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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress achieved by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2006. It covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; world population estimates and projections; population policies; population and development interrelationship; and monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information. The report provides highlights of the major activities of the Population Division, which comprise the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documents and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme in population is to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels with a view to enabling Member States to address population and development issues effectively. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.9/2007/1.



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I. Introduction

1. The subprogramme on population in the United Nations Secretariat is the responsibility of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The programme of work takes into account the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The programme of work also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, the objective of the subprogramme in population is to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels, with a view to enabling Member States to address effectively population and development issues. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. Specifically, the expected accomplishments for the subprogramme in population, as presented in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 9)), are:

(a) Population issues remain high on the international agenda;

(b) Enhanced awareness in the international community and among Member States of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with agencies, funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in connection with the follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2006, grouped by thematic area. The report provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Population Division, which comprise the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documents and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is contained in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division undertook the preparation of a report entitled *Childlessness: A Global Survey*, which provides a statistical overview of

childlessness worldwide, focusing on the past few decades. The data show that levels of lifetime childlessness, defined as the percentage of women aged 40-44 years who are childless, are higher in developed countries, where they can sometimes reach 20 per cent. Childlessness is on the rise in a number of developed countries, such as Australia and the Netherlands, but not everywhere; in countries such as Estonia and France no upward trend is evident. In developing countries, levels of childlessness are somewhat lower, but trends are just as varied. In some regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, childlessness levels stand at about 5 per cent. In other regions, such as South America, Central America and South-eastern Asia, childlessness levels are higher, at around 10 per cent. The study also includes a brief analysis of the aggregate fertility impact of childlessness. In countries where fertility is low, rising voluntary childlessness makes it harder to envisage the return of fertility to replacement level.

7. In the area of fertility and related topics, the Population Division worked on the preparation of two datasets for electronic publication. The first one, the *Database on Fertility 2007*, contains fertility indicators for 192 countries or areas. For the most recent dates available, the dataset provides annual numbers of births, crude birth rates, age-specific fertility rates, total fertility rates, mean ages at childbearing, mean ages at first birth, number of children ever born and percentage of women who are childless. The second dataset, the *Database on Marriage 2007*, contains indicators of marital status for 192 countries or areas. For the most recent data available, the dataset provides the distribution of the population by sex, age group and marital status (single, currently married, divorced or separated, and widowed); age-specific first marriage rates, and the mean age at marriage.

III. Mortality and health

8. During 2006, progress was made in reviewing the methods of mortality estimation needed to estimate levels and trends of adult mortality in developing countries and in proposing methodological improvements to obtain more timely and robust estimates of age-specific mortality and life expectancy for as many countries as possible. The focus so far has been on developing new and more flexible models of mortality patterns by age that could be used to fit the partial information available for countries with deficient data. In addition, work has advanced in compiling data suitable for the estimation of mortality and documenting its sources and limitations. The results of this work will be summarized in the *World Mortality Report 2007*, which is currently in preparation.

9. In order to facilitate the use of the varied types of data available for the estimation of mortality, the Population Division is developing a database to store both the data and the metadata describing them. Data generated by vital registration systems, population surveillance systems, population censuses and surveys are all being compiled. The database will provide a valuable resource for a broad research programme on mortality and health.

10. In order to promote collaboration on these tasks with other interested institutions within and outside the United Nations system, the Population Division organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Current issues in the estimation of adult mortality", held in New York on 26 and 27 October 2006. The meeting discussed the methodological advances made in modelling adult mortality and the

challenges faced in building a comprehensive database on mortality data. Special attention was given to an assessment of what is known about mortality trends in selected world regions, including sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and the successor States of the former Soviet Union. The challenges of estimating mortality in the presence of HIV/AIDS were also addressed. Participants included experts from academic institutions or research centres in Africa, Europe and North America, as well as representatives of the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Division, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the World Health Organization. A report of the meeting is expected to be published in 2007.

IV. International migration

11. In its resolution 60/227, the General Assembly decided to convene a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at United Nations Headquarters on 14 and 15 September 2006. The purpose of the Dialogue was 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 Population Division provided substantive support to the President of the General Assembly in the organization of the High-level Dialogue, as well as for the preparatory events leading up to the Dialogue. The preparatory events, as mandated by resolution 60/227, included the convening of panel discussions in New York (8 June 2006) and Geneva (4 July 2006) and a day of informal interactive hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, which were held in New York on 12 July 2006. The Population Division provided substantive support in the preparation of the summary of the discussion at the informal interactive hearings (see A/61/187).

12. The High-level Dialogue demonstrated the strong commitment of Member States, United Nations entities, observers, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to examine the interrelations and synergies between international migration and development. There was general consensus that the High-level Dialogue presented a unique opportunity to identify ways and means to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and to reduce its negative impacts. Participants recognized that international migration was a growing phenomenon, both in scope and in complexity, affecting virtually all countries in the world. They agreed that international migration could be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and countries of destination, provided that it was supported by the right set of policies. While some countries reported about their experience in receiving international migrants, other countries explained how they had benefited from the emigration of their citizens through the financial and other contributions transnational communities had made to the development of their home countries. Participants also discussed ways to mitigate the negative impact of the emigration of highly skilled migrants whose skills were needed in the countries of origin. Participants felt that it was essential to address the root causes of international migration to ensure that migrants moved out of choice rather than out of necessity, and emphasized the importance of creating jobs with decent working conditions in countries of origin. There was widespread support for incorporating international migration issues in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies. While the contribution of remittances to the well-being of the

families of migrants was recognized, it was felt that their development potential could be enhanced. It was recognized that international migration could be a means of empowerment for migrant women, but that policies were needed to reduce the vulnerability of women to abusive situations stemming from migration. Participants expressed concern about the rise in irregular migration and the exploitation and abuse of migrants in an irregular situation. The Population Division provided substantive support in the preparation of the Chair's summary of the High-level Dialogue (see A/61/515).

13. In preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Population Division issued the *Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development*.¹ The Compendium contains a compilation of all the principles, guidelines, commitments and recommendations for action in the area of international migration that have been adopted by Member States of the United Nations at the various conferences and summits held since 1990, as well as at the population conferences of 1974 and 1984. The Compendium also provides a comparison of those recommendations and commitments with the recommendations made by the Global Commission on International Migration in its report *Migration in an interconnected world: new directions for action*.²

14. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General entitled *World population monitoring, focusing on international migration and development* (E/CN.9/2006/3) for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. The report addressed the demographic, social and economic aspects of international migration in relation to development. It described recent international migration trends; examined the interactions between international migration and population change, fertility and health; discussed the economic aspects of international migration; and concluded with an overview of policy responses at the national, regional and international levels. A revised version of the report will be issued in 2007 as a regular publication for wider distribution to the public.

15. The Population Division also prepared the report *International Migration and Development* (A/60/871), which was presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on 6 June 2006. The report provides a comprehensive review of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including levels and trends of international migration; the impact of international migration on the economic and social development of countries of destination and countries of origin; the role of remittances; a discussion of migrant protection, gender aspects of international migration, migrant integration, and the portability of entitlements; the issues arising in combating trafficking in persons; an overview of the international normative framework relative to international migration; and a review of the various modes of intergovernmental cooperation to improve the governance of international migration.

16. The Population Division, together with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, organized an expert group meeting on the theme "International migration and development in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities", held in Beirut, from 15 to 17 May 2006. The meeting, which was attended by 46 government officials, experts and representatives of the United Nations agencies and

¹ ST/ESA/SER.A/255.

² Global Commission on International Migration, Geneva (October 2005).

other international organizations, provided a useful platform to exchange views and debate regional issues in preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The meeting examined the very diverse migration patterns found in the Arab region and the extent to which international migration could offer relief to the problems of high unemployment and underemployment faced by many countries in the region. The developmental impact of returning migrants was widely acknowledged and measures to encourage circular and return migration, particularly of those possessing needed skills or capital, were reviewed. Participants welcomed the opportunity to discuss international migration and development policies in the Arab region and proposed to create a regional framework or forum to continue such discussions. The materials relating to the meeting are available on the website of the Population Division (www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm) and will be the object of a future publication.

17. The Population Division prepared a paper on the theme “International migration in the Arab region” for presentation at the above-mentioned meeting. The paper highlighted the diversity of international migration patterns among the countries in the Arab region, which includes some of the other world’s major receiving countries. According to estimates prepared by the Population Division, in 2005, the Arab region hosted one in every 10 international migrants in the world and one in every four migrants in the less developed regions. Moreover, the share of migrants in the Arab region, among all migrants in developing countries, had increased from 18 per cent in 1990 to 26 per cent in 2005, with six out of every 10 international migrants in the Arab region living in the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In contrast to the changes in the policy stance of developed countries, countries in the Arab region were more inclined to have the goal of lowering migrant inflows: in 2005, two thirds of the Governments of countries in the region wished to reduce the number of migrants admitted.

18. As part of the supporting activities of the United Nations Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Fondazione Rosselli of Turin, Italy, organized the International Symposium on International Migration and Development in Turin, from 28 to 30 June 2006. The Symposium brought together over 300 government representatives, experts and representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, and civil society organizations to debate, at the substantive level, key issues that Governments, international organizations and civil society faced in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by international migration. Discussions in the more than 30 sessions organized during the Symposium focused on the topics that the General Assembly had identified in resolution 60/227 for consideration at the High-level Dialogue. The major topics discussed included: (a) the management of temporary labour migration; (b) ways to improve the flow and the impact of remittances on development; (c) ways of enhancing the benefits and mitigating the costs of the migration of skilled personnel; (d) strategies to engage transnational communities in the development of countries of origin; (e) measures to promote return migration and its benefits; (f) the need for international collaboration in reducing and preventing the cross-border smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons; and (g) the beneficial aspects of the globalization of education. The Symposium also considered the regional and institutional aspects of international

migration. In discussing both the technical and policy dimensions of international migration issues, the Symposium contributed to building the capacity of national decision makers in preparation for the High-level Dialogue. The materials relating to the Symposium are available on the website of the Population Division set up for the High-level Dialogue (www.unmigration.org). The report of the Symposium will be published in 2007.

19. In order to provide timely and comprehensive information on international migration for use in the preparation of the High-level Dialogue, the Population Division issued the wall chart *International Migration 2006*.³ The chart had the most recent estimates and information available on indicators relative to international migration and development, including the estimated number of international migrants in each country, estimates of net migration, remittances, government views on immigration and emigration policies, and the status of ratification of relevant United Nations instruments. According to the chart, there were 191 million international migrants in the world as of mid-2005, representing 3 per cent of world population. Sixty per cent of those migrants resided in developed countries. Also in 2005, remittances worldwide were estimated at US\$ 226 billion and were an important source of foreign exchange for many Governments and a benefit to the families that received them. The chart also showed that Governments were adopting policies and measures to tailor international migration to their national needs. The wall chart was distributed at the various events leading to the High-level Dialogue and at the Dialogue itself. It proved to be a useful information tool for participants.

20. The Population Division issued on CD-ROM the dataset *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision*, together with printed documentation on its contents. The dataset includes annual time-series data on the number of immigrants and emigrants and the net number of migrants classified by country of origin for 15 receiving countries in the developed world. The time-series presented for most receiving countries cover the period 1960-2004.

21. The Population Division issued the proceedings of the fourth coordination meeting on international migration, which was held in New York on 26 and 27 October 2005. The meeting focused on the contributions that the United Nations system could make in preparation to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The proceedings published include both the report of the meeting and the papers contributed by participating organizations and experts attending the meeting.

22. On 20 and 21 November 2006, the fifth coordination meeting on international migration was held in New York to debate the implications of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development for the work of the United Nations system and to exchange information on activities in the area of international migration and development by the various participating entities. The meeting was organized by the Population Division, and it brought together over 80 representatives of different entities from the United Nations system, including the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes and agencies, as well as those of other intergovernmental, regional and national organizations active in the area of

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.6.

international migration. The materials relating to the meeting are available on the website of the Population Division. Its proceedings will be published in 2007.

23. In 2006, the Population Division made presentations on international migration and development at several conferences, meetings and forums. It participated in the conference on migration and development organized by the Government of Belgium and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and held in Brussels on 15 and 16 March 2006. During the International Symposium on International Migration and Development held in Turin, the Division made three presentations, on international migration trends, international migration policies and migrant entrepreneurship. The Division also made presentations at the workshop on female migrants, organized jointly by the United Nations Population Fund and IOM and held in New York on 2 and 3 May 2006, and at the World Bank seminar on the theme "The international migration of women: magnitudes, impacts and future trends", held in Washington, D.C., on 29 August 2006. The Population Division was invited to make a presentation at the Ibero-American meeting on migration held in Madrid on 18 and 19 July 2006, and was invited to deliver a keynote address at the third annual conference on international migration, integration and social cohesion organized by the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna on 5 and 6 September 2006. The Population Division and the World Bank organized a side event for the High-level Dialogue on the theme "Migration and development: the challenges for developing countries", which took place on 14 September 2006 and included a presentation by the Division. Another presentation was made by the Population Division at the expert group meeting on full employment and decent work, organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development and held in New York from 10 to 12 October 2006, and at the expert group meeting on the theme "Measuring international migration: concepts and methods", organized by the United Nations Statistics Division in New York and held from 4 to 7 December 2006. The Population Division was also represented at the First International Congress on Human Development held in Madrid from 13 to 16 November 2006, where it made a presentation on the section focusing on migration and development.

V. World population projections

24. The preparation of biennial population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the mandate of the Population Division. The results of this activity have considerable impact both inside and outside the United Nations system. The official United Nations population estimates and projections are a key input for several analytical reports prepared by the Population Division, such as in the report on *World Population Ageing*, the *World Fertility Report* and the *World Mortality Report*. In addition, important publications prepared by various entities of the United Nations system, including those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNICEF and the World Bank, use as input the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division. Researchers, academics and the media also make ample use of the Population Division's population estimates and projections.

25. In 2006, the Population Division issued the third volume, *Analytical Report, of World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*.⁴ This volume presents a thorough analysis of the results of the population estimates and projections presented in the previous two volumes. The data cover the 228 countries or areas of the world for the period 1950-2050. The report notes that the world population, which reached 6.5 billion in 2005, will likely reach 9.1 billion in 2050. It stresses the increasing diversity of population dynamics among the countries and regions of the world. Thus, whereas the population of the more developed regions is rising at a slow annual rate of 0.3 per cent, that of the less developed regions is increasing almost five times as fast, at 1.43 per cent per year, and the combined population of the subset of 50 least developed countries is growing even faster, at 2.4 per cent per year. Accentuating these disparities, the population of the more developed regions is projected to decrease after 2030, while that of the less developed regions is projected to increase by 2.6 billion between 2005 and 2050.

26. The *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects* report is in preparation. The results of this *Revision* will be released in 2007, first in electronic form, through an interactive database accessible on the Internet, and on CD-ROM. Selected output from the *2006 Revision* will also be issued in the usual three printed volumes and on a wall chart over the course of 2007.

27. The results of the 2005 revision of *World Urbanization Prospects* were issued in 2006 in both electronic form and in a number of publications. The complete set of results is available on CD-ROM and through an interactive database accessible via the Internet. The publication *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision. Executive Summary, Fact Sheets, and Data Tables* was issued as a working paper and two wall charts, *Urban Agglomerations 2005*⁵ and *Urban and Rural Areas 2005*,⁶ have been issued. The 2005 revision shows that 49 per cent of the world's population lived in urban areas in 2005 and projects that by 2008 half of the world population will be living in urban settlements. It is projected that by 2030, 60 per cent of the world population will live in urban areas. In 2005, the largest urban agglomeration in the world was Tokyo, with 35.2 million inhabitants. It was followed by Mexico City, with 19.4 million; New York-Newark, with 18.7 million; São Paulo with 18.3 million; and Mumbai with 18.2 million.

28. In order to seek ways of improving the methodology for the preparation of the United Nations estimates and projections of urban and city populations, the Population Division, in collaboration with Columbia University and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Rethinking the estimation and projection of urban and city populations", which was held in New York on 9 and 10 January 2006. The meeting brought together experts from different disciplines, including demographers, geographers, urban planners, experts in remote-sensing and geographic information systems, as well as representatives of relevant United Nations entities. Participants discussed innovative methods of demographic data collection and considered ways of improving the methodology for the estimation and projection of urban and city populations, with special emphasis on the use of

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.7.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.9.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.11.

spatially coded data. Participants also considered the practical use of geocoded data for urban and regional planning in developing countries.

VI. Population policies

29. The Population Division published the 2005 edition of *World Population Policies*,⁷ a recurrent survey of the views and policies of Governments on a variety of population and development issues. The study found that a majority of Governments viewed HIV/AIDS as the most significant demographic issue facing them: 88 per cent of those of developing countries and 79 per cent of those of developed countries. Among developing countries, high mortality in childhood and high maternal mortality were the second and third most important issues. In developed countries, in addition to HIV/AIDS, infant and maternal mortality, major population concerns were low fertility, population ageing, and the relatively small or declining numbers of persons of working age. Developing countries are also concerned about their population of working age but mainly because they need to create sufficient jobs for their rapidly growing labour forces. In contrast, developed countries are concerned about the potential shortage of workers as continued low fertility and population ageing lead to a decrease in the numbers of people of working age. A database presenting the data analysed in the report has been issued on CD-ROM and may be downloaded from the Population Division website.

30. A panel discussion on the theme “Challenges of world population in the twenty-first century: the changing age structure of population and its consequences for development” was convened by the Population Division at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 October 2006. The panellists noted that many developed countries were already far advanced in the process of population ageing and had, therefore, older populations than had ever existed in the past. In contrast, developing countries were still largely in the midst of the demographic transition, but were experiencing rapid shifts in the relative size of the child, working-age and older segments of the population. In many countries, the implications of population ageing were becoming a major concern and the focus of political debate, as Governments considered how best to address the expected increases in health and pension costs associated with growing numbers of older persons. Panellists discussed the results of recent research aimed at estimating the levels of production and consumption by age in a variety of populations so as to assess better the economic implications of population ageing. Panellists noted that population ageing was having an effect on how Governments shaped policies on pensions, employment, health care and international migration. The presentations by panellists were a useful input in the preparation of the documents for the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, which will focus on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development.

31. During 2006, the Population Division pursued its work on a study entitled *Child Adoption: Trends and Policies*, to be issued in 2007. The study is based on data for 195 countries, including information on the national legislation governing child adoption, on the age requirements that prospective parents must meet in order to adopt, on the number of domestic and intercountry adoptions and on that of adoptions by step-parents. In addition to the analysis of various issues related to

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5.

child adoption, the study presents country profiles for each of the 195 countries with information. The report shows that, while the number of child adoptions has increased in recent years, the majority of adoptions take place in a few countries. The data indicate that most adoptions are domestic. However, during the past decade the number of intercountry adoptions has increased sharply, and in many Western European countries intercountry adoptions now constitute the majority of all adoptions. The study also examines the relation between demographic trends and child adoption, including that between divorce and the number of adoptions by step-parents.

32. The Population Division will issue shortly a wall chart entitled *World Abortion Policies 2007*. The wall chart includes the most recent information on abortion policies for all countries in the world, including the grounds on which induced abortion is permitted, the abortion rate, levels of contraception, total fertility and maternal mortality. The data show that 98 per cent of countries permit abortion to save a pregnant woman's life. Only four countries prohibit abortion in such circumstances. The scope of conditions under which abortion may legally be performed varies widely. Abortion is permitted to preserve the physical health of the mother in 66 per cent of countries; to preserve the mental health of the mother in 64 per cent; in cases of rape or incest in 47 per cent of countries; on grounds of foetal impairment in 44 per cent of countries; for economic or social reasons in 34 per cent of countries; and on request in 28 per cent of countries.

VII. Population and development

33. The Population Division published the wall chart *Population Ageing 2006*,⁸ which updates and expands the data presented in the 2002 edition. For 228 countries or areas in the world, the wall chart presents data on the absolute and relative numbers of older persons; the proportions of older persons who are currently married, living alone and in the labour force classified by sex; the sex ratio of populations aged 60 or over and of those aged 80 or over; the potential support ratio; the statutory retirement age for men and women; and the male and female life expectancies at age 60. The chart shows that, at the world level, there were 688 million persons aged 60 or over in 2006 and that their number will likely reach nearly 2 billion by 2050. Between 2006 and 2050, most countries will experience a substantial decline in the potential support ratio; that is, in the number of persons of working age per older person. Although the world has experienced dramatic improvements in longevity, the data presented indicate that large differences in life expectancy at age 60 still exist, especially between developed and developing countries. In addition, marked differences between those two groups of countries are also evident with respect to levels of solitary living among older persons and the labour force participation of older persons.

34. The Population Division completed a new edition of *World Population Ageing 1950-2050*, which will be issued in 2007. It updates the 2002 edition of the same title.⁹ As in the case of the original report, the new edition describes global trends in population ageing and includes a series of indicators of the ageing process by development group, major area, region and country. It is intended to provide the

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.2.

⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIII.3.

demographic foundation for the follow-up activities of the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

35. The Population Division carried out the substantive editing of the papers presented at the expert group meeting on the theme “The social and economic implications of changing population age structure”, which took place in Mexico City from 31 August to 2 September 2005. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Consejo Nacional de Población of Mexico, with the financial support of the National Institute of Aging, of the United States. The proceedings of the meeting, which are expected to be released in 2007, will contain a report of the meeting as well as edited versions of the papers presented by invited experts.

36. The Population Division continued its tradition of organizing a “member-initiated meeting” to present and discuss its work at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, which was held in Los Angeles, California, in 2006. The meeting took place on 30 March 2006, and focused on the major findings of the report entitled *Living Arrangements of Older Persons around the World*,¹⁰ which presented a global survey and analysis of the patterns and trends in the living arrangements of people aged 60 or over. The meeting was attended by 88 professionals in population and associated fields from universities and research institutions around the world.

37. The Population Division released an interactive online version of its database on population, resources, environment and development, known as PRED Bank. The database provides a selection of country-level statistical indicators (mostly presented as time-series) showing the current situation and recent trends in numerous aspects of population, resources, environment and development. The PRED Bank includes data from the most recent United Nations population estimates and projections (the *2004 Revision*), as well as data maintained in the Population Division databases on international migration, contraceptive prevalence, age at marriage and population policies. It also includes data on natural resources and economic and social development obtained primarily from sources maintained by other United Nations entities as updated in 2004 and 2005. This interactive database facilitates the full consideration and integration of population factors in plans to implement the United Nations development agenda and the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Social Development.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

38. The annual world population monitoring report produced by the Population Division for the Commission on Population and Development was devoted in 2006 to the topic of international migration and development, which was the special theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission (see para. 14 above).

¹⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.9.

39. The Population Division prepared the world population monitoring report for the fortieth session of the Commission. This report (E/CN.9/2007/3) focuses on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development, and is a timely contribution to the intergovernmental activities marking the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

B. Dissemination of population information and data

40. During 2006, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide timely access by Government officials and civil society to population information. The Population Division website provides, among other things, information on recently issued Population Division publications. All or selected parts of publications are posted on the website, including highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings, proceedings of meetings, population reports, wall charts, datasets and interactive databases. The site also provides information about the Commission on Population and Development, including the official documentation for the sessions and guidance for non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in the work of the Commission. An important addition to the Population Division website in 2006 was the portal to the various web pages created for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, its preparatory activities and its follow up (see www.unmigration.org). Other important resources added to the website in 2006 are expanded versions of the interactive databases on urban and rural populations, on estimates of the number of international migrants, and on population, resources, environment and development. These interactive databases enable users to customize tables to suit their needs by selecting the appropriate variables, countries and time periods, and to view or download the results for further processing.

41. Complementing the Population Division website in providing easy and timely access to population information is the Population Information Network. It is a portal to the wealth of population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Analysis of traffic to the Network website shows that the Network is a major channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations, with an annual number of visits in excess of 400,000.

42. The Population Division continues to maintain an e-mail announcement service, alerting subscribers to the release of new Population Division publications or datasets. The service currently has over 1,400 subscribers, located in developed countries and in over 70 developing countries. Information on Population Division activities and outputs of particular relevance to developing countries is also distributed regularly through the use of extensive mailing lists so as to reach a variety of constituencies.

43. *MORTPAK for Windows*, the Population Division software package for demographic estimation, continued to be disseminated worldwide for teaching and research purposes.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2006)*

Expert group meetings

Expert group meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities, Beirut, 15 to 17 May 2006.

Current issues in the estimation of adult mortality, New York, 26 and 27 October 2006.

International Symposium on International Migration and Development, Turin, Italy, 28-30 June 2006.

Panel discussion on challenges of world population in the twenty-first century: the changing age structure of population and its consequences for development, New York, 12 October 2006.

Fifth coordination meeting on international migration, New York, 20 and 21 November 2006.

Research studies

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision. Analytical Report. ST/ESA/SER.A/246. Sales No. E.05.XIII.7.

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision. Executive Summary. Fact Sheets. Data Tables. ST/ESA/P/WP/200.

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.

Databases

Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision. CD-ROM.

Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision. CD-ROM Documentation.

International Migrations Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision. CD-ROM. POP/DB/MIG/FL.

International Migrations Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision. CD-ROM Documentation.

World Population Policies 2005. CD-ROM.

National Trends In Population, Resources, Environment and Development 2005: Country Profiles.

* Not including reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

Wall charts

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

Urban Agglomerations 2005. ST/ESA/SER.A/257. Sales No. E.06.XIII.9.

Urban and Rural Areas 2005. ST/ESA/SER.A/258. Sales No. E.06.XIII.11.

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

Periodicals

Population Bulletin of the United Nations, Prospects for Fertility Decline in High Fertility Countries. Special issue Nos. 46/47, 2006. ST/ESA/SER.N/46-47. Sales No. S.02.XIII.11.

Population Newsletter, No. 80 (December 2005).

Population Newsletter, No. 81 (June 2006).
