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Statement of Mr. John Wilmoth  
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Commission on Population and Development

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Since my return to the UN, I have been struck in particular by the advancements made in the Division's work on migration, the focus of this year's Commission.

Mr. Chairman,

International migration often provokes strong emotional reactions. Under such circumstances, the Population Division plays a crucial role in providing accurate, timely and unbiased information to the international community about the many facets of migration.

Over the last 6 years, the Population Division has strengthened substantially the evidence base on international migration. The migration stock database is a prominent example.

For many years the Division has been producing estimates of the number of international migrants residing in all countries of the world. In recent years, however, we have expanded this work, in collaboration with various partners.

With support from UNICEF, we developed methods for estimating the age of migrants, yielding counts of the number of migrant children, youth and adolescents. Such information is critical for programme planning and advocacy.

In collaboration with the World Bank, we have created the largest existing collection of census data on international migrants. Thanks to this Global Migration Database, we are now able to estimate the direction of migratory flows. This additional piece of information, migrants' place of origin, is critical both for describing migration patterns by region or level of development, and for analysing the impact of international migration on various aspects of development. This groundbreaking work also allows us to improve the migration assumptions used in our world population projections.



The Population Division remains committed to contributing to this discussion by providing essential data and t