

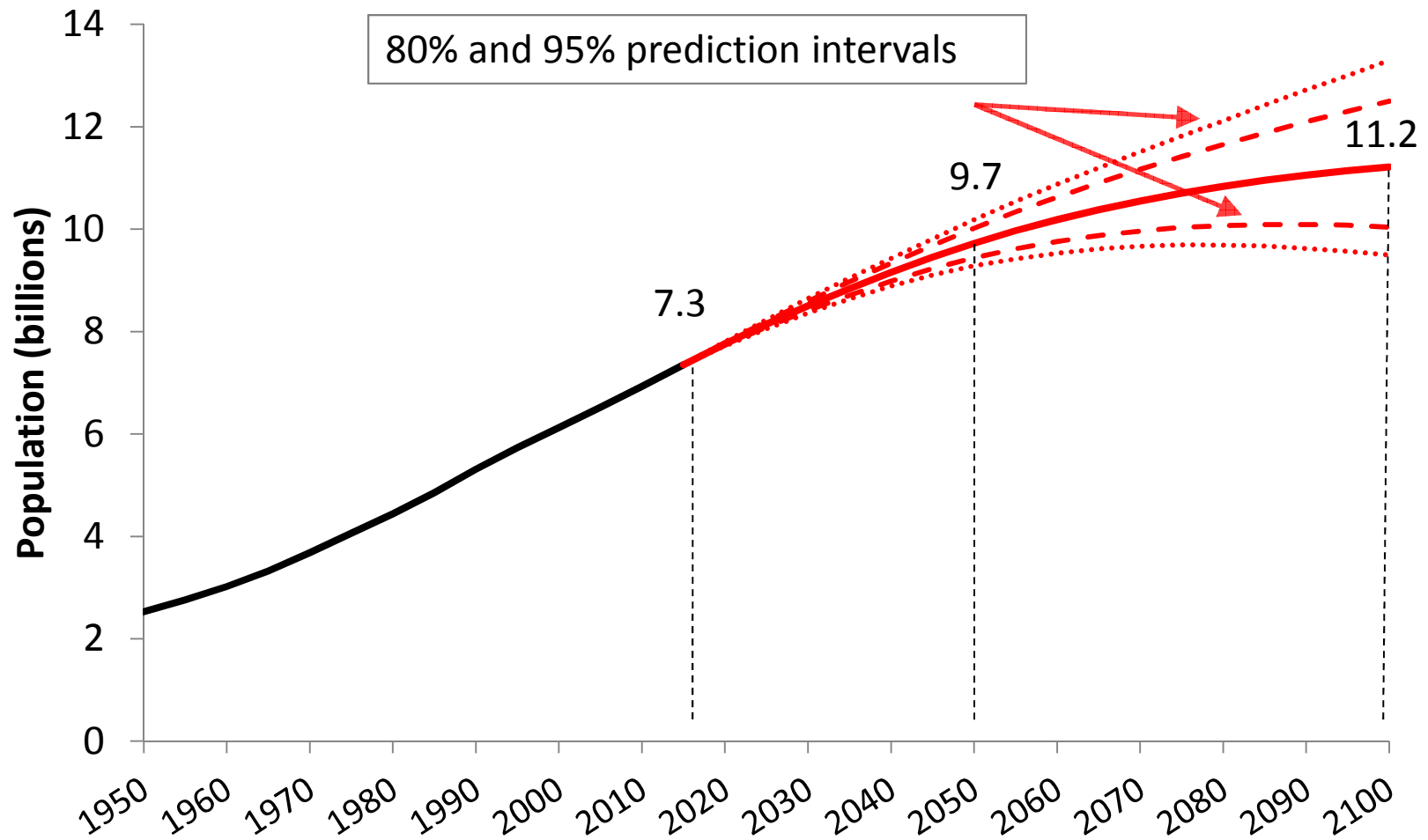
Global Trends in Fertility and Population Ageing

John Wilmoth
Director, Population Division

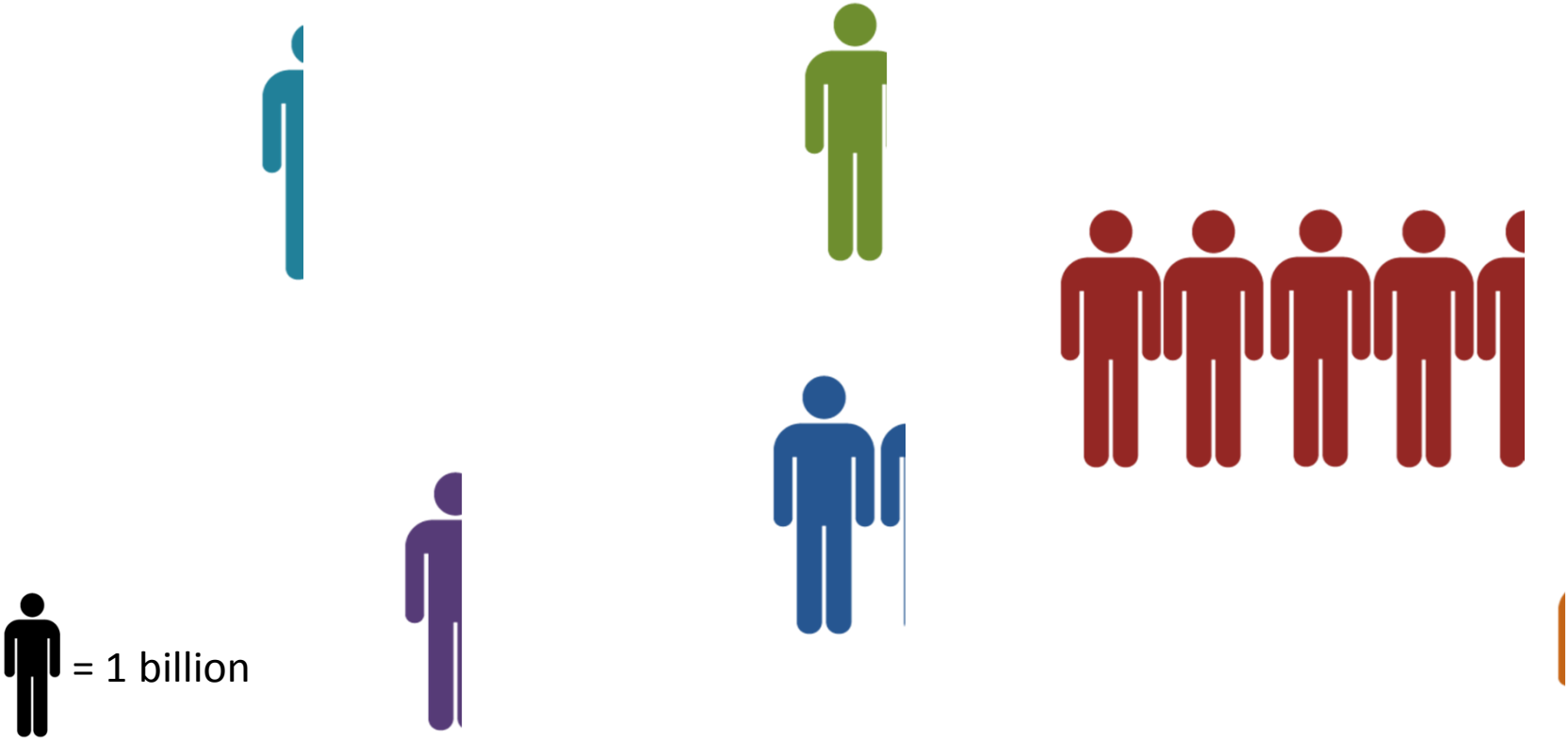
Briefing for Member States
on Policy Responses to Low Fertility

3 November 2015

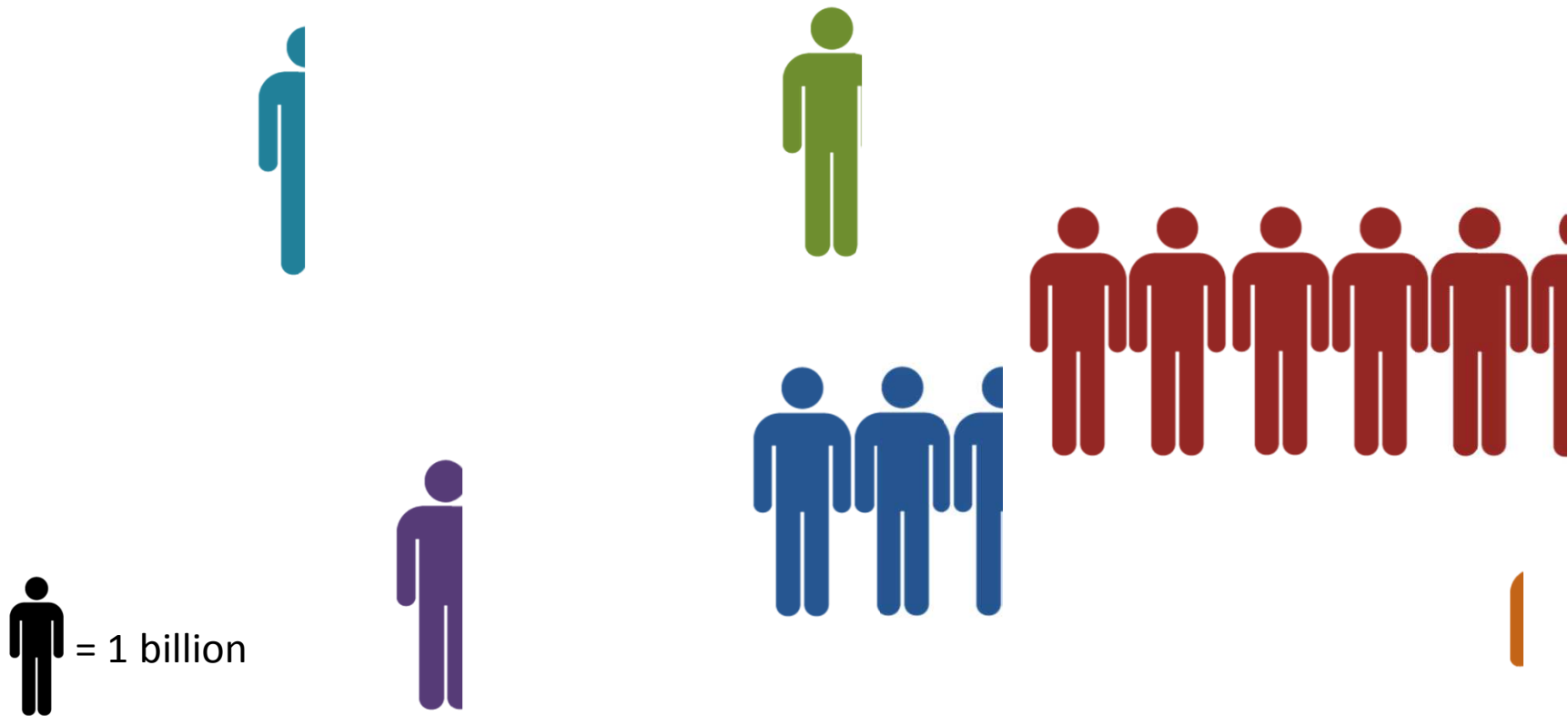
Global population: 7.3 billion in 2015 and growing



Where in the world are 7.3 billion people in 2015?

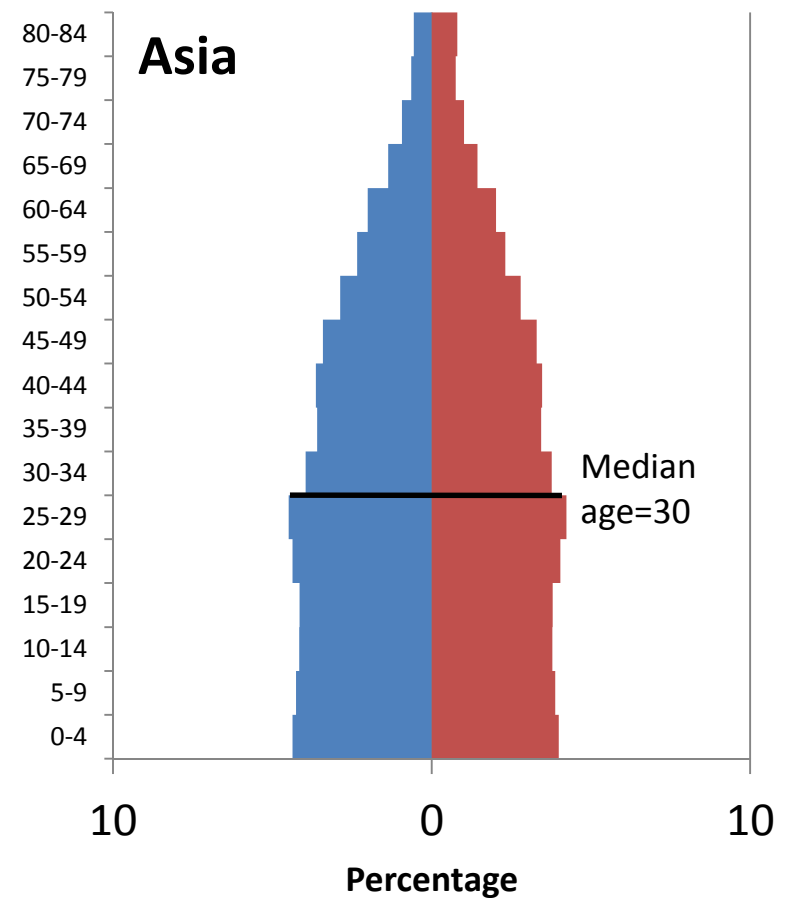
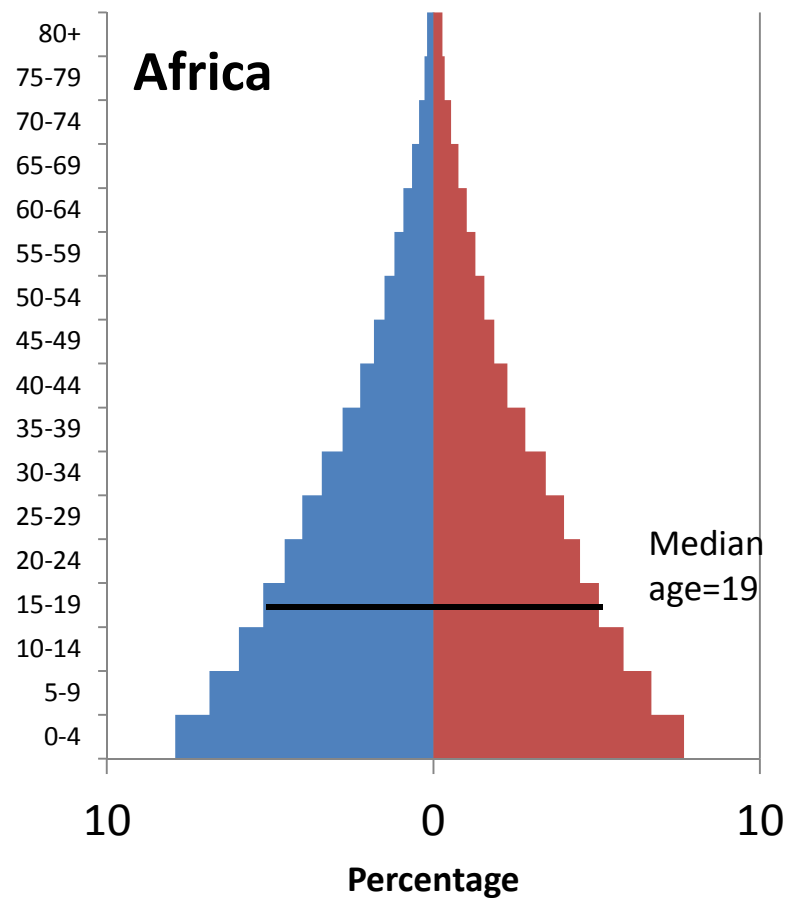


...and where will 9.7 billion be in 2050?



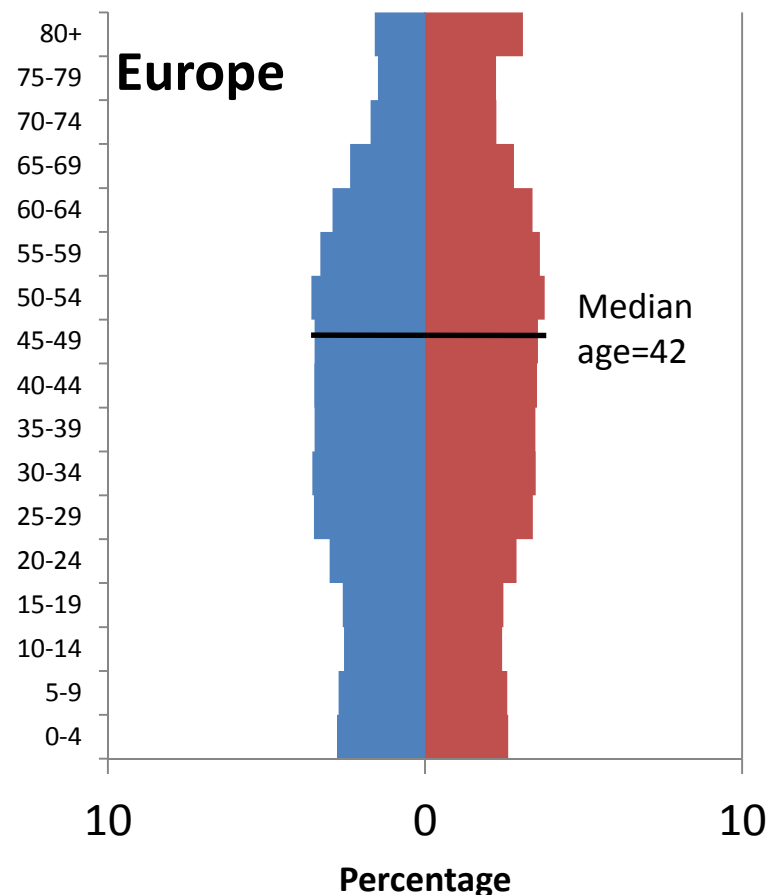
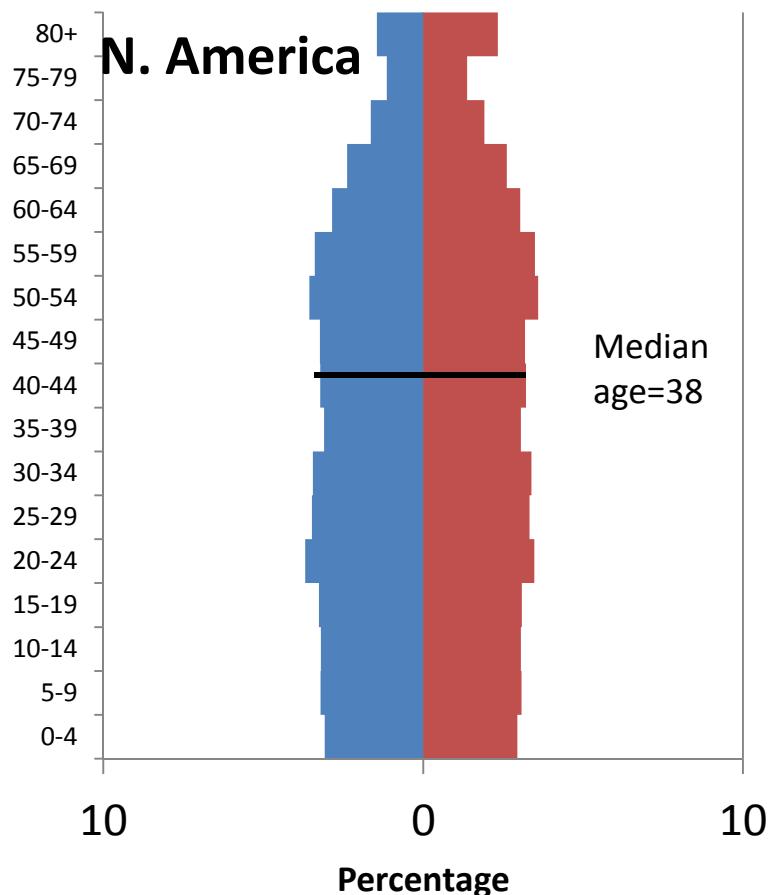
Africa's population youngest among world regions

Distribution of population by age and sex, 2015



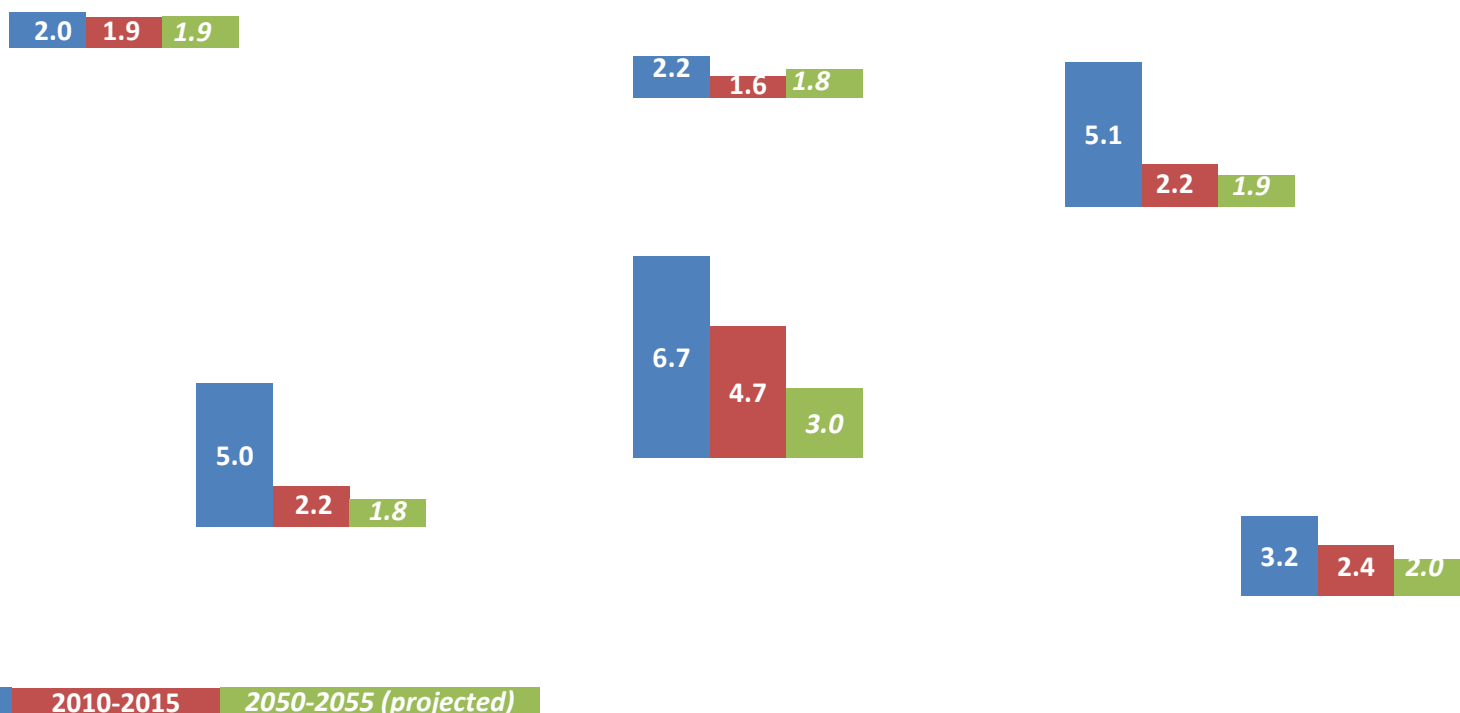
World's oldest population lives in Europe

Distribution of population by age and sex, 2015



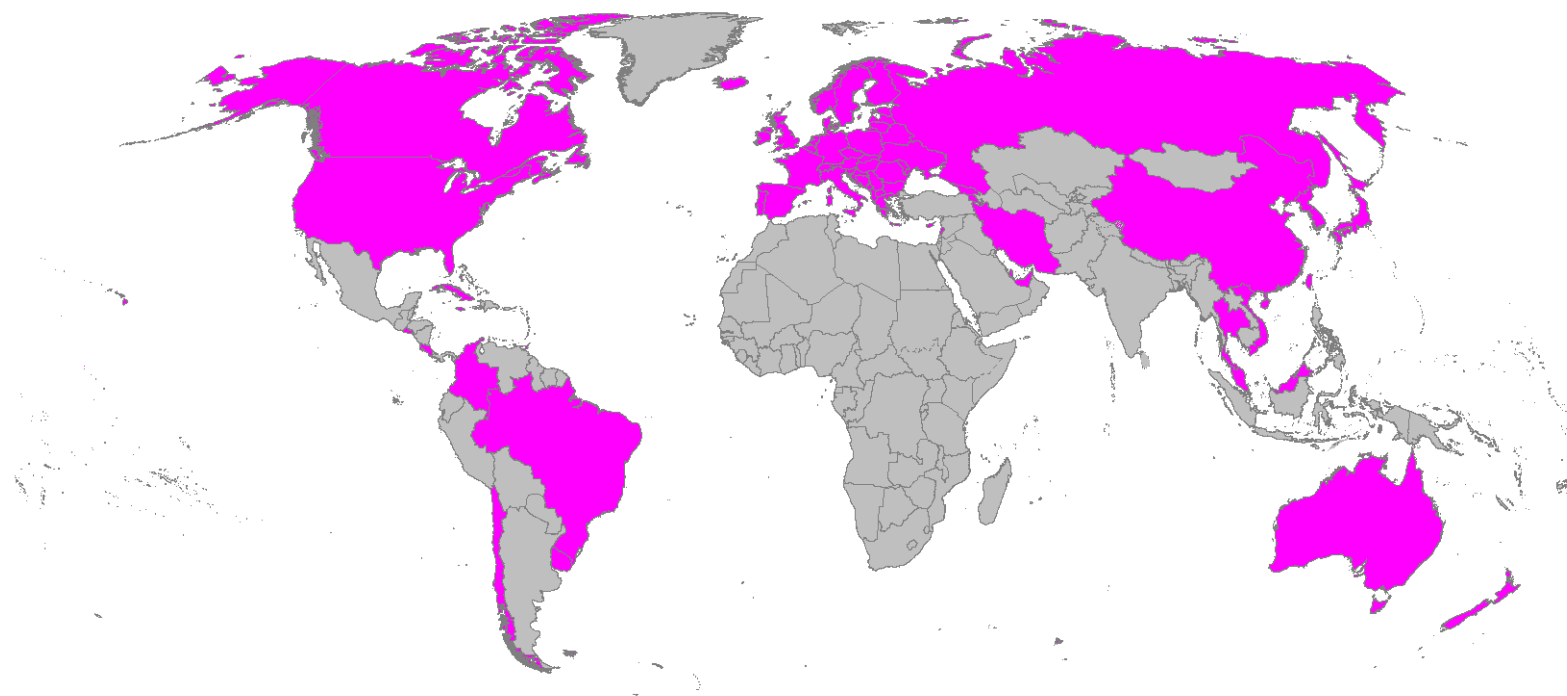
Fertility is the main driver of changes in population size and age distribution; and fertility has fallen in all regions

Total fertility (children per woman)



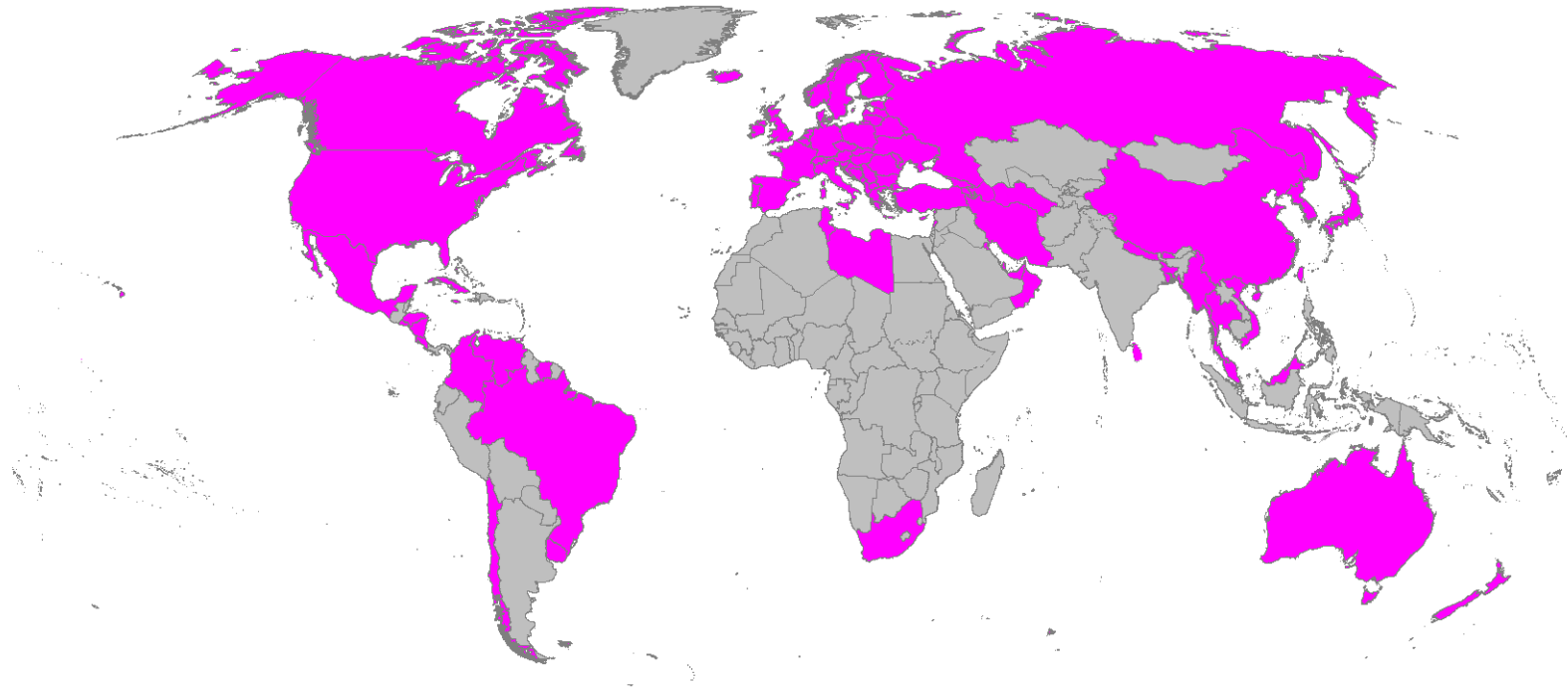
Many countries now have below-replacement-level fertility

75 countries in 2015



In the future, even more countries will
have below-replacement-level fertility

97 countries in 2030



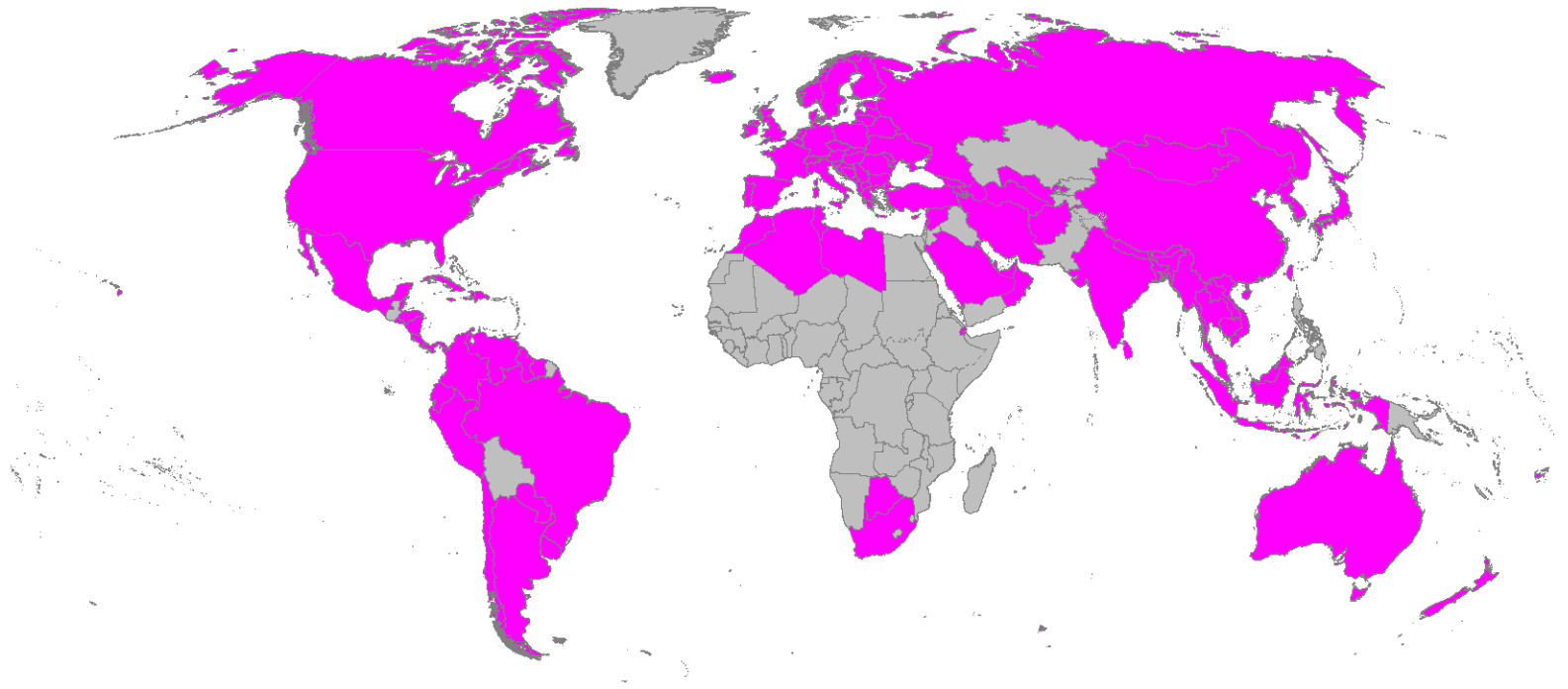
Population Division

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs



In the future, even more countries will
have below-replacement-level fertility

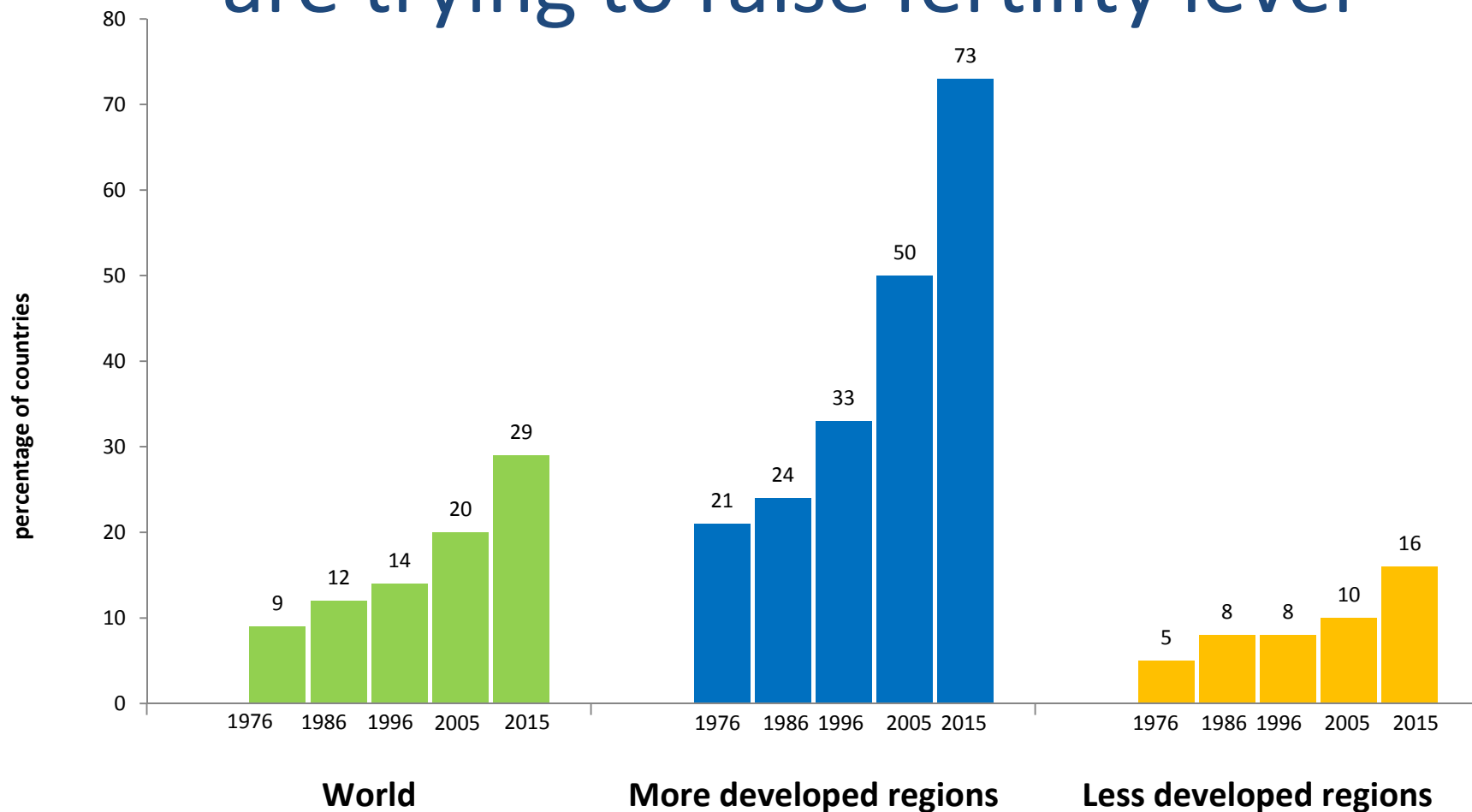
120 countries in 2050



Why smaller families?

- Increased costs and decreased economic benefits of children and parenting (education, market work, urban life, women's roles, etc.)
- Increased freedom of choice about marriage and family
- Improved technology and availability of contraception

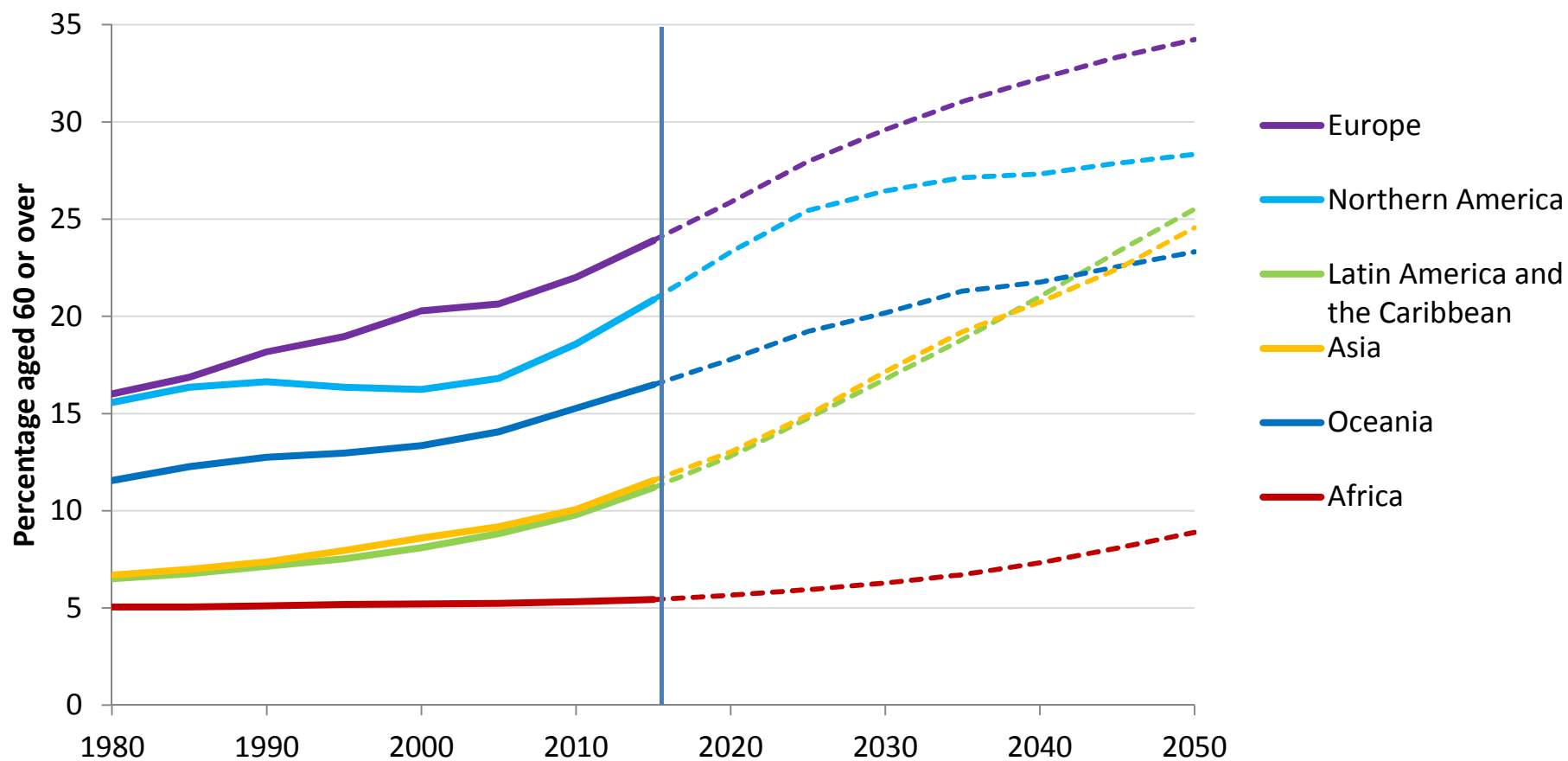
Increasing share of governments are trying to raise fertility level



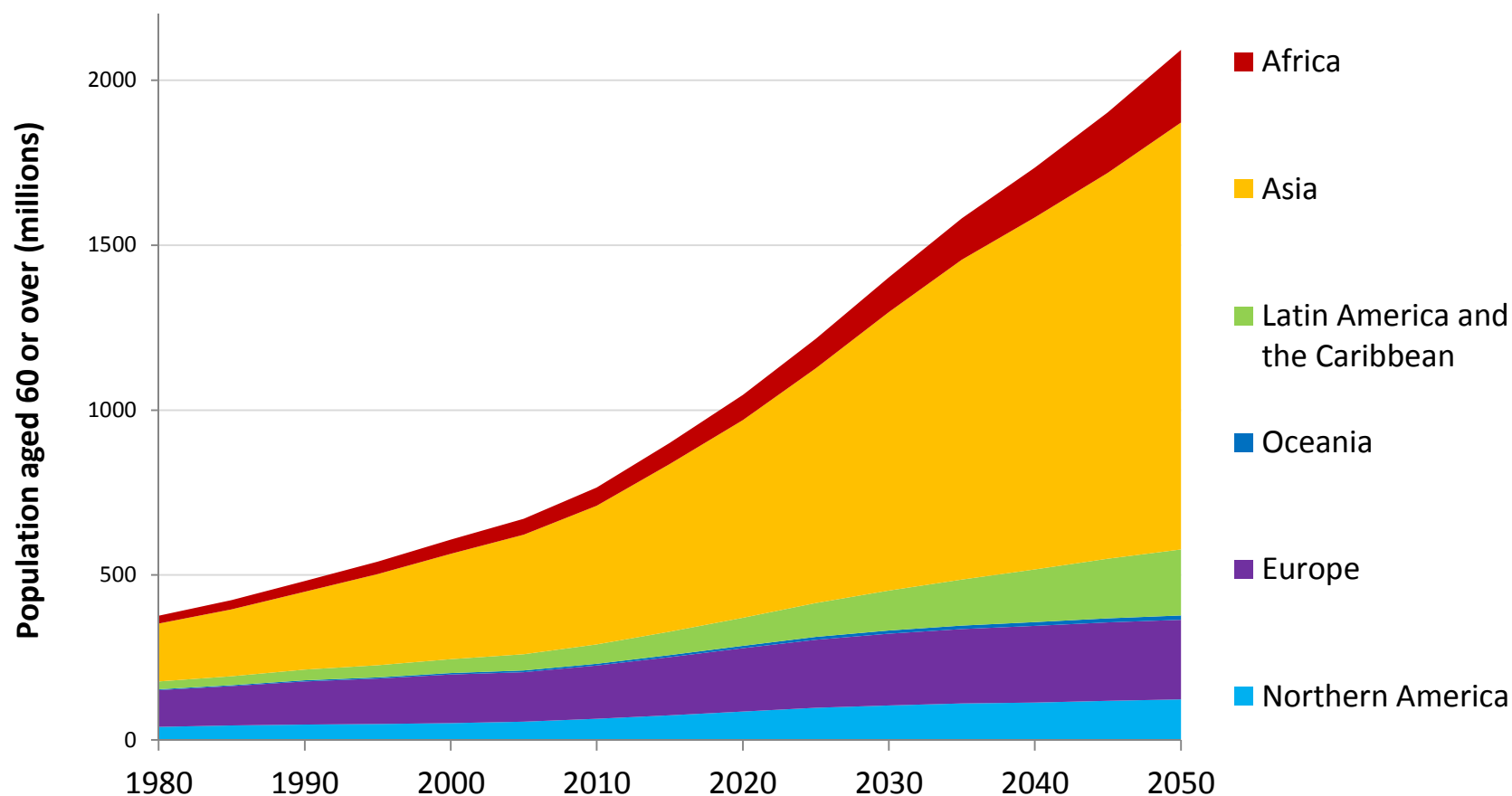
Fertility decline is, by far, the most important cause of population ageing

- Mortality decline makes the population both younger and older, with little overall effect on the age distribution
- Fertility decline reduces the number of births and of young people, changing the balance of young versus old in the population

Populations are ageing, or will soon be ageing, in all regions of the world

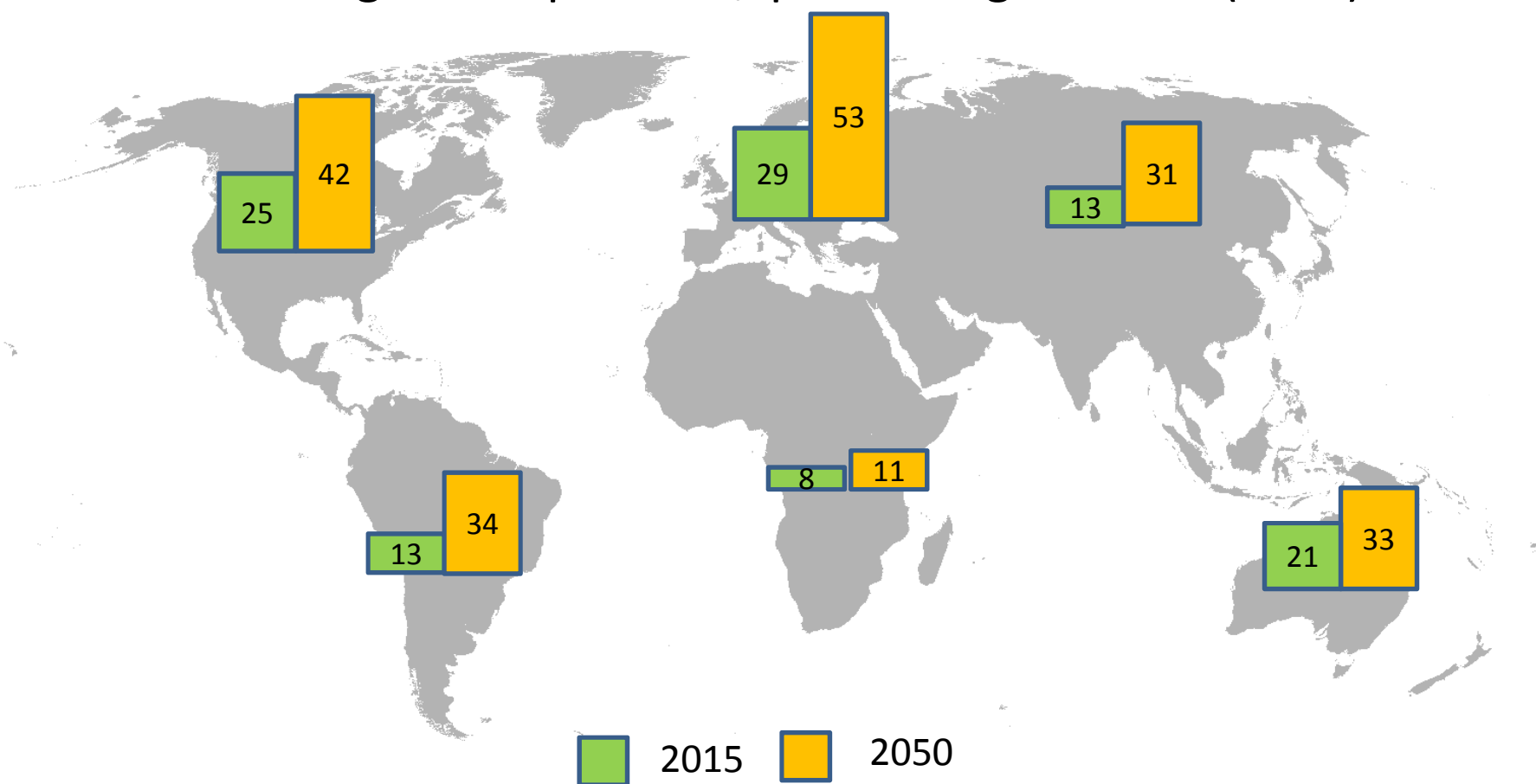


Two-thirds of the world's older persons (ages 60+) now live in the developing regions, and their numbers are growing faster there too



Old-age dependency ratio rising in all regions

Persons aged 65+ persons / persons aged 20-64 (x100)



Importance of addressing low or very low fertility

- Sustained periods of low or very low fertility lead to rapid population ageing and, eventually, population decline
- Population ageing always poses challenges, due to a reduced share of working-age population (slower economic growth, higher dependency ratio)
- Population ageing is inevitable, but rapid ageing due to very low fertility can be mitigated

www.unpopulation.org