

## SOURCES, METHODS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Data on demographic trends used in the present report are taken from the 2000 revision of the official United Nations publication of estimates and projections, *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision* (United Nations, 2001c). In addition, data on labour force participation were obtained from the International Labour Organization (ILO) (International Labour Organization, 1996), and on illiteracy from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2000).

The population estimates and projections, which are prepared biennially by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, provide the standard and consistent set of population figures that are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring population information. In the case of the 2000 revision, the estimates were made by collecting, evaluating and adjusting, as necessary, all available data for the period 1950-2000. For the period 2000-2050, figures are the result of projections from the year 2000.

The countries and areas identified as statistical units by the Statistics Division of the United Nations and covered by the above estimates and projections, are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern America; and Oceania. Those major areas are further divided geographically into 21 regions. In addition, the regions are summarized, for statistical convenience, into two general groups—more developed and less developed—on the basis of demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The less developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). The more developed regions include all other regions plus the three countries excluded from the less developed regions. See Annex II for further detail.

### **Explanatory notes**

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout this report:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

An em dash (—) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A hyphen (–) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A minus sign (–) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A point (.) is used to indicate decimals.

A slash (/) indicates a crop year or financial year, for example, 1994/95.

Use of a hyphen (–) between dates representing years, for example, 1990-1995, signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Reference to “dollars” (\$) indicates United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

The term “billion” signifies a thousand million.