



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development: 10 Year Continental Review

**Population Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

Thematic Session 3
The Demographic Dividend:
Scaling up Investment in Youth Development

Lusaka, Zambia

9 November 2023

Global population to continue to grow for several decades

Milestones

Nov. 2022: 8 billion

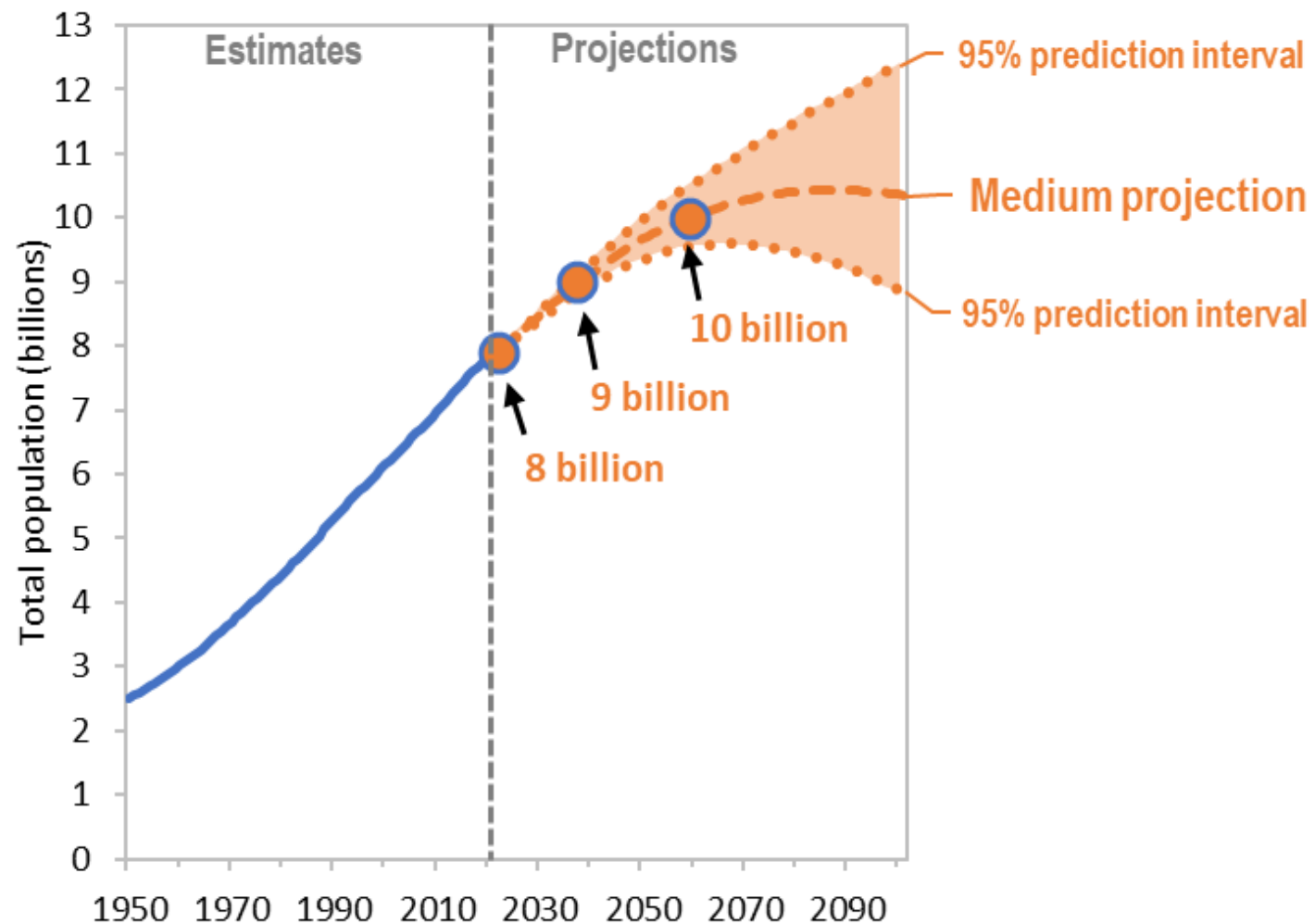
2037: 9 billion

2058: 10 billion

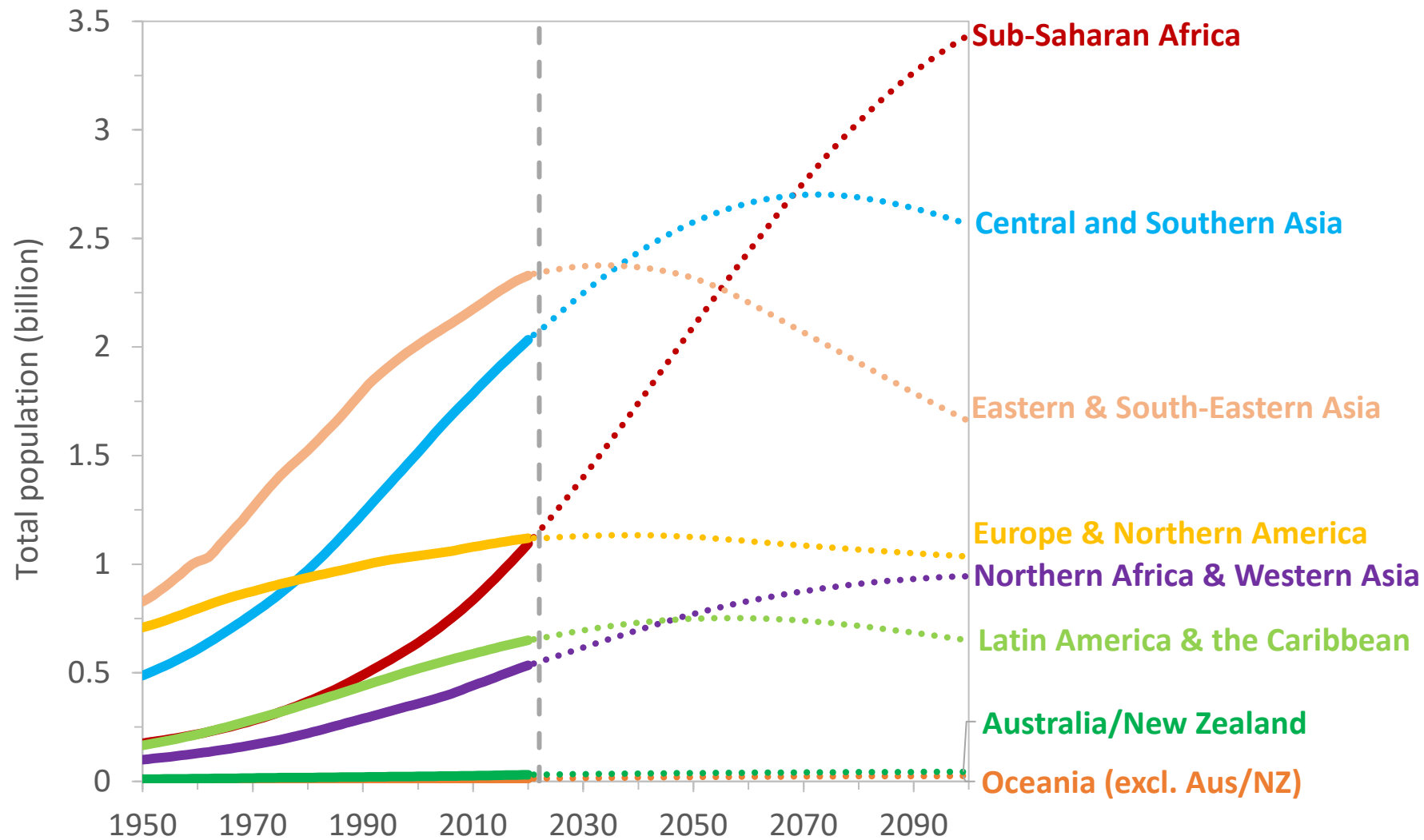
Late 2080s: Possible peak

Important point

Uncertainty increases with longer projections (esp. after 2050)

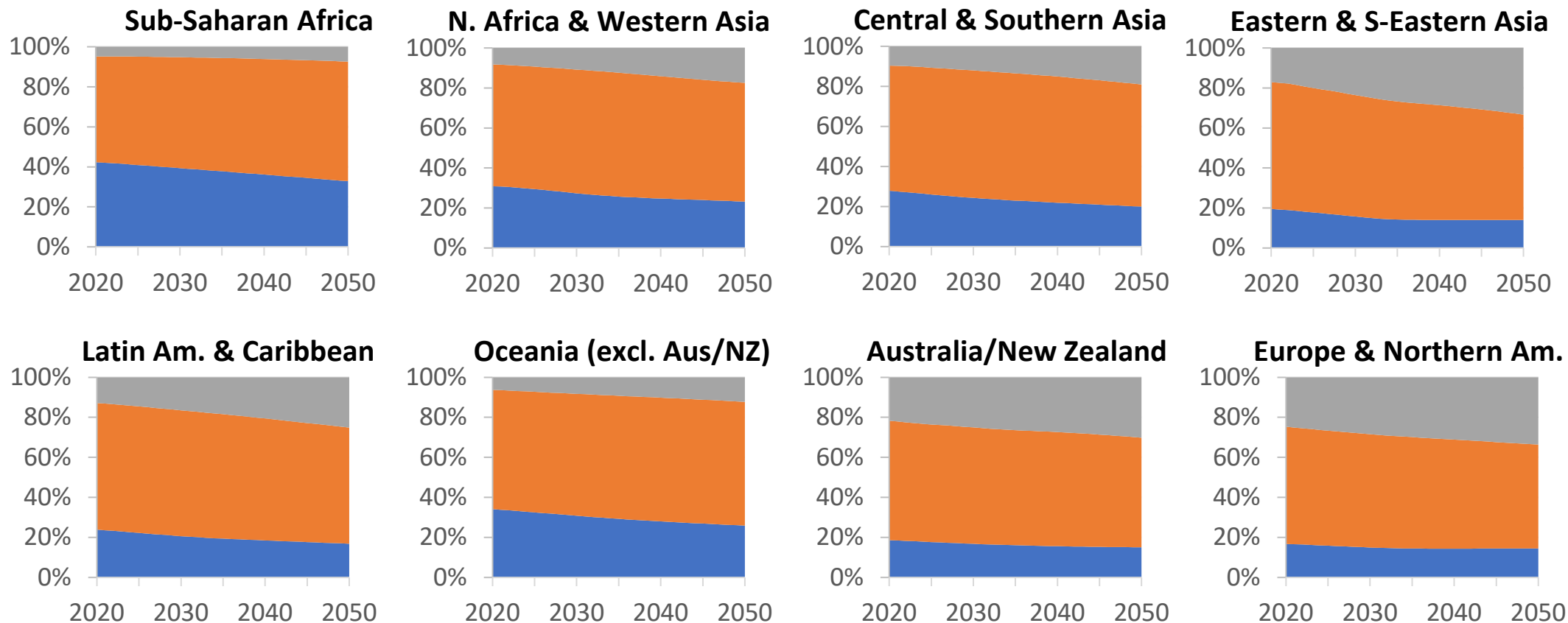


Regional distribution of population to change significantly in coming decades



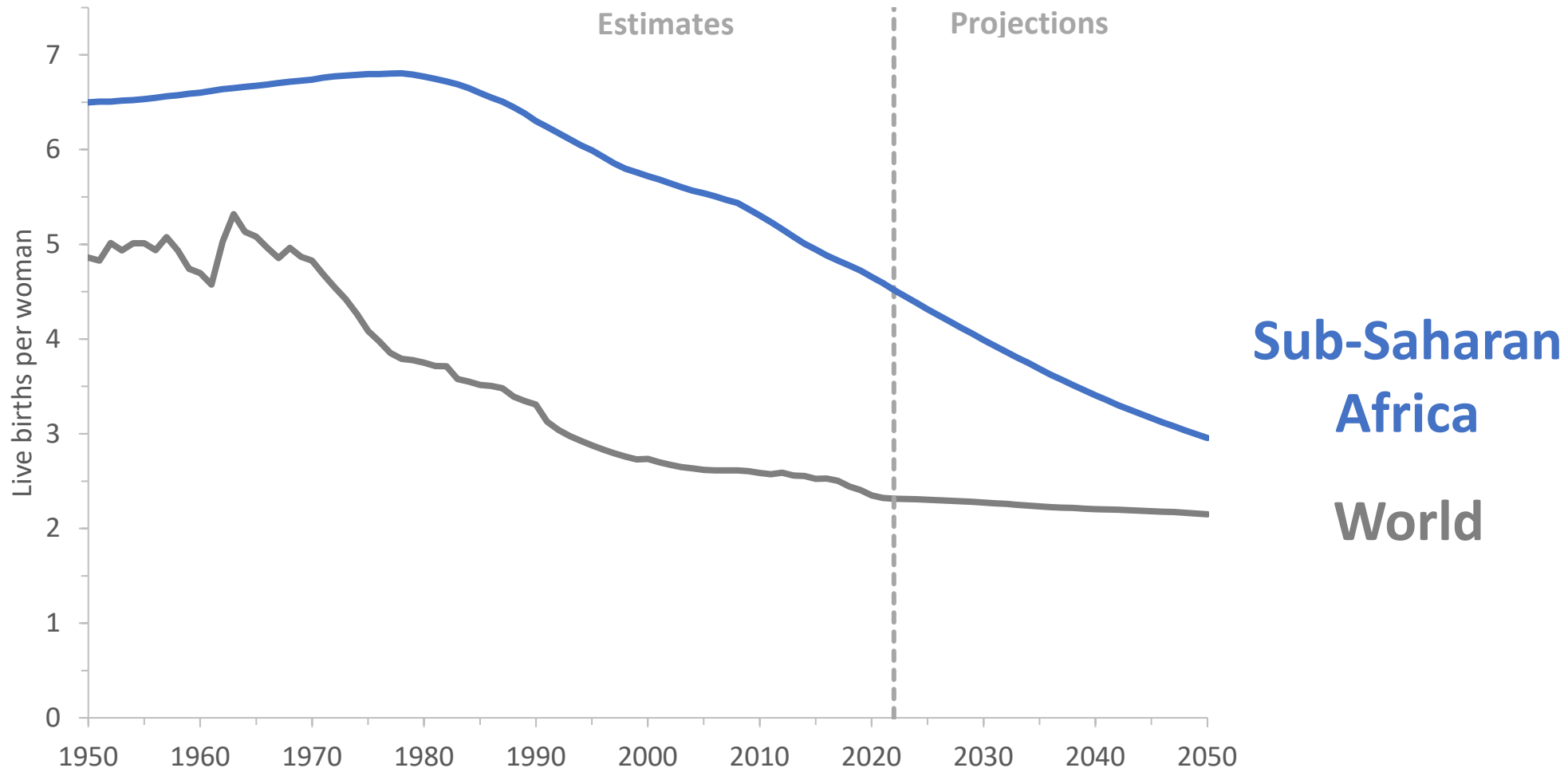
Age distribution by region: similarities and differences

Percentage of population aged 0-14 (blue), 15-59 (orange), and 60 or over (grey)



High fertility still a challenge in some regions

In sub-Saharan Africa, women have, on average, 4.5 children, double the global rate (2.3)





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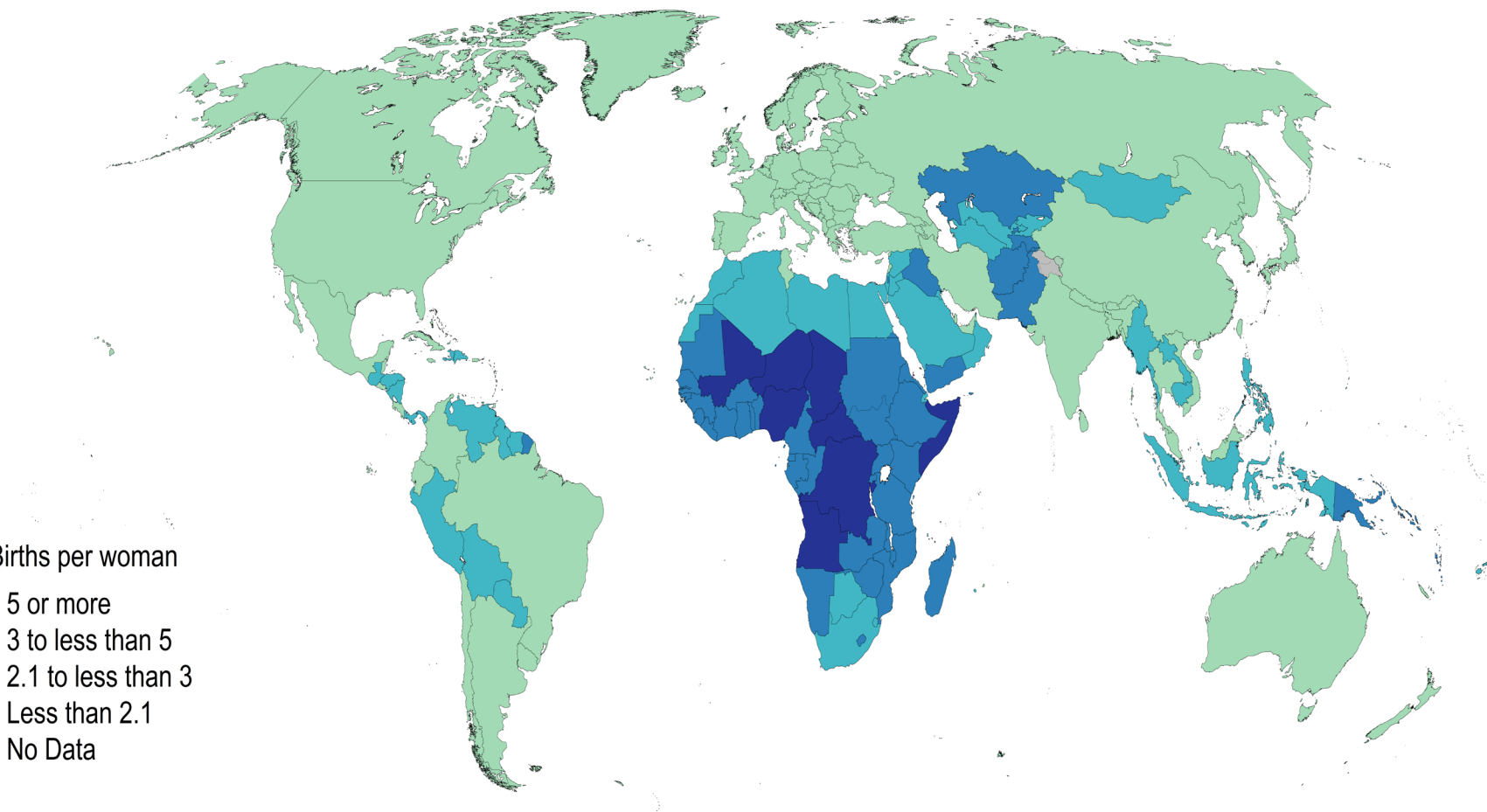
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Total fertility rate by country or area, 2021

Today, two-thirds of the global population lives in a country or area where lifetime fertility is below 2.1 births per woman (roughly, the level required for zero growth in the long run for a population with low mortality)

Births per woman

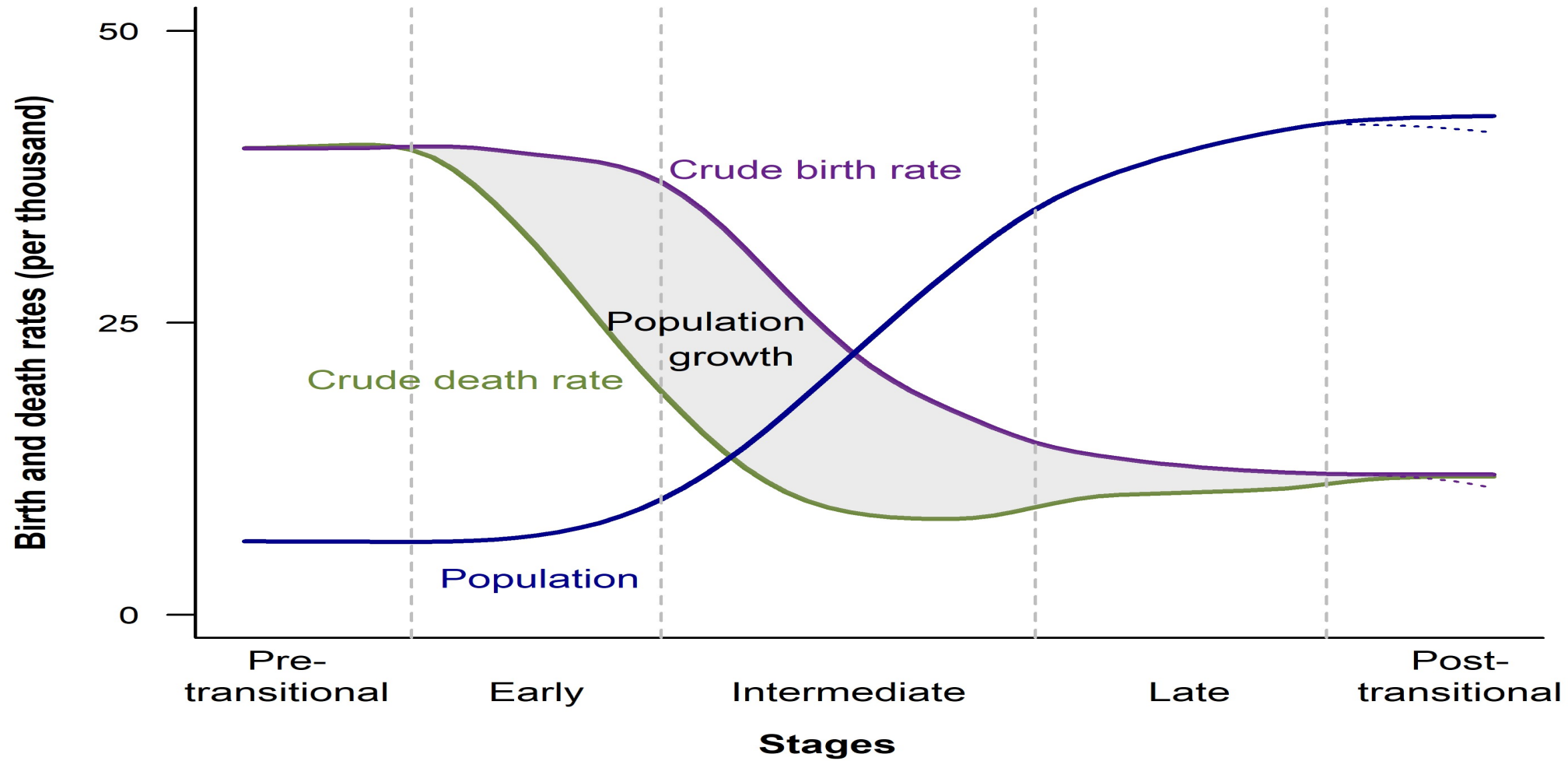
- 5 or more
- 3 to less than 5
- 2.1 to less than 3
- Less than 2.1
- No Data



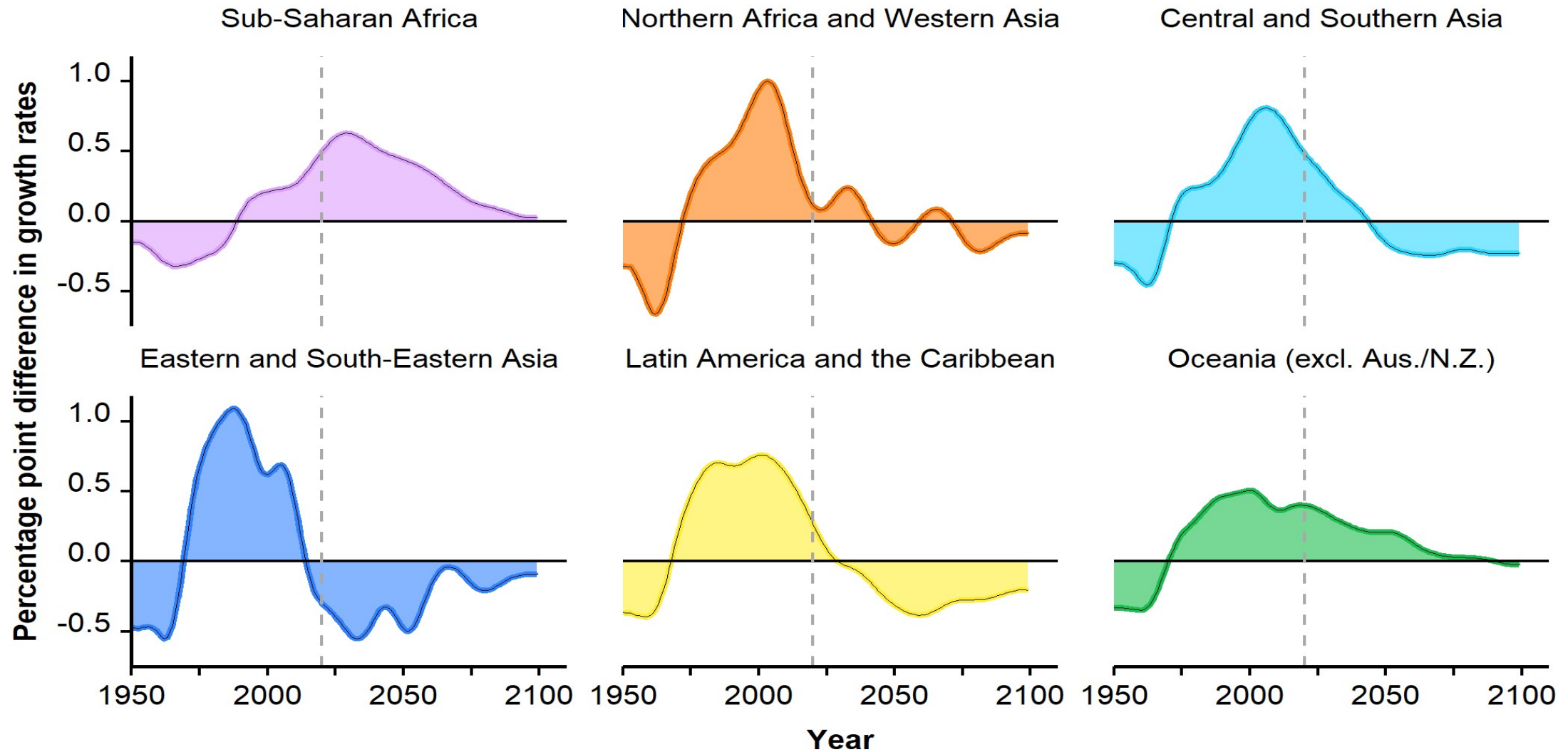
Data source: World Population Prospects 2022.

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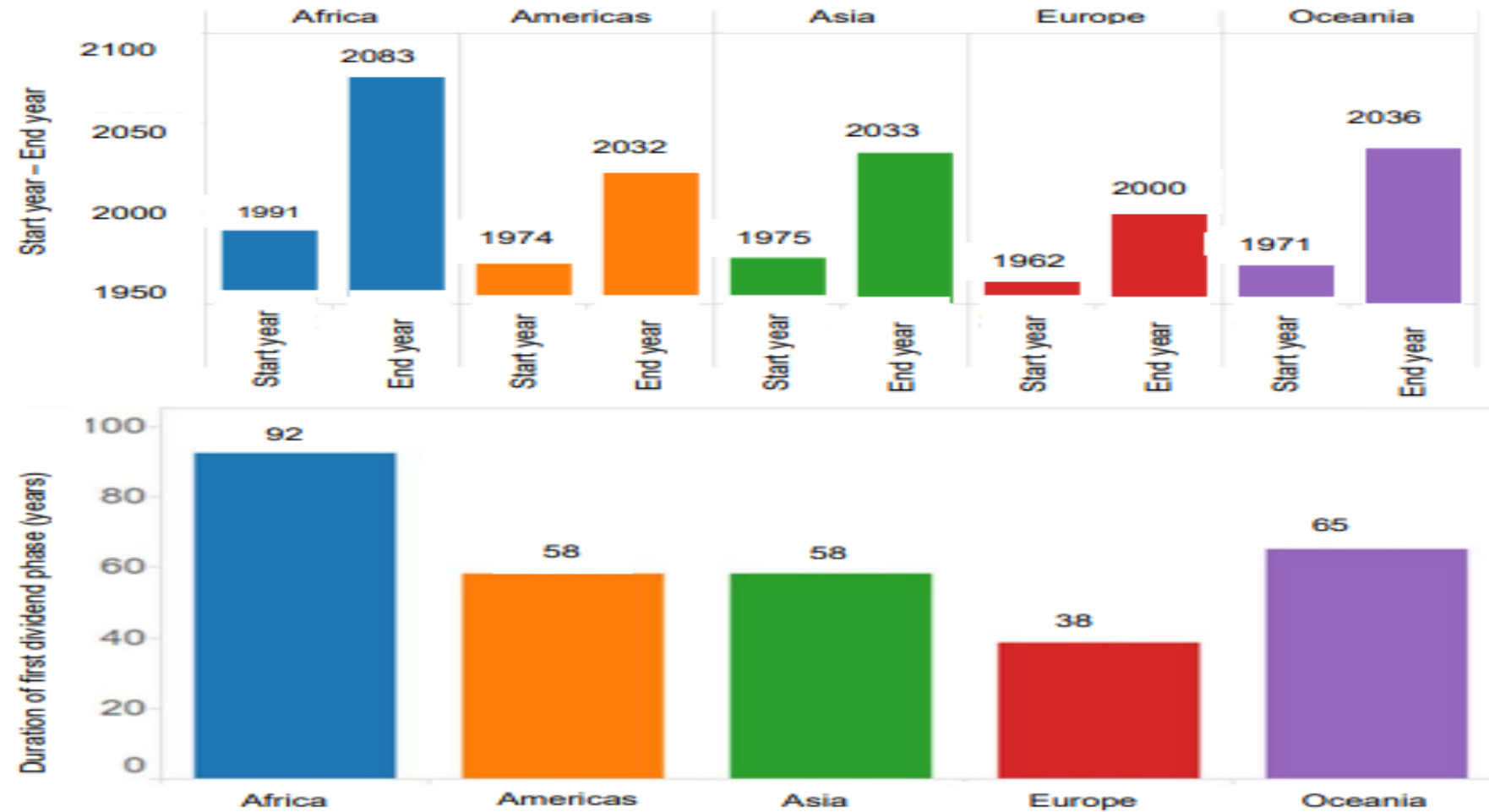
Schematic representation of the demographic transition



Difference between population growth rates in working ages and in total population, by region, estimates (1950-2020) and projections (2020-2100)



Start and end year of demographic dividend phase (upper panel); average duration of the first demographic dividend (lower panel), by region
(Source: Mason and others (2017))



Six take-away messages

- The choices we make **today** will have important consequences for future population trends
- A **pre-condition** for the “demographic dividend” to occur is a sustained drop in fertility
- This sustained drop will create a **time-bound opportunity for increased economic growth** because the temporary shift in the age distribution towards the working ages generates an increase in income per capita, expanding opportunities to increase human capital, improve standards of living and promote economic development
- Reaping the maximum potential benefit of this “demographic dividend” also requires sufficient **improvements in per capita expenditures in education and health, in gender equality and in access to productive employment and decent work.**
- While for most regions the demographic window of opportunity has already closed or is nearing its end, **many countries of sub-Saharan Africa have another 40-50 years to reap the economic benefits of a favourable age distribution.**
- Fertility policies should **empower individuals to decide freely the number of children that they will have and the timing of those births.**