Chapter VIII

Population

In 2005, the world’s population reached 6.5 billion, as compared with 6.4 billion in 2004. Growing at the rate of about 1.2 per cent annually, world population was projected to reach the 7 billion mark in 2012, and long-range projections suggested that it could ultimately stabilize at about 9 billion people.

United Nations population activities continued to be guided, in 2005, by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the key actions for its further implementation adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999. The Commission on Population and Development, the body responsible for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, considered as its special theme “Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty”. It also discussed how the implementation of the Programme of Action contributed to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); financial resources for implementing the Programme of Action; world population monitoring; world demographic trends; and the activities of the UN Population Division. The Population Division continued to analyse and report on world demographic trends and policies and to make its findings available in publications and on the Internet.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued, in 2005, to assist countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and the MDGs. It participated in the preparatory process leading to the 2005 World Summit review of progress made towards achieving the objectives and targets of the Millennium Declaration. In the World Summit Outcome, adopted by the General Assembly in September, world leaders reaffirmed the ICPD goal of achieving universal access to reproductive health as critical to the realization of the MDGs, and committed themselves to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and integrating that goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty.

The United Nations made preparations, in 2005, for convening a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. In December, the General Assembly decided that the High-level Dialogue would be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2005 and would discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, in order to identify appropriate ways to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The Assembly also decided on the format of the session and the themes of four interactive round tables, as well as on related arrangements.

Follow-up to 1994 Conference on Population and Development

Implementation of the Programme of Action

Commission on Population and Development action. In follow-up to the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [YUN 1994, p. 955], the Commission on Population and Development, at its thirty-eighth session (New York, 4-8 and 14 April) [E/2005/25], considered as its special theme “Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty”, and discussed the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Commission also considered the contribution of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51].

Population, development and HIV/AIDS

The special theme for the Commission’s 2005 session was “Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty”. For the Commission’s discussion, the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.9/2005/3] on world population monitoring, focusing on the theme of the session. The report provided an overview of population, HIV/AIDS and poverty,
and examined the determinants of HIV/AIDS; mortality, population growth and orphanhood; fertility and sexual behaviour; geographical mobility; HIV/AIDS development and poverty; government views and policies; and prevention, treatment and care.

The report found that the HIV/AIDS pandemic had expanded rapidly since 1980 and had afflicted all regions of the world, both the rich and the poor. The hardest-hit countries were, however, among the poorest in the world, with a prevalence rate nine times higher than in the more developed regions.

Prevention was the central pillar of action against HIV/AIDS, the report concluded, and awareness of the behaviours that increased the risk of contracting HIV and resultant behavioural change were the key to prevention. When prevention actions failed, the next line of action was treatment with antiretroviral drugs to mitigate its effects and prolong life. Yet only about 1 in 10 of those needing treatment had access to antiretroviral therapy. During 2004, about 3 million people died of AIDS and 39 million people worldwide were infected with the disease. Households and families bore the burden of HIV/AIDS since they had to cope with the disease and its consequences. By placing heavy economic and social burden on families and households and eroding inter-generational support systems, AIDS increased poverty. In addition, it strained resources of the health and education sectors in poorer countries. Africa was the most affected, but steep increases in HIV infections had been recently observed in some countries in Asia and Eastern Europe. HIV prevalence in the Caribbean was the second highest in the world; and in some of the more developed countries, prevention efforts were not keeping pace with the growth of the epidemic. Most Governments reported having implemented HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, yet in many countries those most in need lacked access to basic prevention services.

The international community had recognized the terrible consequences of the epidemic and was taking steps to respond. However, unless more vigorous actions were undertaken to combat the disease and its effects, the HIV/AIDS epidemic portended a grim future for many countries, especially the poorer ones. There were, however, hopeful signs of improved HIV/AIDS awareness, of greater political commitment and of increased financial resources, particularly from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which by mid-2004 had approved over 300 grants in 128 countries totalling $3 billion. Nevertheless, financing for AIDS response was far short of the amount needed.

The Commission also considered the Secretary-General’s report [E/CN.9/2005/4] on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty. The report also discussed progress towards implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, especially as it related to HIV/AIDS population and reproductive health, the five-year review of its implementation, the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly by resolution S-26/2 [YUN 2001, p. 1126], and the MDGs. It highlighted the effects of HIV/AIDS on population dynamics, including population losses, decreasing life expectancy, slower economic growth and greater extreme poverty.

The Secretary-General concluded that, since 1994 when the ICPD Programme of Action was adopted, the impact of HIV/AIDS in many countries had been devastating. While there had been some progress to increase access to antiretroviral treatment for those infected, much more needed to be done. Committed leadership, multisectoral approaches, partnerships, coordination and scaled-up efforts were all essential elements of an effective response. It was crucial also that prevention efforts be intensified, with strategies that addressed the wider issues of equality and social justice. Access to sexual and reproductive health information and services were essential for HIV prevention programmes. The Secretary-General encouraged countries to recognize and stress the linkages between reproductive health and HIV/AIDS in the various UN forums. AIDS had to be treated as both an emergency and a long-term development issue, and addressed through a wide array of efforts.

By a 14 April resolution [E/2005/25 (res. 2005/1)], which it brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reaffirmed the ICPD Programme of Action, as well as the goals, targets and actions set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS; ICPD + 5 and internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs; underscored the importance of actions by Governments and the international community to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and reaffirmed the need for Governments to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in implementing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. Stressing that HIV/AIDS was contributing to the intensification of poverty in many countries, the Commission urged the international community to complement and supplement, through increased inter-
national development assistance, the efforts of developing countries that were committing increased national funds to fighting HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean. It also stressed the need for an integrated approach in national responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic that would include an action framework to facilitate the coordination of work by all partners—one national HIV/AIDS framework, one national HIV coordinating body and one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system—the “Three Ones” strategy [YUN 2004, p. 120] for the coordination of resources. The resolution also called for specified actions by Government, relevant United Nations and other international organizations and the international community to respond to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Financial resources

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/124 [YUN 1995, p. 1094], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission a January report [E/CN.9/2005/5] on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It examined the flow of funds from donor countries and domestic expenditures for population activities in developing countries for 2003, as well as estimates for 2004 and projections for 2005. Although the financial targets of the Programme of Action for 2000 ($17 billion for reproductive health programme) were not met, it was encouraging that both international donor assistance and domestic expenditures for population activities had increased since then. Donor assistance was estimated at $4.2 billion in 2003, up from $3.2 billion in 2002, and domestic expenditures were estimated at almost $11 billion, up from 2000-2002 levels, for a total global estimate of just over $15 billion in 2003. To reach the 2005 target of $18.5 billion, the international community would have to increase levels of assistance and developing countries mobilize additional domestic resources. Estimates for 2004 and projections for 2005 were encouraging. Donor assistance was estimated to have increased to $4.5 billion in 2004 and was projected to increase to almost $6.4 billion in 2005. Resources mobilized by developing countries were estimated to reach $12.5 billion for 2004 and $12.7 billion in 2005. While the largest share of funding was currently going to AIDS-related activities, the increased resources were still not adequately addressing the growing AIDS pandemic.

The largest share of funding went to AIDS-related activities but funding for family planning and reproductive health, which had been lagging behind, needed to increase proportionately with current needs. The challenge for the international community was remaining on track to reach the 2005 target. Without a firm commitment to population, reproductive health and gender issues, and adequate allocation of financial resources in all areas, it was unlikely that any of the goals and targets of ICPD and the Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 48] would be reached.

Implementing ICPD Programme of Action to achieve development goals

In response to decision 2004/1 of the Commission on Population and Development [YUN 2004, p. 1086], the Secretary-General submitted a January report [E/CN.9/2005/6] on the contribution of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. The report concluded that full implementation of the Programme of Action and related actions would contribute significantly to the achievement of universally agreed development goals. It would help accelerate the transition to low fertility in those developing countries with high fertility rates, and thus slow population growth, thereby improving the ability of those countries to adjust to future population increases, combat poverty, protect and repair the environment, and set the conditions for sustainable development. The reduction of fertility would result in a “demographic bonus”, whereby the proportion of the population of working age would increase relative to that of children and the elderly—a change that could contribute significantly to economic growth and poverty reduction. Its fulfilment would also ensure the achievement of equivalent goals in the Millennium Declaration, in particular the reduction of child and maternal mortality, universal access to primary education, parity in access to secondary and higher education between boys and girls, reductions in the spread of HIV, and the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Its implementation would also contribute to international objectives concerning urbanization, ageing and vulnerable groups. However, implementation depended on building a partnership for global development where all actors, including Governments, multilateral and donor agencies, civil society and the private sector, cooperated to realize its goals and objectives.

By a 14 April resolution [E/2005/25 (rev. 2005/2)], which it brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission emphasized the importance of integrating the goal of univer-
International migration and development

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/241 [YUN 2004, p. 1077], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/60/205] on the organizational details of a high-level dialogue on international migration and development, to be held during the Assembly’s sixty-first (2006) session. By resolution 58/208 [YUN 2003, p. 1087], the Assembly had decided to convene the high-level dialogue to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, in order to identify appropriate ways to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The Secretary-General suggested that the high-level dialogue be held on 14 and 15 September 2006; that Member States be encouraged Governments, international organizations and financial institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Programme of Action through technical assistance and capacity-building activities; and called for the provision of adequate resources to all areas of the Programme of Action.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 69], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/60/490/Add.3], adopted resolution 60/227 without vote [agenda item 54 (c)].

International migration and development

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,
Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,
Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,
1. Decides that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and also decides that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;
2. Invites Member States to participate in the High-level Dialogue at the ministerial level or highest level possible;
3. Decides that the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Dialogue;
4. Invites those intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the High-level Dialogue;
5. Invites relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of, and participate in, the High-level Dialogue;
6. Decides that the participants in the High-level Dialogue will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;
7. Also decides that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables, within existing resources;
8. Further decides that the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General will make introductory statements at the opening of the High-level Dialogue;
9. Decides that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including its relevant special rapporteurs, and the International Organization for Migration, as well as to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decides that the round tables will be organized as follows:
   (a) The first set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue;
   (b) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day of the High-level Dialogue;
   (c) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;
10. Also decides that the themes for each of the four round tables will be the following:
   (a) Round table 1 will focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development;
   (b) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all...
migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

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

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

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

12. Decides that the President of the General Assembly, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”.

Transfer costs of migrant remittances

On 22 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/60/460/Add.3], adopted resolution 60/206 without vote [agenda item 54 (c)].

Facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004, acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community, recognizing that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients, recognizing also that remittance flows constitute one of the important aspects of international migration and that they particularly benefit the households of migrants and could impact the economies of recipient countries, recognizing further that there is a need to address and to promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recip.
ient countries, and the need to facilitate the potential of their productive use in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to do so.

Noting that, despite some recent initiatives to facilitate and to reduce the costs of remittance transfers, the costs incurred by migrants remain high and could be reduced,

Noting also the fact that many migrants without access to regular financial services may resort to informal means of transferring remittances,

1. **Recommends** the importance of reducing the transfer costs of migrant remittances, facilitating their flow and, as appropriate, encouraging opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to do so;

2. **Encourages** Governments and other relevant stakeholders to consider adopting measures, in accordance with national legislation, that facilitate migrant remittance flows to recipient countries, including through, inter alia:
   (a) Simplifying procedures and facilitating access to formal means of remittance transfers;
   (b) Promoting access to, and awareness of the availability and use of, financial services for migrants;
3. **Invites** development partners and relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their capacity-building efforts to facilitate the flows of migrant remittances;

4. **Looks forward** to the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development to be held in 2006, which will offer an opportunity 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;

5. **Invites** interested countries to voluntarily convey to the Secretary-General information on their practices, initiatives and proposals in regard to the facilitation and the reduction of the cost of migrant remittances, in the context of the preparation of the Secretary-General’s comprehensive overview for the High-level Dialogue.

### UN Population Fund

**2005 activities**


It presented programme highlights from the Fund’s three priority areas of work as defined in the multi-year funding framework (MYFF), namely, reproductive health, population and development, and gender (see below); and delineated UNFPA’s efforts on investing in organizational effectiveness, including the emphasis on results-based programming and accountability.

The year 2005 was a banner one for UNFPA in terms of financial and political support, the Executive Director stated. The crowning achievement came at the 2005 World Summit, when Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the ICPD goal of achieving universal access to reproductive health as critical to the realization of the MDGs. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see p. 48), world leaders committed themselves to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, and to integrating that ICPD goal into national development strategies. UNFPA’s top priority for 2006 would be follow-up to the World Summit to ensure that population dynamics, reproductive health and gender equality were incorporated into national development strategies, policies and budgets.

Throughout 2005, UNFPA assisted countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and the MDGs. It worked within UN country teams to ensure that universal access to reproductive health by 2015 was integrated into national strategies and in monitoring at country and regional levels. In order to efficiently deliver assistance to countries in the MYFF priority areas of reproductive health, population and development, and gender, UNFPA strengthened its organizational effectiveness at all levels by advancing results-based management and aligning organizational processes, systems, structures and culture with its strategic direction. In response to the new aid environment, UNFPA focused attention on better equipping its country offices to effectively engage in national MDG situation analyses and strategy formulation. Towards that end, it developed an electronic package of support, which included software for costing reproduction services, guidance for engaging in poverty reduction strategies and a checklist for linking sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. It was also exploring regionalization options to enhance its ability to deliver high quality programming at the country level and strengthen its presence at the regional level, which would allow it to pursue simplification and harmonization through co-location and common services.

Regular income for UNFPA totalled $365.8 million in 2005, an increase of 11.6 per cent over 2004 income of $327.7 million. Contributions to other resources totalled $193.7 million, some 13 per cent over 2004. UNFPA expanded its donor...
base to 172 from 166 in 2004, and that number included all countries in sub-Saharan Africa. By programme area, the largest share of resources, 61.5 per cent, went to reproductive health activities; 21.3 per cent to population and development strategies; 12 per cent to programme coordination and assistance; and 5.2 per cent to gender equality and women’s empowerment. The highest priority for allocation of assistance, 67.5 per cent, was for Group A countries, which included all the least developed countries. By region, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 33.3 per cent of programme assistance; Asia and the Pacific, 32.2 per cent; the Arab States and Europe, 12.1 per cent; and Latin America and the Caribbean, 9.1 per cent; and intercountry and interregional activities, 13.2 per cent.

The Executive Director reported jointly with UNDP [DP/FPA/2006/2 (Part II)] on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2005. The report provided a synopsis of UNDP/UNFPA management responses to key JIU recommendations that were relevant to them. Of the nine reports issued by the JIU in 2005, four had cross-agency impact, with recommendations on how to improve country office performance; for a common payroll for UN system organizations; for the use of open-source software for development; and measures to strengthen UN system support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (see p. 1005).

On 28 January [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/9)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board took note of the report of the UNFPA Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council [E/2005/5- DP/FPA/2005/2], which addressed the implementation of the Secretary-General’s reform programme, the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review and follow-up to the international conferences and the MDGs. It requested UNFPA to maintain a sharp focus in following up on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review contained in General Assembly resolution 59/250; and encouraged it to participate in the preparatory process leading to the 2005 review of the progress made towards achieving the objectives and targets contained in the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.

On 23 June [ibid., (dec. 2005/25)], the Executive Board noted the report of the Executive Director for 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1079] and emphasized the need to forge innovative partnerships among development partners, Governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve the ICPD goals and the MDGs. The Board recognized the progress being made to improve UNFPA’s organizational effectiveness and encouraged it to continue to develop its managing-for-results framework and to present a cumulative progress report in 2007.


Reproductive health

In 2005, UNFPA invested 61.5 per cent of its financial resources in reproductive health, underscoring the ICPD goal of universal access to reproductive health information and services, including family planning and maternal health services. Reducing maternal mortality and morbidity remained a priority area for UNFPA, which, together with partners, supported safe motherhood interventions in some 90 countries and launched the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. It expanded the international initiative to mainstream emergency obstetric care. The Campaign to End Fistula grew significantly and was currently active in over 30 countries in Africa, Asia and the Arab States. Needs assessments were completed also in six new countries, and 15 countries were currently implementing strategies in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. In the area of family planning, UNFPA focused its efforts on increasing the coverage of the population and service utilization, and collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations in holding regional workshops and various activities. UNFPA and its partners were working to ensure that reproductive health, including family planning, was given high priority in national development planning for achieving the MDGs.

UNFPA provided reproductive health commodities to countries in all regions, and, with its partners, developed a global programme to enhance reproductive health commodity security. UNFPA was also working with its partners to intensify HIV prevention and strengthen HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health linkages.

Population development and poverty

In monitoring progress towards the MDGs, UNFPA in 2005, focused support on data collection, analysis and use, specifically by strengthening the capacity of developing countries to monitor such progress. In collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, UNFPA increased its support to population and housing censuses, particularly the 2010 round, and was organizing regional workshops to sensitize developing coun-
tries on the importance of censuses and data collection.

Population ageing and international migration were important and emerging issues which needed to be accorded higher priority in policy dialogues and poverty reduction strategies. In 2005, UNFPA continued to provide technical guidance and financial support to train policymakers from developing countries to build national capacity to address the challenges of population ageing. In April, it convened an advisory group meeting on ageing issues in Malta. It worked closely with the UN programme on ageing, collaborated with WHO on a study of the determinants that impacted women’s health and supported research into the social and economic policy implications of demographic transitions, including ageing. The Fund also supported country-level capacity development for formulating migration policy through its support for the International Migration Policy Programme review, and, together issued a publication entitled “Meeting the Challenges of Migration: Progress Since the ICPD”. In May, it hosted an expert group meeting on international migration and the MDGs in Marrakech, Morocco and collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in organizing workshops on key migration issues.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

In 2005, UNFPA continued to mainstream gender concerns into all population and development programming as a primary means of achieving gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women, and supported capacity development of government officials, NGOs and human rights institutions. It focused attention and technical and financial resources for addressing gender-based violence, particularly through the development of a regional programme for 20 countries in Africa. Under its Women, Peace and Security Initiative, UNFPA sponsored a workshop in Bucharest, Romania, in October, on reassessing institutional support for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) [YUN 2000, p. 193] on women, peace and security, and worked closely with the UN programme on ageing, collaborated with WHO on a study of the determinants that impacted women’s health and supported research into the social and economic policy implications of demographic transitions, including ageing. The Fund also supported country-level capacity development for formulating migration policy through its support for the International Migration Policy Programme review, and, together issued a publication entitled “Meeting the Challenges of Migration: Progress Since the ICPD”. In May, it hosted an expert group meeting on international migration and the MDGs in Marrakech, Morocco and collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in organizing workshops on key migration issues.

Country and intercountry programmes

UNFPA’s provisional project expenditures for country and intercountry (regional and inter-regional) programmes in 2005 totalled $234.3 million, compared to $221.9 million in 2004, according to the Executive Director’s statistical overview report [DP/FPA/2006/2 (Part I, Add.1)]. The 2005 figure included $186.7 million for country programmes and $47.6 million for intercountry activities. In accordance with the Board’s procedure for allocating resources according to its categorization of countries laid down in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 989], total expenditures in 2005 for Group A countries amounted to $126.1 million, compared to $121.1 million in 2004. Africa. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in sub-Saharan Africa totalled $78 million in 2005, compared to $78.1 million in 2004. Most of that amount (57.1 per cent) went to reproductive health and family planning, followed by population and development strategies (22.9 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (13.9 per cent) and gender equality and women’s empowerment (6.1 per cent). On 28 January [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/14)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board approved UNFPA country programmes for Angola, Burundi and Madagascar. On 23 June [dec. 2005/31], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Namibia and Uganda; and on 9 September [dec. 2005/42], for Chad, Swaziland and Cape Verde, as well as the Cape Verde results and resources frameworks.

Arab States and Europe. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in the Arab States and Europe totalled $28.4 million, compared to $28.7 million on 2004. Most (63.1 per cent) was spent on reproductive health and family planning, followed by population and development strategies (21.5 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (10.8 per cent) and gender equality and women’s empowerment (4.6 per cent). On 28 January [dec. 2005/14], the Executive Board approved UNFPA country programmes for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. On 23 June [dec. 2005/31], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Albania, Georgia, The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Turkey and Ukraine and on 9 September [dec. 2005/42], for Afghanistan.

Asia and the Pacific. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Asia and the Pacific amounted to $75.5 million, compared to $65.9 million in 2004. Most of those expendi-
tures (72 per cent) went to reproductive health and family planning, followed by population and development strategies (18.7 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (6.3 per cent) and gender equality and women’s empowerment (3.1 per cent). On 28 January [dec. 2005/11], the Executive Board approved UNFPA country programmes for Iran and the Philippines. On 23 June [dec. 2005/31], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Viet Nam, of the report on the implementation of the UNFPA special programme of assistance to Myanmar [DP/FPA/2005/11] and also of the first one-year extension of the first programme of special assistance to Myanmar [DP/FPA/2005/12]. The Board approved the two-year extension of the first country programme for Timor-Leste [DP/FPA/2005/12]; on 9 September [dec. 2005/42], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Afghanistan and Indonesia.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean totalled $21.4 million in 2005, compared to $21.1 million in 2004. As in other regions, most of the total (43.2 per cent) went to reproductive health and family planning, followed by population and development (27.4 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (15.1 per cent) and gender equality and women’s empowerment (14.4 per cent). On 28 January [dec. 2005/11], the Executive Board approved a UNFPA country programme for Guatemala, and on 23 June [dec. 2005/31], took note of the draft country programme document for Peru.

Interregional programmes. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA intercountry and interregional programmes totalled $31 million in 2005 compared to $28.1 million in 2004. Most of that total (58 per cent) went to reproductive health and family planning, followed by programme coordination and assistance (20.4 per cent), population and development (19.2 per cent) and gender equality and women’s empowerment (2.4 per cent).

Financial and management questions

Financing

UNFPA income from all sources totalled $565 million in 2005, compared to $502.1 million in 2004 [DP/FPA/2005/13], comprising $365.8 million from regular resources and $199.2 million from other resources. Expenditures totalled $523.3 million in 2005, up from $435.5 million in 2004, comprising $334.8 million from regular resources and $188.6 million from other resources, resulting in an excess of $41.6 million.

Contributions to regular resources from donor Governments and a private contribution from the Mars Trust totalled $355.2 million in 2005, reflecting an 8.9 per cent increase over 2004. Contributions to trust funds, cost-sharing arrangements and other sources totalled $195.7 million, with interest income of $3.5 million, bringing to $199.2 million the total income from other sources.

On 8 September [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/38)], the Executive Board took note of the annual financial review, 2004 [DP/FPA/2005/15]. It recognized the significance of increasing and achieving stability and predictability in contributions to regular resources, that timeliness in the payment of contributions was essential to maintaining liquidity and facilitating continuous programme implementation, and that more balanced burden-sharing was essential to UNFPA’s long-term financial sustainability.

Estimates for 2006-2007 support budget

In a July report [DP/FPA/2005/14], the Executive Director submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board the estimates for the 2006-2007 biennial support budget, totalling $209 million (gross) and $196.4 million (net). The estimates were based on a resource framework of $910 million for total income, consisting of $747 million in regular resources and $163 million in other resources. The regular resources projection was strong, despite the loss of funding from a major donor for the last four years. It was based on recent trends of a widening donor base and the large number of contributors from the euro area. Along with income for the biennium, there was an opening balance of over $1 billion in total resources available for programme and support activities in 2006-2007. The budget reflected a strategic investment in areas where needs were greatest: staffing in Africa and other country office locations; learning and training initiatives; staffing in strategic planning and resource mobilization; operational support for the Enterprise Resource Planning (Atlas) system; and staff costs, security and insurance.

Commenting, in August [DP/FPA/2005/14], on the estimates for the 2006-2007 biennial support budget, ACABQ noted UNFPA’s commitment to implementing results-based budgeting and the steps being taken to ensure that by 2008, the Fund’s MYFF document and the biennial support budget would be better integrated. ACABQ recommended that the harmonization process be given high priority, trusting that UNFPA would take into account lessons learned by other UN en-
tities that had already implemented those techniques. Noting the increase in projected regular resource income for the 2006-2007 biennium, ACABQ encouraged UNFPA to continue to intensify its fund-raising activities, not only to maintain the level of resources but to attain further positive results. With regard to the estimated $400.6 million expenditure on programmes, ACABQ believed that there was greater potential for channelling more funds to programme activities by reducing costs on programme support and management and administration.

On 9 September [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/37)], the Executive Board approved gross appropriations totalling $209 million ($196.4 net) for UNFPA’s 2006-2007 support budget and resolved that income estimated of $12.6 million would be used to offset the gross appropriations, resulting in estimated net appropriations of $196.4 million. It authorized the Executive Director to redeploy resources between appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent; authorized extrabudgetary expenditures of $8.9 million for the Atlas project, as well as additional funding expenditures of $4.7 million to replenish the security reserve. The Board also took note of the ACABQ report [dec. 2005/42].

Revision of financial regulations and recovery of indirect costs

In January, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board considered reports by the Executive Director on revisions to UNFPA financial regulations, and on recovery of indirect costs for co-financing, as well as ACABQ’s comments and recommendations thereon [YUN 2004, p. 1082].

On 28 January [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/11)], the Board took note of those reports and approved the proposed revisions to the financial regulations, as amended. Regarding the financing of donor agreements, the Board requested the Executive Director to establish guidelines on standards for identifying and assessing risk factors, requirements for mitigating risk as a condition for approval and limitations on the actual disbursement of cash prior to the receipt of contributions.

On the same date [dec. 2005/10], the Board took note of the harmonized cost-recovery principles contained in the report on the recovery of indirect costs for co-financing, recognizing that their adoption by UN organizations constituted a step towards increased transparency and comparability of cost recovery throughout the UN system; and endorsed, on an interim basis, the UNFPA-specific implementation of those harmonized principles and their application in the recovery policy for indirect costs, consisting of a rate of 5 per cent on nationally executed cost-sharing expenditures financed by programme countries and 7 per cent on all co-financed expenditures. It confirmed the current rate of 5 per cent for third-party procurement expenditures and the limits of indirect cost recovery by NGOs and UN agencies, as authorized by the Board in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1005]. The Board stressed that UNFPA should ensure full recovery of all actual costs for implementing activities financed from other (non-core) resources and requested the Executive Director to report, in 2007, on the indirect cost-recovery policy. It encouraged UNFPA to adopt measures to refine its strategic cost-management system, including through the implementation of the Atlas system, in order to better attribute indirect costs to programmes and projects.

Audit reports

The Executive Director submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board a report [DP/FPA/2005/1] on follow-up action by UNFPA to recommendations by the UN Board of Auditors for 2002-2003 [YUN 2004, p. 1397]. On 28 January [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/8)], the Executive Board took note of the UNFPA report; stressed the importance of adequate follow-up to the Auditors’ recommendations, particularly on improving internal management control; and requested that future reports indicate the priority of the recommendations and a time frame for their implementation.

In an April report [DP/FPA/2005/9], the Executive Director described UNFPA’s internal audit and oversight activities carried out in 2004. Those included: management audits of eight offices (four in Africa, three in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in the Arab States and Europe region); a review of 458 audit reports covering 2003 activities for projects executed by Governments and NGOs; management audits in eight country offices in the Africa region; and contracted audits in four country offices in the Asia and the Pacific region and six country offices in the Arab States and Europe region. Of the 18 reports issued in 2004, the level of internal controls and the compliance with financial, administrative and programme requirements were found to be satisfactory in four offices, partially satisfactory in 10 and deficient in four. A total of 743 recommendations were issued in 2004. UNFPA instituted several measures to strengthen its internal control systems, including the establishment of the Audit Services Branch and the posting of Operations managers in 44 country offices to enhance managerial capacity and ensure more consistent field control. It presented a framework for resolving issues contained in internal audit reports. The report also outlined the
measures taken to address recommendations arising from previous audits, described the 2004 policy application review conducted by the Oversight and Evaluation Branch in the Asia and Pacific region; and summarized the 2004 activities of the Fund’s organizational committees, established to improve oversight and accountability: the Oversight, Management and Programme Committees.

On 23 June [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/19)], the Executive Board took note of the Executive Director’s report and urged UNFPA to base its oversight and accountability activities on a corporate risk model and develop risk-assessment functions in its audit offices. It concurred with the need to strengthen analysis of the outcomes of audits, and requested UNFPA to provide adequate training to staff to interpret and follow up on audit findings and recommendations. UNFPA should explain the selection criteria of the country offices audited, and present an analysis of the follow-up to the 2003 and 2004 internal audit recommendations, and an in-depth review of the level of internal audit resources, as well as a management response to its internal audit reports at the Board’s annual session, including the status of follow-up recommendations of previous audit reports.

Resource allocation

In response to Executive Board decision 2000/19 [YUN 2000, p. 1005], the UNFPA Executive Director submitted a quinquennial review of the system for allocating resources to country programmes [DP/FPA/2005/6]. The report provided an overview of the evolution of the Fund’s resource allocation system and reviewed the experience with the current system. Proposals for updating the system included simplifying it by mainstreaming the countries with economies in transition into the country categories, harmonizing indicators with the MDGs and the 2004-2007 MYFF indicators, revising the threshold levels of indicators and simplifying the definitions of country categories. Annexed to the report were indicators used in the resource allocation system, the resource data and the classification of countries resulting from the 2005 review of the resource allocation.

On 29 January [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/13)], the Executive Board approved the approach, effective January 2005, for resource allocation, including the mainstreaming of the countries with economies in transition, synchronizing the resource allocation system cycle with the MYFF cycle, and amending the indicators and their threshold levels towards meeting the ICPD goals, ICPD+ 5 targets and the MDGs; endorsed the procedure for categorizing countries into Groups A, B and C; requested the Executive Director to indicate in her annual reports the share of regular resources to Group A countries, LDCs and low-income countries, and recommended flexibility in the distribution of resources to individual countries, particularly to those changing categories, to ensure that the gains already made were not compromised.

Multi-year funding commitments

In May [DP/FPA/2005/8 & Corr.1], the Executive Director submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board updated estimates of regular and other resources for 2005 and future years in the multi-year funding framework (MYFF). As at 1 April, 83 countries had submitted written pledges to UNFPA for 2005, 34 of which were multi-year pledges, five of them from major donors.

In 2004, UNFPA received regular contributions from a record 166 donor Governments. Total contributions received amounted to $331.6 million an increase of 13.4 per cent, as a result of substantially increased contributions from nine major donors and favourable exchange rates. Contributions for co-financing arrangements also increased by $41.2 million, to $131.1 million. Four countries (the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) accounted for about half of UNFPA’s regular resources. UNFPA was focusing on maintaining its donor base and securing a higher level of pledges for 2005 from major donors. It was also trying to convince others that were contributing below the $1 million benchmark to become major donors. UNFPA anticipated that regular resources in 2005 would increase to $360 million or higher, with further increases expected in both 2006 and 2007. One proposal for increasing regular resources was for donor countries to increase the percentage of official development assistance allocated for population assistance. Discussions were ongoing with many major donor countries to increase their regular contributions in order to broaden the base of support to the Fund’s regular resources.

On 23 June, [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/24)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board welcomed the substantial increase in 2004 regular income and co-financing income levels, the contributions made by programme countries which had enabled the Fund to reach its highest ever number of donors, and the projected increase in the 2005 regular income level. It recognized that sustaining and improving the UNFPA funding level...
would require countries able to do so to augment their funding efforts during MYFF 2004-2007.

Programming process


In other action [dec. 2005/30] on UNDP/UNFPA programme performance information at the country level, the Board again took note of the joint report on progress in implementing decision 2001/11, and the Executive Director’s report for 2004 on progress in implementing the MYFF, 2004-2007 [YUN 2004, p. 1083]; and requested UNDP and UNFPA, in consultation with relevant agencies, to make a proposal, at the first regular session in 2006, on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data to their respective Boards as part of their programming and reporting cycles.

Technical Advisory Programme

In response to a 2004 Executive Board request [YUN 2004, p. 1084], the Executive Director submitted, in July [DP/FPA/2005/16], a review of the UNFPA Technical Advisory Programme against strategic goals contained in the MYFF 2004-2007. The Advisory Programme, an inter-agency arrangement for providing UNFPA assistance to countries for population and development activities, constituted the Fund’s strategy for increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of its technical support in reproductive health, population and development, and gender empowerment, and was composed of nine multidisciplinary Country Technical Services Teams (CSTS).

The report described the main findings of an independent evaluation of the Programme, which revealed that it was beneficial to the effective implementation of the ICPD. The Programme provided UNFPA with a coherent system for delivering technical support to countries, increased the accessibility and use of technical information, was a cost-effective way of supporting capacity-building at all levels, and had been instrumental in supporting country office implementation of UN reform processes. However, the implementation of the Programme required ad-
supplies, support for women’s empowerment and the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response. However, a review of the environment and experience in the field had indicated that UNFPA had to adopt a paradigm shift in the way it worked. Through a series of consultative meetings a strategy was developed to strengthen UNFPA programming for humanitarian assistance and transition and recovery over a three-year period. The strategy identified steps for improving UNFPA capacity to adapt and respond to crises and for playing an integral role in national recovery processes. It was accompanied by workplans for action in five areas: enhancing human resources; strengthening strategic partnerships; increasing funding; reinforcing logistics, security and administration; and improving communication. The process was to be completed by January 2008, in time for the new MYFF cycle (2008-2011).

On 9 September [E/2005/35 (dec. 2005/40)], the Executive Board took note of the report and of the critical importance of UNFPA work in humanitarian and transition settings; recognized UNFPA plans to strengthen its institutional capacity in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery, and encouraged continued consultations with the Board in that regard. It requested the Executive Director to report, in 2007, on a comprehensive corporate strategy, including resource and staff implications, for those activities. The Board decided, as an interim measure, to raise the ceiling of the existing emergency fund from $1 million to $3 million to enable UNFPA to better respond to crisis situations, and requested the Executive Director to report on the utilization of the funds.

UN Population award

The 2005 United Nations Population Award was presented to Mercedes Concepcion (Philippines), Professor Emeritus at the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, and a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Philippine Commission on Population, in the individual category, and to the Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia de Guatemala (APROFAM) in the institutional category. Professor Concepcion was selected for her significant contributions to population research and policy in the Philippines, where her studies on population growth were important in the formation of the national population policy. She ensured that valid and reliable systems were in place so that the national population could be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis. APROFAM was selected for providing excellent reproductive health services to lower-income families in Guatemala, including family planning, reproductive health education and sexual health counselling and training. It also undertook scientific investigations in the field of population and development and disseminated socio-demographic data in Guatemala to develop an information base for population policies and programmes.

The Award was established by General Assembly resolution 56/201 [YUN 981, p. 392], to be presented annually to individuals or institutions for outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of population problems and to their solutions. In September, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report of the UNFPA Executive Director on the Population Award [A/60/397].

Other population activities

Commission on Population and Development


The Commission adopted and brought to the Economic and Social Council’s attention resolutions on population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty [E/2005/25 (res. 2005/1)] (see p. 1174) and on the contribution
of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration [res. 2005/2]. The Commission decided that the special theme for its fortieth (2007) session would be “The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development” [dec. 2005/1]. The Commission adopted a decision [dec. 2005/2] on improving its methods of work (see below). In other action [dec. 2005/3], the Commission took note of the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth (2006) session, at a resumed meeting on 4 April, the Commission recommended to the Council the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth (2006) session.


In preparation for its thirty-ninth session, the Commission’s Bureau held an intersessional meeting (Banjul, Gambia, 19-20 December) [E/CN.9/2006/2].

Improving the Commission’s methods of work

The Economic and Social Council, by decision 2005/213 of 31 March, decided, in order to improve the work of the Commission on Population and Development, that with effect from the Commission’s thirty-eighth (2005) regular session, and immediately following the closure of each regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of the subsequent session to elect a new Chairman and other members of the Bureau. It also decided that the terms of reference of Commission members would be for four regular sessions; and in that regard, extended the terms of office of those members that were to expire on 31 December 2005 to the conclusion of the thirty-ninth (2006) regular session, on 31 December 2006 until the conclusion of the fortieth (2007) regular session, on 31 December 2007 until the end of the forty-first (2008) regular session, and on 31 December 2008 until the end of the forty-second (2009) regular session. The pertinent provision of General Assembly resolution 1798(XVII) [YUN 1962, p. 558] would apply only to the substantive part of the Commission session.

In April, the Commission considered a Secretary-General’s report on the working methods of the Commission [E/CN.9/2005/7], submitted in response to Assembly resolution 57/270 B [YUN 2003, p. 1668]. The report reviewed the Commission’s work, particularly with respect to enhancing the implementation of, and follow-up to, ICPD and subsequent conferences and made recommendations for improving those methods.

The Commission decided [dec. 2005/2] that the regular geographical rotation of the chair would start with the election held at its thirty-ninth (2006) session, in alphabetical order; to establish, at that session, a multi-year programme of work for covering a series of general themes based on the ICPD Programme of Action and its implementation; and in examining the themes, to promote increased sharing of national, regional and international experiences through focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners.

UN activities

In a report on programme implementation and progress of work of the UN Population Division in 2005 [E/CN.9/2006/6], the Secretary-General described the Division’s major activities and outputs 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 Division’s work in fertility and family planning analysis included a wallchart entitled World Contraceptive Use 2005, which showed the most recent data on selected contraceptive practice indicators. The data showed that 61 per cent of women age 15 to 49 who were married or in union were using contraceptives; and that the level of use (69 per cent) was higher in the more developed regions compared to 59 per cent in the less developed regions. Among the latter group, Africa had the lowest level of use, at 27 per cent, contrasted with Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean which had levels of use similar to that of the more developed regions. Overall, contraceptive use had increased in less developed regions, with contraceptive prevalence increasing by at least one percentage point every year in the majority of the developing countries, while remaining fairly stable at high levels in developed countries. The Division also issued a CD-ROM on the subject, and prepared the Database on Marriage, containing indicators of marital status for 202 countries or areas.

On mortality and health, the Division issued the World Mortality Report 2005, an overview of mortality changes in all countries in the latter half of the twentieth century. The report, the first of its kind produced by the Division, compiled and summarized available information about levels and trends of mortality and life expectancy for national populations, and pre-
presented estimates of key mortality indicators for 192 countries and areas, including countries with a population of 100,000, or greater in 2000.

Concerning international migration, the Division organized an expert group meeting to explore key aspects of international migration and development. The Division also organized a fourth coordination meeting on international migration (26 and 27 October), which focused on the implications of the report and recommendations of the Global Commission on International Migration for the United Nations system’s work in international migration and for the General Assembly’s high-level dialogue on international migration and development in 2006. The Division also issued a database entitled Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision, and was finalizing the International Migration Report 2005, the second in a series that presented information on international migration levels and policies, as well as other related indicators.

With regard to world population projections, the Division issued the results of the 2004 Revision of the biennial World Population Prospects, which showed that world population would continue to grow, increasing from 6.5 billion in 2005 to 9.1 billion in 2050; that currently 95 per cent of all population growth was absorbed by the developing world; and that by 2050, the population of the more developed countries as a whole would be declining slowly by about 1 million persons a year, while the developing world would still be adding 35 million annually, 22 million of them in the LDCs. The Division completed preparation of the 2005 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects, which was also available on CD-ROM. Two wallcharts and an executive summary in all UN official languages were being prepared. The Division also organized, on 10 and 11 May, an expert meeting on software for demographic/HIV/AIDS.

As to population policies, the Division’s publication, World Population Policies 2005, found that Governments viewed HIV/AIDS as the most significant demographic issue facing them. Others included high infant and child mortality and high maternal mortality in the developing countries. Of particular concern in the developed countries, were low fertility, population aging and the small size of the working age population. The Division also completed evaluation and analysis of the United Nations Ninth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, the results of which had been incorporated into its publications. The wallchart International Migration 2005 provided background information for the Commission on Population and Development and for the forthcoming high-level dialogue on international migration and development. Another wallchart, Population and HIV/AIDS 2005, provided an essential backdrop to the Assembly’s high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS (see p. 1322) and focused on combating the disease.

With regard to population and development, the Division, along with co-sponsors, convened in Mexico City (30 November–2 December) [E/CN.9/2006/7], an expert group meeting on the social and economic implications of changing population age structures. A new version of the database Population, Resources, Environment and Development was released on CD-ROM and an Internet version would follow in 2006.

On monitoring population trends and policies, the Division updated and issued the latest edition of its annual monitoring report to the 2005 session of the Commission on population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty (see p. 1173). In time for the 2005 World Summit (see p. 47), the Division issued Population Challenges and Development Goals. In disseminating population information and data, the Division continued to update and expand its website (www.unpopulation.org) to provide timely access by Governments and civil society to population information. Complementing the website was the Population Information Network (POPIN) (www.popin.org), which provided a portal to population information and data available throughout the UN system.