

Sustainable Urbanization

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Expert Group Meeting on
*The Post-2015 Era: Implications for the Global Research
Agenda on Population and Development*

United Nations
New York, 10 April 2015



Population Division

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Outlines

- 1 **Growth of urban population**
- 2 **Growth of cities**
- 3 **Some possible challenges**

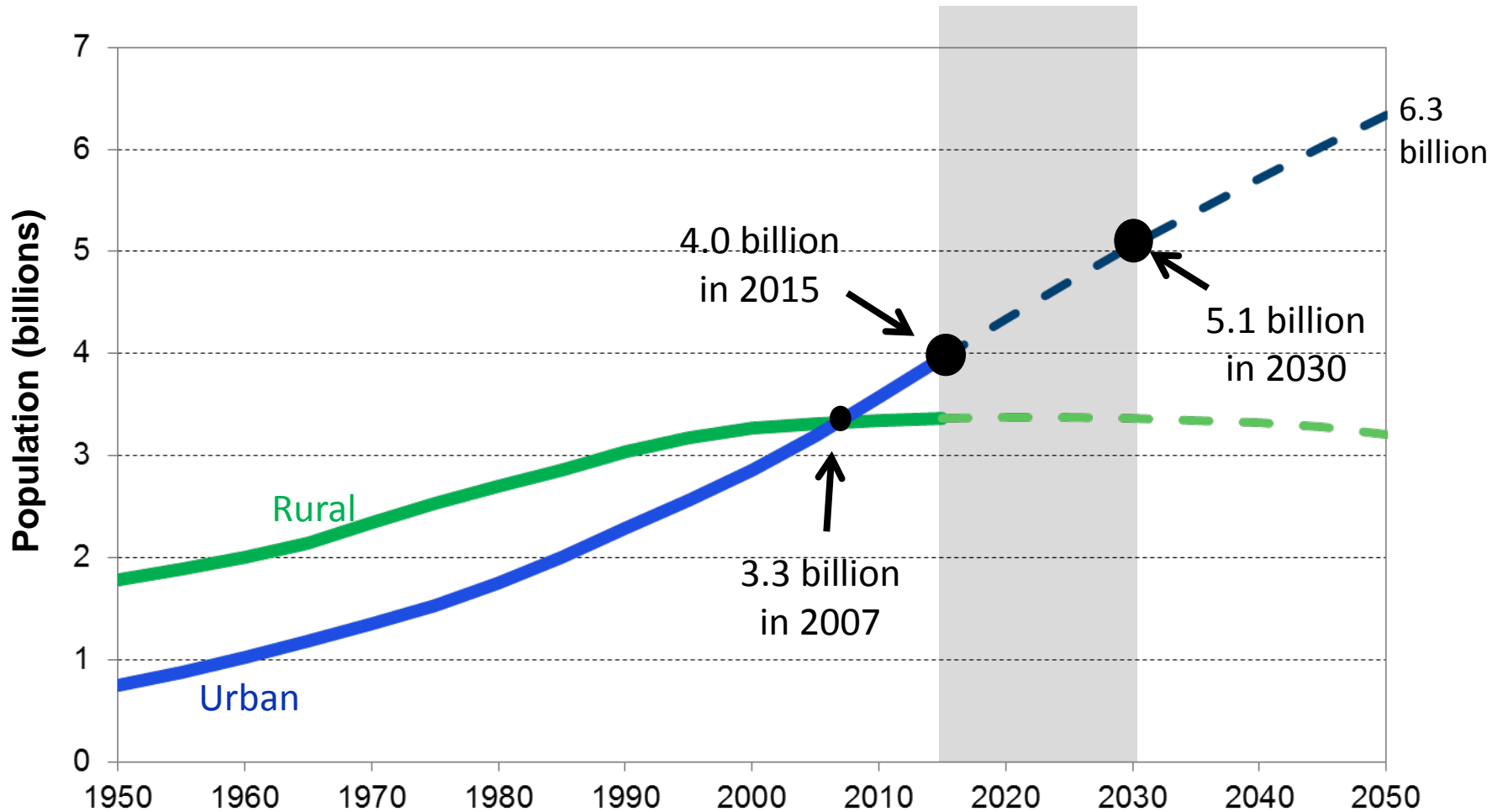


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1. 1 Global urban and rural populations



Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision.

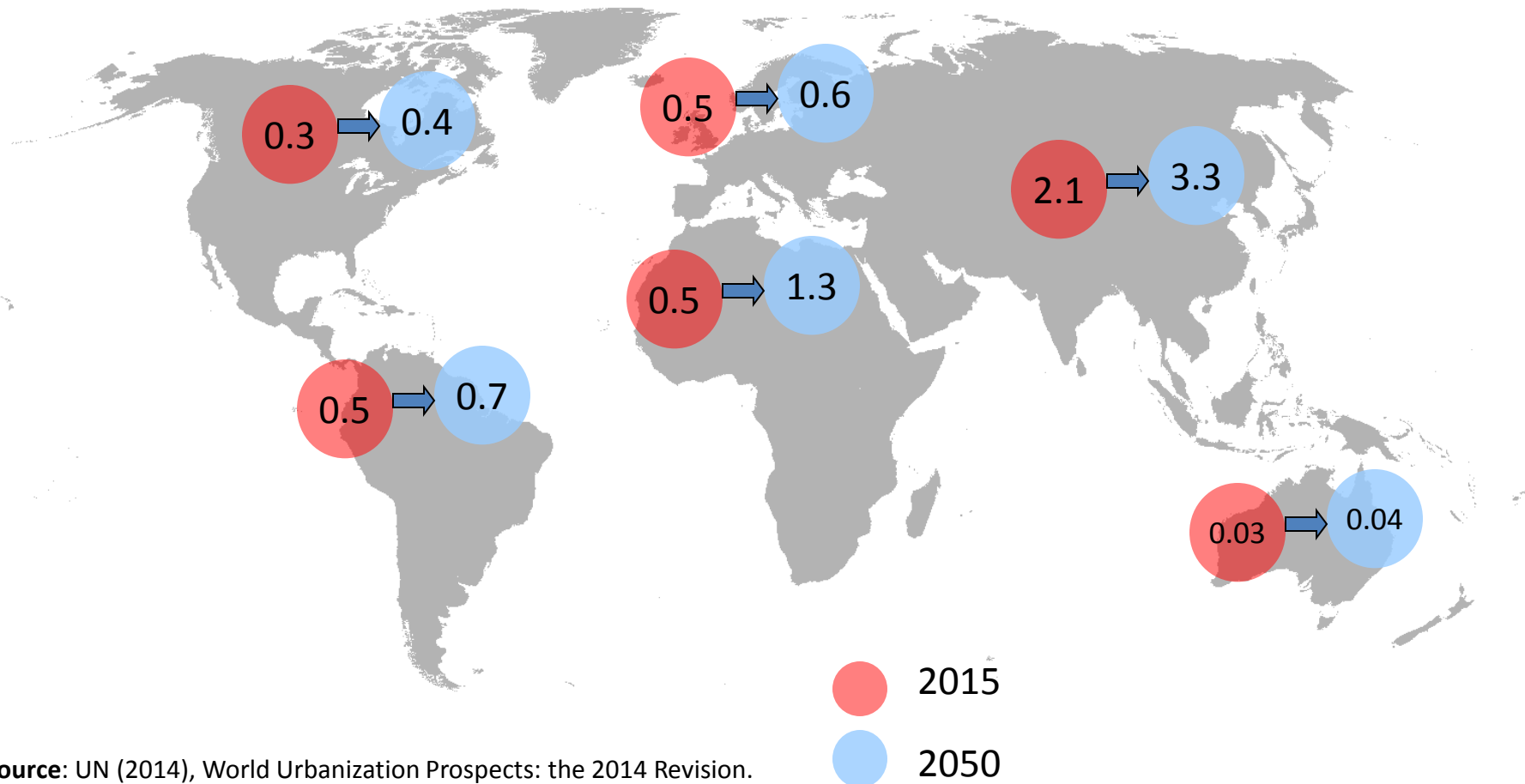


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1.2 urban population by major area (billions)



Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: the 2014 Revision.

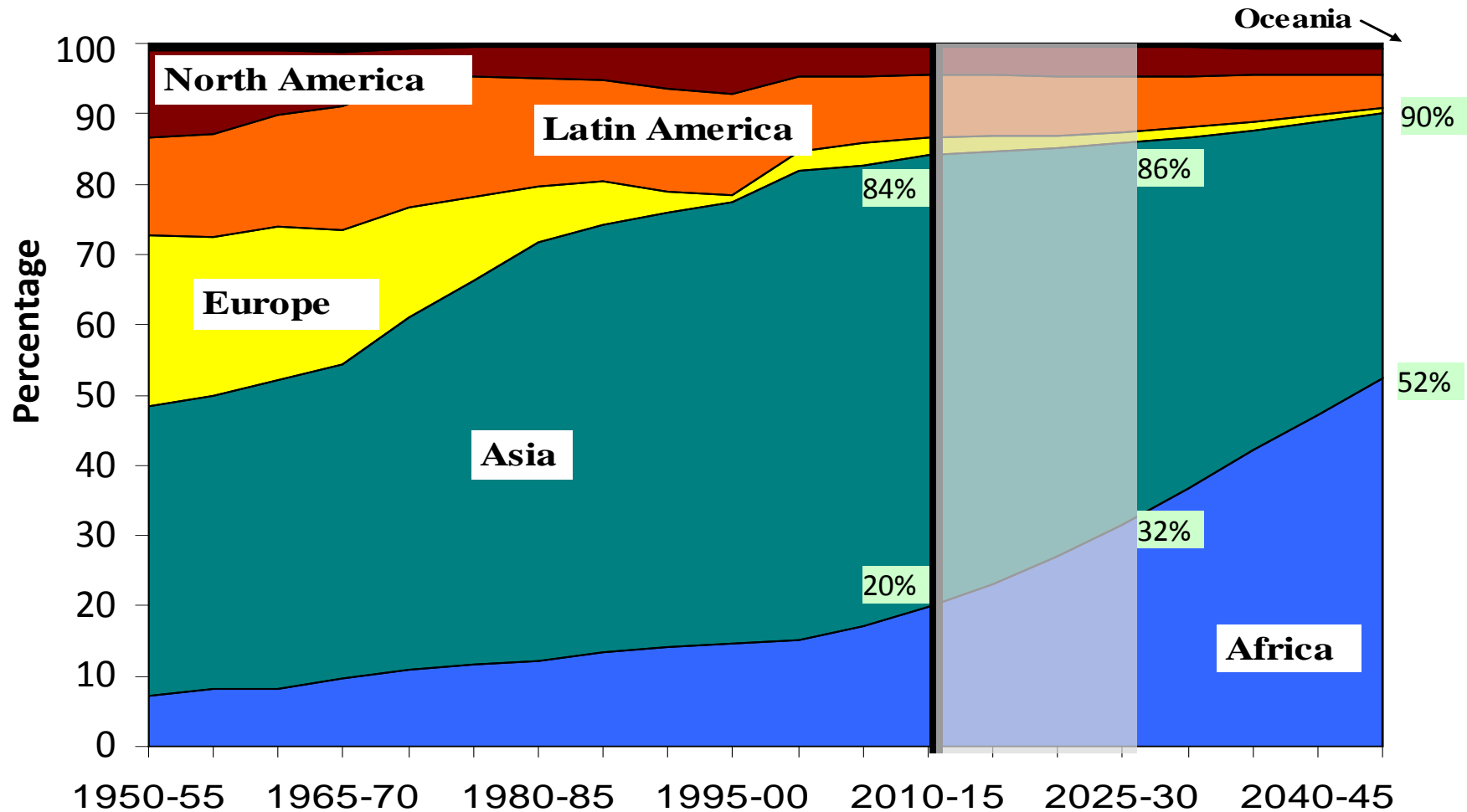


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1.3 Shares of increase in urban population by major area



Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: the 2014 Revision.

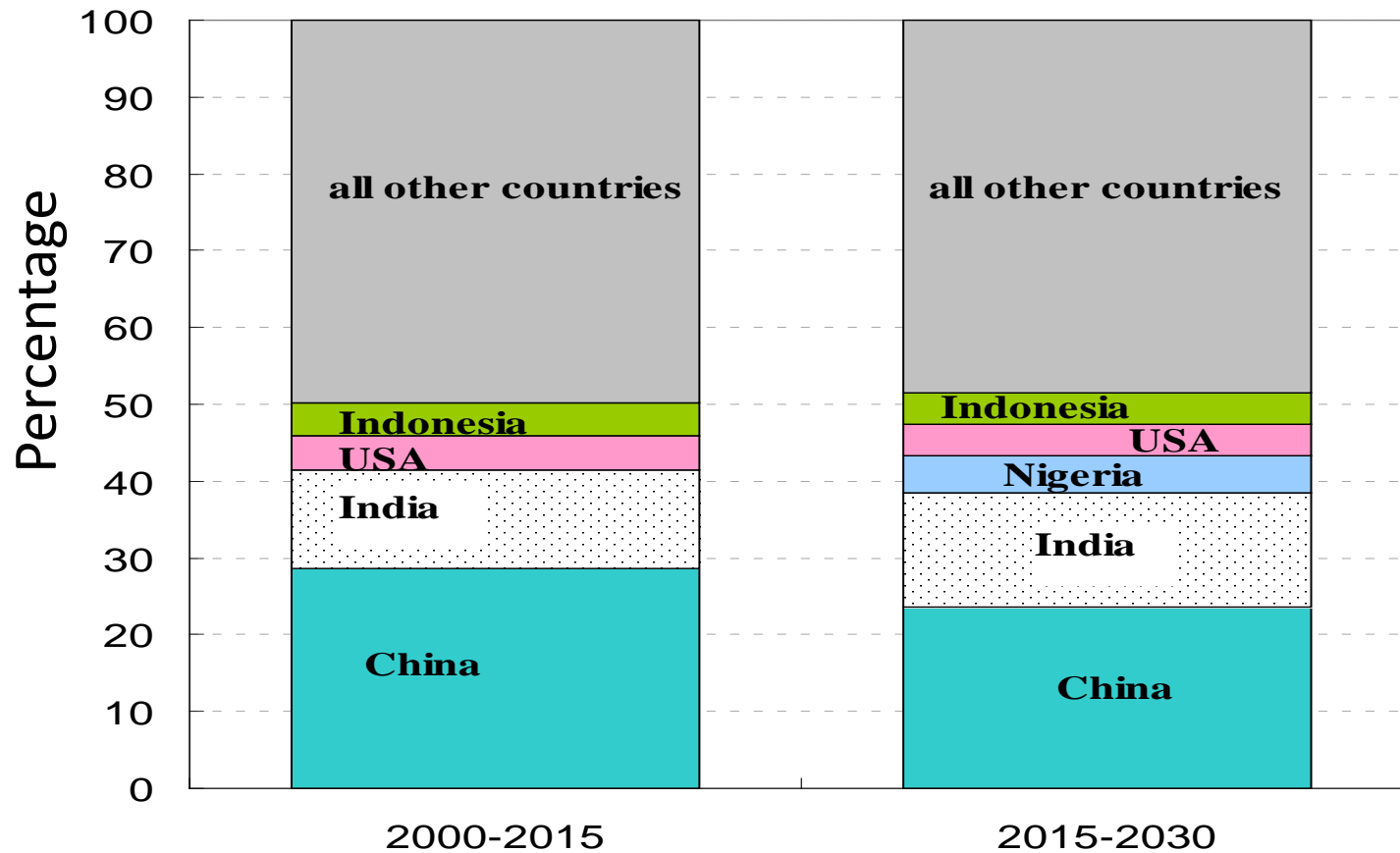


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1.4 Shares of increase in urban population by country



Note: Only countries having a percentage share above 4% are shown in the plot.

Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision.

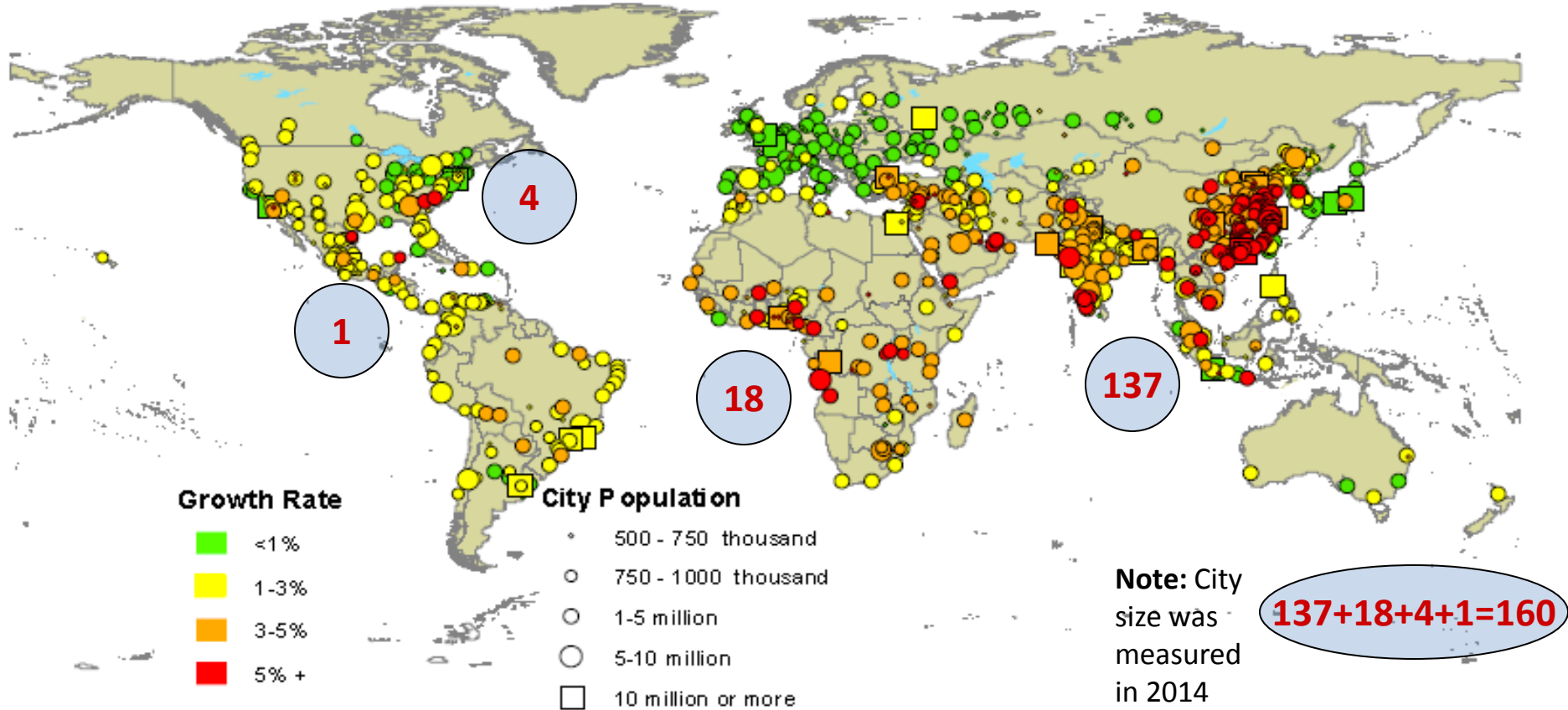


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2.1 Annual growth rate of cities, 1990-2014

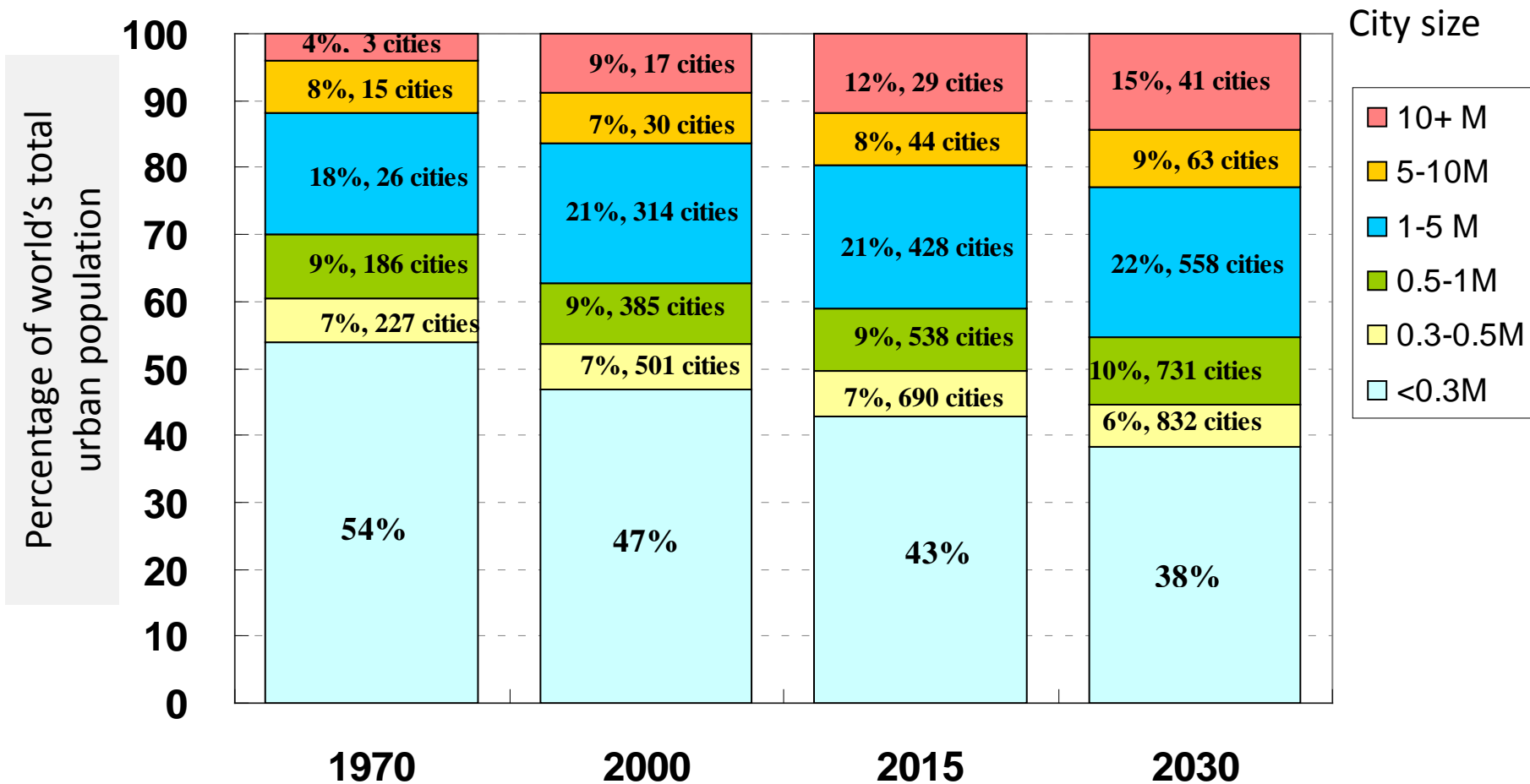


Note: Designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: the 2014 Revision.

4 # of cities with a growth rate above 5% in a given major area.

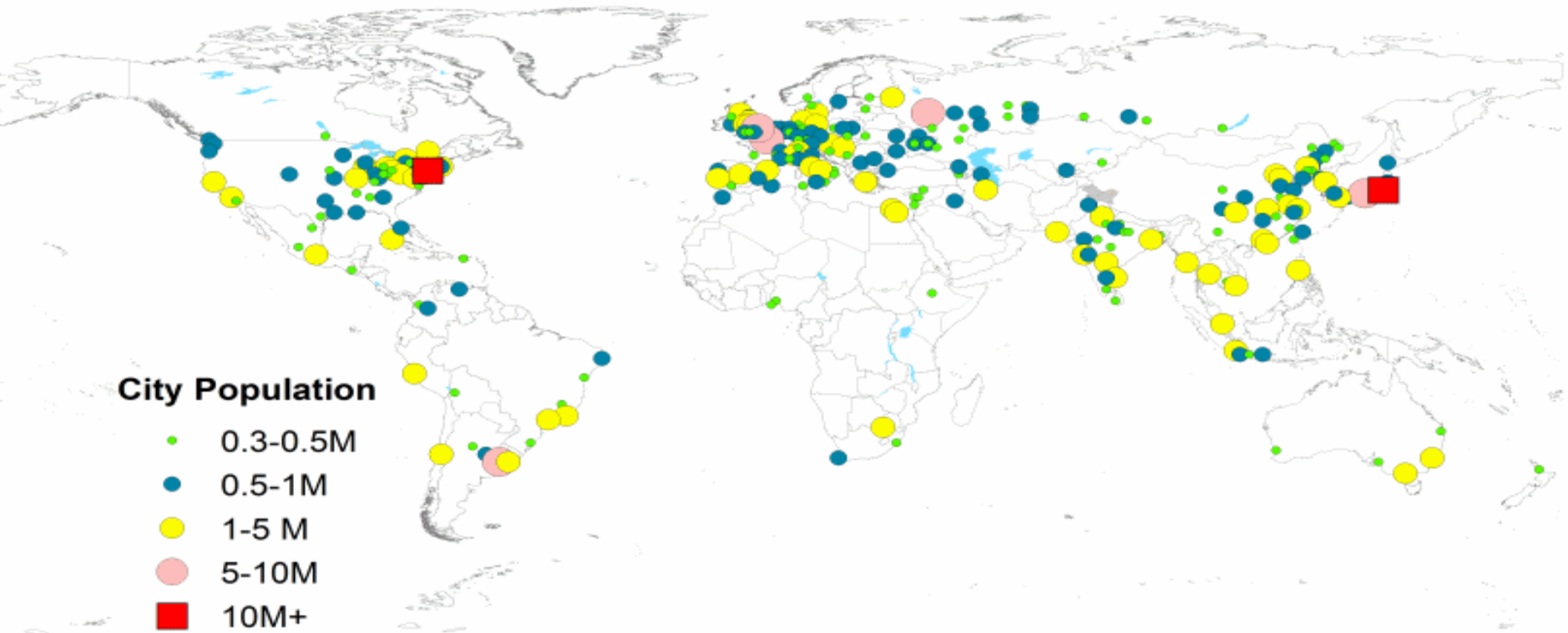
2.2 Percentage share of urban population by megacity (10+ Million people) increases faster



Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision.



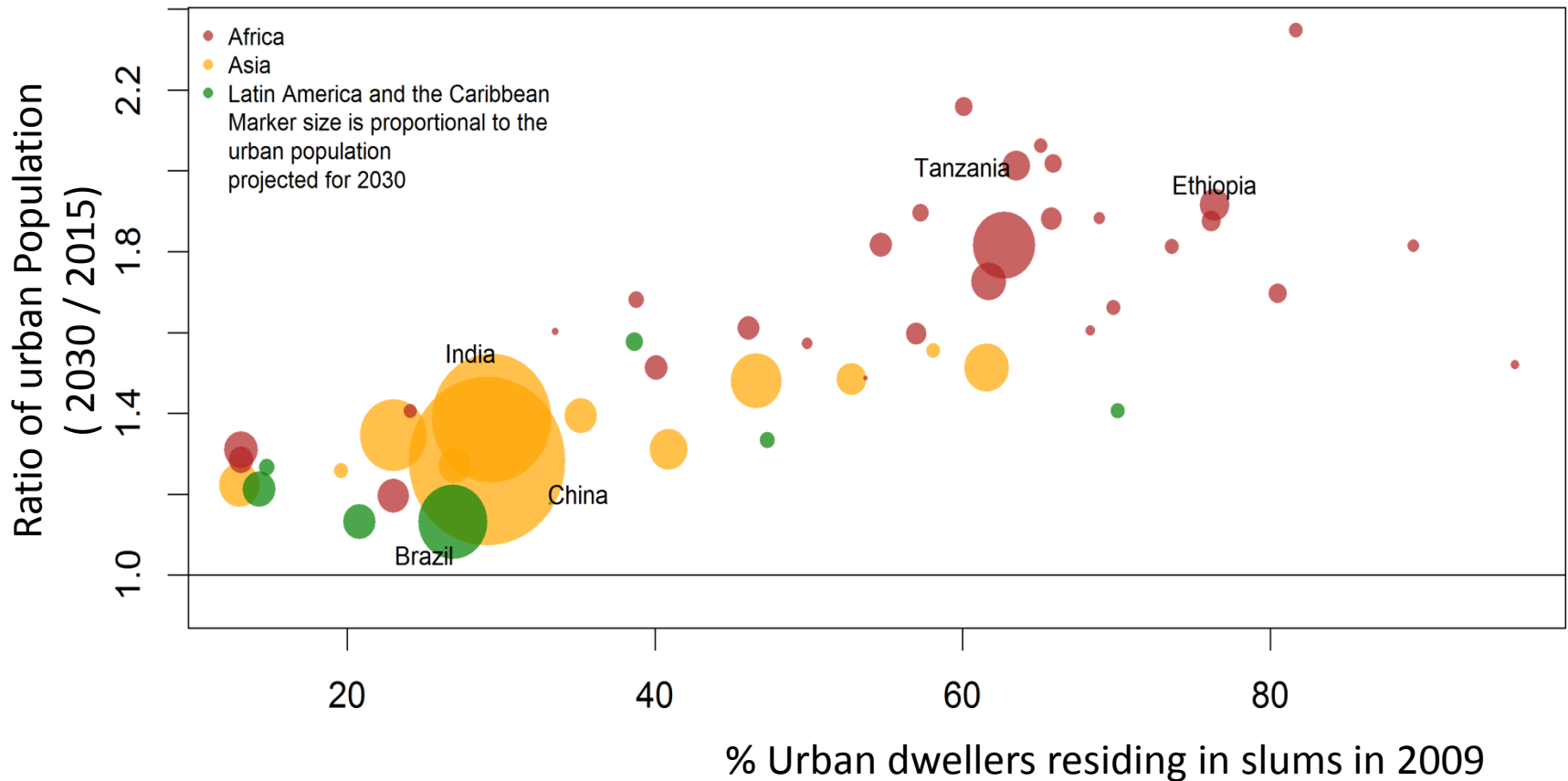
2.3 Spatial distribution of world's cities, 1950



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Source: UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision.

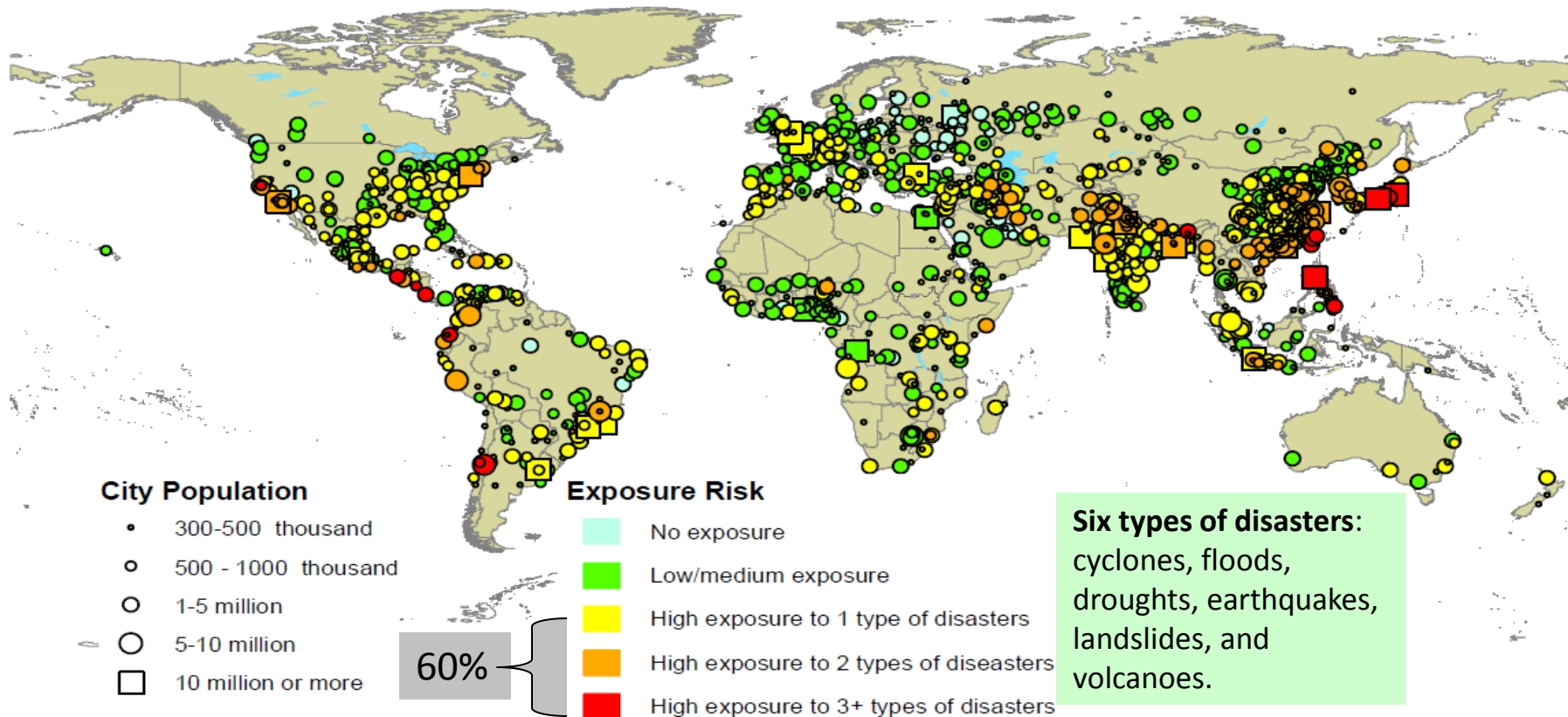
3.1 Growth in the urban population versus the proportion living in slums



Source: (1) Slum Proportion is from *Millennium Development Goals Indicators* (<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>).
 (2) Urban Population is from *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*.



3.2 Exposure risks of cities (above 0.3 m residents) to six types of natural hazards, 2014



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Source: (1) UN (2014), World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision. (2) Data on natural disaster hotspots are from Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University.

Key points

1. 1.1 billion urban population will be added by 2030, mainly from Africa and Asia.
2. Increase is concentrated in a few countries.
3. Fastest growing cities are from Asia and Africa.
4. Percentage share of urban population by megacities increases faster, yet most people lives in smaller cities.
5. Many fast growing cities in developing countries have a higher % of people living in urban slums.
6. 60% of cities are at a high risk to at least one type of natural hazard.



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