

52nd
session

Commission on Population and Development

Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General
(E/CN.9/2019/2)

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Briefing for Member States, New York, 8 March 2019

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Suggested abbreviated reading

The first 2 chapters, which contain the Introduction and the chapter on Demographic mega-trends and their implications for the 2030 Agenda, and

The last 2 chapters, which contain a short summary of the discussions undertaken during the Regional review conferences on population and development in 2018, and the Conclusions and recommendations.



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Introduction

There is much to celebrate on the 25th anniversary of the ICPD

Considerable progress observed in most areas of the Programme of Action



The world's population is becoming larger, older, more mobile and more spatially concentrated than ever before

The growth of the world population has slowed, but is most likely to continue at least into the second half of the XXIst century

The coming decades will bring the onset of population decline in some regions

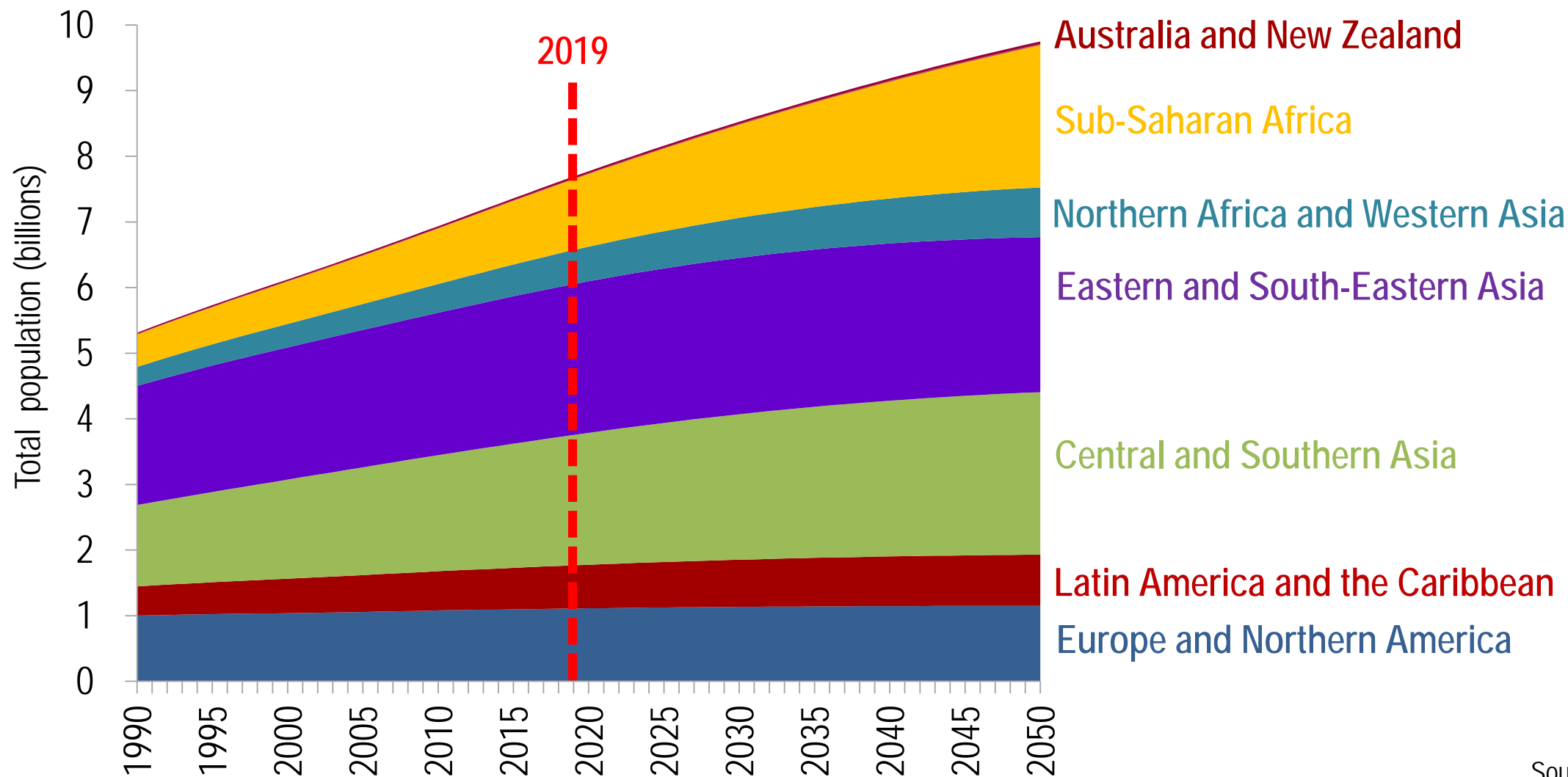


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Population of the world by region, 1990-2050



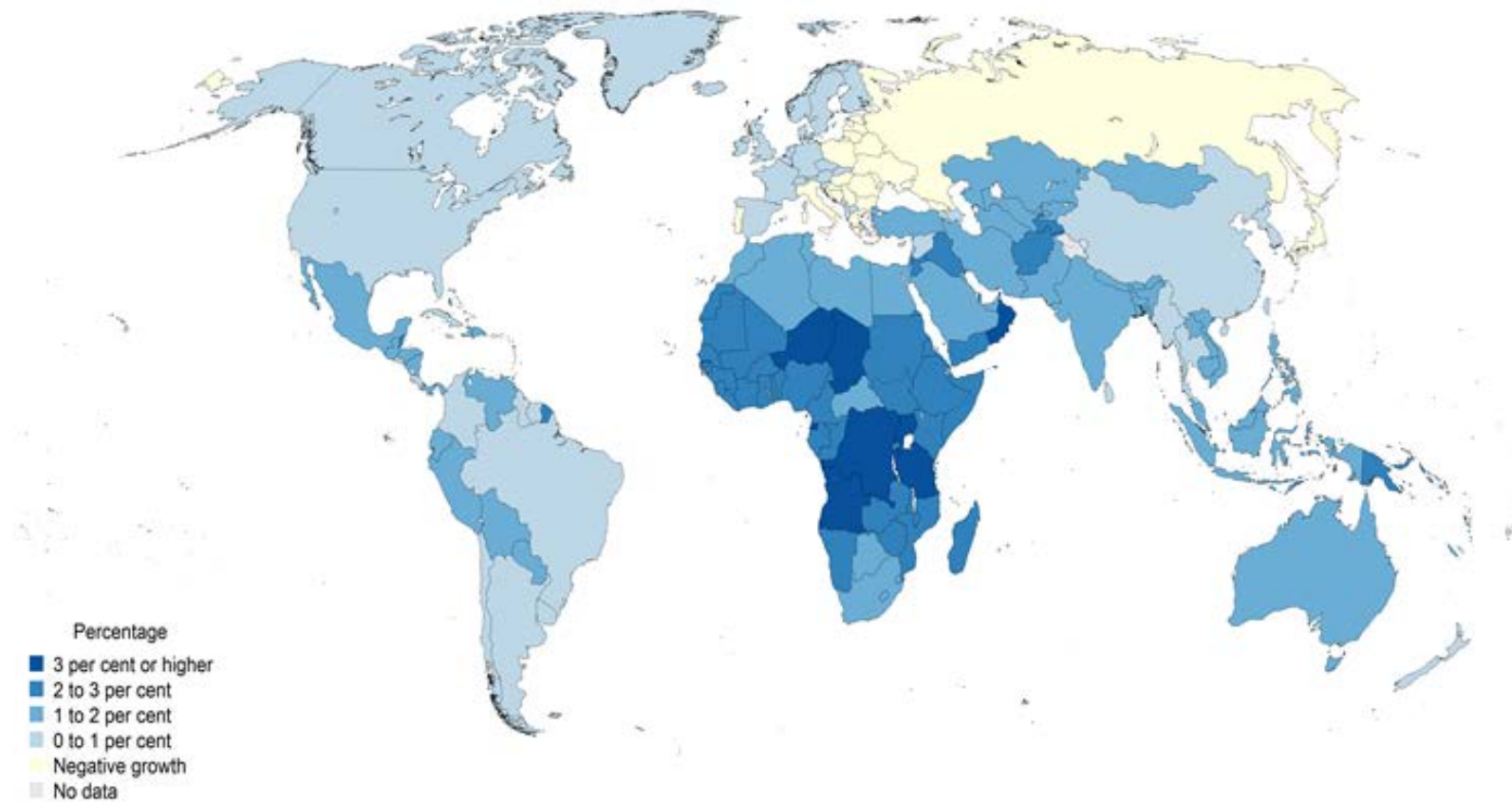
Source: WPP2017



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Data source: World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision

The 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, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).



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Population growth results from combined effects of continuing high fertility and declining mortality

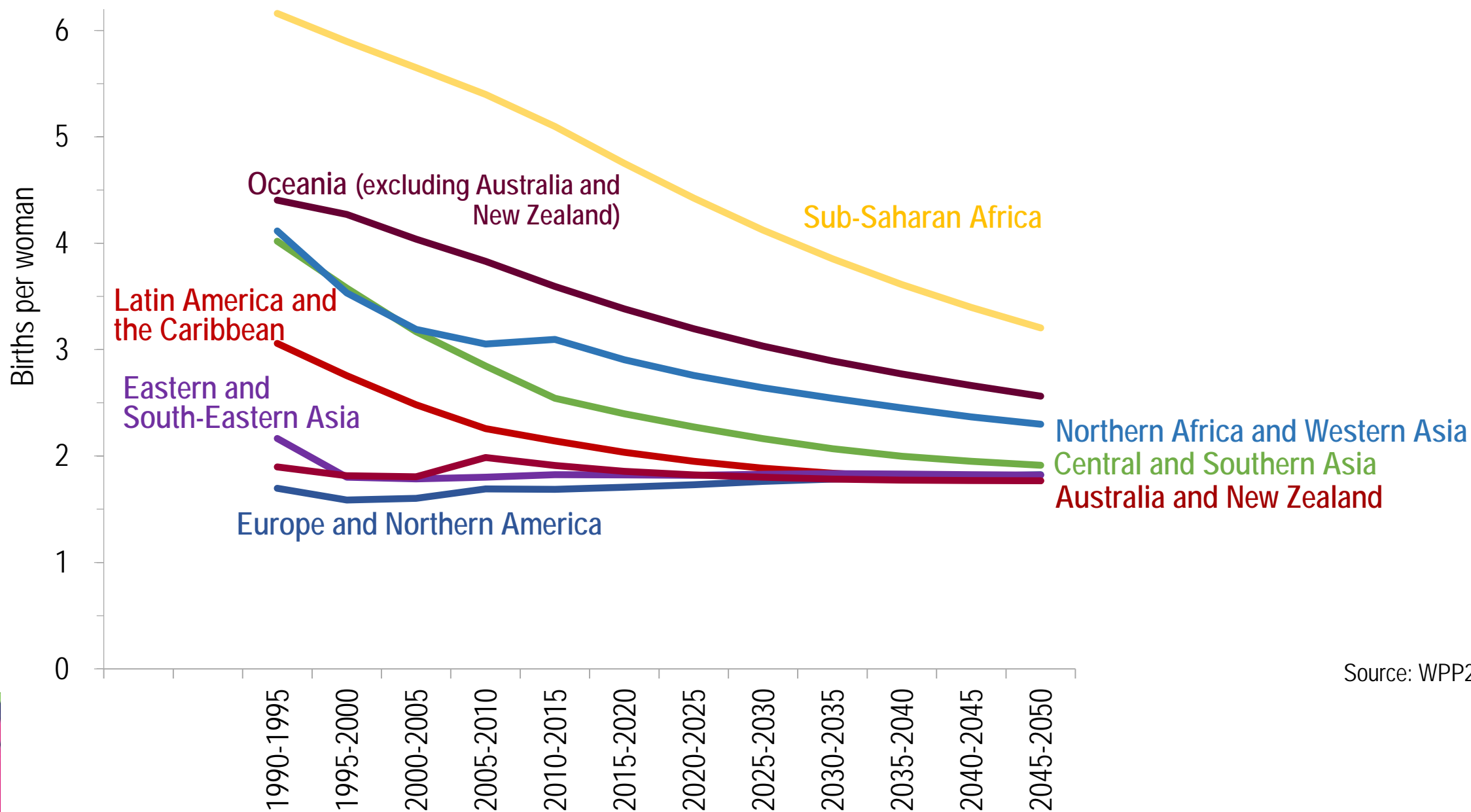


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Total fertility rates (birth per woman) by region, 1990-2050



Source: WPP2017



While the number of children per woman is declining, challenges remain

Adolescent fertility remain high in some regions and countries

Demand for family planning still not satisfied everywhere



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Major progress in health led to longer and healthier lives

But challenges related to fighting communicable diseases in some regions, and the global emergence (increased prevalence) of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

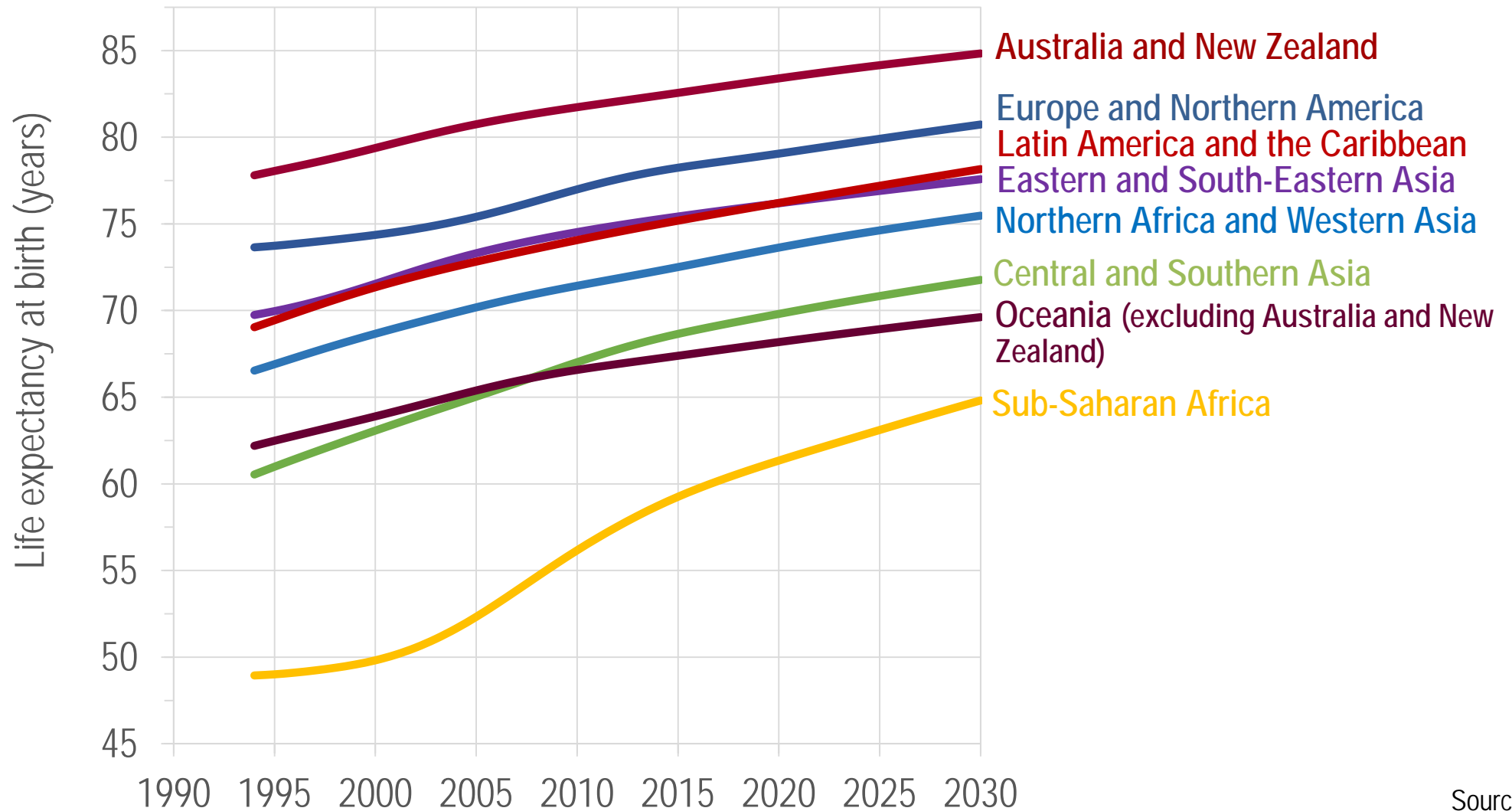


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Life expectancy at birth (years) by region, 1994-2030



Source: WPP2017

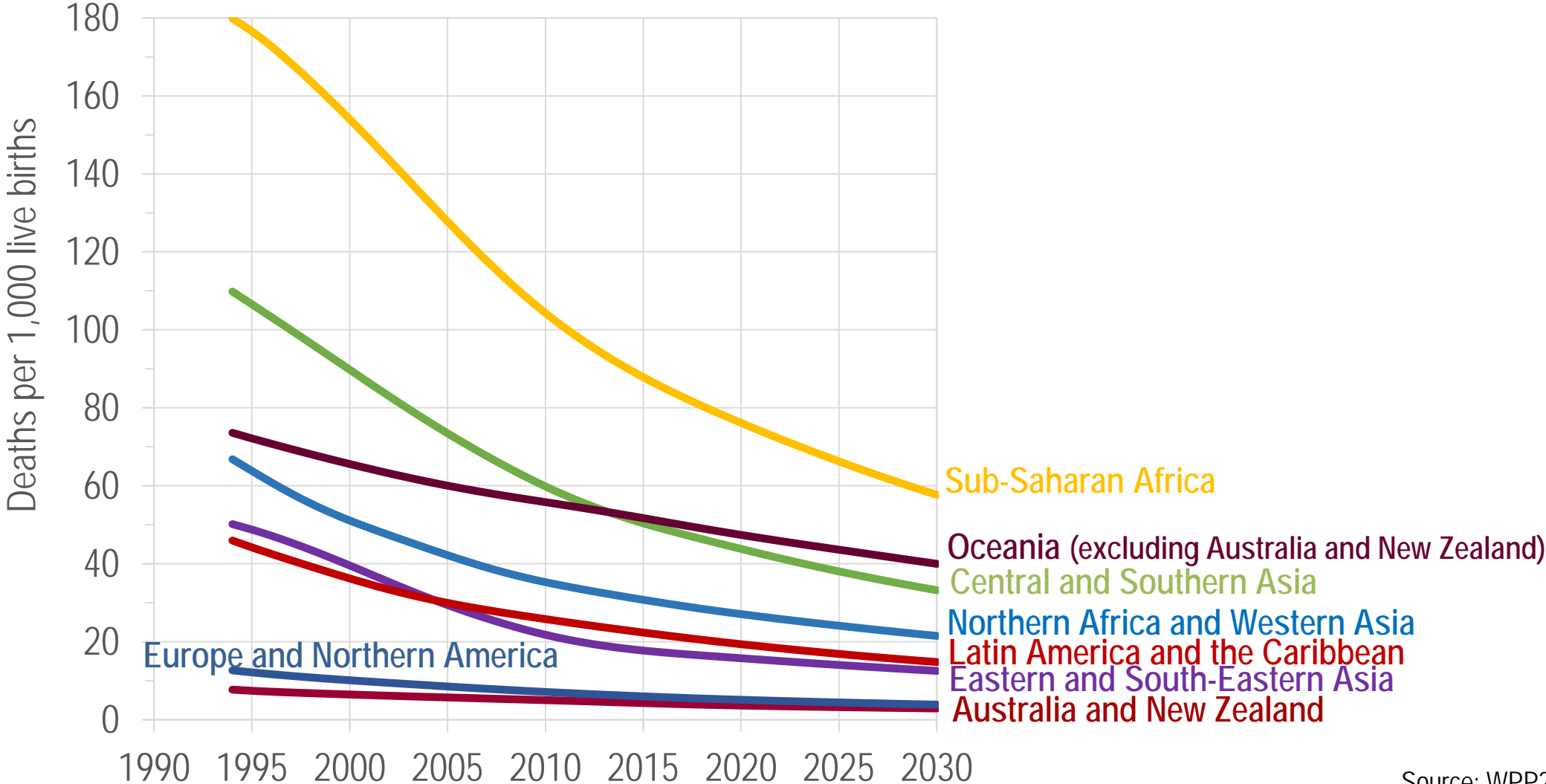


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Under-five mortality rate by region, 1994-2030



Source: WPP2017

Population ageing is one of the major demographic mega-trends. People aged 65 years or older comprise an increasing proportion of the population almost everywhere (currently around 9% globally), a trend projected to accelerate in the coming decades



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Urbanization

Almost all future growth of the human population will take place in urban areas, mostly in developing countries

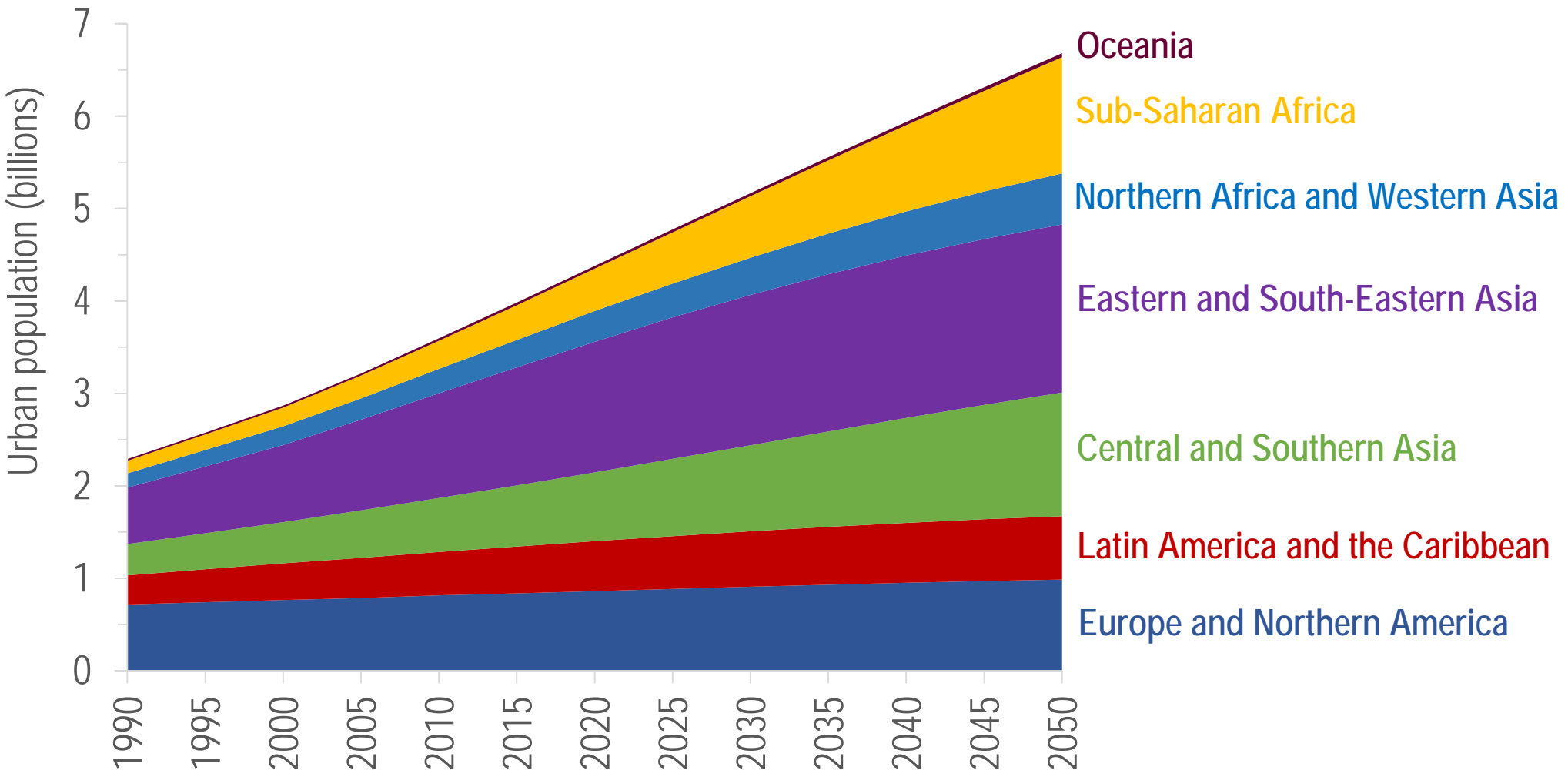


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Urban population by region (billions), 1990-2050



Source: WPP2017

Increased mobility of the world population

Significant contribution of international migration to current and future population growth in more developed regions

Some challenges but also many opportunities for migrants and migration, provided it is well managed



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Conclusions and recommendations

Continued support for universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, in accordance with the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda;

Support the realization of reproductive desires by all couples, including those with fewer children than desired, by providing access to parental leave, tax credits and especially childcare, helping parents balance work and family obligations over several years;

Improved access to education has proven synergies with improved completion rates and the quality of education, these policies reinforce each other, amplify the demographic dividend, and support a virtuous cycle of development;



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Conclusions and recommendations

National data systems strengthened to provide data disaggregated by key demographic characteristics, especially age, sex, marital status and migration status, in line with the 2030 Agenda. Georeferenced microdata should be duly anonymized to maintain confidentiality and safeguard individual privacy;

Improved collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data include leveraging the 2020 round of population censuses, making better use of migration data from administrative sources, gathering data on migration through sample surveys, supporting demand-driven training programmes, establishing regional training centres and promoting cooperation and partnerships;

Considering the interlinkages of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, population trends should feature prominently in voluntary national reviews presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development;



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