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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 2019: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains a review of progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in implementing its programme of work in the field of population during 2019. It covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support given to intergovernmental processes through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

The objective of the programme of work in the field of population in the biennium 2018–2019 was to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda. The Commission on Population and Development acts as the governing body for the Population Division and thus provides guidance on the work programme as part of its annual session.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.9/2020/1.



I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the programme of work on population of the United Nations Secretariat. The programme of work is guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹ by the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action (resolution S-21/2, annex) and by the decision of the Assembly to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond the original 20-year time horizon in 2014 (see resolution 65/234). The outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits are also taken into account, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (resolution 73/195). In addition, the work of the Division is guided by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular its resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), and by other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the biennial programme plan and priorities, the objective of the work programme on population in the biennium 2018–2019 was to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda (see A/71/6/Rev.1, programme 7, Economic and social affairs, subprogramme 5, Population). The Commission provided intergovernmental guidance and oversight.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme 5, Population, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (see A/72/6 (Sect. 9), subprogramme 5), were as follows:

(a) Increased attention given to new and emerging population issues by the international community and increased knowledge and understanding of the interactions between population and development, including the gender dimensions of demographic phenomena;

(b) Effectively facilitate reviews by Member States and other stakeholders of progress made in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

4. The Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds and programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in implementing its work programme and in supporting the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations offices and missions, national Governments, academic researchers, media representatives and the public at large regularly consult with the Division to obtain timely and pertinent data, information and analyses on population patterns and trends and their connection with development issues.

5. The present report provides a summary of the activities and outputs of the Division during 2019, which included the provision of support to intergovernmental

¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

processes, the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals, the dissemination of population data and information and technical cooperation. A list of activities and outputs completed in 2019 is presented in the annex. Reference is also made in the report to work in progress in 2019 that is expected to result in one or more completed outputs in 2020.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division completed *World Fertility and Family Planning Highlights 2020*,² which presents trends in fertility and family planning, a discussion on the interrelationship between contraception and fertility, and policy implications for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It also prepared two in-depth reports, to be released in early 2020, on fertility among adolescents: the first providing an examination of fertility among adolescents aged 15–19 years, and the second presenting a first-time analysis of new data on the fertility of young adolescents aged 10–14 years to enhance the evidence base in relation to indicator 3.7.2 of the Goals. The Division released a factsheet on fertility among very young adolescents, which offers an initial overview of levels of, and trends in, early adolescent fertility in 118 countries.³

7. The Division released World Fertility Data 2019, a data set that builds on the historical repository of demographic data and reports collected over more than 50 years by the Population Division and the Statistics Division. The data set includes information derived from censuses, household surveys and civil registration systems, as well as fertility estimates produced by the Division.

8. The Division published a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators, World Contraceptive Use 2019, which includes survey-based estimates of contraceptive prevalence and of unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years), disaggregated by age, marital status and contraceptive methods used.

9. The Division used the information compiled in the data set World Contraceptive Use 2019 to generate a comprehensive set of annual, model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period from 1970 to 2030, published as Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2019. These two data products provide information relevant for the national, regional and global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1 (Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods) (see [E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1](#), annex IV).

10. The Division published a brief entitled “Global progress in satisfying the need for family planning”, in which, in particular, it presents advances in the global monitoring of progress towards meeting the need for family planning; discusses the global progress made from 2000 to 2019 and which countries have experienced rapid gains; and presents projections up to 2030.

11. The Division published two data booklets on family planning trends worldwide. The booklet entitled *Family Planning and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* presents global, regional and country progress in meeting the need for family planning from 2000 to 2019 and the progress made towards ensuring, by 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family

² To be released in January 2020.

³ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2019-1.pdf.

planning, as specified in the target 3.7 of the Goals. The booklet entitled *Contraceptive Use by Method 2019* presents estimates of the prevalence of contraceptive use by method based on data contained in the data set World Contraceptive Use 2019, providing an assessment of the range and types of contraceptive methods used.

12. The Division prepared the 2019 update of the database World Marriage Data, which provides comparable data on the marital status of the population, disaggregated by age and sex, for 232 countries or areas of the world from about 1950 to 2019.

13. On 18 March 2019, the Division participated in a meeting of the technical advisory group for estimates of pregnancies, abortions and pregnancy intentions organized by the Guttmacher Institute and the World Health Organization (WHO) to review the draft protocol for a study to produce global, regional and national model-based estimates of incidences of abortion and unintended pregnancy and pregnancy intentions, using the Division's estimates of family planning indicators as inputs.

14. A research paper entitled "Forty years of fertility changes in the Sahel" was accepted for publication in the journal *Demographic Research*.⁴

III. Health and mortality

15. The Population Division completed the publication *World Mortality 2019 Highlights*, in which it summarized the patterns and levels of, and trends in, mortality for the world and regions and for the 201 countries or areas with 90,000 inhabitants or more in 2019. The data reviewed in the report are drawn from the latest demographic estimates and projections as published in the *2019 Revision of World Population Prospects*. The report contains a review of trends in life expectancy at birth and in child, adult and old-age mortality. The extent of improvements in survival over the 25 years that have passed since the International Conference on Population and Development is assessed, and progress towards the achievement of the related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda is reviewed. A more detailed report on world mortality will be released in the first quarter of 2020.

16. The Division published the data booklet *World Mortality 2019*, in which key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels are presented. The booklet highlights variations among countries in various mortality indicators: life expectancy at birth by sex; under-5 mortality; and the probability of dying between the ages of 15 and 60. Estimates of mortality are complemented by information on the age distribution of deaths.

17. The Division issued an online data set containing tables from the *World Mortality Report*. The tables provide estimates of life expectancy at birth, infant and under-5 mortality, the probability of dying between the ages of 15 and 60 and between birth and 60, and life expectancy at 60 by country and region for five-year periods from 1950–1955 to 2015–2020. The Division also published an updated comprehensive inventory of primary empirical data for the estimation of adult and child mortality at the national level, Mortality Data Inventory 2019. The data inventory can be queried interactively through an online database.⁵

18. The Division prepared a technical paper entitled "A sensitivity analysis of parameters used in Spectrum's Aids Impact Model: the role of the sex ratio of HIV incidence and adult treatment on mortality levels and trends".

⁴ Thomas Spoorenberg, "Forty years of fertility changes in the Sahel", *Demographic Research*, vol. 41 (2019). Available at www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol41/46/default.htm.

⁵ Available at <https://population.un.org/DataArchiveWeb/index.html#/collectedDataType>.

19. In May 2019, the Division co-hosted an expert group meeting in New York on methods and assumptions for demographic inputs to subnational modelling of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, organized by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections.

IV. International migration

20. In 2019, the Population Division completed an annual update of the Global Migration Database, bringing together all available information on the numbers of international migrants (foreign-born or with foreign citizenship) residing in a country or area, according to the national statistical office or other official source. The 2019 revision of the Database contains over 6,000 data tables for over 92 per cent of countries and areas worldwide. With more than 8,700 registered users located in over 150 countries, the database has become an indispensable resource for migration researchers.

21. The Division used the updated Global Migration Database as a basis to develop a new set of estimates of numbers, or stock, of international migrants, classified by age group and sex and by countries of origin and destination, for 232 countries and areas of the world since 1990. The 2019 revision of the International Migrant Stock data set was released together with country profiles⁶ and 10 key messages⁷ on the international migrant stock in September 2019. The Division published a brief entitled “International migrants numbered 272 million in 2019, continuing an upward trend in all major world regions”, which presents key findings from the 2019 revision of the International Migrant Stock data set. In particular, it highlights recent changes in the total number of international migrants, discusses the latest trends in their origin and destination, presents up-to-date information on the global number and distribution of refugees and summarizes gender and age dimensions of global migration.

22. The Division published a wallchart entitled *International Migration 2019: Wall Chart*, which provides revised and updated estimates of international migrant stock for 232 countries or areas. The publication is based on the latest data on international migration from the 2019 revision of the International Migrant Stock data set.

23. The Division prepared *International Migration Report 2019* and *International Migration Report 2019: Highlights*, which contain analyses of the levels of, and trends in, international migration, using the latest estimates and projections produced by the Division. Estimates of international migrants by country of origin, destination, age and gender are derived from the 2019 revision of the International Migrant Stock data set. Estimates and projections of net migration are derived from the *2019 Revision of World Population Prospects*. The reports also contain summaries of migration policies and programmes using data from the World Population Policies 2019: International Migration Policies data set for 111 countries that responded to the international migration module of the twelfth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. Finally, the reports provide an overview of migration-related normative frameworks and legal instruments of the United Nations.

24. The Division contributed to the preparation of the 2020 edition of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs flagship *World Social Report* by jointly drafting a chapter titled “International migration: a force for equality, under the right conditions”. In the chapter, the linkages between international migration and inequalities, both within and among countries, are examined.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/countryprofiles.asp.

⁷ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationStock2019_TenKeyFindings.pdf.

25. The Division organized an Expert Symposium on International Migration and Development,⁸ held at United Nations Headquarters on 26 February 2019. It was convened in lieu of the annual coordination meeting on international migration, which had been organized by the Division since 2001. The purposes of the symposium were to highlight opportunities for addressing issues related to migration and development in the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to discuss ways and means of improving the collection and use of migration data and to share information on recent initiatives on international migration and development. It was attended by more than 200 participants, including representatives of Member States, observers, United Nations entities and regional commissions, non-governmental organizations and migration experts. The report of the expert symposium is available online.

26. The Division served on the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration. The Network, established by the Secretary-General in 2018, seeks to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support for the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Division led the working group aimed at developing and implementing a global programme to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination. It also served as a member of the working group aimed at establishing a connection hub and knowledge platform, as mandated by the Global Compact. Both instruments will ensure the design of demand-driven and tailor-made solutions to respond to migration realities, drawing from a user-friendly open data source platform of existing evidence, practices and initiatives.

V. Global population estimates and projections

27. In June 2019, the Population Division issued the *2019 Revision of World Population Prospects*, according to which the world's population numbered nearly 7.7 billion in mid-2019 and is projected to increase to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.9 billion in 2100. The results are based on the medium-variant projection, which assumes a decline in fertility in countries where large families are still prevalent and a slight increase in fertility in several low-fertility countries.

28. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the work of the Division. Such estimates and projections form a comprehensive set of demographic data to assess population trends at the global, regional and national levels. They are used in the calculation of many of the key development indicators commonly employed by the United Nations system, including for more than one third of the indicators used to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are used extensively by the general public and are widely considered to provide the most authoritative set of demographic data describing population levels and trends around the world. Several agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system distribute the results through their databases and websites.

29. The *2019 Revision* presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 235 countries or areas, as well as 250 major aggregates or groupings of countries or areas, which have been developed through country-specific analyses of historical demographic trends. In the latest assessment, the results of 1,690 national population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2018 are considered, as well as information from numerous vital registration systems and from 2,700 nationally representative sample surveys.

⁸ See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/other/symposium/201902/index.asp.

30. The Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world up to the year 2100. Given the long projection horizon, results at the country level are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. The attention of users was thus drawn not only to the outcomes of the medium variant, which corresponds to the median of several thousand projected country trajectories for each component, but also to the uncertainty intervals, which describe a range of plausible outcomes. In addition, the *2019 Revision* includes nine separate projection variants that both convey the sensitivity of the medium-variant projection to changes in the underlying assumptions and explore the implications of alternative future scenarios of population change. The results of the probabilistic projections and nine projection variants are available on the Division's website.⁹

31. Several outputs presenting the results of the *2019 Revision* are available on the Division's website. A *Highlights* report contains summaries of key population trends based on the new estimates and projections.¹⁰ Detailed data for world regions, various major aggregates¹¹ and countries and areas are available from the website in a variety of formats, including Excel and ASCII file formats, an interactive database and two PDF volumes (*World Populations Prospects 2019: Volume I: Comprehensive Tables* and *World Populations Prospects 2019: Volume II: Demographic Profiles*). Supporting materials, such as data sources and meta-information, are also available.¹² The site also includes figures and maps illustrating the data. Additional publications from the *2019 Revision* include a wallchart¹³ and a data booklet,¹⁴ providing key demographic indicators for all countries and areas of the world, and two *Population Facts* briefs in which the results are analysed: "How certain are the United Nations global population projections?" and "Potential impact of later childbearing on future population". A report entitled *Methodology of the United Nations population estimates and projections* gives an overview of the data and methods used in the *2019 Revision*.

VI. Population policies

32. In 2019, the Population Division completed the implementation of the twelfth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. The Inquiry, mandated by the General Assembly in 1962, is a long-standing survey used to gather information from Governments on selected population policies and programmes, for the purpose of monitoring progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. The Inquiry documents changes in the views and policies of Governments with respect to population size and growth, age structure, fertility, reproductive health and family planning, health and mortality, spatial distribution and internal migration and international migration within the context of demographic, social and economic change. The twelfth Inquiry was repurposed to gather information for the monitoring of progress on two Sustainable Development Goal indicators: indicator 10.7.2 (Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies) and indicator 5.6.2 (Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15–49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education) (see section IX.D below). The Inquiry consists of multiple-choice questions organized in three thematic modules: module I on population ageing and urbanization; module II on fertility, family planning and reproductive health; and

⁹ Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/Graphs/Probabilistic/900> and **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..**

¹⁰ Available at https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Highlights.pdf.

¹¹ Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/SpecialAggregates>.

¹² Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/DataSources>.

¹³ Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019-Wallchart.pdf>.

¹⁴ Available at https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_DataBooklet.pdf.

module III on international migration. Modules I and II were implemented with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and module III was implemented in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with support from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

33. The Division launched the World Population Policies 2019: International Migration Policies and Programmes data set, which includes information from 111 Governments that responded to the international migration module of the twelfth Inquiry. It also published the country profiles for International Migration Policies and Programmes, 2019. Using the data, the Division prepared *World Population Policies 2020: International Migration Policies Report and Highlights*.¹⁵ The reports describe government policies and programmes related to international migration governance, immigration, emigration, return migration, migrant rights, integration, trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, forced migration, migration and development and diaspora engagement.

34. The Division launched the World Population Policies 2017: Abortion Laws and Policies data set, which provides information on legal grounds for induced abortion, requirements for induced abortion and access to abortion services in all 197 countries of the world, including 193 Member States, 2 Observer States and 2 non-member States of the United Nations. The data were gathered as part of the Global Abortion Policies Project, carried out by the Division in collaboration with WHO. The Division also published country profiles using the data.¹⁶

VII. Urbanization and spatial distribution

35. In 2019, the Population Division released a report containing detailed analysis of the results of the *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, containing the latest estimates of the urban and rural populations of 233 countries or areas from 1950 to 2018 and projections to 2050, as well as estimates of population size from 1950 to 2018 and projections to 2035, for nearly 1,900 urban settlements with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2018. A *Highlights* version of the report was also released.¹⁷

36. The Division prepared a technical paper entitled “Exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters for world’s cities”, in which it used data from the *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects* and spatial hotspot data to assess vulnerability to cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions for cities with 300,000 or more inhabitants in 2018.

VIII. Population ageing, household composition and living arrangements

37. The Population Division released *World Population Ageing 2019: Highlights*. The report provided an overview of global and regional trends of ageing, using both conventional measures of population ageing, such as dependency ratios, and innovative measurements of prospective ageing measurements. In the report, the Division also examined ageing-relating economic indicators, including National Transfer Accounts. The *Highlights* report was launched on International Day of Older Persons, in October 2019. The Division also updated Profiles of Ageing 2019, drawing on the *2019 Revision of World Population Prospects*. A more detailed report on world population ageing will be published in early 2020.

¹⁵ To be published in the first quarter of 2020.

¹⁶ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/policy/Gapp_profiles.pdf.

¹⁷ Available at <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Highlights.pdf>.

38. In 2019, the Division updated the Database on the Living Arrangements of Older Persons, which presents a compilation of indicators on the household composition and living arrangements of persons aged 60 or over. The indicators are estimated using both tabulated data and household roster microdata from censuses and household surveys. Indicators describe the proportion of older persons living alone, with a spouse, with their children and in various configurations of intergenerational households. The estimates included in the 2019 update are based on 738 unique data sources from 155 countries or areas, representing approximately 97 per cent of persons aged 60 or over globally, with reference dates ranging from 1960 to 2018.

39. The Division also updated the Database on Household Size and Composition, which presents a compilation of indicators on household size and composition around the world, estimated using both tabulated data and household roster microdata from censuses and household surveys. Indicators describe the distribution of households by size, household headship, the percentage of households with members in certain age groups, the prevalence of nuclear and extended family households and the prevalence of various intergenerational household configurations. The estimates included in the 2019 update are based on 814 unique data sources from 172 countries or areas, representing approximately 97 per cent of the world's population in 2019, with reference dates ranging from 1960 to 2019.

40. The Division published a report in which it described global trends in households and living arrangements, as well as the data and methods underlying the Database on Household Size and Composition. In addition, it collaborated with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to develop an extension of the Database that is focused on the households and living arrangements of women. The extended data set informed chapter II of *Progress of the world's women 2019–2020*, the theme of which is “Families in a changing world”.

41. The Division prepared a brief on living arrangements of older persons around the world,¹⁸ in which it summarized key findings from a recent analysis of the size and composition of households with at least one older person, using the 2019 edition of the Database on Household Size and Composition. On the occasion of the Group of 20 meeting held in Japan, the Division published a fact sheet with 10 key findings of ageing trends across Group of 20 member States.¹⁹

42. The Division co-organized an expert group meeting on the topic of “Measuring population ageing: bridging research and policy”, in cooperation with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The meeting was held in Bangkok on 25 and 26 February 2019.²⁰ The report of the meeting is available online.²¹

43. The Division supported the work of the Titchfield city group on ageing as a member of the Steering Committee. The Group was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2018 to improve the availability, accessibility and comparability of statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking.

¹⁸ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2019-2.pdf.

¹⁹ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/other/35/Key%20Findings_28JUNE19.pdf.

²⁰ See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/29/index.asp.

²¹ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/29/Report_of_the_meeting.pdf.

IX. Support for intergovernmental processes

A. Reports of the Secretary-General

44. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2019, “Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (E/CN.9/2019/2). The report contains a review of the latest trends in population growth, fertility, family planning and reproductive health, mortality, population ageing, urbanization and human mobility, including international migration, in relation to development trends and outcomes. Some general and specific contributions to the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and, in turn, its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are reviewed, and include the changing age distributions and their consequent enabling of the demographic dividend, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the interrelationships among population, environment and climate change. The role of demographic data in planning and monitoring is also discussed.

B. Expert group meetings

45. On 16 and 17 September 2019, the Population Division held an expert group meeting in preparation for the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development. At the meeting, experts from around the world examined new evidence and analysis regarding relationships between population change, food security, nutrition and sustainable development. Issues covered included: linkages to population megatrends and components of change; connections between food security and growth, consumption and sustainability; land degradation, water scarcity and biosphere impacts; alternative scenarios for projected trends in population and food; transformation of rural economies and employment as a driver of population movements; synergies between population movements and rural development, including migrant remittances and diaspora investments; consequences of malnutrition for mortality and health, including reproductive health; and diets, nutritional habits and burden of disease. The findings of the meeting are summarized in a report.²²

C. Support for the General Assembly

46. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/241, the Population Division, in collaboration with IOM and under the auspices of the United Nations Network on Migration, assisted the Office of the President of the Assembly in preparing and organizing the high-level debate on international migration and development, held on 27 February 2019. In particular, it facilitated the registration and participation of civil society organizations, contributed to the preparation of the agenda and helped to prepare the report.

47. The Division, in collaboration with IOM and under the auspices of the United Nations Network on Migration, supported the informal consultations on the resolution on the format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums (resolution 73/326). The consultations were conducted between February and July 2019. The forums will serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for

²² Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/30/Report_of_the_meeting.pdf.

Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

48. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/303](#), the Division, in collaboration with UNFPA, assisted the Office of the President of the Assembly in preparing and organizing a high-level event to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, held on 16 July. In particular, it facilitated the registration and participation of civil society organizations, contributed to the preparation of the agenda and helped to prepare the report.

D. Monitoring of internationally agreed development goals

49. The survey-based estimates of family planning indicators published in *World Contraceptive Use 2019*, as well as the model-based estimates and projections of those indicators, *Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2019*, informed the report of the Secretary-General on global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in 2019, in particular with regard to target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning. The comprehensive data set and model-based estimates and projections provide critical evidence regarding the degree to which the demand for family planning is being met and whether that demand is being satisfied by the use of modern methods of contraception (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1).

50. The publications of the Division on contraceptive use and family planning are widely used by organizations that work to improve sexual and reproductive health, including global initiatives such as *Family Planning 2020*. Since 2014, the further development of the Division's work on family planning indicators has been supported by extrabudgetary contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As a result of that work, in 2019, for the first time, the global reporting of progress on target 3.7 was based on estimates pertaining to all women of reproductive age and was no longer restricted to women who were married or in a union.

51. As the custodian agency for indicator 3.7.2 of the Goals (Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group), the Division provided updates on the fertility rate for women aged 15–19 years, now available for 221 countries or areas for the period from 2000 to 2018. For 217 of those countries or areas, there are at least two data points available.²³ In order to provide information also for the younger age group, the Division is reviewing available census, survey and administrative data that can be used to estimate the adolescent birth rate at the ages of 10–14 years.

52. The Division released the first data set²⁴ and country profiles²⁵ on indicator 10.7.2 of the Goals (Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies). The information on that indicator was available for 111 countries that responded to the international migration module of the twelfth Inquiry. Indicator 10.7.2 informs target 10.7, which calls upon countries to facilitate the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, which is the target most explicitly and directly related to international migration among all the targets of the 2030 Agenda. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and

²³ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

²⁴ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/sdg/index_10_7_2.asp.

²⁵ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/sdg/countryprofiles.asp.

IOM are the custodian agencies for indicator 10.7.2, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is a partner agency.

53. The Division published a technical paper entitled “Development, validation and testing of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies”, in which it describes the conceptual framework and provides an overview of the process for developing the methodology for measuring the indicator. It also published a policy brief²⁶ and a data booklet²⁷ in which it summarized the global and regional situation with regard to indicator 10.7.2 in 2019.

54. The Division contributed to the preparation of a data set on indicator 5.6.2 of the Goals (Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15–49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education). The information for measuring that indicator was drawn from the fertility, family planning and reproductive health module of the twelfth Inquiry, which is implemented by the Division. UNFPA is the custodian agency for indicator 5.6.2, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is a partner agency.

55. During 2019, the Division contributed to the work of the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of target 3.2 of the Goals, on ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to no more than 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to no more than 25 per 1,000 live births. The Inter-Agency Group, led by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, also includes the Population Division and the World Bank. The Division provided information to update the database on infant and under-5 mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF²⁸ and collaborated in the preparation of the report *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality*, published in 2019.

56. In addition, the Division continued to participate in the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group, which is responsible for monitoring progress towards the reduction of maternal mortality, which is target 3.1 of the Goals, on the reduction of the global maternal mortality to fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births. The Inter-agency Group is led by WHO, with the participation of UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the Population Division. The Division provides key inputs to the maternal mortality estimation process, including country-level estimates of the number of women of reproductive age, the total fertility rate and the number of live births. It also contributed to the preparation of the report *Maternal Mortality: Levels and Trends, 2000–2017*, published in 2019.

57. Throughout the year, the Division continued to participate in system-wide consultations and reviews of Goal indicators under the auspices of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, including discussions on options for indicators that are not yet clearly defined.

X. Dissemination of population information and data

58. To improve dissemination, all data sets and outputs from the latest revisions of *World Urbanization Prospects* and *World Population Prospects* were made available online through a web-based interface allowing users to download results in various file formats through interactive queries. The website also contains key findings, analytical charts and country profiles, as well as information on the methods used for

²⁶ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/Policy%20Brief_10.7.2.pdf.

²⁷ Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/sdg/index_10_7_2.asp.

²⁸ See <http://childmortality.org>.

constructing the data set. According to information obtained from Google Analytics, the website for the two products had about 2.4 million page views in 2019, representing an increase of approximately 25 per cent since 2018, including more than 1.7 million unique page views for *World Population Prospects* and approximately 403,000 for *World Urbanization Prospects*. At the end of 2019, according to information provided by Google, *World Population Prospects* was referenced on 837,000 web pages (an increase of 8 per cent compared with 2018) and was cited in 50,300 articles (an increase of 18 per cent), while *World Urbanization Prospects* appeared on 280,000 web pages and in 30,300 articles (an increase of 20 per cent). The *2019 Revision* was the first revision of *World Population Prospects* published under a creative commons intergovernmental organizations licence.

59. The Division also contributes to more than 80 of the 1,600 indicators in the World Development Indicators database of the World Bank, with a focus on population dynamics and population structures, fertility, contraception, mortality, migration and urbanization. The indicators were downloaded by up to 300,000 visitors in 2019, and four of them were among the top 10 most downloaded data.

60. The Division strengthened its communication and outreach activities, collaborating closely with the Department of Global Communications and the Strategic Planning and Communications Service of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in launching major publications and in publicizing major intergovernmental events. In support of these launches and events, the Division systematized its outreach activities by preparing key messages, media advisories, press releases and social media packages, including digital cards, infographics, tweets and Facebook posts. As a result, the number of requests for information and interviews from media outlets increased sharply.

61. The Division promoted activities, findings and results related to the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, which was held from 1 to 5 April.

62. On 17 June, the launch of the *2019 Revision of World Population Prospects* was carried out in close coordination with key partners, including regional economic commissions, professional associations, research institutes and demographic centres. National launch activities were held in Brazil, China, France, Germany, Japan and the United States of America. In China, the launch was organized jointly with the China Population Development and Research Center, involving a large number of government officials and demographers, which generated considerable media coverage. The launch of the *World Population Prospects* data and publications was supplemented by an online document on frequently asked questions, a media kit and a social media package. A trend analysis of search terms suggested that the media coverage of the *2019 Revision of World Population Prospects* was three to four times greater than that of previous revisions.

63. On 17 September, the Division successfully launched the 2019 revision of International Migrant Stock. The launch package included a revised set of estimates of the number of international migrants by country of destination, origin, age and gender, with accompanying documentation, a population fact sheet, a media kit and a social media package.

64. The Division also expanded its outreach activities in support of the commemoration of international days, in close collaboration with partner entities. In particular, it produced relevant materials in the context of World Population Day (11 July), International Youth Day (12 August), World Contraception Day (26 September), the International Day of Older Persons (1 October), World Cities Day (31 October) and International Migrants Day (18 December).

65. The Division incorporated a departmental strategic communication framework and applied an accompanying visual ecosystem in both its traditional and online publications.

66. Staff of the Division participated in meetings of professional associations in the field of population, which provide a platform for dissemination of the Division's work in academic circles. In 2019, staff gave presentations at, among others, the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, held in Austin, United States, from 10 to 13 April, and the eighth African Population Conference, held in Entebbe, Uganda, from 18 to 22 November.

67. During 2019, the Division continued to update and expand its website, which provides access to timely population information for use by government officials, academic researchers, the private sector and civil society. The website contains all the publications issued by the Division in recent years and a full collection of documents issued for and statements made in the Commission on Population and Development since 1994. Web traffic statistics indicate that, in 2019, the Division's website was visited by an average of 97,000 unique users per month, generating some 4.3 million page views. In 2019, the Division developed a new website that will be deployed in 2020.

68. The Division received many requests for data and provided such information in a timely manner. In 2019, it continued to meet with delegations of Member States to discuss various population-related topics, including the Division's estimates and projections of global population, the work of the Commission on Population and Development, the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the United Nations in the area of migration. It also provided numerous briefing notes and statements for senior officials of the United Nations.

XI. Technical cooperation

69. At the request of the national statistical office of Georgia, the Division conducted a national workshop on population projections, in Tbilisi, from 20 to 24 May 2019. The office will undertake national population projections, which are needed to measure the population at risk, a vital component for assessing progress on the Goals.

70. In collaboration with ESCAP, the Division conducted a workshop on measuring population ageing and assessing its economic and fiscal consequences, in Bangkok, from 24 to 27 June 2019.²⁹ Government officials from relevant ministries in 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region were trained in methods and software for long-run economic and fiscal forecasts. The methods are used in evaluating the sustainability of financing for social spending (education, health care and pensions) needed to achieve the Goals.

71. At the request of the Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia, the Division conducted a workshop on population ageing and its economic and fiscal consequences, in Jakarta, on 1 and 2 July 2019. Participants attended from the Ministry of Development Planning, the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction and line ministries. They measured the impact of a changing age structure on economic growth, as well as the challenge of sustainable financing of social programmes in order to meet the Goals as the population of Indonesia becomes older and wealthier.

72. At the request of the national statistical office of Namibia, the Division conducted a workshop on population projections, in Okahandja, from 2 to 9 August

²⁹ See www.unescap.org/events/workshop-measuring-population-ageing-and-assessing-its-economic-and-fiscal-consequences.

2019. The office will undertake national population projections following the country's next census.

73. In collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Division conducted a regional capacity development seminar on population ageing and its economic and fiscal consequences, in Santiago, from 9 to 11 September 2019. Government officials from relevant ministries in 10 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region were trained in methods and software for long-run economic and fiscal forecasts.

74. At the request of the national statistical office of Malawi, the Division conducted a workshop on population projections, in Blantyre, from 22 October to 1 November 2019. The mission was undertaken jointly with UNICEF as part of the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. The office is planning to undertake national population projections based on its latest census, which was held in 2018.

75. At the request of the National Council for Intergenerational Equality of Ecuador, and in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Division conducted a regional capacity development seminar on population ageing and its economic and fiscal consequences, in Quito, from 25 to 27 November 2019.³⁰ Government officials from relevant ministries in eight countries in the Latin American region were trained in methods and software for long-run economic and fiscal forecasts.

76. A staff member of the Division participated as a resource person in a regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda, held in Bangkok from 5 to 8 February.³¹ The workshop was convened by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ESCAP.

77. The Division participated in the regional consultative meeting on population estimates and projections organized by the statistical office of the Gulf Cooperation Council, in Muscat, from 20 to 22 October 2019. The meeting brought together senior officials of national statistical offices of member countries of the Council, as well as representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia responsible for the collection, production and analysis of population statistics.

78. From 1 to 5 April 2019, the Division participated in an annual training programme on monitoring family planning indicators organized by Avenir Health in Kigali. The participants of the workshop included approximately 50 monitoring and evaluation officers from ministries of health in 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

79. The Division participated in a training workshop on monitoring family planning indicators organized by Avenir Health in Nay Pyi Taw from 26 June to 2 July 2019. Participants included monitoring and evaluation officers from the national Ministry of Health and Sports, regional government entities, non-governmental organizations, WHO and UNFPA.

³⁰ See www.cepal.org/en/node/50346.

³¹ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2019/bangkok-intl-migration-workshop>.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or events organized by the Population Division (1 January–31 December 2019)

Expert group meetings

Expert group meeting on measuring population ageing: bridging research and policy, Bangkok, 25 and 26 February 2019

Expert Symposium on International Migration and Development, New York, 26 February 2019

Expert group meeting on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, New York, 16 and 17 September 2019

Training workshops

National workshop on population projections, National Statistics Office of Georgia, Tbilisi, 20–24 May 2019

Workshop on measuring population ageing and assessing its economic and fiscal consequences, Bangkok, 24–27 June 2019

Workshop on measuring population ageing and assessing its economic and fiscal consequences, Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia, Jakarta, 1 July 2019

Workshop on population estimates and projections for Namibia, National Statistical Office of Namibia, Okahandja, Namibia, 2–9 August 2019

Latin American and Caribbean workshop on assessing the economic and fiscal consequences of population ageing, Santiago, 9–11 September 2019

Training workshop on assessing the economic and fiscal consequences of population ageing, Quito, 25–27 November 2019

Reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.9/2019/2](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends ([E/CN.9/2018/5](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2018: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/CN.9/2019/5](#))

Research studies

International Migration 2019 ([ST/ESA/SER.A/438](#))

International Migration 2019: Highlights ([ST/ESA/SER.A/439](#))

Patterns and trends in household size and composition: evidence from a United Nations dataset ([ST/ESA/SER.A/433](#))

World Mortality Report 2017: Highlights ([ST/ESA/SER.A/410](#))

World Mortality 2019: Highlights ([ST/ESA/SER.A/432](#))

World Population Ageing 2019: Highlights ([ST/ESA/SER.A/430](#))

Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its Contribution to the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([ST/ESA/SER.A/428](#))

World Population Prospects 2019: Vol. I: Comprehensive Tables ([ST/ESA/SER.A/426](#))

World Population Prospects 2019: Vol. II: Demographic Profiles ([ST/ESA/SER.A/427](#))

World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights ([ST/ESA/SER.A/423](#))

World Population Prospects 2019: Methodology of the United Nations Population Estimates and Projections ([ST/ESA/SER.A/425](#))

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision ([ST/ESA/SER.A/420](#))

World Urbanization Prospects 2018: Highlights ([ST/ESA/SER.A/421](#))

Databases and data sets

World Contraceptive Use 2019

Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2019

International Migrant Stock 2019

United Nations Database on the Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2019

United Nations Database on Household Size and Composition 2019

United Nations Global Migration Database

World Fertility Data 2019

World Mortality Report 2019: Data Inventory

World Mortality Report 2019: online data set

World Population Policies 2017: Abortion Laws and Policies

World Population Policies 2019: International Migration Policies and Programmes

World Population Prospects 2019: interactive database

World Population Prospects 2019: standard data set

World Population Prospects 2019: Special Aggregates

World Population Prospects 2019: Probabilistic Projections

Wallcharts, infocharts and data booklets

Contraceptive Use by Method 2019: Data Booklet ([ST/ESA/SER.A/435](#))

Family Planning and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Data Booklet ([ST/ESA/SER.A/429](#))

International Migration 2019: Wall Chart ([ST/ESA/SER.A/431](#))

SDG Indicator 10.7.2: Number of Countries with Migration Policies to Facilitate Orderly, Safe, Regular and Responsible Migration and Mobility of People: Data Booklet ([ST/ESA/SER.A/441](#))

World Mortality 2019: Data Booklet ([ST/ESA/SER.A/436](#))

World Population 2019: Wall Chart ([ST/ESA/SER.A/434](#))

World Population Prospects 2019: Data Booklet ([ST/ESA/SER.A/424](#))

Technical papers series

“A sensitivity analysis of parameters used in Spectrum’s Aids Impact Model: the role of the sex ratio of HIV incidence and adult treatment on mortality levels and trends” (technical paper No. 2019/1)

“R Scripts for computing adult and maternal mortality from DHS sibling survival histories” (technical paper No. 2019/2)

“Development, validation and testing of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies” (technical paper No. 2019/3)

“Exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters for world’s cities” (technical paper No. 2019/4)

“Evaluating the completeness of death registration at old ages: a new method and its application to developed and developing countries” (technical paper No. 2019/5)

Policy briefs

“Fertility among very young adolescents” (Population Facts No. 2019/1)

“Living arrangements of older persons around the world” (Population Facts No. 2019/2)

“Global progress in satisfying the need for family planning” (Population Facts No. 2019/3)

“International migrants numbered 272 million in 2019, continuing an upward trend in all major world regions” (Population Facts No. 2019/4)

“Potential impact of later childbearing on future population” (Population Facts No. 2019/5)

“How certain are the United Nations global population projections?” (Population Facts No. 2019/6)

“International Migrant Stock 2019: ten key messages”

“International Migration 2019: ten key findings”

“World Mortality 2019: ten key messages”

“World Population Ageing 2019: ten key messages”

“World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights: ten key findings”

“World Population Prospects 2019: Ageing in G20 countries: ten key findings”
