



## POPULATION *Newsletter*

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### THE WORLD AT SIX BILLION

According to the latest United Nations population estimates, world population reached the six billion mark on 12 October 1999, an historic milestone in the growth of world population. The marking of a world of six billion just at the dawn of the new millennium is a convergence of events that has attracted widespread global attention.

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*“It has taken just 12 years for the world to add the most recent billion people.”*

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Population growth during the twentieth century has been extraordinary. World population increased from 1.65 billion to 6 billion, and both the highest rate of population growth—averaging 2.04 per cent per year, during the late 1960s—and the largest annual increment to world population—86 million persons each year, in the late 1980s—were recorded. It has taken just 12 years for the world to add the most recent billion people. This is the shortest period of time in world history for a billion people to be added.

The rapid growth of the world population started in 1950 (see box 1 and fig. I), with reductions in mortality in the less developed regions, resulting in an estimated population of 6.1 billion in the year 2000, nearly two and one-half times the population in 1950. With declines in fertility in most of the world, the global growth rate of population has been decreasing since its peak of 2.0 per cent in 1965-1970. In 1999, when the world's population passed 6 billion, it was growing at 1.3 per cent per year, with an annual net addition of 78 million people.

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**BOX 1. WORLD POPULATION MILESTONES**

**World population reached:**

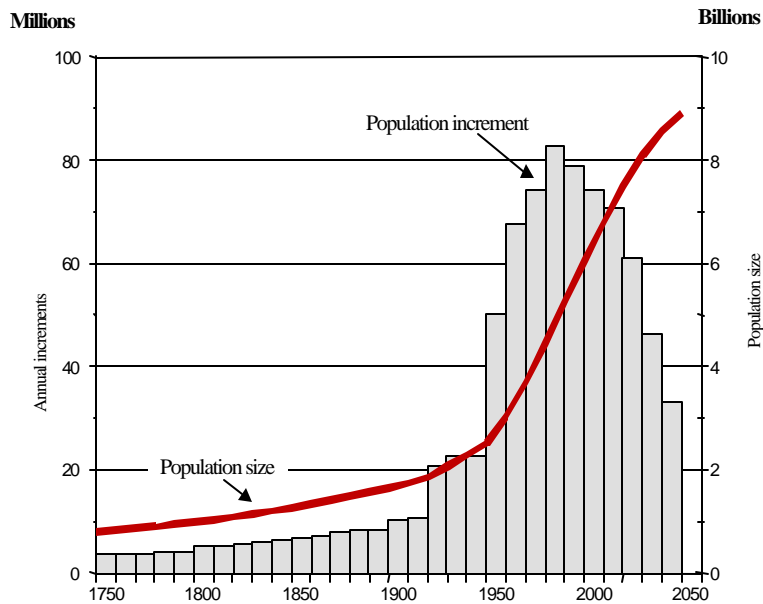
1 billion in	1804
2 billion in	1927 (123 years later)
3 billion in	1960 (33 years later)
4 billion in	1974 (14 years later)
5 billion in	1987 (13 years later)
6 billion in	1999 (12 years later)

**World population may reach:**

7 billion in	2013 (14 years later)
8 billion in	2028 (15 years later)
9 billion in	2054 (26 years later)
10 billion in	2183 (129 years later)

*Source:* Population Division, United Nations.

**Figure I. Long-term world population growth, 1750-2050**



*Source:* Population Division, United Nations.

Eighty per cent of the world currently lives in the less developed regions (table 1), compared with 70 per cent at the beginning of the century. By 2050, the share of the world population living in the currently less developed regions will have risen to 90 per cent. Of the 78 million people currently added to the world each year, over 95 per cent live in the less developed regions.

According to the medium variant of the 1998 revision of the official United Nations estimates and projections, by 2050 the world population will be 8.9 billion, an increase of nearly half over the population in 2000. By 2050, the share of Asia will be nearly 60 per cent, that of Africa will be 20 per cent, and that of Latin America will be 9 per cent. Meanwhile the share of Europe will decline to 7 per cent, less than one third its peak level, at the beginning of the twentieth century. Whereas in 1900 the population of Europe was three times that of Africa, in 2050 the population of Africa will be nearly three times that of Europe.

World population will continue to grow after 2050 (see the following article). The medium-fertility scenario from the latest United Nations long-range projections indicates that world population could reach 9.7 billion by 2150 and nearly stabilize at just above 10 billion after 2200.

During the decades when the world population growth rate was declining from its peak, the average number of children per couple fell, from 4.9 to 2.7, and life expectancy at birth rose from 56 years to 65 years.

In the less developed regions, couples are currently having about two children fewer than couples did three decades ago: today, they have on average three (table 2); 30 years ago they had six. More than half of all couples in developing countries now use contraception. Even though fertility has declined to relatively moderate levels in many developing countries and to below replacement level in some, a large and increasing number of children are born annually, due to the continued increase in the number of women of childbearing age, a legacy of past high fertility levels. In the more developed regions, fertility declined from 2.4 births per woman during the late 1960s to an historic low of 1.6 for the current period. In Europe and Japan, the current fertility rate is 1.5 births per woman or less.

With the current decline in fertility and increase in life expectancy, which is expected to exceed 76 years by 2050, the population of the world will age much faster in the next half century than previously. The median age increased from 23.5 years in 1950 to 26.4 years in 1999. By 2050, the median age is projected to reach 37.8 years (table 3).

TABLE 1. POPULATION SIZE AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH, BY MAJOR AREA, 1995-2000

<i>Major area</i>	<i>Population mid 1999 (thousands)</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Net migration</i>	<i>Total growth</i>
		<i>(annual average, in thousands)</i>			
World total	5 978 401	129 810	52 072	-	77 738
More developed regions	1 185 174	13 224	11 951	1 971	3 243
Less developed regions	4 793 227	116 586	40 121	-1 971	74 494
Africa	766 623	28 115	10 331	-287	17 496
Asia	3 634 279	77 953	27 492	-1 207	49 254
Europe	728 934	7 493	8 248	950	195
Latin America and the Caribbean	511 345	11 554	3 245	-471	7 838
Northern America	307 202	4 172	2 528	930	2 574
Oceania	30 018	527	227	81	381

Source: Population Division, United Nations.

TABLE 2. CURRENT LEVELS OF POPULATION GROWTH, MORTALITY, FERTILITY AND CONTRACEPTIVE USE, BY MAJOR AREAS

<i>Major area</i>	<i>Population growth rate, 1995-2000 (percentage)</i>	<i>Life expectancy at birth, 1995-2000 (years)</i>	<i>Total fertility rate, 1995-2000 (average number of children per woman)</i>	<i>Contraceptive use, 1990s (percentage of currently married women)</i>
World	1.3	65	2.7	58
More developed regions	0.3	75	1.6	70
Less developed regions	1.6	63	3.0	55
Africa	2.4	51	5.1	20
Asia	1.4	66	2.6	60
Europe	0.0	73	1.4	72
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.6	69	2.7	66
Northern America	0.8	77	1.9	71
Oceania	1.3	74	2.4	64

Source: Population Division, United Nations.

TABLE 3. MEDIAN AGE AND PERCENTAGE AGED 60 OR OLDER, BY MAJOR AREA, 1950, 1999 AND 2050

<i>Major area</i>	<i>Median age (years)</i>			<i>Percentage aged 60 or older</i>		
	<i>1950</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2050</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2050</i>
World total	23.5	26.4	37.8	8.1	9.9	22.1
More developed regions	28.6	37.2	45.6	11.7	19.3	32.5
Less developed regions	21.3	24.2	36.7	6.4	7.6	20.6
Africa	18.7	18.3	30.7	5.1	5.0	12.0
Asia	21.9	26.0	39.3	6.7	8.7	23.5
Europe	29.2	37.4	47.4	12.1	20.1	34.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	20.1	24.2	37.8	5.9	7.8	22.3
Northern America	29.8	35.6	42.1	12.4	16.4	28.0
Oceania	27.9	30.9	39.3	11.2	13.4	24.2

Source: Population Division, United Nations.

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*“Once limited to developed countries, concern for the consequences of ageing has spread to developing countries.”*

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The proportion of children less than 15 years old declined from 34 per cent in 1950 to 30 per cent in 1999, while the proportion of older persons, aged 60 or over, increased from 8 to 10 per cent over the same period. By 2050, it is expected, according to the medium variant projections, that the proportion of children will have declined by one third of its 1999 level, to 20 per cent, and that the proportion of older persons will have more than doubled, to 22 per cent, exceeding the proportion of children for the first time in human history. This changing age structure will have wide-ranging economic and social consequences, affecting such factors as economic growth, savings and investment, labour supply and employment, pension schemes, and health and long-term care. Once limited to developed countries, concern for the consequences of ageing has spread to developing countries.

The majority of older persons are women. Among those aged 60 years or older, 55 per cent are women, and among the oldest old (80 years or older), 65 per cent are women. The reason is that women generally have lower death rates at every age. The percentage of women in older age groups is higher in the more developed regions than in the less developed regions due to larger differences in life expectancy between the sexes in the more developed regions.

The number of working-age persons per older person is declining rapidly. The potential support ratio (the number of persons aged 15-64 years per older person aged 65 years or older), indicating the dependency burden on potential workers, is falling in both more and less developed regions. Between 1999 and 2050, the potential support ratio will decline from five to two working-age persons per older person in more developed regions, and from

12 to four working-age persons per older person in less developed regions (table 4).

Despite the impressive gains in health and life expectancy during the past few decades, much remains to be done. Recent years have shown a devastating toll from AIDS in a number of countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In the 32 hardest hit countries, it is projected that 64 million fewer people will be alive in 2015 than would have existed in the absence of AIDS. In several African countries, loss of life from AIDS reduces the projected population in 2015 by around one fifth. In addition, in some countries of Eastern Europe, the health situation has been deteriorating, and adult mortality, especially among males, has increased.

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*“Since the late 1960s, the share of the world’s population living in urban areas has increased from 36 per cent to 47 per cent and is expected to reach 50 per cent by 2006.”*

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The growth of urban centres and the concentration of population in urban areas were characteristic of the twentieth century. Since the late 1960s, the share of the world’s population living in urban areas has increased from 36 per cent to 47 per cent and is expected to reach 50 per cent by 2006. During the same period, giant urban agglomerations have become both more numerous and larger in size, and international migration has intensified. The number of megacities of 10 million persons or more has grown from five to 18 (table 5), while the number of migrants has risen to over 125 million, from 75 million in 1965.

For more information, a copy of the paper “The world at six billion” (ESA/P/WP.154), prepared by the United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, can be obtained by writing to the Director, Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017; fax number (212) 963-2147.

TABLE 4. POTENTIAL SUPPORT RATIO, BY MAJOR AREA, 1999 AND 2050

<i>Major area</i>	<i>Potential support ratio</i>	
	<i>1999</i>	<i>2050</i>
World	9	4
More developed regions	5	2
Less developed regions	12	4
Africa	17	8
Asia	11	4
Europe	5	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	12	4
Northern America	5	3
Oceania	7	3

*Source:* Population Division, United Nations.

TABLE 5. TEN LARGEST URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS IN THE WORLD, 1999

<i>Agglomeration</i>	<i>Population (millions)</i>
1. Tokyo (Japan)	28.8
2. Mexico City (Mexico)	17.8
3. São Paulo (Brazil)	17.5
4. Bombay (India)	17.4
5. New York (United States)	16.5
6. Shanghai (China)	14.0
7. Los Angeles (United States)	13.0
8. Lagos (Nigeria)	12.8
9. Calcutta (India)	12.7
10. Buenos Aires (Argentina)	12.3

*Source:* Population Division, United Nations.

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## LONG-RANGE WORLD POPULATION PROJECTIONS BASED ON THE 1998 REVISION

The Population Division of the United Nations has prepared new long-range projections which include several scenarios of population growth for the world and its major areas over the period 1995-2150. The new projections extend the results published in *World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision*, volumes I and II, which cover the period 1995-2050. The medium scenario assumes that fertility in all major areas stabilizes at replacement level around 2050; the low scenario assumes that fertility is one-half child lower than in the medium scenario; and the high scenario assumes that fertility is one-half child higher than in the medium scenario. In the constant scenario fertility remains constant during 1995-2150 at the level estimated for 1990-1995, and in the instant-replacement scenario fertility drops instantly to replacement level in 1995 and remains at that level thereafter.

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*“In the longer term, future population size is sensitive to small but sustained deviations in fertility from replacement level. While the low scenario results in a declining population that reaches 3.2 billion in 2150, the high scenario leads to a growing population that rises to 24.8 billion.”*

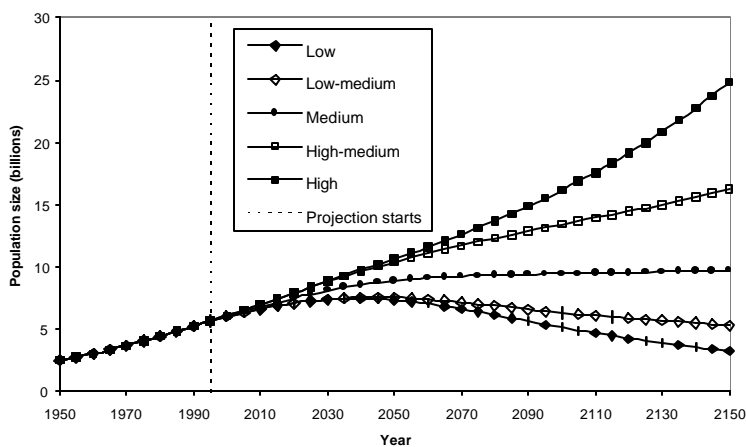
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The medium projection of the 1998 revision, which has incorporated the assumption that fertility will remain below replacement level during most of the 1995-2050 period in countries with below-replacement fertility today, produces a population of 9.7 billion in 2150.

In the longer term, future population size is sensitive to small but sustained deviations in fertility from replacement level. While the low scenario results in a declining population that reaches 3.2 billion in 2150, the high scenario leads to a growing population that rises to 24.8 billion. If fertility is kept constant at 1995 levels, the world population soars to 256 billion by 2150. If, on the other hand, fertility remains at replacement level starting in 1995, the world population rises from 5.7 billion persons in 1995 to 9.3 billion persons in 2150, 400 million less than the number arrived at by the medium scenario (see fig. II).

Because both the low and the high scenarios embody patterns of decline and growth that are unsustainable over the very long run, scenarios based on smaller fertility deviations from replacement level have also been prepared. The intermediate scenarios result in more moderate rates

**Figure II. World population according to five projection scenarios, 1950-2150**



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of growth (or decline) in the long run and in lower increases (or reductions) of the world population. The path that fertility will actually follow in the future will very likely be bound by these intermediate scenarios if sustainability is to be maintained.

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*“All scenarios result in significant shifts in the geographical distribution of the world population“.*

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The main long-range projection scenarios assume that mortality declines steadily after 2050, albeit at a slow pace. The expectation of life at birth for women is projected to increase from 79 years in 2050 to 88 years in 2150. For men the increase is from 74 years to 83 years over the same period. Increasing longevity is expected to have a moderate impact on population increase over the long term. If longevity did not increase after 2050, the world population would reach 8.6 billion by 2150, instead of 9.7 billion, reached under the assumption of declining mortality in the medium scenario.

All scenarios result in significant shifts in the geographical distribution of the world population (see table 6). According to the medium scenario, the share of Africa doubles (passing from 12 per cent of the world population in 1995 to 24 per cent in 2150), whereas that of China is reduced by one third (from 22 per cent in 1995 to 14 per cent in 2150) and that of Europe by more than half (from 13 per cent to 5 per cent).

As a result of these trends, the world of 2150 is likely to be one in which China and India together will account for about one third of the world population, the rest of Asia and Africa each will account for nearly one quarter, and Latin America

and the Caribbean will comprise nearly one tenth, as will Europe and Northern America taken together.

The low, medium and high scenarios all result in significant shifts of the age distribution towards older ages. According to the medium scenario, the share of persons aged 0-14 declines from 30 per cent in 1995 to 18 per cent in 2150, whereas the share of persons aged 60 or over rises from 10 per cent to 30 per cent over the same period (fig. III). The proportion of the population aged 15-59 changes moderately, passing from 59 per cent in 1995 to 52 per cent in 2150, but that of the economically dependent population changes drastically: by 2150, instead of involving mostly children who depend on parents for their support, it will involve mostly older persons who may have to depend either directly or indirectly on younger generations for their support.

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*“The low, medium and high scenarios all result in significant shifts of the age distribution towards older ages”.*

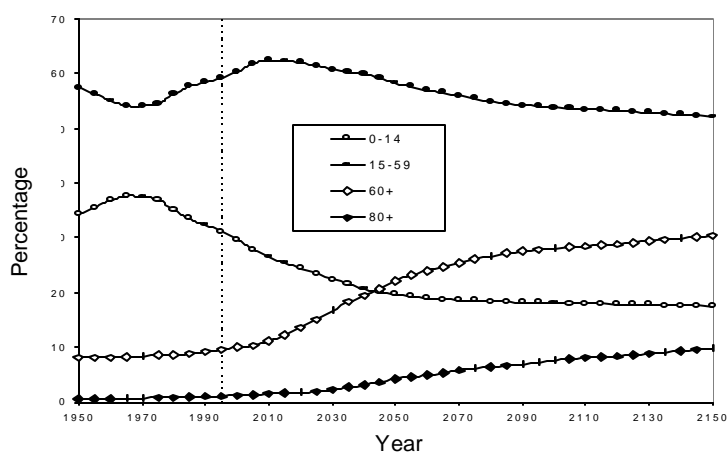
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Another major change brought about by the long-term ageing of the population is a very marked increase in the number and proportion of the population of the very old (those aged 80 years or over). According to the medium scenario, by 2150 there will be nearly 1 billion persons in that age group, 15 times the number in 1995. As a proportion of the population, those aged 80 or over will comprise 10 per cent of the population in 2150, instead of 1 per cent as they do today.

To obtain a copy of the new report “Long-range world population projections: based on the 1998 revision” (ESA/P/WP.153), write to the Director, Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017; fax number (212) 963-2147.



Figure III. Percentage of world population by age group, medium scenario, 1950-2150



Source: Population Division, United Nations.

TABLE 6. WORLD POPULATION BY MAJOR AREA, MEDIUM SCENARIO, 1995-2050

Year	Total	Africa	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Northern America	Oceania	Asia, excluding China and India	China	India
<i>Population (millions)</i>									
1995	5 666	697	728	480	297	28	1 282	1 221	934
2000	6 055	784	729	519	310	30	1 391	1 278	1 014
2025	7 824	1 298	702	697	364	40	1 912	1 480	1 330
2050	8 909	1 766	628	809	392	46	2 262	1 478	1 529
2075	9 319	2 077	549	857	390	48	2 423	1 386	1 589
2100	9 459	2 215	515	877	388	49	2 476	1 340	1 600
2125	9 573	2 264	508	894	390	50	2 512	1 338	1 617
2150	9 746	2 308	517	912	398	51	2 558	1 361	1 642
<i>Percentage</i>									
1995	100	12	13	8	5	1	23	22	16
2000	100	12	13	8	5	1	23	22	16
2025	100	13	12	9	5	1	23	21	17
2050	100	17	9	9	5	1	24	19	17
2075	100	20	7	9	4	1	25	17	17
2100	100	22	6	9	4	1	26	15	17
2125	100	23	5	9	4	1	26	14	17
2150	100	24	5	9	4	1	26	14	17

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, "Long-range world population projections: based on the 1998 revision" (ESA/P/WP.153), 1999.

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## CHARTING THE PROGRESS OF POPULATIONS

A new report, *Charting the Progress of Populations*, has been prepared by the Population Division in support of follow-up activities to the series of global conferences that were convened by the United Nations during the 1990s to address a number of economic and social issues of international concern. The report provides basic statistical information and sources for key indicators relevant to goals agreed upon by Governments. It is being issued as the United Nations is in the midst of the first series of quinquennial reviews of progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of those conferences, culminating in a series of special sessions of the General Assembly to assess progress and identify priorities for further implementation of the conference goals and objectives. *Charting the Progress of Populations* is one of the background documents for the preparatory process leading up to the special session of the General Assembly that will take place in June 2000 for review and appraisal of the implementation of the goals and objectives of the World Summit on Social Development.

The report provides a concise analytic and visual summary as well as background information on 12 key socio-economic indicators related to the goals of the conferences, particularly the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The indicators were selected for their relevance to six of the main themes of the various global conferences: population, with special emphasis on reproductive health and family planning services; primary health care; nutrition; basic education; drinking water and sanitation; and shelter. A particular effort was made to show where countries currently stand and how close they are to the agreed goals.

The report notes that, in general, most African countries are currently far from reaching the goals identified at the recent United Nations conferences. Asian and Oceanic countries fare better but tend to have larger intra-regional variations than other major regions, and progress is not consistent across different indicators. Progress in some areas, such as access to health services, has been substantial, but in

others, especially child malnutrition, it is lagging. In the less developed regions, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are the closest to achieving the conference goals for most of the 12 indicators. Their achievements in the field of education are particularly noteworthy.

The following paragraphs highlight the current situation with respect to each of the 12 indicators included in the report. Selected goals from the conferences are indicated with a check mark (✓).

### 1. Total population

The ICPD Programme of Action notes that early stabilization of the world population would make a crucial contribution to achieving sustainable development. According to the medium variant of the United Nations population estimates and projections, world population will reach 7.2 billion by the year 2015, which is the reference date for achieving many of the Conference goals. Ninety-eight per cent of the global increase in population between 1999 and 2015 will take place in the less developed regions. Africa will experience, by far, the most rapid rate of growth.

### 2. Access to health services

✓ All countries should seek to make primary health care, including reproductive health care, available universally by the end of the decade (ICPD).

✓ Governments should promote full access to preventive and curative health care to improve the quality of life, especially of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in particular women and children (WSSD).

✓ Governments should provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care (FWCW).

In three fourths of the countries with data, the majority of the population is estimated to have access to health services. In about one third of the countries, access is close to universal, or above 90

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per cent. Access to health services tends to be limited in Africa, where nearly 40 per cent of the countries have estimated levels of access below 50 per cent. By contrast, in Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean, only 10 per cent of the countries with data have access levels of 50 per cent or less. It should be noted that measurement of access to health services is not straightforward and that efforts to improve information in this area are ongoing.

### 3. *Family planning: contraceptive prevalence*

✓ All countries should seek to provide universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family-planning methods (ICPD).

In general, in countries and regions where the level of contraceptive use is low, many women say they want to stop childbearing or delay the next child, yet are not using contraception. Data on contraceptive prevalence reveal that the majority of married couples use some form of contraception in about half of the countries with data available. Within the less developed regions, there are substantial differences between Africa and the other two regions. In Africa more than one half of the countries (55 per cent) have prevalence rates below 20 per cent. In Asia and Oceania, 18 per cent of the countries have prevalence rates below 20 per cent; in Latin America and the Caribbean, only 4 per cent have such rates.

### 4. *Underweight prevalence among preschool children*

✓ By the year 2000, a reduction in severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five years of age to half of the 1990 level should be achieved (WSSD and FWCW).

Malnutrition usually results from a combination of inadequate dietary intake and infection. The percentage underweight is the most widely cited indicator to assess the nutritional status of young children. Underweight prevalence among children is one area in which the worst cases of deprivation are seen in Asia and Oceania rather than in Africa; in several countries over half of preschool children are underweight. Only one quarter of the countries in the less developed regions have achieved a low

prevalence rate (under 10 per cent) of underweight among children.

### 5. *Maternal mortality*

✓ Countries should strive to effect significant reductions in maternal mortality by 2015: a reduction...by one half of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by 2015 (ICPD, WSSD and FWCW).

Maternal mortality varies widely among countries, from ratios of under 10 deaths per 100,000 births in some countries to substantially over 1,000 deaths in other countries. The range of values is greater, in proportional terms, than for any other health and development indicator included in the report. As of 1990, one fifth of the countries had maternal mortality ratios estimated at less than 30 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. By region, about 70 per cent of the countries in the more developed regions fell into that category, compared to only 6 per cent in the less developed regions. In the case of Africa, no country had a ratio of less than 100, and more than four fifths of the African countries had a ratio of 500 or more. The majority of African countries will need to make significant progress to achieve the year 2005 goal for countries with the highest levels of mortality—namely, a maternal mortality ratio below 125.

### 6. *Infant mortality and under-5 mortality*

✓ By the year 2000, the mortality rates of infants should be reduced by one third of the 1990 rates. By 2015, infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 should be achieved (ICPD and WSSD).

✓ Countries should strive to reduce their under-5 mortality rates by one third, or to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less, by the year 2000. By 2015, all countries should aim to achieve an under-5 mortality rate below 45 per 1,000 (ICPD and WSSD).

At the global level, approximately half of the countries are estimated to have infant and child mortality rates below the goals set for the year 2015. However, this is the result of very disparate levels in the more developed regions, on the one hand, and the less developed regions, on the other. For

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example, in Africa, only four out of 53 countries have attained the goals for 2015, and more than 90 per cent of African countries still fall short with respect to the more immediate goal of reducing the infant mortality rate to 50 and the under-5 mortality rate to 70 by the year 2000. All of the countries in the more developed regions have infant mortality rates below 35 and under-5 mortality rates below 45.

#### 7. *Life expectancy at birth*

✓ By the year 2000, life expectancy of not less than 60 years should be achieved in every country (WSSD).

✓ Countries should aim to achieve by 2005 a life expectancy at birth greater than 70 years and by 2015 a life expectancy at birth greater than 75 years (ICPD).

As of 1995-2000, about 70 per cent of all countries have achieved the year 2000 goal of a life expectancy at birth of 60 years or more. Over two fifths have already attained the year 2005 goal of 70 years or more, and about one fifth have achieved the year 2015 goal of at least 75 years. Of the roughly 30 per cent of those countries that have not yet reached the goal for the year 2000, most are African. All countries in the more developed regions have achieved the life expectancy goal of at least 60 years by year 2000, and over half have achieved the 2015 goal. Yet, one fifth of the developed countries have still to reach the goal for 2005, and about one quarter, the goal for 2015. Those countries are concentrated in Eastern Europe, including the Russian Federation.

#### 8. *Gross enrolment for primary and secondary school combined*

✓ All countries should strive to ensure complete access to primary school or an equivalent level of education by both girls and boys as quickly as possible, and in any case before 2015. Countries that have achieved the goal of universal primary education are urged to extend education and training and facilitate access to and completion of education at the secondary school and higher levels (ICPD, WSSD and FWCW).

✓ The gender gap in primary and secondary school education should be closed by 2005 (ICPD, WSSD and FWCW).

Education is now clearly recognized as a key component of policies aimed at achieving socio-economic development. Of the 164 countries with data available, one third have an enrolment ratio close to the conference goal of universal access. On the other hand, nearly one fifth of those countries—most of them in Africa—still have enrolment ratios of less than 50. In most countries, boys have higher enrolment ratios than girls, and the differences are substantial in many countries, particularly where levels of enrolment are low overall. In nearly half of the developing countries, the enrolment ratio for boys exceeds that for girls by 5 points or more. However, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the gender gap in school enrolment is narrower than in the other less developed regions. In a substantial fraction of the countries of that region enrolment ratios for girls are higher than for boys (see the back page).

#### 9. *Adult illiteracy*

✓ The adult illiteracy rate should be reduced to at least half its 1990 level, with an emphasis on female illiteracy (WSSD).

In the less developed regions, the majority of the adult population is illiterate in nearly one quarter of the countries, although a similar number of countries report that less than 10 per cent of their adult population is illiterate. More than half of the least developed countries report that over half of their adults are illiterate. There is a wide gender gap in literacy in Africa and parts of Asia. More than half of the countries in Africa and about one third of those in Asia and Oceania have female illiteracy rates that are higher than male rates by 20 percentage points or more. In contrast, in Latin America and the Caribbean, no country has such a wide gender gap.

#### 10. *Access to safe water*; 11. *Access to sanitation*

✓ Access to safe drinking water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all should be provided (ICPD, WSSD, FWCW and Habitat).

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During the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), significant progress was made in providing access to safe water supplies and sanitation facilities. A large proportion of the population in the developing world, however, still lives without access to safe water and sanitation, on which the health and productive capacity of people depend. In the less developed regions, the majority of the population lack access to safe water in 25 per cent of the countries with data available. A similar percentage of countries have achieved or are close to achieving the goal of universal access.

In all regions, access to sanitation is more limited than access to safe water. In about one third of the countries with data available in the less developed regions, the majority of the population do not have access to sanitation. When the two indicators—access to safe water and access to sanitation—are weighted by population size, about one quarter of the population of the less developed regions lacks access to safe water, but more than half have no access to sanitation.

#### 12. *Floor area per person*

✓ The availability of adequate shelter for all should be improved (WSSD and Habitat).

Floor area per person is one of the 10 key housing indicators selected by the Commission on Human Settlements to measure progress in meeting the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the General Assembly in 1988. Data availability at the national level is extremely limited for this indicator. Many indicators of crowding and other aspects of housing have been compiled, but mainly for cities rather than nationwide. The data show that housing tends to be more crowded in African countries than in other regions, while the more developed regions have relatively more floor space per person. For instance, median floor space is below 10 square metres per person in around 60 per cent of African cities, as compared to around 50 per cent of those in Asia and Oceania, approximately one quarter in Latin America and the Caribbean, and only 2 per cent in the more developed regions.

To order a copy of the report, write to the Director, Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017; fax number (212) 963-2147. The report is posted on the Internet at:

<http://www.undp.org/popin/chart/chart.htm>.

## WORLD MARRIAGE PATTERNS 2000

The Population Division has issued a wall chart entitled *World Marriage Patterns 2000*, showing the most recent data on the timing of marriage in 197 countries or areas for which census or survey data are available. The patterns of marriage are shown using three indicators: prevalence of early marriage is measured by the percentage of men and women ever married among those aged 15-19 and 20-24 years; the average timing of first marriage is measured by the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM); and the gender difference in marriage age is measured by the difference in the mean age at marriage between men and women.

Marriage patterns have implications for the status of women and fertility. Although out-of-wedlock births are common in some regions, entry into marriage usually marks the beginning of exposure to

childbearing. Early entry into marriage exposes women to a longer period of childbearing. Moreover, in societies where early entry into marriage is common, marriage prevalence is almost universal.

There are significant differences in age at marriage between men and women and between regions. The mean age at marriage among countries of the more developed regions is 27.9 for men and 25.2 for women, compared to 24.9 for men and 21.4 for women among countries of the less developed regions. The data in the wall chart show that of the 20 countries with the lowest SMAM for males, nine are in Asia, five in Africa, and three in Latin America and the Caribbean (see table 7). For women, 15 out of the 20 countries with the lowest mean age at first marriage are in Africa. The

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Democratic Republic of Congo has the lowest mean age of marriage for women, 16.6 years.

In Latin American and Caribbean countries, the age at first marriage is higher, and marriage prevalence levels are lower, compared to countries in other regions with similar socio-economic conditions. However, in Latin America and the Caribbean the data may not reflect appropriately the patterns of first marriage, given the large proportions of consensual unions in many countries of the region. Where possible, consensual unions have been included and categorized as marriages.

The disparity in marriage timing for men and women is wider in Africa than elsewhere. Of the 20 countries with the largest gaps in mean age at first marriage, 16 are in Africa, compared to only two in Asia (Afghanistan and Bangladesh), one in Latin America and the Caribbean, one in Oceania, and none in Europe and Northern America. Even within Africa, regional differences are apparent, with large gaps being most common in Western Africa.

The pattern of early-marriage prevalence is similar to that of the SMAM. The prevalence of marriage in age groups 15-24 is highest in Africa, particularly for women. The Democratic Republic of Congo, at 74 per cent, has the highest percentage of ever-married women in the age group 15-19, while Nepal has the highest proportion of ever-married men of the same age group, 13.5 per cent. More than 75 per cent of women aged 20-24 have married in 18 African countries, compared to six countries in Asia, one in Latin America and the Caribbean, one in Oceania, and none in Europe and Northern America. For men aged 20-24, the proportion ever married is usually below 40 per cent but exceeds that level in seven Asian, eight African, three Latin American and Caribbean, two Oceanic and two European countries.

To order a copy of the wall chart, write to the Director, Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017; fax number (212) 963-2147.

TABLE 7. THE 20 COUNTRIES WITH LOWEST SINGULATE MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE (SMAM)  
AND LARGEST GENDER DIFFERENCE IN SMAM

Region	Singulate mean age at marriage (years)		Sex difference in SMAM (Male minus female)	
	Male	Female		
Africa	Malawi (23. 5)	Angola (19. 4)	Burkina Faso ( 8. 6)	
	Mozambique (22. 6)	Burkina Faso (18. 9)	Cameroon (6. 5)	
	Niger (23. 9)	Central African Rep. (19. 4)	Chad (6. 1)	
	Sao Tome and Principe (23. 0)	Chad (18. 0)	Congo (8. 6)	
	Uganda (22. 5)	Congo (18. 4)	C^te d'Ivoire (7. 2)	
		Democratic Rep. of Congo (16. 6)	Democratic Rep. of Congo (8. 6)	
		Eritrea (19. 6)	Eritrea (5.7)	
		Gambia (19.2)	Gambia (9. 2)	
		Guinea (18.8)	Guinea (7. 3)	
		Malawi (18. 4)	Liberia (6. 5)	
		Mali (18. 4)	Mali (7. 5)	
		Mozambique (18. 0)	Mauritania ( 7. 7)	
		Niger (17. 6)	Niger (6. 3)	
		Sao Tome and Principe (17. 8)	Nigeria (6. 9)	
		Uganda (18. 2)	Senegal ( 8. 1)	
			Sudan (6. 4)	
	Asia	China (23. 8)	Afghanistan (17. 8)	Afghanistan (7. 5)
		India (23. 9)	Bangladesh (18. 1)	Bangladesh (6. 8)
		Kyrgyzstan (23. 9)	India (19. 3)	
		Maldives (23. 2)	Maldives (19. 1)	
Nepal (22. 0)		Nepal (18. 8)		
Tajikistan (23. 1)				
Turkmenistan (23. 8)				
Ukraine (24. 0)				
Uzbekistan (23. 3)				
Europe and North America	Rep. of Moldova (23. 7)			
	San Marino (22. 2)			
Latin America and Caribbean	Cuba (23.5)		Montserrat (8. 3)	
	Guatemala (23. 8)			
	Honduras (23. 8)			
Oceania	Marshall Islands (23. 7)		Nauru (7. 3)	

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## GLOBAL REVIEW AND INVENTORY OF POPULATION POLICIES: 1999 (GRIPP: 1999)

The Population Division of the United Nations has released the seventh version of the *Global Review and Inventory of Population Policies database—GRIPP: 1999*. The database is available on diskette with two supporting publications: *Global Population Policy Database, 1999* and *Population Policy Diskette Documentation, 1999*.

The database provides the most complete and up-to-date information available on the population policies and policy perceptions of 193 countries—member States of the United Nations and those non-member States represented by permanent observers. The information is drawn from the Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division. The policy topics covered are population growth, health and mortality, fertility and family planning, spatial distribution, immigration and emigration. The database also includes information on selected demographic indicators. To increase analytical flexibility and “user-friendliness”, the diskette provides the data in two formats—an American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) data file and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet data file; it also contains machine-readable dictionaries.

The information in the Population Policy Data Bank is derived from a variety of sources. A major source is the official replies of Governments to the United Nations Population Inquiries conducted in 1963, 1972, 1976, 1978, 1982, 1988, 1993 and 1998. Other major sources of data are national development plans, publications describing laws and regulations, national reports prepared for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, official statements at population conferences, explicit population planning documents, clippings from the world press, academic journals, information provided by bibliographical services and population newsletters, consultations with technical experts, contacts within the United Nations system and material provided by governmental agencies.

The Population Division encourages users of the GRIPP database to indicate any instance in which the coding of population policy for a particular country appears to be in error. Those interested in purchasing a copy of *GRIPP: 1999* or in obtaining further information about the database should write to the Director, Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017; fax number (212) 963-2147.

### POPIN UPDATE

The Population Information Network (POPIN), a decentralized network for the coordination of regional and national population information activities, is an important activity of the work programme of the Population Division. The global POPIN Coordinating Unit, which receives funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is located in the Population Division.

The Global POPIN Network promotes use of the Internet for the exchange and dissemination of population information and data and to facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action of the

International Conference on Population and Development. In partnership with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organizations, the global POPIN Coordinating Unit strives to strengthen regional networks and to build information capacities.

The editors of the online encyclopaedia “Britannica.com” recently rated the POPIN website as one of the most valuable and reliable sites on the Internet (see box 2).



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### *Population information activities in Africa*

Since the mid 1980s, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has promoted the dissemination of population information in the African region as a means of stimulating regional networking among organizations in the fields of population and reproductive health. The Food Security and Sustainable Development (FSSD) Division is the coordinating body for the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa).

To further regional collaboration, the Division recently launched a website:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/eca/divis/fssd/popin>.

In addition to promoting regional networking, the POPIN-Africa website serves as a gateway to African population-related information, focusing in particular on information produced by African institutions. FSSD also launched two other population-related websites in 1999 in collaboration with the Global POPIN Coordinating Unit. They are entitled: *Addressing Africa's Urgent Nexus: Food, Population, Environment*:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/eca/fssd/index.htm>  
and *Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference for Population and Development*:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/eca/divis/fssd/icpd/index.htm>.

The League of Arab States Population Research Unit, which specializes in the dissemination of Arabic population information and data, has also created a POPIN-Africa website:

<http://www.poplas.org>

and a bilingual French/English POPIN-Africa website was created by the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS):

<http://www.uaps.org>.

To stimulate African population research and the dissemination of research findings, FSSD recently published the first two issues of *Africa's Population and Development Bulletin*, a new electronic/hard copy journal that incorporates contributions from regional African population research institutes. FSSD also introduced a computer simulation model — named the Population-Environment-Development

and Agriculture (PEDA) model — that demonstrates the impact of various policy options on food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development in the African region. Further information about the PEDA model can be obtained from the POPIN-Africa website:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/eca/divis/fssd/popin>

### *Population information activities in Asia and the Pacific*

Population information activities in the Asia/Pacific region are coordinated by the Asia/Pacific POPIN secretariat, located in the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). During the latter half of 1999, ESCAP and Asia/Pacific POPIN organized two workshops and a consultative meeting focused on strengthening regional capacities to use new information technologies.

In August, a workshop on repackaging of population data was held in Bangkok, Thailand, and attended by representatives from 17 ESCAP countries. The workshop, organized to help countries prepare for the 2000 round of censuses, included a one-day programme entitled “Six billion and counting: statistics for all the world's people”, organized jointly by ESCAP and the International Federation of Librarians Associations (IFLA).

In October, a training workshop entitled Information Technology for Population Information Professionals: Databases on the Web, organized by the China Population Information and Research Centre (CPIRC) and ESCAP, was held in Beijing, China. CPIRC is the secretariat for the East and South-East Asia POPIN subregional network and the focal point for Asia/Pacific POPIN in China. The workshop was attended by 28 experts from 10 countries and from the three regional UNFPA country support teams.

After the Beijing training workshop, CPIRC, Asia/Pacific POPIN and ESCAP organized a consultative meeting of the East and South-East Asia POPIN. The meeting, funded by UNFPA, was held

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## BOX 2. POPULATION INFORMATION NETWORK EARNS INTERNET AWARD

Editors of the online encyclopaedia "Britannica.com" have rated the website of the Population Information Network (POPIN) "one of the most valuable and reliable" sites on the Internet and selected it to be a member of the Britannica Internet Guide.

The POPIN website includes links to regional and national population information networks throughout the world; documentation for the Commission on Population and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), five-year review and appraisal of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and a variety of other meetings; information about population trends; and wall charts on ageing and other population topics. Through POPIN, in 1994 ICPD became the first United Nations conference whose official documentation and statements were carried live on the Internet.

Britannica editors have rated the site "one of the best ... when reviewed for quality, accuracy of content, presentation and usability".

on 17 and 18 October in Beijing, China. The objective of the meeting was to review the activities of the subregion, develop areas of cooperation, and draft an annual work plan for the subregional secretariat. The meeting was attended by 11 experts from nine countries (China, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand).

Future activities of the East and South-East Asia POPIN will include an analysis of information technology capabilities among Asia/Pacific POPIN members and updating of the ESCAP *NGO Directory Database* and the global POPIN *Worldwide Directory of Population Institutions*. Cooperative projects will also be undertaken in the areas of gender issues; management information systems; evaluation on implementation of population policies, laws and regulations; and adolescent reproductive health.

### *Population information activities in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Population information activities in the Latin America and the Caribbean are coordinated by the

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) of the Regional Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in conjunction with the regional Population Information Network, (IPALCA). Population information and data are disseminated via the CELADE and IPALCA websites, which are available in Spanish and English:

<http://www.eclac.cl/Celade-Esp/index.html> and

<http://www.eclac.cl/Celade-Eng/index.html>.

The CELADE website includes the *CELADE Demographic Bulletin*, which provides tabular data in Excel format for the countries of the region and information on specific demographic topics such as estimates and projections and rural and urban populations. The Internet address of the *Bulletin* is:

[http://www.ECLAC.org/Celade-Eng/DE\\_SitDemListaEstProy00i.htm](http://www.ECLAC.org/Celade-Eng/DE_SitDemListaEstProy00i.htm).

In the area of capacity-building, CELADE, the Global POPIN Coordinating Unit and the Central American Population Program (PCP) of the University of Costa Rica organized three workshops for demographers, reproductive health specialists and UNFPA staff on use of the Internet for the exchange of population information and data. The workshops included training

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on website design. A primary outcome was the establishment of the IPALCA network on the Web which includes the *IPALCA Bulletin of Events and News*, links the sites of Network members, promotes sharing of information and data, and facilitates discussion of technical issues:

[http://www.ECLAC.org/Celade-Eng/CI\\_IPAL00i.htm](http://www.ECLAC.org/Celade-Eng/CI_IPAL00i.htm).

#### *Population information activities in the European region*

The Population Activities Unit of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) serves as the coordinating body for the Population Information Network for Europe (POPIN-Europe).

In August, a technical seminar entitled *Data Analysis of Population Change and the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in Countries with Transition Economies* was organized by the ECE Population Activities Unit, the Council of Europe, the University of Geneva and the Global POPIN Coordinating Unit. The seminar included a two-day technical session on use of the Internet for the exchange of information

and data. The objective of the workshop was to build capacities in countries with transition economies by equipping them with the means to monitor ongoing population developments and related economic and social change and implementation of the programmes of action of recent population conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development. The seminar was attended by representatives of 19 countries.

After the seminar, ECE took steps to develop a database of indicators for the monitoring of population change and the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in ECE countries with transition economies. Work on assembling the indicators and placing them into Excel files is currently under way at the Estonia Inter-university Population Research Centre in Tallinn, Estonia, and is being carried out with financial support of the UNDP office in Tallinn and under the guidance of the Population Activities Unit of ECE. The resulting database will be made available to policy-makers, analysts and others via the Internet on one or more POPIN-Europe Internet websites.

## **TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE INTERNET FOR POPULATION RESEARCH**

Capacity-building for use of the Internet and other “new technologies for information and communication” (NTICs) in research activities is at present one of the most pressing needs of population and development research centres in countries in the South. In response to this need, the Population Division has designed a multicomponent project titled “Capacity-building in population data, statistics and analysis for the implementation of United Nations conferences in developing countries”. The objectives of the project are to facilitate the transition of the entire population community to the increasingly NTIC-based global standards for research and communication, so as to avoid the marginalization of research communities

in the South; to fill the gaps in institutional preparedness and skills; and to enhance the capacity of population research centres to participate in the development process, including in particular the implementation of major United Nations conferences, which all have population-relevant dimensions.

In this context, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Demographic Training and Research Unit (UERD) of the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, organized a training workshop, titled “Internet for population research”, for francophone research centres in Western Africa. The workshop took place at the University of

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Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 October 1999 and was attended by staff from CEFORP (Benin), CERPOD (Mali), ENSEA (Côte d'Ivoire), IFORD (Cameroon), UERD (Burkina Faso) and URD (Togo). Resource persons from the International Committee for Coordination of National Research in Demography (CICRED), the French Centre for Research on Population and Development (CEPED), the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), the French Institute for Research on Development (IRD, formerly ORSTOM), the University of Montreal, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNDP's Sustainable Development Networking Project for Africa, and an expert from the UNDP field office in Niamey assisted the organizers in making presentations and leading round-table discussions.

The objectives of the workshop were to impart skills in electronic communication for population research and to establish a subregional network of research institutions—electronic communication

(in particular, the Internet) being both the immediate focus of the network's agenda and the network's enabling medium. In preparation for the workshop, a survey of the status of Internet connectivity and institutional readiness in the centres was undertaken. The workshop reviewed the centres' baseline situations; introduced a number of NTIC-based resources for population research and provided a hands-on demonstration of some of them in a data laboratory setting; discussed institutional issues related to the transition to NTIC-based operations in the research centres; and agreed on a set of recommendations for implementation of the lessons learned and for follow-up activities.

The six research centres of the region participating at the workshop decided to establish a network to promote mutual collaboration, intraregional technical cooperation and sharing of resources. The website can be accessed at:

*<http://www.multimania.com/demoneta>*.

## **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

The General Assembly, by resolution 52/189 of 18 December 1997, requested the Secretary-General to present at its fifty-fourth session a report on international migration and development, taking into account, among other things, the views of Member States regarding the possibility of convening an international conference on international migration and development. In order to solicit the views of Governments, a letter was sent in March 1999 to all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations. Similar letters had been sent to the Governments in 1995 and 1997.

By 30 June 1999, responses had been received from 34 Governments. Since 1995, in response to the series of inquiries, 76 Governments have expressed their views regarding the convening of an international conference on international migration and development. This number still represents only about 40 per cent of the full membership of the United Nations.

Of the 76 Governments that responded, 45 were generally in favour of convening a conference on

international migration and development; 26 expressed reservations about holding such a conference. The remaining five Governments, including one that had withdrawn the reservations it held in 1995, expressed only partial support for convening a conference.

Although the majority of the responding Governments appeared to be in favour of holding a conference, especially one of a technical and analytical nature, there was a lack of consensus on its objectives, its funding and the composition of its secretariat. Furthermore, a number of Governments expressed serious reservation about convening such a conference, given the current financial constraints of the United Nations. Generally, those Governments appeared more in favour of adopting regional or subregional approaches in considering the issues of international migration and development. Thus, taking all these elements into account, the prospects for holding an international conference on international migration and development remain uncertain.

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The report of the Secretary-General (A/54/207) analyses mechanisms to address issues of international migration and development, based on activities of relevant organizations both within and outside the United Nations system, including the Commission on Population and Development, the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Committee for Development Policy, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Among these relevant organizations, there existed varying degrees of interest in holding the proposed international conference on international migration and development. However, they generally stood ready to cooperate and provide support, if the conference were to be held.

The report containing the above-mentioned analysis of the views of the Governments and of mechanisms to address issues of international migration and development by relevant organizations was considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. At that session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/212 (22 December 1999), in which it requested the Secretary-General, whenever feasible, to solicit more views from Member States, particularly those that had not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/189, and from the ILO, IOM and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the

United Nations system, on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (A/52/314), bearing in mind various regional processes, and to recommend ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate action in consultation with regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, *inter alia*, the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/207), and encouraged the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report that would, *inter alia*, summarize the lessons learned, and the best practices on migration management and policies, gathered from the various activities relating to international migration and development that have been carried out at the regional and interregional levels, and recommend for the consideration of the Assembly policy actions that could be pursued at the international level.

The General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues". The full text of the resolution is reproduced below.

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**1999 RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH REGARD TO POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*Decision 1999/1  
Special themes for the Commission on Population  
and Development in the years 2000-2004*

*The Commission on Population and Development*

1. *Reaffirms* its decision 1998/1,<sup>1</sup> in which it decided that “Gender, population and development” should be the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-third session in the year 2000;

2. *Decides* that the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-fourth session shall be “Population, environment and development”;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Secretariat to submit themes for the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Population and Development, in consultation with member States, for a decision by the Commission at its thirty-third session, in the context of a review of the work programme of the Commission.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

*Resolution 1999/10  
Population growth, structure and distribution*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* the commitment of Member States to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to population growth, structure and distribution,

*Recalling* also that the theme for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development was population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education, and noting the importance of

the issues related to, *inter alia*, youth, ageing and migration, as well as the need for data collection,

*Requests* the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat to continue its research on population growth, structure and distribution, including levels, trends, determinants, consequences and policies, while giving due attention to issues related to, *inter alia*, youth, ageing, migration and data collection, so that Governments may benefit by comparing experiences and by understanding the factors underlying changing demographic circumstances, and calls upon Governments to continue to facilitate the work of the Population Division in this regard.

39th plenary meeting  
26 July 1999

*Decision 1999/224*

*Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission*

At its 39th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1999, the Economic and Social Council:

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<sup>1</sup>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 5 (E/1998/25), chap. I, sect. C, decision 1998/1.

<sup>2</sup>Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

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(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session;<sup>3</sup>

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission...

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Resolution 54/212*  
*International migration and development*

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,<sup>4</sup> in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, in particular chapter II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development<sup>5</sup> and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>6</sup> and in the Platform for Action<sup>7</sup> adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995 and 52/189 of 18 December 1997 on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

*Reaffirming* the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the international instruments regarding the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>8</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Racial Discrimination,<sup>9</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>10</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>11</sup>

*Recalling* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities as entrusted to them in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the relevant United Nations conferences of the 1990s, in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities in the field of population and development, including activities on international migration,

*Noting* the need for the relevant United Nations organizations and other international organizations to enhance their technical support to developing countries to ensure that migration contributes to development,

*Recognizing* the diversity of views expressed by the respondents to the survey regarding the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration,<sup>12</sup> its scope, form and agenda, which represented 39 per cent of the full United Nations membership, and that forty-five respondents were in favour of convening a conference, five were partially in favour and twenty-six were against,

*Noting in particular* the need for more migration data, a coherent theory to explain international migration and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,

*Noting* the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development,

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<sup>3</sup>E/1999/25.

<sup>4</sup>*Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>5</sup>*Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution, 1, annex I.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>7</sup>*Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>8</sup>Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>9</sup>Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>10</sup>Resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>11</sup>Resolution 44/25, annex.

<sup>12</sup>See A/54/207.

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including through the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on Development Policy, the International Labour Organization and other relevant key organizations,

*Noting with appreciation* the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development,<sup>13</sup> in particular, in the context of regional cooperation,

*Noting also* the establishment of the International Migration Policy Programme in May 1998 by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, to be implemented in partnership with the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments in different regions to manage migration flows at national and regional levels and thus to foster cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

*Aware* that, among other factors, the process of globalization and liberalization, including the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, have contributed to large flows of peoples between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

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<sup>13</sup>Including the International Symposium: Towards Regional Cooperation in Irregular/Undocumented Migration, held at Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 1999, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration; the Commonwealth of Independent States Regional Conference, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996; the Regional Conference on Migration in North and Central America, and the migration capacity-building and regional cooperation meetings organized by the International Migration Policy Programme with senior government officials from Eastern and Central Europe at Budapest in November 1998, senior government officials from southern Africa at Pretoria in April 1999 and at Bangkok in November 1999 with Governments from Asia and the Pacific; as well as the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development, held at Palma de Mallorca from 15 to 17 October 1998; and the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, held at The Hague, the Netherlands, from 29 June to 3 July 1998.

*Aware also* that, in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to make further efforts to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are respected and protected, and that it is desirable to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

*Recognizing* the importance from an analytical and operational point of view of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development and of the need for comprehensive, coherent and effective policies on international migration based on the spirit of genuine partnership and common understanding,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development;<sup>14</sup>

2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;

3. *Encourages*, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development;

5. *Also calls upon* the international community to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people, to which end efforts

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<sup>14</sup>A/54/207. The report includes information on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues.



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to achieve sustainable economic and social development, ensuring a better economic balance between developed and developing countries, should be strengthened;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, whenever feasible, to solicit more views from Member States, particularly those that have not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/189, as well as from the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,<sup>15</sup> bearing in mind various regional processes, and to recommend ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate action in consultation with regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, *inter alia*, the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>14</sup> and encourages the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report that will, *inter alia*, summarize the lessons learned, as well as best practices on migration management and policies, from the various

activities relating to international migration and development that have been carried out at the regional and interregional levels, and recommend for the consideration of the Assembly policy actions that could be pursued at the international level, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following:

(a) The report of the Committee for Development Policy<sup>16</sup> on its examination of the issue of migration and development;

(b) The work of the relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other international organizations in the field of international migration and development;

(c) The possible mechanisms within the United Nations system to examine international migration and development in a comprehensive and integrated manner;

(d) The need to provide, in consultation with relevant United Nations bodies, an analysis of data relating to migration within the various regions and between regions;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues".

*87th plenary meeting  
22 December 1999*

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<sup>15</sup>A/52/314.

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<sup>16</sup>See A/54/207, paras. 42-44.

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### *Research studies*

*World Population Monitoring 1998: Health and Mortality.* ST/ESA/SER.A/174. Sales No. E.99.XIII.14.

*Population Growth Structure and Distribution: Concise Report.* ST/ESA/SER.A/181. Sales No. E.99.XIII.15.

*Review and Appraisal of the Progress Made in Achieving the Goals and Objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.* ST/ESA/SER.A/182. Sales No. E.99.XIII.16.

*Charting the Progress of Populations.* ST/ESA/SER.R/151. Sales No. E.00.XIII.6.

### *Working papers*

“Long-range world population projections: based on the 1998 revision” (ESA/P/WP.153).

“The world at six billion” (ESA/P/WP.154).

“Levels and trends of contraceptive use, 1998” (ESA/P/WP.155).

“World population prospects: the 1999 revision” (vol. III) (ESA/P/WP.156).

“United Nations Technical Meeting on Population Ageing and Living Arrangements of Older Persons” (ESA/P/WP.157).

“World urbanization prospects: the 1998 revision (annex tables)” (ESA/P/WP.158).

## MEETINGS IN 2000

### *January-March*

17 January-4 February; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Twenty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).**

24-28, 31 January, Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA; New York. First regular session.

26-28 January, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan Institute of Labour, the Japanese Ministry of Labour and the International Labour Organisation; Tokyo, Japan. **Workshop on Migration and Labour Markets in Asia.**

27-28 January, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Geneva, Switzerland. **Meeting of the Advisory Group of the Population Activities Unit.**

31 January-1 February, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Geneva, Switzerland. **Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Fertility and Family Surveys Flagship Conference.**

7-11 February; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **CEDAW Pre-session Working Group, twenty-third session.**

8-17 February; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Thirty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development.**

23-25 February; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE).**

2 February-2 March; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).**

2-3 March, OECD; Bratislava, Slovakia. **Seminar on Migration and Labour Markets in Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union Enlargement.**

3-17 March; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **CSW meets as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century”.**

8-11 March, International Labour Office (ILO); Geneva, Switzerland. **Interregional Seminar on Achieving Equality in Employment for Immigrant and Ethnic Minority Workers.**

27-31 March; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Thirty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development.**

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*April-June*

- 3-7 April, Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA; New York. Second regular session.
- 3-14 April; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives.**
- Dates unspecified, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Bangkok, Thailand. **Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RICAP) Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation, fifth session, and RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, eighth session.**
- 5-9 June; General Assembly; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Special session. Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century.**
- 12-30 June; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Twenty-third session of CEDAW.**
- Dates unspecified, June, Social Science Research on Reproductive Health, World Health Organization (WHO); Geneva, Switzerland. **Annual meeting of the Scientific Review Committee.**
- 13-23 June, Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA; Geneva. Annual session.
- 22-23 June, UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction; Geneva, Switzerland. **Policy and Coordination Committee.**
- 26-30 June; United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland. Special session of the General Assembly for review and appraisal of the implementation of the goals and objectives of the World Summit for Social Development. **World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalized World.**
- 29-30 June, OECD; Paris, France. **Working Party on Migration.**

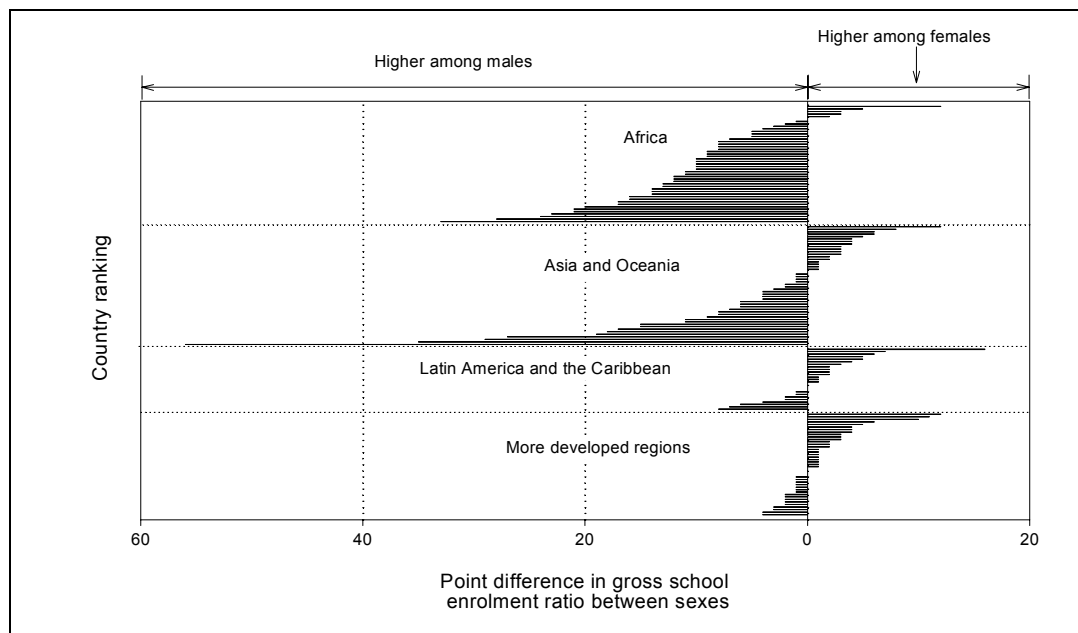
*July-September*

- Summer 2000, International Labour Office (ILO); Minsk, Belarus. **Fifth annual meeting of the Informal Network on Foreign Labour in Central and Eastern Europe.**
- Dates unspecified, (5 days in July), ESCAP; Bangkok, Thailand. **Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Population Database Development.**
- 3-7 July; United Nations Headquarters, New York. **CEDAW Pre-session Working Group, twenty-fourth session.**
- 4-6 September, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organisation of American States and UNFPA; San José, Costa Rica. **Latin American and Caribbean Symposium on International Migration.**
- 11-15 September, Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA; New York. Third regular session.

*October-December*

- Dates unspecified, ESCAP; Bangkok, Thailand. **RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation, sixth session, and RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, ninth session.**
- Dates unspecified, (5 days in October), ESCAP; Beijing, China. **Human Resources Development to Improve Access to and Dissemination of Population Information through the Use of Information Technologies.**
- 14 December, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Headquarters, New York. **Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorative Event.**
- Dates unspecified, (3 days), ESCAP; Bangkok, Thailand. **Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, third session.**

**Sex difference in primary and secondary school enrolment ratio, 1990-1996, by country ranking and region**



NOTE: Each narrow bar represents one country.

**Gross enrolment ratio for primary and secondary school combined, 1990-1996 (both sexes)**



Source: *Charting the Progress of Populations* (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.R/151), based on *UNESCO Statistical Yearbook 1999* (Paris, UNESCO Publishing and Bernan Press, 1999).