



FACT SHEET 1

WORLD URBAN POPULATION

- In 2005, urban dwellers numbered 3.2 billion people, 49 per cent of humankind. By 2008, half of the world's population is projected to be urban.
- With an annual growth rate twice as high as that projected for the total population (1.8 per cent versus almost 1 per cent) over the next 25 years, the world's urban population is projected to increase to 4.9 billion people by 2030, roughly 60 per cent of the world's population.
- In 2005, China, India and the United States of America had the largest numbers of urban dwellers in the world.

TABLE 1. URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION OF THE WORLD, SELECTED PERIODS, 1950-2030

World	Population (billions)					Average annual rate of change (percentage)	
	1950	1975	2000	2005	2030	1950-2005	2005-2030
Total .....	2.52	4.07	6.09	6.46	8.20	1.71	0.95
Urban .....	0.73	1.52	2.84	3.15	4.91	2.65	1.78
Rural .....	1.79	2.56	3.24	3.31	3.29	1.12	-0.03
	Percentage urban					Rate of urbanization (percentage)	
	29.0	37.2	46.7	48.7	59.9	0.94	0.83

Figure 1. Urban and rural population of the world, 1950-2030

