

I. WORLD URBANIZATION PROSPECTS: THE 1999 REVISION

Since 1988 the Population Division of the United Nations has been issuing every two years revised and updated estimates and projections of the urban and rural populations of all countries in the world and of their major urban agglomerations. Each revision of the urban, rural and city projections is consistent with the most recent revision of the estimates and projections of the total population, also prepared biennially by the Population Division. The previous set of urban, rural and city projections was entitled *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1996 Revision*, to indicate that its results were consistent with the *1996 Revision of World Population Prospects*. However, because the preparation of *World Urbanization Prospects* can only be carried out once the corresponding revision of *World Population Prospects* is completed, there is usually a delay of at least a year between the release of the latter and that of the former. That delay allows the preparation of urban, rural and city estimates on the basis of more recent data than that incorporated in *World Population Prospects*. To reflect this point, this revision of World Urbanization Prospects has been renamed the *1999 Revision*. Its results, although based on data on urban and city population growth available up to 1999, are consistent with the size of the total population of each country as estimated or projected in the *1998 Revision of World Population Prospects* (United Nations, 1999a, 1999b and 2000).

The *1999 Revision* presents estimates and projections for the period 1950-2030 of the total, urban and rural populations of the world, its 21 regions and five major areas (table 1), as well as for the 228 countries or areas of the world. It also provides estimates and projections of the population of urban agglomerations with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 1995 for the period 1950-2015. To estimate and project the urban population of each country, the basic information needed consists of a time series of the total population and the corresponding proportion of the population living in urban areas. The total population is ob-

tained from the estimates and the medium-fertility variant of the *1998 Revision of World Population Prospects* (United Nations, 1999a, 1999b and 2000). Estimates for the proportion of the population living in urban areas are obtained from national data sources. The most common source of such information is the population census. In some countries, population registers or administrative statistics are used by national authorities to produce estimates of the proportion urban. For each country, a time series of estimates of the proportion urban is available. However, reference dates for the estimates available from national sources do not necessarily coincide from one country to another. Furthermore, the series available for each country does not necessarily cover the period 1950-1995. Hence, to obtain comparable estimates for all countries over the period 1950-1995 at intervals of five years, interpolation or extrapolation among the available national estimates is required. Beyond 1995 projections are carried out using the method described in chapter VII. That method derives projections of the proportion urban on the basis of changes occurring between the two most recent national estimates available by assuming that the pace of growth of the proportion urban declines as that proportion increases. Consequently, the projected values are highly dependent on the most recent recorded experience for each country.

The projections for city populations are carried out in a similar fashion, although more information is required as input. Specifically, the population of a city should be available for at least two points in time together with estimates of the total urban and the total population of a country. The data required are normally obtained from the results of population censuses, although for some countries population registers, other types of administrative registers for the population of cities or the results of suitably expanded population surveys can be used by national statistical offices to provide the required information. Because censuses are normally carried out once every decade,

TABLE 1. CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD

Africa			
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	<i>Middle Africa</i>	<i>Northern Africa</i>	<i>Western Africa</i>
Burundi	Angola	Algeria	Benin
Comoros	Cameroon	Egypt	Burkina Faso
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Cape Verde
Eritrea	Chad	Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire
Ethiopia	Congo	Sudan	Gambia
Kenya	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Tunisia	Ghana
Madagascar	Equatorial Guinea	Western Sahara	Guinea
Malawi	Gabon	<i>Southern Africa</i>	Guinea-Bissau
Mauritius	Sao Tome and Principe	Botswana	Liberia
Mozambique		Lesotho	Mali
Réunion		Namibia	Mauritania
Rwanda		South Africa	Niger
Seychelles		Swaziland	Nigeria
Somalia			St. Helena
Uganda			Senegal
United Republic of Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Zambia			Togo
Zimbabwe			
Asia			
<i>Eastern Asia</i>	<i>South-central Asia</i>	<i>South-eastern Asia</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>
China	Afghanistan	Brunei Darussalam	Armenia
China, Hong Kong SAR	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Azerbaijan
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Bhutan	East Timor	Bahrain
Japan	India	Indonesia	Cyprus
Macau	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Gaza Strip
Mongolia	Kazakhstan	Malaysia	Georgia
Republic of Korea	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Iraq
	Maldives	Philippines	Israel
	Nepal	Singapore	Jordan
	Pakistan	Thailand	Kuwait
	Sri Lanka	Viet Nam	Lebanon
	Tajikistan		Oman
	Turkmenistan		Qatar
	Uzbekistan		Saudi Arabia
			Syrian Arab Republic
			Turkey
			United Arab Emirates
			Yemen

TABLE 1 (continued)

Europe			
<i>Eastern Europe</i>	<i>Northern Europe</i>	<i>Southern Europe</i>	<i>Western Europe</i>
Belarus	Channel Islands	Albania	Austria
Bulgaria	Denmark	Andorra	Belgium
Czech Republic	Estonia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Hungary	Faeroe Islands	Croatia	Germany
Poland	Finland	Gibraltar	Liechtenstein
Republic of Moldova	Iceland	Greece	Luxembourg
Romania	Ireland	Holy See	Monaco
Russian Federation	Isle of Man	Italy	Netherlands
Slovakia	Latvia	Malta	Switzerland
Ukraine	Lithuania	Portugal	
	Norway	San Marino	
	Sweden	Slovenia	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Spain	
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
		Yugoslavia	
Latin America and the Caribbean			
<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>	
Anguilla	Belize	Argentina	
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Bolivia	
Aruba	El Salvador	Brazil	
Bahamas	Guatemala	Chile	
Barbados	Honduras	Colombia	
British Virgin Islands	Mexico	Ecuador	
Cayman Islands	Nicaragua	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	
Cuba	Panama	French Guiana	
Dominica		Guyana	
Dominican Republic		Paraguay	
Grenada		Peru	
Guadeloupe		Suriname	
Haiti		Uruguay	
Jamaica		Venezuela	
Martinique			
Montserrat			
Netherlands Antilles			
Puerto Rico			
Saint Kitts and Nevis			
Saint Lucia			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
Trinidad and Tobago			
Turks and Caicos Islands			
United States Virgin Islands			

TABLE 1 (continued)

Northern America			
Bermuda			
Canada			
Greenland			
St. Pierre and Miquelon			
United States of America			
Oceania			
<i>Australia/New Zealand</i>	<i>Melanesia</i>	<i>Micronesia</i>	<i>Polynesia</i>
Australia	Fiji	Guam	American Samoa
New Zealand	New Caledonia	Kiribati	Cook Islands
	Papua New Guinea	Marshall Islands	French Polynesia
	Solomon Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Niue
	Vanuatu	Nauru	Pitcairn
		Northern Mariana Islands	Samoa
		Palau	Tokelau
			Tonga
			Tuvalu
			Wallis and Futuna Islands
List of least developed countries*			
Afghanistan	Guinea	Niger	
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Rwanda	
Bangladesh	Haiti	Samoa	
Benin	Kiribati	Sao Tome and Principe	
Bhutan	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sierra Leone	
Burkina Faso	Lesotho	Solomon Islands	
Burundi	Liberia	Somalia	
Cambodia	Madagascar	Sudan	
Cape Verde	Malawi	Togo	
Central African Republic	Maldives	Tuvalu	
Chad	Mali	Uganda	
Comoros	Mauritania	United Republic of Tanzania	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mozambique	Vanuatu	
Djibouti	Myanmar	Yemen	
Equatorial Guinea	Nepal	Zambia	
Eritrea			
Ethiopia			
Gambia			

*As defined by the United Nations General Assembly in 1998.

countries requiring updated information on the population of the major cities often produce official estimates of city populations with more recent reference dates. For countries whose latest census is several years old, such estimates have been used as input in preparing the estimates and projections presented in this volume.

As in the case of projections of the urban population, projections of city populations tend to be heavily influenced by the most recent recorded change in the size of a city's population. Because city growth is more volatile than that of the urban population as a whole, the projected city populations are less robust than the projected total urban

population, especially when long projection periods are involved. For that reason, city projections are only made over a twenty-year horizon (from 1995 to 2015).

The *1999 Revision* presents estimates and projections for 488 urban agglomerations that were estimated to have at least 750,000 inhabitants in 1995. This number is 13 per cent higher than the 431 urban agglomerations covered by the *1996 Revision*. The difference stems largely from a revision of the number of populous cities in China, which increased from 64 in the *1996 Revision* to 114 in the *1999 Revision*. The availability of official estimates of the population of Chinese cities referring to 31 December 1996 coupled with the results of the 1990 census of China permitted the inclusion of the additional number of cities. However, owing to the changes of definition of the urban population that have taken place in China since 1950 and to the rapid growth of certain Chinese cities, especially after the economic reforms that began in 1979, the preparation of consistent time-series of estimates and projections for all major cities of China is fraught with difficulty and, for some cities, the data presented in this volume may require substantive revision as more information becomes available.

As previous *Revisions*, the *1999 Revision* uses data on urban areas and on cities or urban agglomerations that reflect national definitions. Some countries report both data referring to “city proper”, that is, the population living within the administrative boundaries of a city, and to the “urban agglomeration” associated with each city. Because the urban agglomeration refers to the population contained within the contours of contiguous territory inhabited at urban levels of residential density irrespective of whether that population lives within or outside the administrative boundaries of the city, the data referring to the urban agglomeration are preferred as indicators of the population dynamics of urban expansion and of the urban structure. However, users of the estimates and projections presented in this volume should be aware that the urban agglomerations associated with major cities are often a combination of several cities that are functionally linked but remain distinct from an administrative perspective. For instance, the urban agglomeration of

Tokyo, which is today and is expected to remain the most populous of the world, includes the cities of Chiba, Kawasaki and Yokohama. In the *1999 Revision*, data classified in terms of urban agglomeration were used for 106 countries or areas, whereas for 107 countries or areas the only data available were based on the concept of city proper. For an additional 11 countries, the population of the capital city was recorded in terms of the urban agglomeration associated with the capital whereas the population of all other cities was recorded in terms of the concept of city proper.

A. KEY FINDINGS

1. The world’s urban population is estimated to have reached 2.9 billion in 2000 and is expected to rise to 4.9 billion by 2030. By mid-2000, 47 per cent of the world’s 6.1 billion inhabitants lived in urban areas and that proportion is expected to reach 60 per cent by 2030. The number of urban dwellers is expected to equal that of rural dwellers in 2007 when the proportion urban will cross the 50 per cent mark. In 2000, 4.3 per cent of the world population lived in urban agglomerations of 10 million inhabitants or more (known as mega-cities). The most populous urban agglomeration is that of Tokyo with 26.4 million inhabitants (table 2), followed by Mexico City (18.1 million), Bombay (18.1 million) and São Paulo (17.8 million). By 2015, the urban agglomeration of Tokyo will remain as the most populous, still with 26.4 million inhabitants, followed by Bombay (26.1 million), Lagos (23.2 million) and Dhaka (21.1 million).

2. Virtually all the population growth expected during 2000-2030 will be concentrated in the urban areas of the world. During that period the urban population is expected to increase by 2 billion persons (from 2.9 billion to 4.9 billion persons), the same number that will be added to the whole population of the world, which will rise from 6.1 billion inhabitants in 2000 to 8.1 billion in 2030 (table 3).

3. Most of the population increase expected during 2000-2030 will be absorbed by the urban areas of the less developed regions whose population will likely rise from 1.9 billion in 2000 to

TABLE 2. POPULATION OF CITIES WITH 10 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE, 1950, 1975, 2000 AND 2015
(in millions)

City	1950	City	1975	City	2000	City	2015
1 New York	12.3	1 Tokyo	19.8	1 Tokyo	26.4	1 Tokyo	26.4
		2 New York	15.9	2 Mexico City	18.1	2 Bombay	26.1
		3 Shanghai	11.4	3 Bombay	18.1	3 Lagos	23.2
		4 Mexico City	11.2	4 Sao Paulo	17.8	4 Dhaka	21.1
		5 Sao Paulo	10.0	5 New York	16.6	5 Sao Paulo	20.4
				6 Lagos	13.4	6 Karachi	19.2
				7 Los Angeles	13.1	7 Mexico City	19.2
				8 Calcutta	12.9	8 New York	17.4
				9 Shanghai	12.9	9 Jakarta	17.3
				10 Buenos Aires	12.6	10 Calcutta	17.3
				11 Dhaka	12.3	11 Delhi	16.8
				12 Karachi	11.8	12 Metro Manila	14.8
				13 Delhi	11.7	13 Shanghai	14.6
				14 Jakarta	11.0	14 Los Angeles	14.1
				15 Osaka	11.0	15 Buenos Aires	14.1
				16 Metro Manila	10.9	16 Cairo	13.8
				17 Beijing	10.8	17 Istanbul	12.5
				18 Rio de Janeiro	10.6	18 Beijing	12.3
				19 Cairo	10.6	19 Rio de Janeiro	11.9
						20 Osaka	11.0
						21 Tianjin	10.7
						22 Hyderabad	10.5
						23 Bangkok	10.1

3.9 billion in 2030. The urban population of the more developed regions is expected to increase very slowly, passing from 0.9 billion in 2000 to 1 billion in 2030.

4. During 2000-2030, the world's urban population will grow at an average annual rate of 1.8 per cent, nearly double the rate expected for the total population of the world (1 per cent per year). At that rate of growth, the world's urban population will double in 38 years.

5. Population growth in the urban areas of less developed regions will be particularly rapid, averaging 2.3 per cent per year during 2000-2030 and leading to a doubling time of 30 years. In contrast, the rural population of the less developed regions is expected to grow very slowly, at just 0.1 per cent per year during 2000-2030 (table 3).

6. Rural-urban migration and the transformation of rural settlements into cities are important determinants of the high population growth expected in urban areas of the less developed regions over the next thirty years. In combination with the universal reduction of fertility levels that is expected to occur in the future, these changes will lead to the reduction of the rural population of the less developed regions starting in 2020-2025. That is, as of 2020 the rural population of less developed regions will begin to experience a steady decline similar to that characterizing the rural population of more developed regions since 1950.

7. The rapid increase of the world's urban population coupled with the slowing growth of the rural population has led to a major redistribution of the population. Thus, whereas in 1950, 30 per

TABLE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD POPULATION BY URBAN OR RURAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1950-2030

Major area	Population (in billions)				Growth rate (percentage)		Doubling time (years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
<i>A. Population size and growth</i>								
Total population								
World.....	2.52	4.07	6.06	8.11	1.75	0.97	40	71
More developed regions.....	0.81	1.05	1.19	1.21	0.76	0.06	91	1 158
Less developed regions	1.71	3.03	4.87	6.90	2.09	1.16	33	60
Urban population								
World.....	0.75	1.54	2.85	4.89	2.67	1.80	26	38
More developed regions.....	0.45	0.73	0.90	1.01	1.41	0.37	49	186
Less developed regions	0.30	0.81	1.94	3.88	3.71	2.31	19	30
Rural population								
World.....	1.77	2.53	3.21	3.22	1.19	0.01	58	5 313
More developed regions.....	0.37	0.31	0.28	0.20	-0.50	-1.19	-	-
Less developed regions	1.41	2.22	2.93	3.02	1.47	0.11	47	632
<i>B. Urban indicators</i>								
	Percentage urban				Urbanization rate (percentage)		Doubling time (years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
World.....	29.7	37.9	47.0	60.3	0.91	0.83	76	83
More developed regions.....	54.9	70.0	76.0	83.5	0.65	0.31	-	-
Less developed regions	17.8	26.8	39.9	56.2	1.62	1.14	43	61

cent of the world population lived in urban areas, by 2000 the proportion of urban dwellers had risen to 47 per cent and it is expected to reach 60 per cent by 2030.

8. The process of urbanization is already very advanced in the more developed regions, where 76 per cent of the population lives in urban areas. Nevertheless, the concentration of population in cities is expected to continue so that, by 2030, 84 per cent of the inhabitants of more developed countries will be urban dwellers.

9. The level of urbanization is considerably lower in the less developed regions, where 40 per cent of the population lives today in urban areas. This proportion is considerably higher than it was in 1950 (18 per cent) and is expected to rise to 56 per cent by 2030. Consequently by 2030 the less developed regions will

reach a level of urbanization similar to that exhibited by the more developed regions in 1950 (see table 3).

10. There are marked differences in the level and pace of urbanization among the major areas constituting the less developed regions. Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole is highly urbanized, with 75 per cent of its population living in cities in 2000. Asia and Africa are considerably less urbanized, with 37 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively, of their populations living in urban areas. Being less urbanized, Asia and Africa are expected to experience rapid rates of urbanization during 2000-2030. Consequently, by 2030, 53 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively, of their inhabitants are expected to live in urban areas. At that time, 83 per cent of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean will be urban (table 4).

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF MAJOR AREAS BY URBAN OR RURAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1950-2030

Major area	Population (in millions)				Growth rate (percentage)		Doubling time (in years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
<i>A. Population size and growth</i>								
Total population								
Northern America.....	172	243	310	372	1.2	0.6	59	114
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	167	322	519	726	2.3	1.1	31	62
Europe.....	547	676	729	691	0.6	-0.2	121	-
Oceania.....	13	21	30	41	1.8	1.0	39	68
Africa.....	221	406	784	1 406	2.5	1.9	27	36
Asia.....	1 402	2 406	3 683	4 877	1.9	0.9	36	74
Urban population								
Northern America.....	110	180	239	314	1.6	0.9	44	77
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	69	197	391	604	3.5	1.5	20	48
Europe.....	287	455	545	571	1.3	0.2	54	450
Oceania.....	8	15	21	31	2.0	1.2	34	57
Africa.....	32	102	297	766	4.4	3.2	16	22
Asia.....	244	594	1 352	2 605	3.4	2.2	20	32
Rural population								
Northern America.....	62	64	71	58	0.3	-0.6	266	-
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	98	125	128	122	0.5	-0.2	128	-
Europe.....	260	221	184	120	-0.7	-1.4	-	-
Oceania.....	5	6	9	11	1.2	0.5	55	137
Africa.....	188	304	487	640	1.9	0.9	36	76
Asia.....	1 158	1 812	2 331	2 272	1.4	-0.1	50	-
<i>B. Urban indicators</i>								
	Percentage urban				Urbanization rate (percentage)		Doubling time (in years)	
	1950	1975	2000	2030	1950-2000	2000-2030	1950-2000	2000-2030
Northern America.....	64	74	77	84	0.4	0.3	-	-
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	41	61	75	83	1.2	0.3	-	-
Europe.....	52	67	75	83	0.7	0.3	-	-
Oceania.....	62	72	70	74	0.3	0.2	-	-
Africa.....	15	25	38	55	1.9	1.2	37	57
Asia.....	17	25	37	53	1.5	1.3	46	55

NOTE: Major areas are ordered according to the percentage urban in 2000.

11. In Europe and Northern America, the percentage of the population living in urban areas is expected to rise from 75 per cent and 77 per cent, respectively, in 2000 to 83 per cent and 84 per cent in 2030. The increase in Oceania is likely to be smaller, from 70 per cent in 2000 to 74 per cent in 2030.

12. Despite their high levels of urbanization, the combined number of urban dwellers in Europe, Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean

(1.2 billion) is not as high as that in Asia (1.4 billion), the least urbanized major area of the world today (table 4). Furthermore, by 2030, Asia and Africa will both have higher numbers of urban dwellers than any other major area of the world.

13. Asia also has and is expected to have the largest rural population of the world during 2000-2030, amounting to 2.3 billion persons in 2000. Africa, with 487 million rural inhabitants in 2000,

is expected to see its rural population rise to 640 million by 2030, remaining the major area with the second largest rural population during the period. Except for Africa and Oceania, all major areas are expected to experience a reduction of the rural population between 2000 and 2030 (table 4).

14. As a consequence of regional trends, the world rural population will remain nearly stable during 2000-2030, varying between 3.2 billion and 3.3 billion.

15. Although urban areas will encompass an increasing share of the world population, the proportion of people living in very large urban agglomerations is still small. In 2000, 4.3 per cent of the world population is estimated to live in cities of 10 million inhabitants or more and by 2015 that proportion will likely rise to 5.2 per cent. In addition, 2.6 per cent of the world population lives today in cities with populations ranging from 5 to 10 million inhabitants, and the projected figure for 2015 is 3.5 per cent. That is, by 2015, just 8.7 per cent of the world population is expected to live in urban agglomerations with 5 million inhabitants or more (table 5).

16. The proportion of the world population living in smaller cities is considerably larger, though it is increasing at a slower pace. In 2000, 28.5 per cent of the world population is estimated to live in cities of less than a million inhabitants and by 2015 that proportion will likely rise to 30.6 per cent. Consequently, the trend towards concentration of the population in urban settlements with 5 million inhabitants or more has not yet resulted in a marked decline of either the proportion or the number of persons living in urban settlements with less than a million inhabitants.

17. In more developed regions, the concentration of population in urban settlements with less than a million inhabitants is even more marked than at the world level. Thus, in 2000, 48 per cent of the population in developed countries lived in those cities and by 2015 that proportion is expected to be 49 per cent. In less developed regions, where most of the population still lives in rural areas, the proportion of people living in cities with less than a million inhabitants is 24 per

cent currently and will likely rise to 27 per cent by 2015 (table 5).

18. In both the more and the less developed regions, the proportion of people living in large urban agglomerations (with 5 million inhabitants or more) is low, amounting to 6.3 per cent in the less developed regions and to 9.5 per cent in the more developed regions today. By 2015, the relative increase in that proportion will be greater for less developed regions, where it will rise to 8.5 per cent, a level that is closer to the 9.9 per cent that more developed regions will have at that time.

19. Not only do the largest cities account for relatively low proportions of the world population but in addition their share of the annual growth of the urban population is expected to be moderate. During 2000-2015 cities of 5 million inhabitants or more are expected to absorb 21 per cent of the annual increment in the urban population, whereas cities with less than a million inhabitants will absorb 48 per cent (table 6). In both cases, cities in the less developed regions will absorb most of that increase. Thus the large cities of developing countries are projected to account for 20 per cent of the increase in the world's urban population and cities with less than a million inhabitants in less developed countries will account for 45 per cent of that increase.

20. The increase in the proportion of the population living in large urban agglomerations is mostly the result of a rise in the number of such agglomerations rather than of the rapid growth of the population of most of them. Thus, the number of cities with 5 million inhabitants or more will likely pass from 41 in 2000 to 59 in 2015. Among those cities, the number of "mega-cities" (those with 10 million inhabitants or more) is expected to increase from 19 in 2000 to 23 in 2015 (table 2). As is well known, most of the large cities are located in developing countries. In 2000, just 10 of the 41 cities with 5 million inhabitants or more belonged to developed countries and only one more, for a total of 11, will be located in developed countries by 2015.

21. Large urban agglomerations do not necessarily experience fast population growth. In fact,

TABLE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD POPULATION AND THAT OF MORE AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS
BY SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000 AND 2015

Major area	Range of population size	Population (millions)			Percentage		
		1975	2000	2015	1975	2000	2015
World	5 million or more	195	418	623	4.8	6.9	8.7
	1 to 5 million.....	327	704	1 006	8.0	11.6	14.1
	Less than 1 million.....	1 022	1 723	2 189	25.1	28.5	30.6
	Rural areas.....	2 531	3 210	3 337	62.1	53.0	46.6
	Total population.....	4 075	6 055	7 154	100.0	100.0	100.0
More developed regions	5 million or more.....	98	112	120	9.3	9.5	9.9
	1 to 5 million.....	145	219	250	13.9	18.5	20.6
	Less than 1 million.....	491	571	598	46.8	48.1	49.3
	Rural areas.....	315	285	246	30.0	24.0	20.3
	Total population.....	1 048	1 188	1 214	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less developed regions	5 million or more.....	97	305	503	3.2	6.3	8.5
	1 to 5 million.....	182	485	756	6.0	10.0	12.7
	Less than 1 million.....	531	1 152	1 591	17.6	23.7	26.8
	Rural areas.....	2 217	2 925	3 091	73.2	60.1	52.0
	Total population.....	3 026	4 867	5 940	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANNUAL INCREMENT OF THE POPULATION AMONG URBAN SETTLEMENTS
OF DIFFERENT POPULATION SIZES, 1975 TO 2015

Major area	Type of geographical area	Annual population increment (in millions)		Percentage of overall urban increment	
		1975-2000	2000-2015	1975-2000	2000-2015
World	Total population.....	79.2	73.3
	Urban population	52.1	64.8	100.0	100.0
	Cities of 10 million or more.....	7.8	7.5	14.9	11.5
	Cities of 5 to 10 million.....	1.1	6.2	2.2	9.5
	Cities of 1 to 5 million.....	15.1	20.1	29.0	31.0
	Cities of less than a 1 million.....	28.1	31.1	53.9	47.9
More developed regions	Total population.....	5.6	1.8
	Urban population	6.8	4.3	13.0	6.7
	Cities of 10 million or more.....	1.3	0.1	2.4	0.2
	Cities of 5 to 10 million.....	-0.7	0.4	-1.3	0.6
	Cities of 1 to 5 million.....	3.0	2.0	5.7	3.1
	Cities of less than a 1 million.....	3.2	1.8	6.2	2.8
Less developed regions	Total population.....	73.6	71.5
	Urban population	45.3	60.5	87.0	93.3
	Cities of 10 million or more.....	6.5	7.4	12.5	11.4
	Cities of 5 to 10 million.....	1.8	5.8	3.5	8.9
	Cities of 1 to 5 million.....	12.1	18.1	23.3	27.9
	Cities of less than a 1 million.....	24.8	29.2	47.7	45.1

some of the fastest growing cities have small populations and, as population size increases, the growth rate of a city's population tends to decline. However, some of today's mega-cities have experienced rather high rates of population growth over the past 25 years. Thus, Dhaka in Bangladesh grew at an average annual rate of 6.9 per cent during 1975-2000 and Lagos, Nigeria, increased at a rate of 5.6 per cent annually over the same period. But they are exceptional cases. Among the 19 mega-cities of 2000, just 7 grew at rates above 3 per cent per year during 1975-2000 and 9 experienced moderate or low growth (below 2 per cent per year). In the future, just 4 of today's mega-cities are expected to experience growth rates above 3 per cent and 10 will be experiencing very low growth, at below 1 per cent per year (table 7).

B. ORGANIZATION AND CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT

In addition to this introductory chapter, this report contains seven additional chapters plus the Annex tables displaying in detail the results of the *1999 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*. Chapters II to VI present an in-depth analysis of the results of the *1999 Revision*; chapter VII presents the methodology used in estimating and projecting the urban population and that of cities; and chapter VIII presents a compilation of the sources used in preparing the *1999 Revision* and the concepts underlying the statistics used as input.

The chapters devoted to the analysis of results are organized into two groups: the first is devoted to a discussion of urban and rural population growth as well as urbanization trends, and the second focuses on the dynamics of city growth and its implications for the urban hierarchy.

Chapters II to IV are in the first group and chapters V and VI in the second. Chapter II discusses urbanization prospects and the future of rural population growth at the world level, for the more developed and less developed regions, and for the major areas of the world (i.e. Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania). It provides an overview of the main findings derived from the *1999 Revision* and should be useful for readers who want to get a quick assessment of the state of the world's urbanization and its future prospects. Chapter III discusses urbanization trends, the growth of the urban population and trends in rural population growth at the level of 21 regions constituting the world. Its findings are more detailed than those presented in chapter II and it provides further insights about the diversity of experience within the major areas considered in that chapter. Lastly, chapter IV discusses urbanization dynamics and the growth of the rural population at the level of countries. The analysis relies heavily on the characteristics of distributions of countries according to various measures of urban and rural population dynamics and it emphasizes the diversity of experience at the country level.

Chapters V and VI focus on the dynamics of population growth at the level of cities or groups of cities. Chapter V discusses the distribution of population growth across the urban hierarchy by considering cities grouped in different size classes. The focus is on population growth by city size class at the world level, for the more developed and the less developed regions and for the major areas of the world. In chapter VI the focus shifts to the population growth in large cities, that is, cities with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 1995. The diversity of experience is stressed and special attention is given to the growth of cities with 5 million inhabitants or more.

TABLE 7. POPULATION AND GROWTH RATE OF THE URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS WITH MORE THAN 10 MILLION INHABITANTS, 1975-2015

<i>Urban agglomeration</i>	<i>Population (in millions)</i>				<i>Growth rate (percentage)</i>	
	<i>1975</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>1975-2000</i>	<i>2000-2015</i>
1 Tokyo	19.8	26.4	26.4	26.4	1.2	0.0
2 Mexico City.....	11.2	17.9	18.1	19.2	1.9	0.4
3 Bombay	6.9	17.5	18.1	26.1	3.9	2.4
4 São Paulo.....	10.0	17.5	17.8	20.4	2.3	0.9
5 New York.....	15.9	16.6	16.6	17.4	0.2	0.3
6 Los Angeles.....	8.9	13.0	13.1	14.1	1.5	0.5
7 Shanghai.....	11.4	12.9	12.9	14.6	0.5	0.8
8 Lagos.....	3.3	12.8	13.4	23.2	5.6	3.7
9 Calcutta	7.9	12.7	12.9	17.3	2.0	1.9
10 Buenos Aires	9.1	12.4	12.6	14.1	1.3	0.7
11 Dhaka	2.2	11.7	12.3	21.1	6.9	3.6
12 Karachi.....	4.0	11.4	11.8	19.2	4.3	3.2
13 Delhi.....	4.4	11.3	11.7	16.8	3.9	2.4
14 Osaka.....	9.8	11.0	11.0	11.0	0.4	0.0
15 Beijing.....	8.5	10.8	10.8	12.3	0.9	0.9
16 Jakarta	4.8	10.6	11.0	17.3	3.3	3.0
17 Metro Manila.....	5.0	10.5	10.9	14.8	3.1	2.1
18 Rio de Janeiro.....	7.9	10.5	10.6	11.9	1.2	0.8
19 Cairo.....	6.1	10.3	10.6	13.8	2.2	1.7