About the Author

Gerhard K. Heilig has been Chief of the Population Estimates and Projections Section of the Population Division at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since November 2006. He joined the United Nations in August 2006. Since then he has been leading the preparations of the 2008 and 2010 Revisions of the *World Population Prospects*, as well as the 2007 and 2009 Revisions of the *World Urbanization Prospects*. These population estimates and projections are used throughout the UN System, by many international organizations, and research centers. Before joining the Population Division, Mr. Heilig was a Senior Researcher and later Project Leader at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria. He studied Sociology and has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Technical University of Munich and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Bamberg, Germany. Mr. Heilig has worked on topics related to population, development, environment and food security and published more than 50 papers in refereed journals. He is the author of several widely used software packages and has authored a land-mark study on China’s food security www.china-food-security.org www.china-profile.com.

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