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WORLD URBANIZATION PROSPECTS: THE 2007 REVISION

KEY FINDINGS

1. The 2007 Revision corroborates that the world population will exceed 7 billion in 2011 and reach 8 billion by 2027. The most rapid rate of increase is expected in the least developed regions.

2. Between 2007 and 2050, the population living in urban areas is expected to increase by 1.8 billion, from 3.3 billion in 2007 to 5.1 billion in 2050. By mid-2007, two thirds of the 229 countries or areas included in the analysis had populations living in urban areas. Urbanization will be especially rapid in the less developed regions.

3. Over the coming decades, 70 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively, of their populations living in urban areas. Over the coming 38 years, the world rural population is expected to decrease by 1.3 billion, from 4.2 billion in 2007 to 2.9 billion in 2050. All rural inhabitants are projected to live in Asia and the Pacific region.

4. Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean are all expected to be over 90 per cent urban, and Africa and Asia will be over 80 per cent urban. In contrast, only 42 per cent of the world rural population was urban in 2007, and just under 30 per cent of their populations was urban, living in rural areas. Over the coming 38 years, the world urban population is expected to increase, so that by 2050, 64 per cent of the world population will live in urban areas (8.3 billion).

5. In 2007, two thirds of the 229 countries or areas included in the analysis had populations living in urban areas. More than 10,000 urban agglomerations are home to more than a million people, and some have populations in the millions. The mega-cities on Earth and their number is expected to more than double during 2007-2050.

6. The world urban population is expected to reach a population of about 5.1 billion in 2030 and to double to 10.2 billion in 2050. The urban population of the Russian Federation and the United States is projected to increase by 20 million and 42 million, respectively, over the coming years.

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8. The world urban population is expected to increase by 1.8 billion from 3.3 billion in 2007 to 5.1 billion in 2050. This reflects an annual rate of 1.15 per cent, which is expected to reach 1.4 per cent by 2030 and 1.5 per cent by 2050.

9. The rate of urbanization is projected to vary among the major areas. In Africa, it is expected to decline from 20 per cent in 2007 to 12 per cent in 2050, 19 per cent in 2007 to 13 per cent in 2050, and 12 per cent in 2007 to 7 per cent in 2050.

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15. Cities in the next size class, whose populations range from 100,000 to 500,000, are also expected to gain 1.3 billion more people, including 261 million in China and 197 million in India.

16. In addition to this wallchart, the results and analysis of the projections are presented in the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision, which is available free of charge online at the United Nations website.