of the HLD. In particular, the Meeting aimed to identify the key aspects of international migration and development that should be considered in the HLD. The Coordination Meeting was attended by 85 representatives of the offices, agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions of the United Nations system, as well as those of other intergovernmental organizations or institutions active in the field of international migration. Also present were invited experts and representatives of Member States of the United Nations. The Meeting was the fourth in a series of Coordination Meetings on International Migration.

Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division of DESA introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development (A/60/205) that was to be presented to the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 27 October 2005. She indicated that the purpose of the HLD was to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impact. The report presented the proposed organizational details of the HLD scheduled for 14-15 September 2006. Member States would be

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encouraged to participate in the HLD at the highest possible level.

Mr. Rolf Jenny, Executive Director of the GCIM Secretariat, introduced the GCIM Report, noting that it was not a final product but a starting point. The report built upon the debates on international migration that had taken place since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and presented both novel and established ideas. The mandate of the Global Commission had been to place international migration on the political agenda at all levels. Specifically, the Commission had been requested to promote a comprehensive debate on international migration among States and other actors; analyse gaps in current approaches to international migration; examine linkages between international migration and other global issues; and present appropriate recommendations to the Secretary-General, Governments and other stakeholders. Mr. Jenny stressed that the Commission's key mandate was to provide a normative framework for the formulation of a coherent, comprehensive and global response to international migration issues. The inclusion of the business sector and its linkages with international migration were important, given that this sector had been largely neglected in previous discussions on international migration. Greater coherence, cooperation and capacity would be required for the more effective governance of international migration at the national, regional and global levels. International migration policies could not be addressed in isolation, but had to be examined in relation to policies on development, trade, good governance and human security. They should be based on shared objectives and a common vision. Therefore, the report of the Global Commission proposed a framework based on six principles and 33 recommendations. Mr. Jenny pointed out that, because of the regional specificities of international migration, a top-down approach to migration management was not appropriate. Instead, Member States were encouraged to focus on those recommendations that best addressed their needs.

Greater coherence, cooperation and capacity would be required for the more effective governance of international migration at the national, regional and global levels. International migration policies could not be addressed in isolation, but had to be examined in relation to policies on development, trade, good governance and human security. They should be based on shared objectives and a common vision.

There was broad consensus among participants that the Commission had produced a comprehensive report in a short time. The Population Division had compared the recommendations from the ICPD Programme of Action with those of the GCIM report and found that over half of the GCIM recommendations were similar to those in the ICPD Programme of Action. There was a vigorous exchange of views on the value of the report and its implications for the HLD. Participants noted that the recommendations did not address the need for the timely collection, analysis and dissemination of international migration data, especially of statistics on return and circular migration, skilled migration, household migration, indigenous people who migrated and remittances. Some participants called on Governments to create a more inclusive environment by improving integration efforts, so as to ensure that international migrants and refugees felt safe and were treated fairly. It was also felt that insufficient attention had been accorded to irregular migration. Moreover, it was felt that the United Nations system could play an important role in addressing international migration issues and that it was important to go beyond the mere coordination of activities. The United Nations could promote information sharing and research, particularly related to how best to translate knowledge into effective policy. Participants also pointed out that the report lacked clarity about the type of mechanism it envisaged to enhance the impact of the United Nations system in addressing migration issues. Some participants considered that different levels of priority should have been assigned to the recommendations proposed and that it would have been important to set goals and a timetable to reach them so that progress could be assessed. A number of participants suggested that, given national sovereignty, coordination and cooperation were most likely to be effective at the bilateral and regional levels. Others thought that there was need for cooperation at the global level and suggested the creation of an intergovernmental forum on international migration which would meet periodically.

Mr. Jenny pointed out that the report had analysed the changing dynamics of international migration in the context of globalization. It had focused on ways to improve the impact of international migration for all, especially in relation to the global labour market. Through international migration, both resource-poor and resource-rich countries might achieve a better balance between labour supply and demand over time. The Global

Commission had also focused on ways to manage human capital better. He considered that the HLD would be the next step in ensuring that international migration contributed to development. With respect to recommendation 33, relating to the creation of a global facility on international migration, Mr. Jenny noted that, if established, it would need to respond to three priorities: (a) the need to establish consistent policies and coordinate activities among the different institutions working on international migration since no single organization could cover all the issues related to the topic; (b) the need to pool expertise on international migration, and (c) the need to promote coherence within the United Nations system.

Participants focused next on the aspects of international migration and development most relevant for the HLD, including labour migration, migration of the highly-skilled and remittances. Some participants called for greater emphasis on, and a more holistic approach to, development in the preparations for the HLD and for devising better ways of linking key development objectives of the international community—such as the Millennium Development Goals—to salient aspects of international migration. Greater emphasis on the nexus between international migration and development in the context of Africa was also called for, with participants noting that many of the bilateral and multilateral development initiatives in the coming years would focus on that region. Some participants stressed that, to be effective, the HLD should focus on a selected number of key themes. The importance of remittances as a tool for promoting development as well as the need for policy mechanisms to ensure that countries benefited from the experience of their migrant communities abroad were emphasized. It was suggested that the HLD embrace a multidisciplinary approach. Representatives of participating organizations shared information on recent activities that should be taken into account in the preparation of the HLD.

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social

Affairs, closed the Meeting. He underscored the importance of understanding the regional and sub-regional dimensions of international migration, including bilateral processes, and noted that the High-level Dialogue provided a major opportunity to cement cooperation at the international level. He remarked that respect for human rights was a cornerstone of the normative edifice supporting international migration and remarked that States exercised their national sovereignty when deciding to abide by international instruments. He noted that, in this regard, there was widespread agreement among States on the need to extend international protection to refugees and the imperative of combating trafficking in persons.

With respect to the linkages between international migration and development, Mr. Ocampo stressed that countries of origin could take a number of measures to realize or enhance the positive impact of international migration on development and poverty reduction by, for instance, working to reduce the transfer costs of remittances, facilitating access by migrants and their families to financial institutions and fostering the productive use of remittances, particularly through the active involvement of migrant associations in the development of home communities. He added that, in all instances, authorities should respect the fact that remittances were private funds and should be treated accordingly. He added that it was also desirable to promote return migration and the creation of transnational knowledge networks with the active involvement of migrants abroad.

The full report of the Fourth Coordination Meeting on International Migration is available by contacting the Office of the Director, Population Division, DC2-1950, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA; fax: 212-963-2147. The report can also be downloaded from the United Nations Population Division's website on international migration at www.unmigration.org.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A proposal on the organizational details of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was presented in the Secretary-General's report number A/60/205 on International Migration and Development which was considered by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. This report responded to resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003 in which the General Assembly had decided to conduct a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 and to resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004 in which the General Assembly had established that the High-level Dialogue would be held during its sixty-first session.

According to paragraph 10 of resolution 58/208, the purpose of the High-level Dialogue would be to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The High-level Dialogue should have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals and it would include round tables and informal exchanges. The outcome of the High-level Dialogue would be a Chairperson's summary that would be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations.

In resolution 59/241, the General Assembly recognized the important contributions that international and regional efforts, including those by the regional commissions, could provide to the High-level Dialogue. The Assembly also invited appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue. In particular, the General Assembly took note of the establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration

whose report would be available for the High-level Dialogue.

At the request of the General Assembly (resolution 59/241), the Secretary-General would prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education. Such report would constitute the substantive input for the High-level Dialogue.

The report on international migration and development detailing the proposed organizational aspects of the High-level Dialogue was largely based on established practices for the preparation of other recent high-level meetings of the General Assembly. It suggested that the Dialogue include both plenary meetings and a number of round tables for discussion of specific topics. It also suggested the inclusion of panel discussions.

The General Assembly, following consideration of the report, adopted a resolution on international migration and development (A/RES/60/227) in which it set the dates for the High-level Dialogue (14-15 September 2006) and decided on its organization of work, including the number and timing of plenary meetings and informal interactive round tables. It also called for a preparatory process that would include up to two panels and a day of hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The full text of the resolution is reproduced on pp. 19-21.

For additional information concerning the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, consult www.unmigration.org.

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development that was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 July 2005. The Meeting's objective was to discuss the challenges and opportunities that international migration posed for development. The Meeting would provide inputs for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, which had "International Migration and Development" as its special theme and for the report to be presented to the General Assembly as substantive input for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly would hold from 14 to 15 September 2006.

The Meeting brought together nearly 50 experts and representatives from the regional commissions, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of several intergovernmental organizations.

The main issues addressed at the Meeting were the impact of remittances on development, the international migration of skilled workers and its implications, the economic and demographic impacts of international migration, and the management of international migration flows. Several experts presented new findings from recent studies on each of these topics. Representatives of international and regional organizations provided information on multilateral initiatives in place to improve the productive use of remittances, facilitate linkages between communities of origin and migrant communities abroad, build national capacity to manage international migration, promote cooperation among countries and combat trafficking in persons. The Meeting also provided the opportunity for experts to describe the migration experience of selected countries (Indonesia, Japan,

the Russian Federation and South Africa) and regions (Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean).

Participants noted that remittances constituted one of the largest financial flows to developing countries. It was also pointed out that, although the measurement of remittances had improved over time, official data on remittances were still far from adequate. Experts agreed that remittances were mostly used for daily consumption needs, but they also allowed migrant households to save and invest. A study of rural areas in Mexico suggested that migrant remittances could increase income inequalities within and among communities. Several multilateral initiatives were in place to improve the productive use of remittances and reduce transfer costs.

With regard to the migration of the highly-skilled, recent data showed that the magnitude of skilled migration varied greatly among countries, with small countries in Africa and the Caribbean being most affected by the loss of skilled personnel. Admission policies in countries of destination were increasingly selective on the basis of skills, but all countries were not equally successful at attracting skilled migrants.

Concerning the demographic impact of international migration, a study of migrants from countries in Western Asia and Northern African suggested that international migration could promote fertility decline in countries of origin, with migrants diffusing values that favoured smaller families and information on contraceptive practice.

The papers presented at the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development are available on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

From 30 November to 2 December 2005, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized, in collaboration with the National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO), an Expert Group Meeting to discuss the challenges and opportunities that international migration presents for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Meeting, which took place in Mexico City, provided inputs for a number of events on international migration and development that would take place at the United Nations in 2006, including the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Meeting brought together some 220 participants, including Government representatives from 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States and Spain, experts on international migration, representatives from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and several intergovernmental organizations.

Experts made presentations on recent international migration trends, regional consultative processes, receiving country perspectives, the impact of remittances on development, regional economic integration, the migration of skilled personnel, the gender aspects of international migration and other social and health aspects of migration. In addition, one of the Commissioners of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) presented the main conclusions of the recently released GCIM report.

The presentations showed that the destinations of migrants originating in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were diversifying. While the main country of destination was still the United States, some European countries, notably Spain, and one country in Asia (Japan) were also important destinations. Some participants remarked that the increasingly selective admission policies of

most receiving countries, including those in Latin America, were not consistent with their unsatisfied demand for labour. Remittances constituted a major financial asset for many countries in the region. However, their impact on development was not necessarily as beneficial as it might be.

A recent study on the migration of skilled workers indicated that small countries in the Caribbean and in Central America were particularly affected by such emigration. Policies to stimulate return and create links with expatriates were called for. Participants also recognized the need for policies to reinforce the positive contributions of female migrants and ensure that the international migration of women did not result in exploitation or abuse.

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The Meeting provided a good platform for experts and government officials to engage in lively discussions on each of the topics covered. It also allowed government officials from various countries, representatives of civil society and other stakeholders to exchange views and experiences. Much of the discussion was devoted to identifying issues that would benefit from a multilateral approach as well as to considering ways in which those issues could be addressed. Participants agreed that the exchange of views among experts and key stakeholders had been very useful and noted the need for follow-up on the outcomes of the discussions.

The papers presented at the Expert Group Meeting are available on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING POPULATION AGE STRUCTURES

Countries today differ greatly in age structure. Whereas most developed countries already have relatively old populations, countries in Africa still have very young and rapidly growing populations. In most of Asia and Latin America, the share of the child population is declining and that of the population of working age is growing, while the share of older persons is still relatively low. But rapid change is in store nearly everywhere.

To discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by these trends, the United Nations Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO) of Mexico and with the support of the National Institute of Aging (NIA) of the United States, convened an Expert Group Meeting on the Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population Age Structures. The Meeting took place at the Hotel Fiesta America Reforma in Mexico City from 31 August to 2 September 2005. Four main topics were considered during the Meeting: (1) how changing age structures affect economic growth; (2) the implications of population ageing for social security and pension systems; (3) the impact of ageing on health and health systems; and (4) intergenerational transfers and their importance for the support of older persons.

Changes in age structure had an important influence on the macroeconomic environment during the second half of the 20th century in both the developed and developing world. Age structure will most likely be an equally important force during the next fifty years. How economic growth, levels of poverty, and other macroeconomic factors are shaped by demographic change will depend, however, on how policies and institutions respond to the challenges and opportunities the future holds.

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The Meeting concluded that changes in the age structure of the population can be beneficial for social and economic development. During the demographic transition, as a result of fertility declines, the proportion of children decreases while the proportions of adults and older persons rise. The timing of the changes varies, but essentially every country in the world has experienced or will experience a substantial rise in the share of the population concentrated in the working ages. This “demographic bonus” can boost the rate of economic growth per capita as well as the standard of living. The discussions focused on the institutional settings and public policies required for countries to benefit from the period when the proportion of the population in the working ages rises, and on the experiences of particular countries that are undergoing such transformation.

Even countries that are currently entering the later phase of the demographic transition, which is characterized by rapid population ageing, may experience sustained economic growth. The Meeting discussed the prospect that the period of population ageing might yield a “second demographic bonus”. For this to occur, however, sound policies needed to be in place to foster savings and investment as well as to create decent jobs for those in the labour force.

The Meeting also addressed issues related to the coverage and sustainability of social security and pension schemes, including the implications of low levels of coverage in many parts of the developing world, the consequences of pension reform in Latin America, and the measures that Governments were taking to modify pension systems so as to reduce or control the projected strains on public budgets that population ageing would bring.

In relation to the broader topic of social protection, the discussions focused on the role of public and private intergenerational transfers, with emphasis on the role of family transfers as the main source of support for older persons in the developing countries. Also discussed were the ways in which changes in age structure as well as social programmes could lead to changes in the distribution of income among the younger and older age groups.

Regarding the challenges that population ageing posed for health systems, attention centred on the increasing resources that would be required to cover the health care needs of older people whose medical treatment was very different from that for the young. Of particular concern were the cases of developing countries that were still struggling to combat high rates of childhood disease and lacked the resources to extend even basic health care services to the totality of their populations. The Meeting also discussed the health conditions of older persons in particular countries.

The proceedings of the Meeting will provide input for the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, to be held in 2007, whose special theme will be "The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development".

For more information on the Expert Group Meeting and to access the papers presented, please consult the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT MEETING ON SOFTWARE FOR DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS OF HIV/AIDS

At the meeting of the UNAIDS Reference Group held in Sintra, Portugal in 2004, it was suggested that a review of the various software implementations of the Reference Group's model of the dynamics of the HIV/AIDS pandemic would be useful. Responding to that suggestion and in preparation for the meeting of the UNAIDS Reference Group that would be held in Tours, France in July 2005, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat convened an Expert Meeting on Software for Demographic Projections of HIV/AIDS at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 11 May 2005 (ESA/P/WP.194).

The objective of the meeting was to evaluate, compare and improve procedures for the estimation and projection of the demographic impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The meeting brought together relevant actors working on the development of software to estimate the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS, namely, representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau, the Futures Group and the Population Division. Participants discussed the differences in terms of both methodology and functionality between the three main software packages used to estimate and project the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS.

The meeting reviewed the major features and approaches implemented in the different software packages. First, Mr. Peter Johnson, representing the U.S. Census Bureau, made a comprehensive

presentation of the software used by the U.S. Census Bureau (RUPHivAids), to incorporate the impact of HIV/AIDS in the demographic dynamics of affected populations. In that software, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is driven by incidence levels that are derived by iteration so that they match observed prevalence levels of HIV/AIDS, as supplied by UNAIDS. The software includes procedures that distribute events into single calendar years, taking account of competing risks between background mortality and mortality due to AIDS. RUPHivAids produces a comprehensive set of epidemiological and demographic outputs.

Mr. John Stover, from the Futures Group, discussed the mode of operation of SPECTRUM, the software package developed by the Futures Group. In contrast with the approach followed by RUPHivAids, SPECTRUM models the impact of the epidemic starting with the overall prevalence of HIV/AIDS among adults and assuming a distribution by age and sex for that prevalence. Parameters defining incidence are then back-calculated from the imputed prevalence by age and sex. Mr. Stover noted that one of the primary advantages of SPECTRUM was its user-friendly interface and that users generally employed the program to build scenarios for advocacy purposes or as guidance for policy formulation.

Mr. Thomas Buettner of the Population Division presented the software (AbacusDIM) used by the Population Division for the estimation and

projection of the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS. He noted that, as with RUPHivAids, AbacusDIM was driven by incidence levels. However, the program was developed to be consistent with that in the Estimation and Projection Package (EPP) used by UNAIDS. In an actual application, AbacusDIM was used to fit the estimated trends in HIV prevalence provided by UNAIDS. In most cases, past trends in HIV prevalence were fitted using constant parameters. However, projections were made by changing the value of the fitted parameters in a systematic way in all countries.

Following the presentation of the software packages, the levels and trends for a series of output indicators produced by the different software applications according to two scenarios were presented. Significant differences were identified between the outputs of the respective applications under particular circumstances. The causes of these and other discrepancies were discussed by the participants. Participants identified areas for further improvement, so as to achieve greater consistency in the population estimates and projections produced by the different packages under similar assumptions.

Participants also focused on key areas for which more empirical information was needed. They included the following: HIV incidence and prevalence by age and sex; the effects of anti-retroviral treatment; differential fertility by seropositive status; the impact of international migration, and the need for data from which to derive reliable estimates of adult mortality levels and trends.

The Meeting was able to identify the possible errors in existing software and to determine which features required improvement. The discussion resulted in a number of suggestions and recommendations for the further revision of existing software.

The Report of the United Nations Expert Meeting on Software for Demographic Projections of HIV/AIDS can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Director, Population Division, DC2-1950, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA; fax: 212-963-2147. It is also available for download on the website of the Population Division at www.unpopulation.org.

COMPENDIUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.7) has been issued by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as part of the preparations for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14-15 September 2006. Since 1990, the United Nations has convened a series of international conferences and summits where Governments have made commitments and adopted a series of outcome documents calling for action to improve the well-being of the world's population and attain sustained and sustainable development.

Although no United Nations conference has as yet focused exclusively on international migration, most of the major United Nations conferences held since the 1990s addressed relevant aspects of the

issue and, consequently, have set collectively the elements of a potential United Nations framework for addressing the issues and concerns raised by international migration, particularly as it relates to development.

This *Compendium* has two objectives. The first is to provide the elements of the United Nations framework on international migration by extracting from the outcome documents of the various conferences and summits those parts that relate to international migration. Hence, the *Compendium* presents a compilation of all the relevant principles, guidelines, commitments and recommendations for action in the area of international migration that have been adopted by Member States of the United Nations. Such a set constitutes a solid and comprehensive foundation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to build upon. The United Nations

conferences and summits considered in the compendium include: (a) the two world summits held since 2000; (b) all the intergovernmental conferences on population held since 1974, and (c) other major United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990 that contain recommendations related to international migration.

The second objective of the *Compendium* is to compare the recommendations made by the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) with recommendations or commitments that Member States of the United Nations have adopted by consensus in the various United Nations conferences and summits. Such a comparison helps to distinguish the points where the Commission has broken new ground in addressing international migration from those in which it has reiterated a long-standing consensus on the issue, perhaps with an additional nuance or change of emphasis. The comparison also serves to assess the comprehensiveness of the framework derived from the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits. An earlier comparison between the

Commission's recommendations and those contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) indicated that 14 of the 33 recommendations proposed by the Commission matched closely those already included in the ICPD Programme of Action.

Governments have been actively seeking novel ways of addressing the issues and concerns related to international migration. Therefore, in preparation for the High-level Dialogue, it is important to consider the totality of principles, objectives, commitments and recommendations related to international migration that Member States have adopted. Clearly, as the world prepares to consider the relevance of international migration for development during the High-level Dialogue, easy availability of the material included in this *Compendium* will prove useful.

The *Compendium* is available in printed form and can also be downloaded from the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

The tenth intersessional meeting of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development took place in Banjul, The Gambia, from 19 to 20 December 2005, at the invitation of the Government of The Gambia. Four members of the Bureau participated in the intersessional meeting, Ms. Ewa Fratzak (Poland), Mr. Albert Karl Graf (Germany), His Excellency Mr. Crispin Grey-Johnson (The Gambia) and Ms. Elena Zúñiga Herrera (Mexico). Two representatives from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Ms. Hania Zlotnik and Ms. Vasantha Kandiah, provided Secretariat support for the meeting. A representative from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Mr. Kwabena Osei-Danquah, participated as observer.

The intersessional meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Crispin Grey-Johnson, Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations and Chairman of the Commission on Population and

Development. The Bureau discussed the proposed agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. Recalling that the special theme for the general debate at that session would be "International migration and development", the Bureau stressed that the Commission would make an important contribution to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly would conduct from 14 to 15 September 2006.

The Bureau reaffirmed the usefulness of engaging keynote speakers to address the Commission in the plenary and discuss particular aspects of the special theme being considered. For the thirty-ninth session, the Bureau recommended a list of potential keynote speakers who would address international migration and development issues of particular interest at the regional level and from a global perspective.

The Bureau members considered possible themes for future sessions of the Commission. The Bureau recalled that the Commission had already decided that the special theme for the fortieth session in 2007 would be “the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development” (Commission decision 2005/1). The Bureau took note of the need to establish a multi-year programme for the Commission and suggested that the Commission consider “population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development” as its special theme for the forty-first session in 2008. The Bureau also recommended that the Commission consider conducting a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development during its forty-second session in 2009. The Bureau further recommended that the multi-year work programme of the Commission continue to be based on the annual

review of each of the substantive chapters of the Programme of Action.

The Bureau recommended that the Population Division continue to convene technical meetings to shed light on key population concerns of the international community, including those related to the special themes discussed annually by the Commission. In particular, the Bureau welcomed the work of the Population Division as leader of the population cluster under the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs and its collaboration with the regional commissions on regional activities to provide input for the General Assembly’s High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

The Report of the Intersessional Meeting of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development is available on the website of the Population Division at www.unpopulation.org.

POPULATION CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The reductions of fertility that developing countries began to experience in the 1970s and 1980s have opened up a “window of opportunity” by producing reductions in the share of children in the population and increasing the proportions of persons of working age, according to the report on *Population Challenges and Development Goals* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.8) prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Provided jobs are available for the rising number of workers, developing countries can reap the benefits of the increased production and the lower costs associated with the decreasing proportion of children. These changes can boost the rate of economic growth per capita and raise standards of living, easing the path to fulfilling the goals set in the Millennium Declaration. The experience of the newly industrialized countries in Asia provides an example of this outcome. This report was a useful input for the discussion of the progress made in achieving the goals set in the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations World Summit that took place from 14 to 16 September 2005.

The report examines the interrelations between the goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and those set in the Millennium Declaration, and discusses the various ways in which the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action can contribute to fulfilling the Millennium Declaration. In addition, the report provides an overview of world population trends and reviews population and development policies in order to highlight the wide variety of population trends that characterizes the major world regions today.

The report notes that the group of 50 least developed countries accounts today for 12 per cent of the world population, or 759 million, but is expected to absorb a quarter of all the population growth expected between 2005 and 2015. High fertility levels characterize the majority of the least developed countries. In addition, they exhibit high levels of extreme poverty, with 20 per cent of their combined population living on less than one dollar a day. In 10 of those countries, extreme poverty levels are higher than 40 per cent. Least developed countries would benefit the most from reductions of

fertility brought about by the prevention of unwanted births, which the ICPD Programme of Action aims to achieve, although reductions of extreme poverty would also require the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies to increase economic growth, create jobs and raise the income share of the poor.

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At the global level, extreme poverty may indeed be halved because of the advances being made by China and India, which together account for 2.4 billion of the world's 6.5 billion people. Today, both countries have historically low levels of population dependency. In China, there are five children and older persons for every 10 persons of working age, while in India the equivalent figure is six. Although both countries have sizeable proportions of the population living in extreme poverty—17 per cent in China and 35 per cent in India—their economic growth has been substantial in recent times and is benefiting from the favourable age distribution of the population resulting from the reductions of fertility that each country has attained. The demography of many other developing countries whose fertility has declined markedly in the past three decades is equally favourable, and together with sound macroeconomic and social policies can facilitate the reduction of poverty worldwide.

The ICPD Programme of Action, just as the Millennium Declaration, stresses the importance of achieving universal education by 2015, especially for girls. It also calls for extending education for all to the secondary level. Research shows that improving educational attainment is crucial for economic development because it increases human capital and initiates a virtuous circle whereby better educated parents favour the education of their children, take measures to improve the health of their offspring, and are better able to have the number of children they desire. Countries experiencing high fertility and rapid population growth have been hard pressed to ensure that all

children get a primary education. Slowing their population growth by reducing fertility would facilitate the achievement of that goal, and requires that the poor and less educated segments of society get the information and means to achieve their desired family size.

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Both the ICPD Programme of Action and the Millennium Declaration call for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that both are important in combating poverty and hunger and in attaining sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the Programme of Action not only suggests measures to improve the status of women but also to increase the involvement and participation of men in realizing gender equality, particularly in the areas of responsible parenthood, reproductive behaviour, the promotion of maternal and child health, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and the shared control of and contribution to family income. This approach is more comprehensive and provides a better basis for attaining gender equality than the targets associated with the Millennium Declaration.

The fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action, says the report, would ensure the achievement of equivalent goals included in the Millennium Declaration, especially with regard to the reduction of child mortality and maternal mortality; universal access to primary education; gender parity in access to secondary education; and reductions in the spread of HIV. Furthermore, because of synergies between these goals and other development objectives, additional benefits would be reaped and are being reaped from the progress being made in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action in all its aspects.

Population Challenges and Development Goals (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.8) is available for US\$ 10.00 from United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017, USA,

tel: 800-253-9646, or 212-963-8302, fax: 212-963-3489, e-mail: publications@un.org; or Section des Ventes et Commercialisation, Bureau E-4, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel: 41-22-917-2614, fax:

41-22-917-0027, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch; Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>. The publication is also available on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

WORLD POPULATION POLICIES 2005

Governments are increasingly recognizing the benefits of international migration by adopting policies and measures to tailor international migration to national needs. According to a recent United Nations survey among Governments, fewer Governments are attempting to reduce their levels of in-migration and a higher proportion of countries than in 1996 is trying to maintain the prevailing levels of migrant inflows. The shift away from trying to reduce migration inflows may be attributed to a number of factors, including an improved understanding of the consequences of international migration; the growing recognition by Governments that migration cannot be effectively restricted and must rather be managed; the persistence of labour shortages in certain sectors of the economy of receiving countries; an expanding global economy, and long-term trends in population ageing and very low fertility.

These changing approaches to the development and implementation of migration policy are occurring as the world community prepares for the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. It is one of the major findings of the United Nations report on *World Population Policies 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5) prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The report also notes that the HIV/AIDS epidemic remains the most significant demographic issue in the world: 88 per cent of developing countries and 79 per cent of developed countries considered HIV/AIDS as the most pressing population and development concern. Among countries in the less developed regions, high infant and child mortality as well as maternal mortality were the second and third most pressing issues. In the more developed regions, other demographic issues of great concern were those related to the persistence of low fertility, including rapid

population ageing and the small relative size of the working-age population.

In the less developed regions, and especially in Africa, an increasing number of Governments felt that both population growth and fertility were too high and had implemented measures to lower them. Over half of the countries in the less developed regions continued to view their population growth as too high. In Africa, the equivalent number was three-fourths of all countries in the region.

In contrast, more than two-fifths of developed countries viewed their population growth rate as too low, and two-thirds considered their fertility levels to be too low. Population ageing, the main consequence of low fertility levels, was viewed with concern by three-quarters of developed countries.

Developed and developing countries alike considered the size of their working age populations to be a major concern. However, developed countries were concerned because their labour force was too small whereas developing countries saw theirs as too large, posing the challenge of job creation to address high unemployment and under-employment.

High fertility, high population growth, and large working age populations were the major concerns in much of the developing world, whereas very low fertility, low population growth (and, in some cases, declining population size), and labour shortages were the key concerns in developed countries. These imbalances, furthermore, were viewed as driving much of today's south-north migration.

The 2005 issue of *World Population Policies* was released prior to the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development. It also provided valuable input for the Secretary-General's report on International Migration and Development prepared for the High-

level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

World Population Policies 2005 contains the most comprehensive and recent information available on the population policy situation of each of the 194 Member and non-Member States of the United Nations. The study includes information on national population policies in relation to population size and growth, population age structure, fertility, health and mortality, spatial distribution and internal migration, and international migration. In addition, key demographic indicators are also presented for each country.

In addition to the published report, a CD-Rom version may be purchased from the United Nations Population Division for US\$ 100.00. Complimentary copies are available for institutions in developing countries as part of the Population Division's technical cooperation programme. Requests should

be addressed on the institution's letterhead paper to Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA; fax: (212) 963-2147.

The publication may be downloaded from the website of the Population Division at www.unpopulation.org.

World Population Policies 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5) is available for US\$ 60.00 from United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017 USA; tel. 800-253-9646 or 212-963-8302, fax: 212-963-3489, e-mail: publications@un.org; or Section des Ventes et Commercialisation, Bureau E-4, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel.: 41-22-917-2614, fax. 41-22-917-0027, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch; Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>.

WORLD MORTALITY REPORT 2005

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has issued the *World Mortality Report 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.3). The main objective of this report is to compile and summarize available information about levels and trends of mortality and life expectancy at the national level. A related goal is to compare estimates from various sources to those derived by the United Nations Population Division as the baseline for its mortality projections, which are a key input for its biennial assessment of population prospects (see *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.5).

Aside from a comparison of mortality data from different sources, the report permits an assessment of gaps in information. The report provides crucial insights necessary for achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, especially given the ongoing efforts to combat child mortality and HIV/AIDS. It underscores the need for data to assess progress made in these areas.

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The *World Mortality Report 2005* provides a broad overview of mortality changes in all countries of the world during the latter half of the 20th century. It presents information on mortality risks, life expectancy, maternal mortality, HIV prevalence, and national policies with respect to such topics for 192 countries. The data are compiled from civil registration, population censuses, nationally representative sample surveys and, in the case of national policies, Governments' responses to United Nations inquiries and other sources. The report is the first to document mortality levels and trends across the full age range for all countries of the world. It also includes an explicit comparison of mortality estimates from a variety of sources.

However, the report has certain limitations, acknowledged in its introduction. Although it summarizes a vast body of data from many sources, the collection of mortality estimates presented in the report is not exhaustive. Most of the data included were those already available in electronic form with the result that data available only in printed form were not covered exhaustively. Furthermore, the data presented for different countries are not fully uniform in terms of source, quality or manner of calculation. Therefore, it is important to be cautious about the comparability of the mortality estimates presented for different countries and time periods. Despite these limitations, the report provides a

useful starting point for future studies of mortality levels and trends in all countries of the world.

World Mortality Report 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.3) is available for US\$ 90.00 from United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017, USA, tel: 800-253-9646, or 212-963-8302, fax: 212-963-3489, e-mail: publications@un.org; or Section des Ventes et Commercialisation, Bureau E-4, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel: 41-22-917-2614, fax: 41-22-917-0027, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch; Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>. The publication is also available on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

NATIONAL TRENDS IN POPULATION, RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT 2005: COUNTRY PROFILES

A global commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development was forged in the United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, was advanced in 2000 with the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, and was recently reinforced by Heads of State and Government in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit. In the years leading up to the global conferences held during the 1990s, there was growing recognition by scholars, policy makers and the general public that population trends are inextricably linked with the availability of resources, the state of the environment, and economic and social development. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, and the series of conferences reviewing progress achieved since those meetings, a global agreement emerged on the need for a sustainable relationship between human numbers, resources and development. With a view to improving the knowledge of relationships among aspects of population, resources, environment and development, the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has produced the PRED Databank, drawing on a variety of national-level comparative data and documents. The publication entitled *National Trends in Population, Resources, Environment and*

Development 2005: Country Profiles (United Nations publication, ESA/P/WP.196) provides a set of country profiles showing the current situation and recent trends in population, resources, environment and development indicators, based on the PRED Databank, version 4 (2005), to which this volume is a companion.

The profiles bring together data series dealing with a variety of aspects of population, labour force, economic growth, agriculture and natural resource use and their trends from 1970 to 2005. The profiles include data from the most recent United Nations estimates and projections of population (the *2004 Revision*) as well as other data maintained in the Population Division/DESA databases on international migration, contraception, age at marriage and population policies. The profiles also include data on natural resources and economic and social development, taken primarily from other United Nations sources as updated in 2004 and 2005. An effort has been made to select reliable indicators that are comparable between countries and over time. However, despite the considerable efforts of national statistical offices and international organizations to collect, process and disseminate social and economic statistics and to standardize definitions and data collection methods, limitations remain in the data coverage, consistency and comparability of data across time and between countries.

In addition to the publication, the study is also available in electronic form. The CD-Rom version may be purchased from the United Nations Population Division/DESA for US\$ 75.00. Complimentary copies are available for institutions in developing countries as part of the Population Division's technical cooperation programme. Requests should be addressed on the institution's

letterhead paper to Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA; fax: (212) 963-2147.

The publication may also be downloaded from the website of the Population Division at www.unpopulation.org

WALL CHART ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION 2006

With 191 million people currently living outside their country of birth, the number of migrants in the world has more than doubled since 1975, with most living in Europe (64 million), Asia (53 million), and Northern America (44 million), according to findings presented in the wall chart on *International Migration 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.06.XIII.6), issued by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

As the issue of international migration has moved to the forefront of the international agenda, demands for accurate, timely and comparable information on international migration levels, trends and policies has increased markedly. However, the availability of reliable and timely data has not kept pace with these demands.

In its continuing efforts to address these issues, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has issued this wall chart, which presents the latest available information on international migration for all countries and regions of the world, including estimates of the migrant stock, net migration flows, refugees and remittances. These estimates are supplemented with information concerning the policies of Governments on international migration and the status of ratification of United Nations instruments regarding international migration by Member States. The major conclusions of the information presented in the wall chart are summarized below.

Migrant stock: In 2005, there were 191 million persons, representing 3 per cent of world population, living outside their country of birth. Their number had more than doubled since 1975. Sixty-three per cent of the world's international migrants lived in

developed countries in 2005. Most of them lived in Europe (64 million), Asia (53 million) and Northern America (44 million). Almost one of every 10 persons living in the developed countries today is an international migrant. In contrast, the equivalent proportion in developing countries is one out of every 70 persons.

Number of refugees: At the end of 2004, there were 13.4 million refugees in the world, 9.2 million of whom were under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 4.2 million under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The largest number of refugees was found in Asia (7.7 million). Africa hosted the second largest refugee population in the world (3.0 million). Two million refugees lived in developed countries.

Net migration: During 2000-2005, the more developed regions gained an estimated 2.6 million migrants annually from the less developed regions, or over 13.1 million over the whole period. Northern America gained the most from net migration: 1.4 million migrants annually. It was followed by Europe, with an annual net gain of 1.1 million and by Oceania, with a more modest net intake of 103,000 migrants annually.

Remittances: Migrants contribute to the economies of the countries of destination and origin. In 2004, estimated remittances worldwide amounted to US\$ 226 billion. Remittances to less developed regions were estimated at US\$ 145 billion, representing 1.7 per cent of the GDP of less developed regions. In some countries, remittances are a major source of foreign exchange and an important addition to GDP. For example, in 2004,

remittances from abroad increased the GDP of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Jordan, Lesotho, the Republic of Moldova and Tonga by over 20 per cent. Remittances benefit the low and middle-income families that receive them and enable migrant household to save and invest.

Government policies on immigration: Governments are increasingly recognizing the benefits of international migration and since 1996 fewer Governments wish to reduce migrant inflows and more want to maintain current levels. As of 2005, 54 per cent of the countries in the world wanted to maintain current immigration levels, 22 per cent aimed to lower immigration, 18 per cent reported no intervention and 6 per cent wished to raise immigration levels. In receiving countries, admission policies have become more selective to ensure that migrants are able to meet sector-specific labour demand. About 30 countries have policies promoting the immigration of the highly skilled. Countries are increasingly adopting policies that focus on the integration of non-citizens. In 2005, 75 countries reported programmes to integrate non-citizens.

Government policies on emigration: Despite the significant increase in the number of international migrants, the proportion of countries wanting to reduce emigration has remained steady since the 1980s, at about one quarter of the total. A sharp increase in the emigration of skilled workers has prompted some countries to address this challenge through initiatives that encourage the return of skilled citizens. Policies to promote the return of international migrants were reported by 71 countries.

United Nations instruments relative to international migration:

1. The 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, ratified by 143 countries, sets standards for the protection of refugees. It prohibits the expulsion or forcible return of persons accorded refugee status.

2. The 1967 *Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees*, ratified also by 143 countries, extends the scope of the 1951 Convention by extending its application to persons who became refugees after 1 January 1951 and that need not have originated in Europe.

3. The 1990 *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families* establishes international definitions for the different categories of migrant workers and formalizes the responsibility of receiving States with regard to upholding the rights of migrant workers and members of their families and assuring their protection. The Convention entered into force in 2003 and has been ratified by 34 States parties. The Convention has not been ratified as yet by any major receiving country.

4. In the late 1990s, concerns about trafficking in human beings and its close linkage to transnational organized crime led to the drafting of two protocols supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The 2000 *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, has been ratified by 95 countries and entered into force in 2003. Trafficking of migrants is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by improper means, such as force, abduction, fraud or coercion, for an improper purpose, like forced or coerced labour, servitude, slavery or sexual exploitation. The protocol aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking; and to promote cooperation among States parties to meet these objectives. The 2000 *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* has been ratified by 85 countries and entered into force in 2004. Smuggling of migrants is defined as the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State party of which the person is not a national or permanent resident. The Protocol provides an effective tool to combat and prevent the smuggling of human cargo, reaffirming that migration in itself is not a crime, and that migrants may be victims in need of protection.

The wall chart is available on the website of the United Nations Population Division at www.unpopulation.org.

Copies of *International Migration 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.06.XIII.6) can be purchased from United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017, USA, tel: 800-253-9646, or 212-963-8302, fax: 212-963-3489, e-mail:

publications@un.org; or Section des Ventes et Commercialisation, Bureau E-4, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel: 41-22-917-2614, fax: 41-22-917-0027, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch; Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>.

WALL CHART ON POPULATION AGEING 2006

A new edition of the wall chart, *Population Ageing 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.2) has been issued. For 228 countries or areas as well as for regions and the world, the wall chart presents comparable indicators including absolute and relative numbers of the older population, proportions currently married, living alone and in the labour force among both older men and women, the sex ratio of populations aged 60 years or over and aged 80 years or over, the potential support ratio, the statutory retirement age for men and women, and life expectancy at age 60 for men and women. The new edition of the wall chart updates *Population Ageing 2002* and adds information on the percentage of older persons who live alone.

The chart shows that the number of persons aged 60 years or over was 688 million in mid-2006 and is projected to reach almost 2 billion by 2050. At the world level, one of every nine persons is now aged 60 years or over. By 2050, one in every five persons will be in that age group. The percentage of the population aged 60 or over is currently much higher in developed than in developing countries, but the pace of ageing in developing countries is more rapid, and their transition from a young to an old age structure will occur over a shorter period. The chart shows that the older population is itself ageing. Currently, the oldest old (aged 80 years or over) constitute 13 per cent of the population aged 60 years or over; by 2050, it will account for 20 per cent. Although the world has experienced dramatic improvements in longevity, there are still large differences in mortality levels among countries. In the least developed countries, men reaching age 60 can expect 15 additional years of life and women, 17 years. In more developed regions, life expectancy at age 60 is 19 years for men and 23 years for women.

Because female life expectancy is almost always greater than male life expectancy, in most countries the majority of older persons are women. Worldwide, there are 82 men per 100 women among persons aged 60 years or over in 2006. Among those aged 80 years or over, there are only 55 men for every 100 women. Because women live longer and, on average, are younger than their husbands, women are more likely to outlive their spouses and, consequently, older men are much more likely than older women to be married. Thus, while 80 per cent of older men in the world are currently married, just 48 per cent of older women have a spouse.

The impact of demographic ageing is visible in the potential support ratio (PSR), that is, the number of persons of working age in relation to the number of older persons. Between 2006 and 2050, the global potential support ratio is projected to fall from 9 to 4 persons in the working ages (15 to 64 years) for each person aged 65 years or over. For workers in the formal economy, the wall chart shows that the standard retirement age in developing countries is often lower than in developed countries. At the same time, countries with high per capita incomes tend to have lower labour force participation rates among older persons. Older persons participate to a greater extent in the labour force in developing countries, largely owing to the limited coverage of retirement schemes in those countries and to the relatively small pensions when provided.

Lastly, the information presented in the wall chart indicates a marked difference between more and less developed regions in levels of solitary living among older persons. The percentages of older persons living alone are lowest in South-Central and South-Eastern Asia (averaging less than 4 per cent among males and 10 per cent among females), but higher in Europe, Northern America

and Oceania whose averages are around 15 per cent for males and 35 per cent for females.

The wall chart is available on the website of the United Nations Population Division at www.unpopulation.org.

Copies of *Population Ageing 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.2) can be

purchased from United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017, USA, tel: 800-253-9646, or 212-963-8302, fax: 212-963-3489, e-mail: publications@un.org; or Section des Ventes et Commercialisation, Bureau E-4, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel: 41-22-917-2614, fax: 41-22-917-0027, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch; Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>.

2005 RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH REGARD TO POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution A/RES/60/227 International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹

1. *Taking* note of the report of the Secretary-General,²

2. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and also decides that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

3. *Invites* Member States to participate in the High-level Dialogue at the ministerial level or highest level possible;

4. *Decides* that the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Dialogue;

5. *Invites* those intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the High-level Dialogue;

6. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of, and participate in, the High-level Dialogue;

7. *Decides* that the participants in the High-level Dialogue will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

8. *Also decides* that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables, within existing resources;

9. *Further decides* that the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General will make introductory statements at the opening of the High-level Dialogue;

10. *Decides* that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including its relevant special rapporteurs, and the International Organization for Migration, as well as to other

¹ Resolution 60/1.

² A/60/205.

relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decides that the round tables will be organized as follows:

(a) The first set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue;

(b) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day of the High-level Dialogue;

(c) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;

11. *Also decides* that the themes for each of the four round tables will be the following:

(a) Round table 1 will focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development;

(b) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(c) Round table 3 will focus on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances;

(d) Round table 4 will focus on promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike;

12. *Further decides* to hold, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in 2006 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue in September 2006;

13. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited

participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector;

14. *Also decides* that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping being selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of the High-level Dialogue, and that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States;

15. *Further decides* that arrangements concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the High-level Dialogue will in no way create a precedent for other meetings of the General Assembly;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General to address also in his comprehensive overview in consultation with relevant United Nations organizations, short-term and seasonal workers within the issue of labour movements;

18. *Invites* the regional commissions to contribute to and coordinate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue;

19. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions with a focus on its overall theme;

20. *Notes* that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women will have considered the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites their inputs through the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Also notes* that the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will have considered the issue of protecting the rights of all migrant workers as a tool to enhance development, within its mandate, by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites the Secretary-General to make the summary of the Committee's discussion available for the High-level Dialogue;

22. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, and notes its contribution to the debate on international migration and development, and also takes note of the report as an input for consideration at the High-level Dialogue;

24. *Reiterates* that the outcome of the High-level Dialogue will be a Chairperson's summary, which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the High-level Dialogue;

26. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".

IN MEMORIAM: MILOS MACURA, DIRECTOR OF THE POPULATION DIVISION, 1966 – 1972

Mr. Milos Macura (1916-2005), who directed the United Nations Population Division from 1966 to 1972, passed away in Serbia and Montenegro in August 2005. His appointment as Director of the Population Division in 1966 was the culmination of a long and distinguished career in academia and in service to his Government. Mr. Macura began his career as Director of the Statistical Institute of Serbia from 1947 to 1954. In 1958, he was appointed the first Professor of Demography at the Faculty of Philosophy of Belgrade University and taught there until 1966. From 1964 to 1968, he was the Director of the Federal Statistical Office of Yugoslavia. From 1964 to 1966, Mr. Macura represented Yugoslavia at the United Nations Population Commission.

Mr. Macura joined the United Nations in 1966, as Director of the Population Division. One of his major tasks was to negotiate the holding of the first global intergovernmental conference on population,

the World Population Conference, held in Bucharest in 1974. He was a member of the United Nations *Ad hoc* Committee of Experts on Population. The recommendations of the *Ad hoc* Committee—that a conference should be convened to decide on matters of population policies and programmes, and that 1974 should be proclaimed World Population Year—were espoused by the Population Commission and approved by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. As part of the preparations for the Conference, Mr. Macura directed the substantive preparatory work, including the drafting of the World Population Plan of Action. Also, as a result of his efforts, the Population Commission's work programme incorporated for the first time in 1971, a section on population policy. As a consequence of this addition, Mr. Macura established the Population Policy Section in the Population Division in 1972. It was also under Mr. Macura's tenure that the second edition of the Population Division's groundbreaking study on the

Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends was issued. Lastly, Mr. Macura was instrumental in the establishment of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 1969.

After leaving the Population Division in 1972, Mr. Macura made a number of important contributions in his capacity as Scientific Advisor at

the Economic Institute in Belgrade, as Director of the World Fertility Survey, and as a member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), CICRED and the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts. Mr. Macura also continued to contribute articles to the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Child Adoption: Trends and Policies

A study entitled *Child Adoption: Trends and Policies* is being carried out by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and will be issued in 2007. Data on the number of adoptions and the laws governing adoption have been collected for 194 countries. The information includes age requirements for adoptive parents as well as the number of domestic, intercountry and step-parent adoptions.

The study indicates that although the total number of child adoptions has increased in recent years, the majority of adoptions are concentrated in a small number of countries. The total annual number of child adoptions is estimated to be around 260,000. The study shows that the majority of adoptions are domestic, with over 80 per cent of all adoptions being undertaken by persons who are citizens of the same country as the adopted child. The number of domestic adoptions has, however, been declining in

many countries. The dwindling supply of adoptable children, which has been attributed to women's increased capacity to control their fertility and to societal changes that make it more acceptable for unmarried women to look after their own children, may to some extent explain these trends. At the same time, the number of intercountry adoptions has been rising both in absolute terms and as a proportion of all adoptions. During the past decade, the number of intercountry adoptions has increased markedly and in many Western European countries intercountry adoptions now constitute the majority of all adoptions.

The study also examines the relations between demographic trends and child adoption. It considers, for example, whether high levels of childlessness and the growing number of unmarried persons who raise children on their own may be associated with the demand for adoptive children. The study also discusses the relationship between trends in divorce and adoptions of stepchildren.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Studies

Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development: The United Nations Development Agenda and the Global Commission on International Migration Compared
ST/ESA/SER.A/255. Sales No. E.06.XIII.7

World Population Policies 2005
ST/ESA/SER.A/254. Sales No. E.06.XIII.5

World Mortality Report 2005
ST/ESA/SER.A/252. Sales No. E.06.XIII.3

Living Arrangements of Older Persons Around the World
ST/ESA/SER.A/240. Sales No. E.05.XIII.9

Population Challenges and Development Goals
ST/ESA/SER.A/248. Sales No. E.05.XIII.8

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, Volume II: Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population
ST/ESA/SER.A/245. Sales No. E.05.XIII.6

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables
ST/ESA/SER.A/244. Sales No. E.05.XIII.5

National Trends in Population, Resources, Environment and Development 2005: Country Profiles
ESA/P/WP.196

United Nations Expert Meeting on Software for Demographic Projections of HIV/AIDS, New York 10-11 May 2005
ESA/P/WP.194

Wall Charts

International Migration 2006
ST/ESA/SER.A/256. Sales No. E.06.XIII.6

Population Ageing 2006
ST/ESA/SER.A/251. Sales No. E.06.XIII.2

World Population 2004
ST/ESA/SER.A/242. Sales No. E.05.XIII.4

Databases

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, CD-ROM Edition, Extended Dataset
ST/ESA/SER.A/250. Sales No. 05.XIII.12

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, CD-ROM Edition, Comprehensive Dataset
ST/ESA/SER.A/249. Sales No. 05.XIII.11

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, CD-ROM Edition, Basic Dataset
ST/ESA/SER.A/243. Sales No. 05.XIII.10

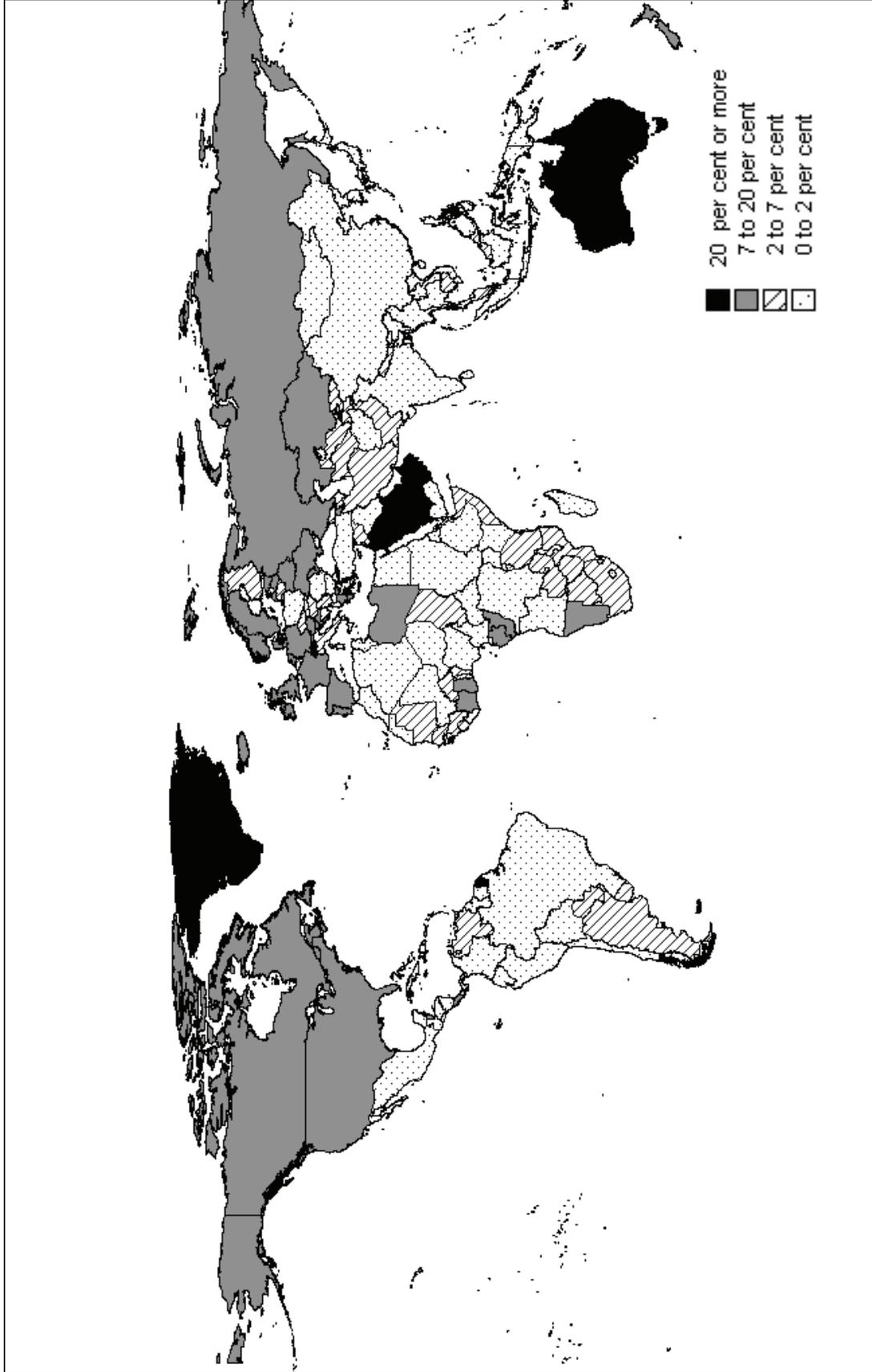
World Population Policies 2005
(CD-ROM) POP/DB/WPP/2005

Population, Resources, Environment and Development Database, 2005
(CD-ROM) (PRED, Version 4.0)

World Fertility and Marriage Database 2003
(CD-ROM) POP/DB/Fert/Rev.2004

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Migrant stock, 2005
(Percentage of total population)



Source: *International Migration 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.6).