

Chapter VIII

Population

In 2006, world population reached 6.6 billion, as compared with 6.5 billion in 2005, and was projected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

UN population activities continued to be guided, in 2006, 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 "International migration and development". 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 General Assembly, in September, held the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to discuss the multi-dimensional aspects of the phenomenon and identify ways to maximize its developmental benefits and minimize its negative impacts. Participants agreed that international migration could be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and destination, provided that it was supported by the right policies. Several meetings were organized in preparation for the Dialogue and to follow up on its conclusions.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to assist countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2006, UNFPA provided assistance to 154 countries and territories, with special emphasis on increasing the availability and quality of reproductive health services, fighting gender discrimination and violence, formulating effective population policies and intensifying HIV prevention.

Follow-up to 1994 Conference on Population and Development

Implementation of Programme of Action

Commission on Population and Development consideration. 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-ninth session (New York, 3-7 April and 10 May) [E/2006/25], considered as its special theme "International migration and development" and discussed its demographic, social and economic aspects (see below). It also discussed follow-up actions to the ICPD recommendations and national experience in international migration and development.

The Commission had before it the Secretary-General's reports on world population monitoring, focusing on international migration and development [E/CN.9/2006/3], and on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on international migration and development [E/CN.9/2006/4]; an April note from Mexico transmitting the document entitled "Mexico and the migration phenomenon" [E/CN.9/2006/8]; and statements by two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the Population Institute [E/CN.9/2006/NGO/2] and Population Action International [E/CN.9/2006/NGO/1].

The first report [E/CN.9/2006/3] reviewed international migration trends; examined the interactions between international migration and population growth, fertility, mortality and health; discussed the economic aspects of international migration; and concluded with an overview of policy responses at the national, regional and international levels.

The report found that between 1990 and 2005, the world had gained 36 million international migrants, just about half of the 68 million registered between 1975 and 1990. The slowing growth rate of international migrants was due to the decline in the number of refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean and the least developed countries (LDCs) between 1990 and 2005. In Central America, successful peace processes had led to their full repatriation. Similarly, large numbers of refugees hosted by LDCs were able to return home as long-standing conflicts were resolved, particularly in Africa. However, those changes produced an increasing concentration of international migrants in the developed world, which hosted 61 per cent (115.4 million) of all international migrants in 2005, with North America seeing major increases between 1990 and

2005 (17 million), followed by Europe (15 million). Migration for family reunification accounted for an important share of such inflows, as a result of the increase in labour and skilled migrations. The need for workers had been driving the rising levels of migration to developed countries, especially under special programmes for the admission of temporary workers, with options to become long-term residents in several countries. In addition, given the low fertility levels in the more developed regions, net migration became the major driving force behind population growth, accounting for three quarters of growth in 2000–2005.

Against the backdrop of growing international migration to developed countries, there was an increasing recognition of the need to manage migration and prevent and combat clandestine inflows. Key international instruments for addressing clandestine migration had been adopted and widely ratified. In 2005, 75 countries had programmes to facilitate the integration of foreigners, up from 52 in 1996. More than three quarters of developed countries had integration policies, compared to less than a quarter of developing countries. With the exception of the European Union (EU), regional economic integration processes had not yet resulted in freedom of movement for workers. Responding to a need for increased dialogue on international migration issues, a number of regional consultative processes had been established, and were proving useful in building understandings and promoting cooperation. At the global level, several initiatives were launched to address the challenges posed by international migration, key among them being the Global Commission on International Migration [YUN 2004, p. 1077], whose report and recommendations were issued in 2005.

The second report [E/CN.9/2006/4] explored the implications of international migration as they related to development, pointing out its global dimensions and central role in the global development agenda. It described the current international migration situation, with a focus on South–North migration, and on the impact on development of the brain drain, brain gain, brain circulation, remittances, the diaspora, and return migration. It highlighted the importance of building and strengthening the capacities of governments and other stakeholders to meet the challenges posed by international migration. The report considered important elements that had potential for policy intervention that could enhance positive development impacts and mutually beneficial solutions for countries of both origin and destination, as well as for the migrants themselves.

It also discussed barriers to, and opportunities for, such policy intervention.

Expert Group meeting. On 27 February [E/CN.9/2006/7], Mexico transmitted to the Secretary-General the conclusions of the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 30 November–2 December 2005). The meeting focused on the interrelationships between migration and development and the challenges and opportunities arising from migration in the region, with a view to contributing technical information to the debate on migration policies in force throughout the world. Annexed to the letter were the conclusions of the meeting.

Commission action. The Commission, in a resolution [E/2006/25 (res. 2006/2)], took note of the Secretary-General's reports, as well as his report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (see p. 1259), and the *Report of the Global Commission On International Migration*. It reaffirmed the responsibility of Governments for safeguarding and protecting the rights of migrants against illegal or violent acts and requested Member States to cooperate in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration. They should enact domestic legislation and take further measures to combat international trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. The Commission reiterated the need to consider the extent to which the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education impacted the development efforts of developing countries, and acknowledged the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary and return migration. It requested the Secretary-General to continue his work on international migration and development and, in collaboration with other international organizations and UN funds and programmes, assess the progress in achieving the goals and objectives on international migration and development set out in the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits. It looked forward to the General Assembly's High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (see p. 1261), to be held during its sixty-first session and recommended that the Economic and Social Council transmit the Commission's report on its thirty-ninth session to the High-level Dialogue.

By decision **2006/233** of 24 July, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit the Commission's report on its thirty-ninth session to the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Financial resources

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/128 [YUN 1994, p. 963] and 50/124 [YUN 1995, p. 1094], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission a January report [E/CN.9/2006/5] on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The report examined the flow of funds from donors and domestic expenditure for population activities in developing countries for 2004, as well as estimates for 2005 and projections for 2006. It was encouraging that a gradual increase in both international donor assistance and domestic expenditure for population activities, especially in the funding for HIV/AIDS, had ensured the attainment of the 2005 funding targets of the Programme of Action. Donor assistance was estimated at \$5.3 billion in 2004, up from \$4.7 billion in 2003, and domestic expenditures at almost \$14.5 billion in 2004, up from \$11 billion the previous year, for a total estimate of \$19.8 billion in 2004. The challenge for the international community was mobilizing the required resources to implement the ICPD agenda within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Estimates for 2005 and projections for 2006 were encouraging. Donor assistance was estimated to have increased to \$6.1 billion in 2005 and was projected to increase to almost \$6.4 billion in 2006. Resources mobilized by developing countries were estimated to reach \$14.9 billion in 2005 and \$15.9 billion in 2006. 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 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated that global resources requirements amounted to \$15 billion in 2006; \$8.4 billion for prevention and \$3 billion for treatment and care. Funding for basic reproductive health services increased slightly, while funding for family planning services decreased significantly.

International migration and development

Gender dimensions of international migration

On 25 July [meeting 41], the Economic and Social Council, having considered the summary of the high-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1347), adopted **decision 2006/234** [draft: E/2006/27 & Corr.1] without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

High-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly the following summary of the high-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women;

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 2 March 2006, the Commission on the Status of Women held a high-level panel discussion on the theme "The gender dimensions of international migration". The panellists were Monica Boyd, Canada Research Chair in Sociology, University of Toronto, Canada; Manuel Orozco, Senior Associate, Inter-American Dialogue, United States of America; Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director-General, International Organization for Migration, Geneva; Maruja Milagros B. Asis, Director of Research and Publications, Scalabrini Migration Centre, Philippines; and Irena Omelaniuk, Migration Adviser, World Bank. The panel was moderated by Carmen María Gallardo (El Salvador), Chairperson of the Commission.

2. The high-level panel discussion provided the opportunity for the Commission to examine the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration from a gender perspective and to provide input to the General Assembly at its High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006.

3. Women were active participants in migration within and between countries. Statistics indicated, for example, that the proportion of women among international migrants had reached 51 per cent in more developed regions. Women moved on their own as the principal wage earners or for family reunification purposes. Most women moved voluntarily, but women and girls were also forced to migrate owing to conflict and violence. There is increasing recognition that gender biases existed in the migration process, resulting in women's experiences being different from those of men, including in relation to exit and entry and in countries of destination. Causes and outcomes of migration could be very different for women and for men.

4. The linkages between migration and development were identified as critical. A holistic and comprehensive approach was required to address the multidimensional aspects of international migration. Poverty and lack of access to economic resources were identified as main factors influencing the propensity of women to migrate. Increased socio-economic development, including through investments in the health sector, might lead to disincentives for migration. Increased gender equality within countries of origin might also reduce women's need for and interest in migration, including for economic reasons. Perceptions about the roles of women and men, relationships within households and resource allocations determined the ability of women to make migration decisions autonomously, to contribute to decision-making on migration within the household and to access resources for migration.

5. Sufficient information was not available on the impact of migration of both women and men on the families remaining in the countries of origin. A closer examination of the structural conditions, including underdevelopment and poverty, that led people to migrate and leave their families behind was needed. The importance of national policies in ensuring the welfare of those left behind was noted, and it was recommended that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development give attention to that issue.

6. The empowerment of women in the migration process required the increased participation of women in migration decisions. The empowerment of migrant women should be given specific attention in migration policies and legislation. The need for countries of origin and destination to examine their exit and entry policies to determine the impact on women was noted, as well as the need for greater collaboration between ministries to ensure increased attention to gender equality and the linkages between gender equality, migration and development.

7. It was recognized that the migration of women and men was linked to specific demand for different types of labour. In some countries, the demand for labour in traditionally male-dominated jobs, for example, in construction, led to high levels of male migration. In other countries, the demand for care workers led to increased labour migration of women. Participants noted, however, that the care sector was often a precarious and unprotected sector.

8. Agreements between countries of origin and countries of destination to encourage and facilitate migration were generally economically driven. Gender equality issues were often not given attention in such agreements, which could result in negative impacts on women. The issue of "brain drain" was raised, and it was pointed out that some developing countries had experienced a huge migration of professionals, including women, to developed countries to earn higher incomes.

9. The living and working conditions of both legal and undocumented migrant women workers should be examined further, including to identify their mistreatment and abuse. Violence against women migrants was cited as a critical issue. The issue of racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination were also raised by some participants. Gender-sensitive rights-based approaches to migration should include promotion and protection of the rights of migrant women workers, through, for example, the development of an enabling international environment, the ratification and implementation of international legal instruments, including the labour standards of the International Labour Organization and the harmonization of national legislation. Legal frameworks should meet the needs of both States and migrants. Partnerships with trade unions and training for police and border officials were recommended. The key role of non-governmental organizations in promoting the rights of migrant women was highlighted.

10. In some countries, evidence suggested that men migrants remitted more than women because their earn-

ings were higher. In other cases, however, women tended to remit more because the ratio of migrant women to men was higher. Women tended to be the main receivers of remittances and generally invested in education and health care for their children. Both senders and recipients of remittances faced major constraints in having access to financial institutions. Banks and other financial institutions should improve their services. Further research on gender and remittances was needed.

11. Countries of origin and countries of destination both shared responsibility for the welfare of migrant women. The need for awareness-raising on the contributions of women migrants in countries of destination was highlighted. The contributions, while significant, often remained invisible because of the concentration of female migrant workers in the private sphere. The importance of fostering greater sensitivity to the diversity of cultures among migrants was also raised.

12. Attention was drawn to the need to address the social challenges related to migration in countries of destination and the need to link the social and economic aspects of migration. Migrant women themselves could play a key role in addressing social challenges. The important contribution of diaspora communities in providing support to migrant women, including in relation to integration into countries of destination, was highlighted. Migrant associations and migrant non-governmental organizations could play an important role in addressing the challenges of migration.

13. Trafficking was recognized as a development issue that cut across the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the goals on poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women. The majority of trafficked women came from low-income, socially deprived circumstances, mostly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In countries without comprehensive social security systems, women became vulnerable to trafficking and often ended up in unregulated labour sectors.

14. The forced absence of women through trafficking led to the breakdown of families, the neglect of children and the elderly, and negative impacts on health and education. Trafficking could force children into work, denying them education and reinforcing the illiteracy and poverty cycles that hindered development efforts. It could have a negative impact on public health services, including upon the return of victims of trafficking. It was noted that such impacts of trafficking had been researched inadequately and indicators to measure effectively the impacts on families were lacking.

15. It was recommended that organizations focusing on migration, including the International Organization for Migration, investigate the causes of trafficking and develop comprehensive indicators for cross-country analyses. Models for assessing trafficking flows, identifying early warning signals and assessing the impact of trafficking on countries of origin, including costs to public health systems, were needed. Evaluations of counter-trafficking programmes should include analyses of labour market factors and the role of recruiters. The

need for effective legal measures to address trafficking in women and girls, as well as for cross-border collaboration, including on monitoring and prosecution, was also highlighted.

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

The General Assembly conducted the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (14-15 September), as decided in Assembly resolution 60/227 [YUN 2005, p. 1176]. The Dialogue included four plenary meetings, which were addressed by high-level officials of 127 Member States, including 47 ministers, as well as by representatives of one observer State and 10 intergovernmental entities and organizations. The Dialogue included four interactive round tables, which discussed the effects of international migration on economic and social development; measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons; the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances; and ways of promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including bilateral and regional, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike. By a 27 July note [A/61/187], the Assembly President transmitted to the Assembly a summary of 22 key findings of the informal interactive hearings, which underscored the positive impact of international migration and called for better use of the UN human rights machinery to prevent or redress violations of the rights of migrants. The meeting also had before it a report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development [A/60/871], which stressed that international migration constituted an ideal means of promoting the coordinated and concerted improvement of economic conditions in both areas of origin and of destination, based on complementarities between them. The report discussed the various ways in which international migration could contribute to development and presented a comprehensive review of the multidimensional aspects of international migration, including migration trends, its impact on countries of destination and countries of origin, as well as on rights, gender, integration, benefits and protection of migrants, and discussed the international normative framework and modes of intergovernmental cooperation developed to improve the governance of migration.

The Assembly President, in his summary of the deliberations of the High-level Dialogue [A/61/515], reported that participants demonstrated a commit-

ment to examining the relationship and synergies between international migration and development and to identifying ways to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts. They stressed the global character of migration, underscoring its role as a positive force for development in both countries of origin and countries of destination, if supported by the right policies. There was widespread support for incorporating international migration issues in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, and for ensuring that people migrated out of choice rather than necessity, as had often been the case for many who migrated to escape poverty, conflict, human rights violations, poor governance or lack of employment. Concerns were raised regarding the outflow of highly skilled workers from the health and education sectors, since it compromised the delivery of services in countries of origin. Participants urged the implementation of measures to retain highly skilled workers by, among other things, ensuring equitable pay and decent working conditions. The promotion of return, even on a temporary basis, of skilled workers was also recommended.

The relatively high presence of female migrant workers had prompted some countries to re-examine their labour migration regulations to ensure that they were gender sensitive and offered adequate protection for female migrants. For many women, migration entailed risks that were often more serious for them than for men, especially when they were relegated to undesirable low-paying jobs. It was important, therefore, to adopt policies that addressed the particular circumstances and experiences of female migrants and reduced their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

Participants also recognized the usefulness of bilateral agreements and cited examples of those addressing labour migration, the portability of pensions, the readmission of nationals, the fight against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. Regional and bilateral initiatives should, however, be complemented by initiatives at the global level. In that regard, they noted the work of the Global Commission on International Migration, the International Agenda for Migration Management and the annual dialogue on migration policy sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

As follow-up to the Dialogue, there was widespread support for the Secretary-General's proposal to create a global forum for discussing international migration and development issues. Participants were of the view that the proposed forum should

work closely with the recently established Global Migration Group. Belgium offered to host the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2007. The Secretary-General undertook to establish a voluntary fund to support the initiatives of the Forum. He also indicated his intention to extend the mandate of his Special Representative on International Migration and Development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 83], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/61/424/Add.2], adopted **resolution 61/208** without vote [agenda item 55 (b)].

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997, 54/212 of 22 December 1999, 56/203 of 21 December 2001, 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004 and 60/227 of 23 December 2005 on international migration and development, and 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further 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 its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Recalling also Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,

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, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

Acknowledging also the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well

as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

Reaffirming the resolve expressed by Heads of State and Government to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

Noting the efforts of Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes and international and intergovernmental organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, in respect of convening events at the national, regional and international levels with a view to advancing the dialogue on the issue of international migration and development,

Noting with interest the offer of the Government of Belgium to convene a state-led initiative, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and the high level and broad participation that provided an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development;

3. *Takes note* of the summary of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly;

4. *Welcomes* the heightened awareness achieved by the High-level Dialogue on the issue, and decides to consider, at its sixty-third session, possible options for appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue;

5. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Governments in the area of regional and interregional cooperation and regional consultative processes, where they exist, on migration, and encourages consideration of development dimensions in such processes, towards facilitating the dialogue and the exchange of information and experiences, fostering coordination at the regional and national levels, building common understanding, promoting cooperation, contributing to capacity-building and strengthening partnerships among countries of origin, transit and destination;

6. *Takes note with interest* of the establishment of the Global Migration Group;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and respect for human rights;

8. *Recalls* its resolution 55/93 of 4 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 18 December International Day of the Migrant, and invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to include in the observance of International Day of the Migrant the developmental dimension of international

migration, as highlighted by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York, by sharing experiences and best practices on, inter alia, how to maximize the benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

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

Preparations for the High-level Dialogue

The Secretary-General, in a May note [A/60/864], provided information on the organization of the High-level Dialogue. Recognizing the importance of the contribution of civil society in its preparatory process, the General Assembly would hold informal interactive hearings on 12 July with representative of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector (see below). The Assembly also invited UN agencies, funds and programmes, the regional commissions, as well as IOM, to contribute to the preparations.

Communications. By a 31 August letter [A/61/315], Argentina transmitted a document entitled "A paradigm shift: addressing migration from a human rights perspective", as a contribution to the High-level Dialogue. The document called for a shift from a security and border control approach to a more comprehensive human rights perspective in government policies on migration. It urged Governments to find mechanisms for easy access to legal migration, while frustrating the dealings of unscrupulous traffickers who benefited financially from restrictive migration policies.

On 1 September [A/61/316], the President of the Economic and Social Council transmitted to the High-level Dialogue the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on international migration and migrants from a social perspective, held during the forty-second session of the Commission for Social Development [YUN 2004, p. 1092].

Regional meetings on international migration

In preparation for the High-level Dialogue, several regional gatherings and conferences were held to address various aspects of international migration. Those included: the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Migrants' Remittances (Cotonou, Benin, 9-10 February) [A/61/230], which adopted a Ministerial Declaration urging Governments of receiving countries to introduce tax relief for remittances similar to tax incentives provided to investment funds and charitable donations, develop finan-

cial products to attract migrant savings and investments, and establish a Migrant Remittances Observatory for LDCs; the ninth ordinary session of the African Union Executive Council (Banjul, the Gambia, 25-29 July) [A/61/345], which adopted the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the African Common Position on Migration and Development; the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development (Rabat, Morocco, 10-11 July) [A/61/170], which adopted a plan of action and a political declaration (Rabat Declaration) calling for close Euro-African partnership to address issues such as controlling migration flows within the context of combating poverty and promoting sustainable development and co-development; the International Conference on Migration and Development (Brussels, 15-16 March), organized jointly with IOM [A/61/73]; the sixth South American Conference on Migration [A/61/86], which adopted, on 5 May, the Asunción Declaration reaffirming support for the human rights of migrants, especially women and unaccompanied minors; the Special International Conference of Developing Countries with Substantial International Migrant Flows (Lima, Peru, 15-16 May) [A/61/91], which adopted the Lima Declaration, by which the participating countries agreed, among other things, to cooperate in the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their immigration status; the Regional Consultation on Migration, Remittances and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 27-28 July) [A/61/343]; the fourteenth meeting of the Specialized Forum on Migration of the meeting of Ministers of the Interior of MERCOSUR and associated States (Fortaleza, Brazil, 22-24 August), which adopted a document entitled "Discussion of the Issue of Migration at the meeting of Ministers of the Interior of MERCOSUR and Associated States" focusing on the protection of the human rights of migrants in the region; and the Helsinki Process Meeting on International Migration (25-26 July) [A/61/506].

UN Population Fund

2006 activities

Report of Executive Director. In response to decisions 2004/7 and 2004/20 [YUN 2004, p. 1083] of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development

Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA), the UNFPA Executive Director submitted a report [DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part I & Add.1, Part II)], which reviewed the implementation of the goals and outputs of the 2004–2007 multi-year funding framework (MYFF). The report described progress made towards achieving major UNFPA goals identified in the MYFF, including in the programme areas of reproductive health; population dynamics, sustainable development and poverty; and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UNFPA was increasingly engaged in policy work and in strengthening partnerships with national counterparts. Reproductive health and gender issues were included in national development frameworks, such as sector-wide programmes, poverty-reduction strategies and MDG reports over the 2004–2006 period. UNFPA country offices reported increasing involvement in national processes to incorporate reproductive health and gender issues. The Fund also contributed to building national capacity and ownership to improve the availability of reproductive health commodities, resulting in a significant increase in the number of countries allocating national funds for contraceptive purchases. UNFPA assisted Governments in expanding family planning services, improving overall government and donor support, and made accessible quality reproductive health services. It also helped to develop national guidelines and protocols, designing models for improving and strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Its country offices reported progress in building national capacity to collect and use data for monitoring national development plans. In partnership with other agencies, it facilitated the incorporation of population and poverty linkages into the formulation of national development plans and policies. UNFPA played an important role in increasing attention paid to gender-based violence, gender equality and women's empowerment issues.

In terms of UNFPA mandate, several lessons emerged. Significant policy and model-building advances had to be capitalized on to strengthen programmes serving the most marginalized groups. Changes in policies and laws were needed, as well as human resources planning, to improve access to reproductive health services. To address the insufficient support provided to the incorporation of population dynamics, gender equality and HIV prevention into policy and expenditure frameworks, UNFPA planned to access expertise on expenditure frameworks, costing and budgeting and strengthen national capacity for integrating population factors into national planning. It developed a strategic framework on young people and planned to

strengthen its leadership in the area of HIV prevention among that group. UNFPA, in partnership with other UN organizations, had become a key partner in humanitarian response, transition and recovery assistance.

The implementation of country and subregional programmes continued as the Fund's core work during 2006. By programme area, the largest share of resources, 60.3 per cent, went to reproductive health activities; 20.7 per cent to population and development strategies; 12.5 per cent to programme coordination and assistance; and 6.5 per cent to gender equality and the empowerment of women. By region, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 34.1 per cent of programme assistance; Asia and the Pacific, 30.4 per cent; the Arab States and Europe, 13.2 per cent; and Latin America and the Caribbean, 9 per cent. Interregional activities accounted for 13.2 per cent.

As at 1 January, the total number of authorized budget posts numbered 1,031, of which 796 were in the field. Women constituted 44 per cent of professionals, one of the highest percentages among UN agencies and organizations.

The Executive Director reported jointly with the UNDP Administrator [DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part II)] on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The report provided a synopsis of UNDP/UNFPA management responses to key JIU recommendations that were relevant to them. Of the six reports issued by JIU in 2006, four had cross-organization impact, addressing gaps in the internal oversight function and analysing the investigative function of oversight units; reviewing the implementation of headquarters agreements with respect to the provision of premises and other facilities by host countries; providing "lessons learned" from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami; and making recommendations on results-based management in the context of UN reform. Of the 29 recommendations issued by JIU in 2004–2005 that were relevant to UNDP and UNFPA, 26 had been implemented or were being pursued, and three were in the process of being implemented.

On 27 January [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/10)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board took note of the 2005 joint report of the UNDP Administrator and the UNFPA Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council [YUN 2005, p. 962].

On 23 June [(dec. 2006/25)], the Executive Board took note of the guidelines on the Board's working methods [YUN 2005, p. 963], annexed to that decision.

By **decision 2006/236** of 26 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the annual report

of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board [DP/2006/15], of the decisions adopted by the Board at the first regular session of 2006 [DP/2006/16] and of the joint report of the UNDP Administrator and the UNFPA Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council.

Reproductive health

In 2006, UNFPA invested 60.3 per cent of its financial resources in reproductive health activities, including maternal mortality, adolescents, gender equality, HIV prevalence, under-5 child mortality and unmet family planning needs. The Fund helped to launch two new vaccines against the human papillomavirus—the virus that causes cervical cancer—and worked with donors, Governments and multilateral organizations to establish how national health programmes could make the vaccine rapidly available to women in the developing world. It also contributed to a policy and programme guide. UNFPA, with key partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO), raised awareness of the critical shortage of midwives in developing countries. In December, it organized a forum on midwifery in Tunisia, at which participants signed the Hammamet Call to Action, which recommended that donors and Governments strengthen midwifery services in the developing world. In partnership with WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank, it supported the development of national maternal and newborn health strategies to help countries realize the MDG on improving maternal health.

UNFPA worked with more than 50 countries to increase contraceptive prevalence and to prevent, control and treat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The number of countries allocating their own funds for contraceptive purchases increased to 66, and 13 UNFPA country offices reported increases in national budgets for contraceptives. The Fund helped more than 60 countries to overcome reproductive health commodity shortages. Canada and European Governments financed the programme and established a trust fund of \$63.8 million.

A UNFPA-led Campaign to End Fistula—a rupture in the birth canal during prolonged, obstructed labour—was carried out in 40 countries. Eleven Governments and private-sector supporters donated to the campaign. Pakistan launched its own campaign to end fistula, establishing seven regional centres, with UNFPA support, to provide surgical treatment free of charge. UNFPA also helped to open the first comprehensive fistula centre in Darfur (the

Sudan), and launched a major awareness-raising campaign in the United Kingdom.

The Fund continued to focus on youth, supporting youth-friendly centres that helped young people to obtain health information and services. In Pakistan, more than 54,000 young people visited 80 centres supported by UNFPA and the EU; in Mongolia, the centres provided safe places to discuss issues rarely mentioned at home or in public; and in Uzbekistan, vocational training in carpet weaving and computer technology added extra value to the centres. Education and training provided young women with information on adolescent and reproductive health in several countries, including Bolivia; Malawi, where 350 community-based agents received training; and Liberia, where young women affected by civil war participated in HIV prevention and vocational training.

As one of 10 co-sponsors of UNAIDS, UNFPA supported national efforts in more than 200 countries to promote country-level discussions on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Fund sensitized decision-makers and urged the region to strengthen HIV prevention services for women and vulnerable groups. UNFPA was instrumental in getting the General Assembly's High-Level meeting on AIDS, in June (see p. 1410), to endorse the linking of HIV prevention with sexual and reproductive health.

Population, development and poverty

In 2006, UNFPA continued to assist countries in integrating population dynamics into national plans to reduce poverty. With the World Bank, UNFPA developed a country-based framework linking population, reproductive health and gender with poverty. The Fund also focused on tracking and monitoring HIV/AIDS and collecting and using gender-disaggregated data in national policies and programmes.

During the year, UNFPA advocated the orderly flow of international migration to maximize its benefits and minimize its negative consequences. The 2006 edition of *The State of the World Population*, entitled *A Passage to Hope: Women and International Migration*, examined the scope and breadth of female migration, the impact of remittances sent home to support families and communities, and women's disproportionate vulnerability to trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

UNFPA also assisted countries in using data to reduce poverty and enhance efforts to achieve the MDGs. In Bangladesh, 150 government officials learned how to analyse census data, with an emphasis on the use of data specific to age and gender.

Results of the UNFPA-supported May census in Haiti helped to determine resource needs in education and reproductive health services. UNFPA provided technical expertise for Nigeria's first census in 15 years.

In the area of population ageing, a UNFPA project in Thailand assisted about 400 elder caregivers of people with AIDS and their children. As part of that project, UNFPA demonstrated to local administrators and national authorities the value of assisting older people affected by HIV/AIDS. City officials from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam studied urban policy and ageing at a 12-day workshop in Kobe, Japan. The November event applied UNFPA policy guidelines on ageing to the population issue.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

In 2006, UNFPA developed a comprehensive strategy for including a gender perspective in all its programmes. Ten countries contributed to a UNFPA study on the most effective examples of culturally sensitive programming aimed at reducing violence against women. With the United Nations Development Fund for Women, it developed a training manual and resource pack on gender budgeting to build the capacity of national partners and civil society organizations. The Fund continued to advocate measures to protect women and girls from HIV/AIDS and to push for the linking of HIV and AIDS with reproductive health. UNFPA projects succeeded in incorporating gender equality and reproductive rights into the agendas of indigenous organizations and in local and national public policies. Partnerships with faith-based organizations helped UNFPA to reach some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. A campaign alerting religious leaders and the public to the dangers of early marriage was launched in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, which had the highest maternal death rate in the world. Imams in Mauritania called on government officials and police to protect rape victims, after UNFPA supported an awareness campaign, established a centre for victims and helped the Government to collect data on sexual violence. To help end violence against women, UNFPA assisted in building Algeria's national capacity to report cases of violence, worked with Morocco's health and justice systems to implement a national strategy against such violence, assisted a legal reform commission in Guatemala and joined an awareness campaign in Romania. In November, UNFPA and Senegal hosted an African film festival devoted to gender-based violence featuring 84 films from 18 countries. To end female genital mutilation, UNFPA

offered local communities in Uganda and Kenya safe alternative rituals, helped the cutters to find other sources of income and supported the efforts of women's groups and parliamentarians to promote legislation to protect women and girls.

Country and intercountry programmes

UNFPA project expenditures for country, regional, interregional and headquarters activities in 2006 totalled \$245.7 million, compared to \$234.3 million in 2005, according to the Executive Director's statistical overview report [DP/FPA/2007/7 (Part I)/Add. 1]. The 2006 figure included \$197.7 million for country programmes and \$48 million for regional, interregional and headquarters activities. In accordance with the Board's procedure for allocating resources [YUN 1996, p. 989], total expenditures in 2006 for Group A countries amounted to \$134.3 million, compared to \$127 million in 2005.

Africa. Provisional data for UNFPA expenditures for programmes in sub-Saharan Africa gave a total of \$83.9 million in 2006, compared to \$78 million in 2005. Most of that amount (52.5 per cent) went to reproductive health and family planning, followed by population and development (24.6 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (15 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (8 per cent).

On 27 January [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/10)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board approved UNFPA country programmes for Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda. On 23 June [dec. 2006/27], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe, and the one-year extensions of country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda and Togo. On 13 September [dec. 2006/37], the Board took note of the draft country programme documents for the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Gabon, the Gambia, Senegal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia totalled \$32.5 million, compared to \$28.4 million in 2005. Most of that amount (64 per cent) was spent on reproductive health, followed by population and development (18.5 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (11.3 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (6.2 per cent).

On 27 January [dec. 2006/10], the Executive Board approved country programmes for Albania, Georgia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Turkey and

Ukraine. On 23 June [dec. 2006/27] it took note of the draft country programme documents for Egypt, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen, and the one-year extensions of country programmes for Lebanon and the Sudan; and on 13 September [dec. 2006/37], of the draft country programme document for Algeria.

Asia and the Pacific. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Asia and the Pacific amounted to \$74.7 million, compared to \$75.5 million in 2005. Most of the expenditures (70.9 per cent) went to reproductive health, followed by population and development (17.1 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (7.5 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (4.5 per cent).

On 27 January [dec. 2006/10], the Executive Board approved country programmes for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Viet Nam. On 23 June [dec. 2006/27], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Thailand, the one-year extensions of country programmes for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and the report [DP/FPA/2006/10] on the implementation of the UNFPA special programme of assistance to Myanmar. On 13 September [dec. 2006/37], the Executive Board took note of the draft country programme documents for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia, as well as of the draft programme of assistance for Myanmar.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean totaled \$22.1 million in 2006, compared to \$21.4 million in 2005. As in other regions, most of the total (44.3 per cent) went to reproductive health, followed by population and development (27.8 per cent), gender equality and women's empowerment (14.8 per cent) and programme coordination and assistance (13.1 per cent).

On 27 January [dec. 2006/10], the Executive Board approved a UNFPA country programme for Peru. On 23 June [dec. 2006/27], it took note of one-year extensions of country programmes for Haiti, Mexico and Nicaragua; and on 13 September [dec. 2006/37], it took note of the draft country programme documents for Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Interregional and headquarters programmes. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA interregional and headquarters programmes totalled \$32.5 million in 2006, compared to \$31 million in 2005. Most of the total (63.1 per cent) went to reproduc-

tive health, followed by programme coordination and assistance (18.5 per cent), population and development (16.6 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (1.8 per cent).

Financial and management questions

Financing

UNFPA income from all sources totalled \$605.5 million in 2006, a 7.2 per cent increase over the 2005 figure of \$565 million [DP/FPA/2007/15]. It comprised \$360.5 million from regular resources and \$210 million from other resources. Expenditures totalled \$536.6 million, up from \$523.3 million in 2005, comprising \$443.7 million in programme activities. The largest share went to Sub-Saharan Africa (\$120 million), followed by Asia and the Pacific (\$103.8 million), the Arab States and Europe (\$53 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean (\$49 million). The rest (\$66.3 million) went to interregional projects and procurement services and the Junior Professional Officers programme (\$32.3 million).

The increase in regular resource contribution income (\$9.3 million, or 2.7 per cent) was due to increased contributions of \$9.2 million from nine major donors. Total income for other resources was \$216.2 million, comprising contributions of \$210 million and other income, including interest, of \$6.2 million.

Donor Governments increased to 180 and multi-year pledges to 74, making 2006 the most successful year financially in UNFPA history. Private endowment contributions stood at \$15.4 million.

On 13 September [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/34)], the Executive Board took note of the annual financial review, 2005 [DP/FPA/2006/13]. It welcomed the increase in UNFPA income level, recognizing that increased, predictable and timely payment of contributions was essential to maintaining liquidity and facilitating programme implementation. It encouraged Member States in a position to do so to increase their funding, giving priority to regular resources, and to make multi-year contributions and announce payment schedules.

Audit reports

The Executive Director submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board a report [DP/FPA/2006/1] on follow-up action by UNFPA to implement the recommendations of the UN Board of Auditors for 2002-2003 [YUN 2004, p. 1397].

On 27 January [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/8)], the Executive Board took note of the actions taken

or planned by UNFPA in implementing those recommendations. It requested UNFPA to continue to strengthen management and control systems, including risk-management systems, intensify fraud-prevention and anti-corruption measures and further strengthen systems for reporting and investigating possible fraud or misuse of funds.

In an April report [DP/FPA/2006/4], the Executive Director described the internal audit and oversight activities carried out by UNFPA in 2005. Those included: management audits of 17 offices (12 in Africa, one in Latin America and the Caribbean, two in the Arab States and Europe region and two in the Asia and Pacific region); a review of 211 audit reports covering 2004 activities for projects executed by Governments and NGOs; and contracted audits in six country offices in Asia and the Pacific and seven in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia region. According to the 26 reports issued in 2005, the level of internal controls and the compliance with financial, administrative and programme requirements were found to be satisfactory in three offices, partially satisfactory in 19 and deficient in four. A total of 1,380 recommendations were issued. The Executive Director requested the Division for Oversight Services to revise the audit programme and, in that regard, appointed an independent five-member oversight committee. The Fund updated its Financial Rules and Regulations and undertook initiatives to strengthen fraud monitoring and control, such as establishing an online whistle-blower hotline and creating a policy for informing staff of UNFPA zero tolerance towards fraud and unethical behaviour.

On 16 June [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/13)], the Executive Board welcomed the Executive Director's report and the creation of an independent audit and oversight committee; expressed support for continued strengthening of the internal audit and oversight services and requested an assessment of the resources required. It recognized the need to strengthen monitoring systems to address audit findings, and expressed support for the initiatives for promoting a risk-management culture. The Board requested UNFPA to accelerate the development of the enterprise risk management systems, taking into account the costs and benefits of introducing such systems.

Multi-year funding commitments

In May [DP/FPA/2006/3], the Executive Director submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board updated estimates of regular and other resources for 2006 and future years in the multi-year funding framework (MYFF). As at 1 March, 98 official

pledges had been received, several of which were multi-year pledges.

Total resources in 2005 reached about \$523.5 million, the Fund's highest total ever, comprising \$365.8 million in regular resources and \$157.7 million in co-financing arrangements. Compared to 2004, regular resources increased by \$38.1 million, or 11 per cent and income for co-financing arrangements by \$26.6 million, or 20.3 per cent. UNFPA increased its donor base to 172 Governments in 2005, from 166 in 2004. Multi-year pledges also increased to 55, compared to 49 in 2004. The Fund was particularly gratified to have received pledges in 2005 from all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The substantial increase in the 2005 regular income level was due to larger contributions from 11 major donors, as well as a weakening of the United States dollar vis-à-vis other currencies. The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Japan and the United Kingdom were the five largest donors. Seventeen major donors provided about 94 per cent of total regular resources. Income projections for 2006 were set at \$341.7 million, due to decreases in the United States dollar equivalent for 2006, using the current UN rate of exchange. It was essential that UNFPA continue to focus its resource mobilization efforts on increasing regular resources. A strong and secure base of regular resources should be supplemented by various combinations of co-financing funding.

On 16 June [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/12)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board welcomed the substantial increase in the 2005 regular income level, the increase in the 2005 co-financing income and the contributions made by programme countries, which had enabled UNFPA to reach its highest ever number of donors. 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.

Evaluation

In an April report [DP/FPA/2006/5], the Executive Director provided an overview of UNFPA 2004-2005 evaluation activities, including efforts to adopt and comply with internationally recognized evaluation criteria and quality standards. During that period, the Fund conducted 497 country-level, 23 regional and 18 global evaluations. Many evaluations resulted in extensive follow-up, and there was consistent support for building a stronger evaluation function within UNFPA.

On 16 June [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/11)], the Executive Board took note of the periodic report on evaluation, welcomed efforts to adopt and comply with

international evaluation criteria and standards and looked forward to reviewing them in 2007.

UNFPA role in emergency situations

In response to Executive Board decision 2000/13 [YUN 2000, p. 1003], UNFPA reported in August on its role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and transition and recovery [DP/FPA/2006/14]. The report presented a three-year strategy for ensuring that the key issues in the ICPD Programme of Action Programme were integrated into the emergency preparedness, crisis response and recovery programmes of national entities, civil society, regional institutions and the international humanitarian system. The strategy sought to enhance UNFPA capacity to respond more effectively to issues of gender, reproductive health and data in the context of crisis and recovery. The total cost for implementing the strategy was estimated at \$23 million. UNFPA proposed using \$8 million from regular resources and to seek co-financing contributions for the remainder. It proposed that the emergency fund be maintained at its level of \$3 million, and continue to serve as a source for acute emergency response programming and as a buffer to advance emergency funds against pledges made but not yet honoured. UNFPA also proposed the establishment of a voluntary, open-ended trust fund for reproductive health and gender mainstreaming in relief and recovery.

On 13 September [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/35)], the Executive Board endorsed the strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and transition and recovery programmes at national, regional and international levels. It requested UNFPA to provide further information in 2007 on resource needs, funding modalities and staff required to implement the strategy; coordination between UNFPA and other UN entities, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee; and the strategy's monitoring and evaluation framework. The Executive Board encouraged UNFPA to align the strategy with the medium-term strategic plan, to be approved in 2007. It agreed to maintain the emergency fund at \$3 million a year, funded from regular resources; and encouraged contributions to UNFPA to implement the strategy.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF programming

An April report by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF [DP/FPA/2006/11] reviewed the implementation experience of joint programming of the three entities since 2004. The three organizations were committed to joint programming and joint programmes, as evidenced by the increase in the number of such

programmes. That collaboration had been facilitated by the introduction of the common country programming process and the issuance of the inter-organization guidance note on joint programming, which together set out a framework for joint programmes. For the first time, there were common United Nations Development Group (UNDG) operational tools and programming processes with which to develop and implement joint programmes, resulting in enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and coherence. Many of the limitations to joint programming had been identified and were being addressed in the improvements proposed, which would lead to the mainstreaming of joint programming within the country programming process.

On 23 June [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/27)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board took note of the report.

Improving the harmonized country programme approval process

An April report by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Food Programme [DP/FPA/2006/12] presented options for improving the harmonized country programme approval process by the respective Executive Boards, including by further simplifying and harmonizing the UNGD programming process and by introducing a consolidated document at the country level.

On 23 June [E/2006/35 (dec. 2006/27)], the Executive Board postponed consideration of that report.

UN Population Award

The 2006 United Nations Population Award was presented to Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, Director-General, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, in the individual category, and to Haiti's Fondation pour la santé reproductive et l'éducation familiale (FOSREF) in the institutional category.

The Award was established by General Assembly resolution 36/201 [YUN 1981, p. 792], to be presented annually to individuals or institutions for outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of population problems and to their solutions. In August, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report of the UNFPA Executive Director on the Population Award [A/61/273].

Other population activities

Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development, at its thirty-ninth session (New York, 3-7 April and

10 May) [E/2006/25] considered as its special theme “International migration and development” (see p. 1257). Documents before the Commission included the report of its Bureau on the intersessional meeting (Banjul, the Gambia, 19–20 December 2005) [E/CN.9/2006/2]; reports of the Secretary-General on: world population monitoring, focusing on international migration and development [E/CN.9/2006/3]; monitoring of population programmes, focusing on international migration and development [E/CN.9/2006/4]; flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action [E/CN.9/2006/5]; and programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2005 [E/CN.9/2006/6].

The Commission adopted and brought to the Economic and Social Council’s attention resolutions on its methods of work [E/2006/25 (res. 2006/1)] (see below) and on international migration and development [res. 2006/2] (see p. 1258). The Commission decided that the special theme for its forty-first (2008) session would be “Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development” [dec. 2006/101]. In other action [dec. 2006/102], the Commission took note of the documents it had considered at its thirty-ninth session. At a resumed meeting on 10 May, the Commission recommended to the Council the draft provisional agenda for its fortieth (2007) session.

By **decision 2006/233** of 24 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-ninth (2006) session and approved the provisional agenda for the Commission’s fortieth (2007) session.

In preparation for its fortieth session, the Commission’s Bureau held two meetings in 2006 (New York, 3 November and 7 December) [E/CN.9/2007/2].

Improving the Commission’s methods of work

The Commission, on 10 May [E/2006/25 (res. 2006/1)], decided to adopt a multi-year programme of work limited to a two-year planning horizon, and to select a special theme for each year based on the ICPD Programme of Action. In considering each annual theme, the Commission would continue to review and assess both its substantive and policy aspects, as well as the progress made in programme implementation in relation to that theme.

The Commission would address at its general debate the challenges to the implementation of the goals, objectives and commitments of the Programme of Action, and the means for accelerating their implementation. The outcomes of the

Commission’s discussions, including on its special theme, should contain substantive recommendations and key actions for furthering its implementation. The Commission’s programme of work would include new and emerging issues, as recommended by Member States. To maintain and enhance the quality and impact of the debates, Member States were invited to include, among their representatives at the Commission’s sessions, those with technical expertise in the particular areas of population and development under consideration.

The Commission’s Bureau would meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for annual sessions, and facilitate regular and informal briefings on the status of preparations. The Secretary-General was requested to ensure strengthened cooperation and coordination among UN system entities in the technical preparation of future Commission sessions.

UN activities

In a report on programme implementation and progress of work of the UN Population Division in 2006 [E/CN.9/2007/7], the Secretary-General described the Division’s major activities relating to 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. Several activities revolved around the September General Assembly’s High-level Dialogue (see p. 1261).

The Division’s work in fertility and family planning included the preparation of a report entitled *Childlessness: A Global Survey*, which provided a statistical overview of childlessness worldwide, focusing on the past few decades. In the area of fertility, the Division prepared two datasets for electronic publication: the *Database on Fertility 2007*, which contained fertility indicators for 192 countries or areas and the *Database on Marriage 2007*, containing indicators of marital status for 192 countries or areas.

On mortality and health, progress was made in reviewing mortality estimation methods and in proposing methodological improvements to obtain more timely and robust estimates of age-specific mortality and life expectancy for as many countries as possible. The focus was on developing new and more flexible models of mortality patterns by age that could be used to fit the partial information available for countries with deficient data. Work also advanced in compiling data for estimating mortality and documenting their sources and limitations. To facilitate the use of the varied types

of data available for the estimation of mortality, a database was developed to store both the data and the metadata describing them. To promote collaboration on those tasks with other institutions, the Division organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Current issues in the estimation of adult mortality" (New York, 26-27 October).

Concerning international migration, the Division issued the *Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development*, containing a compilation of all the principles, guidelines, commitments and recommendations for action adopted by Member States at the various conferences and summits held since 1990, as well as at the population conferences of 1974 and 1984. It also issued the wall chart *International Migration 2006*, with the most recent estimates and information, including the estimated number of international migrants in each country, estimates of net migration, remittances, government views on immigration and emigration policies, and the status of ratification of relevant UN instruments. The Division organized, with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, an expert group meeting on "International migration and development in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities" (Beirut, 15-17 May); in collaboration with Turin's Fondazione Rosselli, the International Symposium on International Migration and Development (Turin, Italy, 28-30 June); and the fifth coordination meeting on international migration (New York, 20-21 November).

With regard to world population projections, the Division issued the third volume, *Analytical Report of World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*, which analysed the results of the population estimates and projections presented in the previous two volumes. The data covered the 228 countries or areas for the period 1950-2050. The results of the 2005 revision of *World Urbanization Prospects* were issued in both electronic form and in a number of publications. In collaboration with Columbia University and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Division organized an expert group meeting on "Rethinking the estimation and projection of urban and city populations" (New York, 9 January), which brought together demographers,

geographers, urban planners, experts in remote-sensing and geographic information systems, as well as representatives of UN entities.

As to population policies, the Division published the 2005 edition of *World Population Policies*, a recurrent survey of the views and policies of Governments. A panel discussion on "Challenges of world population in the twenty-first century: the changing age structure of population and its consequences for development" (New York, 12 October) highlighted the implications of population ageing becoming a major concern, with Governments considering how best to address the expected increase in health and pension costs associated with growing numbers of older persons. With regard to population and development, the Division published the wall chart *Population Ageing 2006*, which presented data for 228 countries or areas in the world on the absolute and relative numbers of older persons, the proportions of older persons married, living alone and in the labour force classified by sex, the sex ratio of populations aged 60 or over and 80 or over, the potential support ratio, the statutory retirement age for men and women, and the male and female life expectancies at age 60. The Division continued its tradition of organizing a "member-initiated meeting" to present its work at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. The 30 March event in Los Angeles, California, focused on the major findings of the report "Living Arrangements of Older Persons around the World", which presented a global survey of the patterns and trends in the living arrangements of people aged 60 or over.

On monitoring population trends and policies, the annual world population monitoring report produced for the Commission was devoted to international migration and development. In disseminating population information and data, the Division continued to update and expand its website (www.unpopulation.org), to which a portal on international migration and development (www.unmigration.org) was added. Complementing those websites was the Population Information Network (www.popin.org), which provided a portal to population information and data available throughout the UN system.