

PREFACE

This report delineates Governments' views and policies concerning population and development for the 194 Member States and non-member States of the United Nations. In particular, it itemizes policies in the areas of population size and growth, population age structure, fertility and family planning, health and mortality, spatial distribution and international migration. *World Population Policies 2003* is similar in format to the 2001 and 1998 editions of *National Population Policies* (United Nations publication, Sales Nos. E.02.XIII.12 and E.99.XIII.3). Prior to 1998, the data were published as the *Global Review and Inventory of Population Policies (GRIPP)*.

A major characteristic of United Nations international population conferences during the past three decades has been the emphasis placed on the monitoring of the implementation of their goals and recommendations. Accordingly, the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo in 1994 recommended that actions should be taken "to measure, assess, monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the goals of the present Programme of Action".¹

The monitoring of population policies at the international level has a long history that goes back to the World Population Plan of Action² adopted at the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974. The Plan of Action was the first international instrument on population policy. Within the framework of the Plan of Action, population policies were defined in terms of all policies and programmes—including social and economic policies—concerned with the major population variables: fertility, mortality, internal migration and geographical distribution of population, and international migration.

The Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date, accurate and scientifically objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the Commission on Population and Development on population and development issues. In addition, the Division undertakes studies on population levels and trends, population estimates and projections, population policies, and population and development interrelationships.

Responsibility for *World Population Policies 2003* rests with the Population Division. Preparation of this publication was facilitated by the collaboration of the Member States and non-member States of the United Nations, the regional commissions, and the United Nations' programmes, funds and agencies. The Population Division is particularly grateful to the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its continuing cooperation.

The data presented in this publication are also being released in a user-friendly electronic form on a CD-ROM. An order form is included in this volume. Selected parts of this publication, as well as other population information, may be accessed on the Population Division website at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

Questions and comments concerning this publication may be addressed to the office of Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, New York, NY 10017, fax number 212-963-2147.

¹ *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, para. 13.6.

² *Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.
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