

EXPLANATORY NOTES

World Population Policies 2011 provides information on 196 countries, including all 193 Member States and three non-member States (Cook Islands, the Holy See and Niue) of the United Nations.

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, for statistical convenience, the regions are classified as belonging to either of the two general groups: more developed and less developed regions.

The more developed regions comprise all regions of Europe plus Northern America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Countries in the more developed regions are denominated “developed countries”.

The less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Countries in the less developed regions are denominated “developing countries”.

The least developed countries include 49 countries (34 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania and 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean), as defined by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 59/209, 59/210, 60/33, 62/97, 64/L.55 and 67/L.43: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, 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, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

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.

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

Two hyphens (--) indicate that data were not collected.

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

Years given begin with 1 July.

Use of en dash (–) between years, for example, 2005–2010, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the starting year to 1 July of the ending year.

Use of en dash (–) between ages, for example, 15–49, signifies age range in completed years, from exact 15 years up to, but not including, exact age 50 years.

Use of en dash (–) between any other pair of numbers, for example, dates: 5–13 September and page numbers: pp. 90–101, signifies the full range inclusive of both the starting and the ending numbers.

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

World Population Policies 2011 uses estimates and projections of demographic indicators from the most recent *2010 Revision of World Population Prospects*. This may result in minor discrepancies from *World Population Policies 2009* that used the *2008 Revision of World Population Prospects*.

For any newly-formed States, Government views and policies are not available for previous time points, but estimates of population indicators are provided using the *2010 World Population Prospects*.