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Statement

Launch of *World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results*

11 July 2022, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

UN Press Briefing Room, S-237

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you on World Population Day. This day was established by the United Nations to focus the world's attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.

Today, our Department, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), is releasing a report, *World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results*. The title is intentionally factual, but the findings are quite exciting!

The report provides an overview of global population trends. It focuses on a 100 year period, between 1950 and 2050, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends. But it also presents population projections to the year 2100, reflecting a range of plausible outcomes at the global, regional and national levels.

[Show report].

The report is accompanied by a dataset, *World Population Prospects 2022*, the twenty-seventh edition of the United Nations estimates and projections of the global population, a series that began in 1951. The WPP dataset and report are some of the most downloaded products of UN DESA.

Timely and accurate estimates and projections of population trends are critical for anticipating future demographic trends in support of national development planning. The WPP dataset also provides inputs for the calculation of numerous development indicators used by the United Nations system, including for about one-quarter of the indicators used for the global monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On 15 November 2022, the world will mark an important milestone, as the global population surpasses 8 billion people. What a number, 8 billion people!

This historic moment calls for celebration: population growth is a tangible sign of our collective success in improving the living conditions of everyday people throughout the world. But the 8 billion milestone also brings important responsibilities and highlights related challenges for social and economic development and environmental sustainability.

For example, countries whose populations are growing rapidly must provide schooling and health care to growing numbers of children and ensure education and employment opportunities to increasing numbers of youth. Lowering the fertility rate reduces the rate of population increase at younger ages, while having fewer children per adult makes it easier to improve the quality of education for each individual child.

Countries where population growth has slowed or stopped must prepare for an increasing proportion of older persons and, in some cases, a decreasing population size.

Whereas population growth may exacerbate environmental damage, more developed countries—whose per capita consumption of material resources is generally the highest—bear the greatest responsibility for implementing strategies to decouple human economic activity from environmental degradation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report, dataset and other outputs of the *World Population Prospects* are widely used by Member States, the United Nations system, academia, the private sector and civil society.

The WPP helps to promote demographic foresight and is an important tool for long-term and intergenerational thinking, as called for by the Secretary-General in his report on *Our Common Agenda*.

Let me now pass the floor to my colleague, Mr. John Wilmoth, who is the Director of the Population Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for more in-depth presentations on the Report.

Thank you for your attention.
