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World Population Policies 2007



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
POPULATION DIVISION

World Population Policies 2007



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DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

Note

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication 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, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The designations “developed” and “developing” countries and “more developed” and “less developed” regions are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

The term “country” as used in the text of this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

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PREFACE

This report delineates Governments' views and policies concerning population and development for 195 countries. In particular, it itemizes policies in the areas of population size and growth, population age structure, fertility and family planning, health and mortality, spatial distribution and internal migration, and international migration. Previous editions of *World Population Policies* were issued as *World Population Policies 2005* (Sales No. E.06.XIII.5) and *World Population Policies 2003* (Sales No. E.04.XIII.3). Prior to 2003, the publication was issued as *National Population Policies 2001* (Sales No. E.02.XIII.12) and *National Population Policies 1998* (Sales No. E.99.XIII.3). Before 1998, the data were published as the *Global Review and Inventory of Population Policies (GRIPP)*.

All the United Nations international population conferences held since 1974 have emphasized monitoring the implementation of their goals and recommendations. In particular, the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo in 1994 recommended that actions be taken "to measure, assess, monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the goals of its Programme of Action".¹

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date, accurate and scientifically objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on Population and Development on population and development issues. In addition, the Division undertakes studies on population levels and trends, population estimates and projections, population policies, and population and development interrelationships. The monitoring of population policies at the international level began after the World Population Plan of Action² was adopted at the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974. The Plan of Action, the first global intergovernmental instrument on population policy, called upon the United Nations to monitor national population policies.

Responsibility for *World Population Policies 2007* rests with the Population Division. Preparation of this publication was facilitated by the cooperation of Member States and non-member States of the United Nations, the regional commissions, and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system. The Population Division is particularly grateful to the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its continuing cooperation.

The data presented in this publication are also being released in electronic form on a CD-ROM. An order form is included in this volume. This publication, as well as other population information, may be accessed on the Population Division website at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

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¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, para. 13.6.

² *Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

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Explanatory notes

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

Various symbols have been used in the tables throughout this report, as follows:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

An em dash (—) indicates that the population is less than 500 persons.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Years given begin with 1 July.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 2000-2005, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the beginning year to 1 July of the end year.

Percentages in tables and figures do not necessarily add to 100 per cent because of rounding.

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern America; and Oceania. Those major areas are further divided geographically into 21 regions. In addition, the regions are classified as belonging, for statistical convenience, to either of two general groups: more developed and less developed regions. The less developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The more developed regions comprise Northern America and Europe and the following countries: Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

The group of least developed countries currently comprises 50 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

