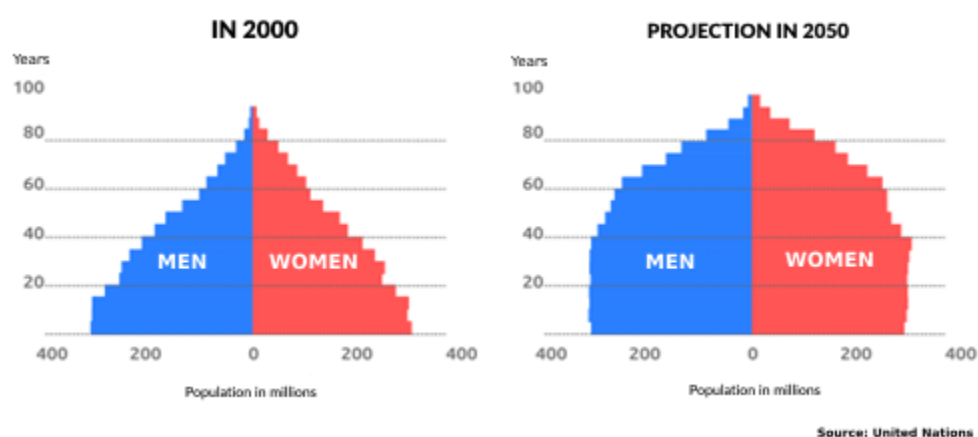# Wiki n°14: World Population: Trends and Perspectives

The global population, currently at 8 billion, is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and exceed 9.5 billion by 2050[51]. By that time, the elderly population is expected to represent a significantly larger proportion of the global population compared to 2000, as illustrated in the world age pyramid below.

World age pyramid in 2000 and 2050

The most populous countries in 2050 are forecast to be India (1.668 billion people), China (1.316 billion), the United States (375 million), and Nigeria (375 million)[52].

Geographically, the global population distribution in 2050 is projected to be highly uneven:

● **Asia** will remain the most populous region, with approximately 5.3 billion people, including 1.2 billion aged 60 and over, accounting 22.6% of the total population.[53]

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[51] World Population Prospects, Nations unies, DESA (Département des affaires économiques et sociales. https://www.un.org/fr/desa/un-report-world-population-projected-to-reach-9-6-billion-by-2050

[52] Projections par pays - Projections mondiales - Les chiffres - Ined - Institut national d'études démographiques

[53] Calculated from Population de ASIE 2050 - PopulationPyramid.net

- **Africa** will experience the strongest demographic growth; more than half of global population growth by 2050 is projected to occur on the continent, with a population that could more than double by mid-century to reach 2.4 billion, of which over 50% would be under 25 years old.

- **Europe** is anticipated to experience a population decline to around 700 million inhabitants in 2050 compared to nearly 745 million in 2024, due to a fertility rate below the replacement level (2.1 children, on average, per woman)[54] in almost all European countries. People aged 60 and over will represent more than 35% of the total population.[55]

- **The Americas** are expected to see population stagnation with 1.15 billion individuals in 2050 compared to 1 billion in 2024[56]. In the United States, the proportion of individuals aged 65 and over is projected to grow from 17% in 2022 to 22% in 2050[57]. In Latin America and the Caribbean, this age group will increase from 9% to nearly 20% over the same period.

Fertility rates are expected to continue declining globally and remain below the population replacement rate, even with the implementation of pro-natalist policies. For instance, South Asia is predicted to experience the steepest decline, with fertility rates falling from 25% in 2021 to 17% in 2050. This trend could have far-reaching socioeconomic consequences:

- In high-income countries, an aging population will increase healthcare and retirement expenses, placing significant strain on social security systems.

- A smaller pool of young workers to replace retirees could lead to labor shortages, negatively impacting productivity and economic growth.

- The growing share of births in the least developed regions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, may exacerbate global economic and social disparities.

Morocco's population is projected to reach 43.6 million by mid-2050, with a fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman. This figure contrasts with Africa's average fertility rate of 4.3, and 4.6 in sub-Saharan Africa[58].

Considering the above trends, global governance should account for the evolving needs of different population categories.

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[54] Population | United Nations

[55] Calculated from Population of EUROPE 2050 - PopulationPyramid.net

[56] World Population Prospects, Nations unies, DESA (Département des affaires économiques et sociales. https://www.un.org/fr/desa/un-report-world-population-projected-to-reach-9-6-billion-by-2050

[57] US Department of Commerce. U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p25-1144.pdf

[58] 2023-World-Population-Data-Sheet-Booklet.pdf (prb.org)