



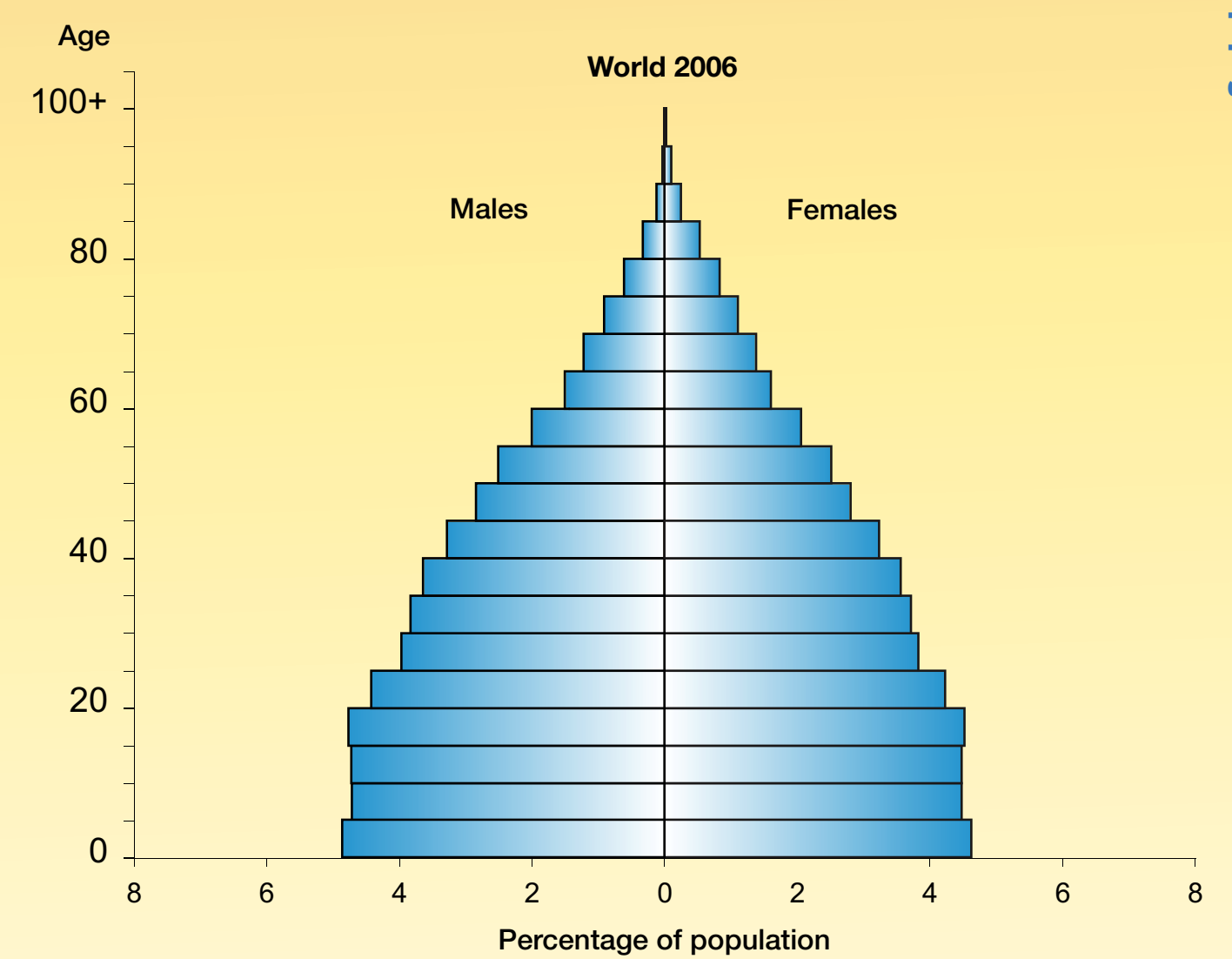
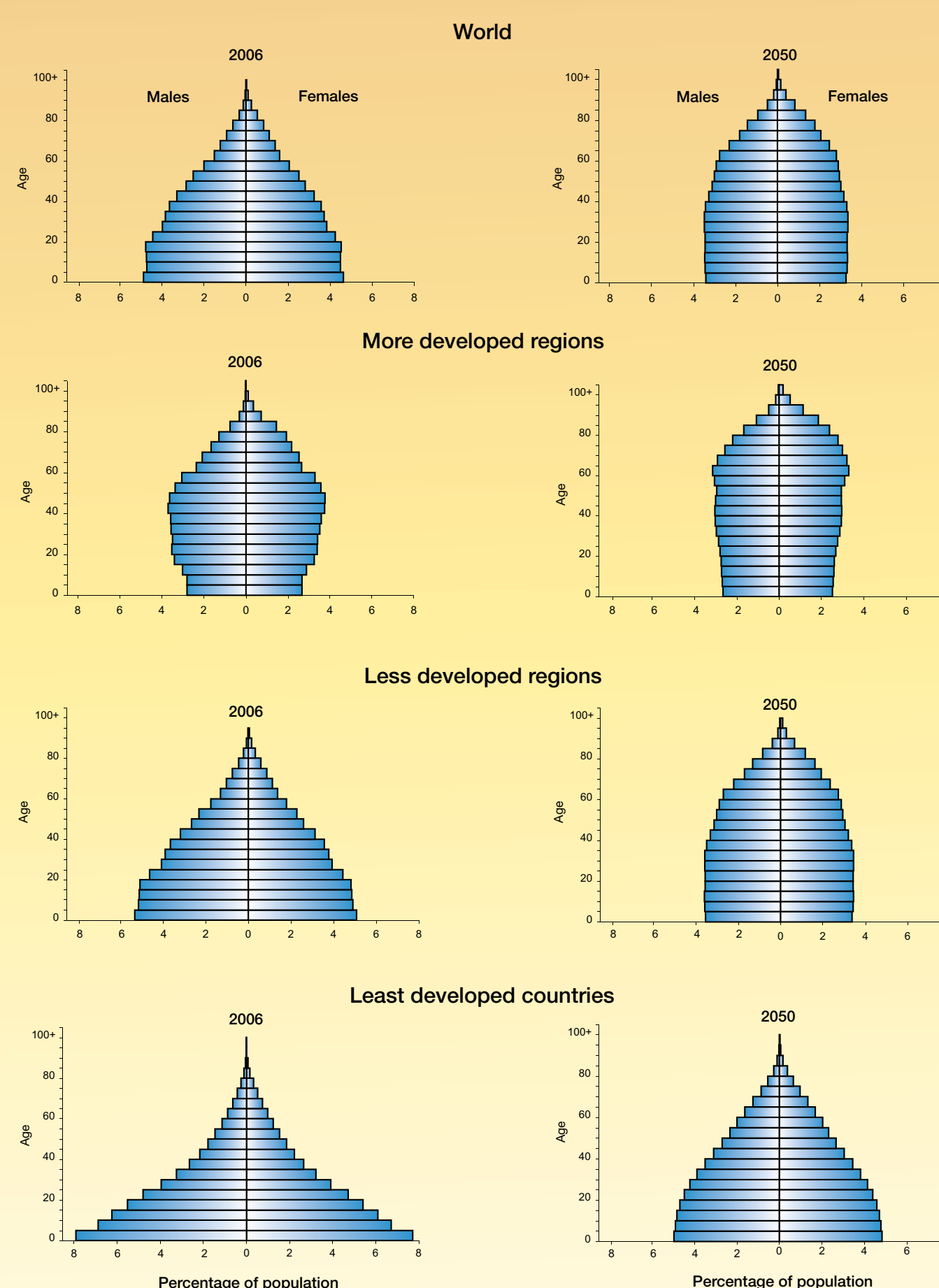
Population Ageing 2006

Population ageing was once a concern mainly of developed countries, but now the process is gaining momentum in developing countries, too. Today it is clear that this demographic transformation has profound consequences for all individuals, families, communities and nations. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Political Declaration adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002¹ marked a turning point in how the world addresses the key challenge of building a society for all ages.

The Madrid Plan of Action offers a bold agenda for confronting the challenges of ageing in the twenty-first century. The Plan focuses on three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments. It represents the first time Governments have adopted a comprehensive approach linking questions of ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights, most notably those agreed to at the United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s.

The key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development² also highlighted the continuing need to examine the economic and social implications of demographic change, and how these relate to development planning concerns and the needs of individuals. In 2007, "The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development" will be the special theme of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development.

The United Nations Commission on Social Development has decided to conduct every five years a review and appraisal of progress made in implementing the Madrid Plan. In this regard, the General Assembly has also stressed the need for population data that are disaggregated by age and sex. The present wallchart presents updated comparable information about population ageing around the world. It shows absolute and relative numbers of older persons aged 60 years or over; the proportions of older men and women who are currently married, living alone and in the labour force; the sex ratio of populations aged 60 years or over and 80 years or over; the potential support ratio; the statutory retirement age for men and women; and life expectancy at age 60 for men and women.



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¹ See *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing* (United Nations publication A/CONF.197/9, Sales No. E.02.IV.4).
² See General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.