



considerably more populated than it is today. On its current trajectory, the world's population is expected to reach 8 billion in 2025 and 9.6 billion in 2050.

The story of global demographic change is, however, not simply a story about continued population increase. As the Secretary-General's report points out, the world is characterized by considerable demographic diversity with respect to both the size and structure of different countries' populations and with respect to what is projected for the future. By 2050, for example, the population of Africa is expected to be growing at a rate 15 times faster than the population of Asia, while the population of Europe is expected to be contracting by mid-century.

Much of the difference in projected future population trajectories can be explained by differences in projected fertility in different regions of the world. In 1994, when the international community met in Cairo, total fertility for the world had already fallen to around 3 children per woman, down from around 4.5 children per woman in the 1970s. After the 1994 Cairo conference, fertility continued to fall in most regions, with the notable exception of Europe, where fertility levels were, on average, already below the replacement level. In Africa, the declines started from a higher initial value and have been slower than elsewhere, so that in 2014 the level of fertility in this region remains considerably higher than in all other parts of the world.

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Equally noteworthy, patterns of marriage and union formation have changed over the last 20 years. One example includes trends that have taken place in the age of first marriage or union formation, which historically has been a key determinant of when a woman begins to have children. In addition, policies to increase the availability of safe and effective contraceptives, and accessibility to family

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In addition to fertility and mortality, the last major component of population change is migration. As discussed during last year's Commission, international migration has increased in size, scope, complexity and demographic significance over the past 20 years. Since 1990, international migration flows have become increasingly diverse, and some countries are now simultaneously countries of origin, destination and transit. In 2013, the number of international migrants worldwide reached 232 million, up from 154 million in 1990. Although this number represents an increase of 78 million people, the share of international migrants in the world population increased only slightly, from 2.9 per cent in 1990 to 3.2 per cent in 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

The changes in fertility, mortality, and migration described above combine to shape the structure of the world's population. For example, although global fertility levels are expected to continue to decline, the youthful age structure of the less developed regions ensures that there

redistribution of earnings from the working-age population to the older generation. Although most advanced in Europe and North America, population ageing is occurring, or will soon begin, in all areas of the world. By 2050, one in five of the world's population will be over the age of 60.

continuation and consequences of the population trends present unique opportunities as well as challenges for all societies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.