

Statement on behalf of Norway,
Commission on Population and Development, 49th Session
Closing meeting, Friday 17 April 2009
Presented by Helge Brunborg

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to make a brief statement on behalf of Norway. Do not forget to thank you and all the members of the Bureau, particularly the facilitator, Mr. Thomas Giese, for having led the negotiations so ably.

Mr. Chairman, this session of the CPD has focused on a very important aspect of population and development, changing the structures of populations and their implications for development. The Commission has worked hard in distilling the most important messages from this session and transforming them into guidance reflected in the resolution that we have just adopted. I wish to note that this outcome has been possible in no small part because of the excellent preparation for this session. In particular, I found that the Secretary-General's report on World Urbanization Monitoring laid out the issues very clearly with a good amount of information including a brief but thorough discussion of pension systems and a good description of the benefits of the second demographic dividend. It was a pleasure to see a report that is not only easy to read but also analytical. To make it even stronger, I hope that it may be issued incorporating the results of the latest population projections.

I also want to commend the selection of keynote speakers made by the Bureau. Each of their presentations made valuable additions to the deliberations of the Commission. In the future the selection of speakers continues to be made on the basis of their expertise on a particular topic.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, permit me to recall that the Commission at its thirty-ninth session adopted a resolution to improve its methods of work in which member States were invited in order to maintain and enhance the quality and impact of the Commission's debates, to consider including among their representatives those who have the most relevant expertise in the particular areas of population and development under consideration. It has become common that negotiations within the Commission are carried out mainly by diplomats representing member States of the United Nations, which is not ideal. However, it became clear during the past days that there is insufficient technical expertise among the delegations participating in the Commission's work. I hope that the Bureau may remind member States of the recommendation made last year and that this Commission, whose work is valuable because of the technical expertise it brings to crucial negotiations on development, thus be strengthened.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.