

GLOBAL
STATE OF
METROPOLIS

2020

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Global State of Metropolis 2020 – Population Data Booklet

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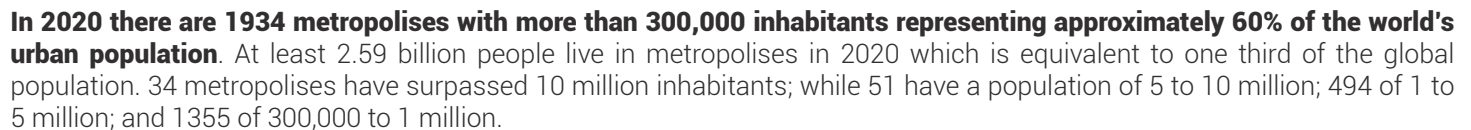
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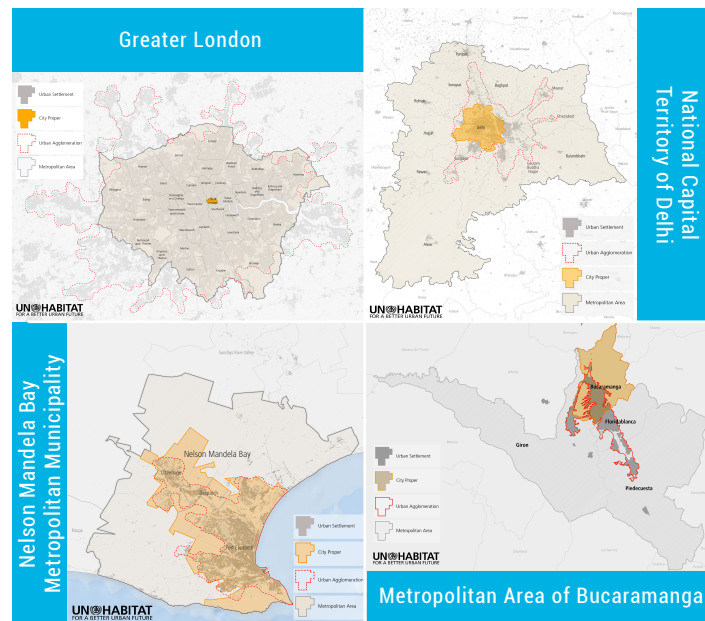


The metropolis of the 21st century

As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development depends increasingly on the successful management of urban growth (UN, 2018). Between 2000 and 2015, cities grew by 1.5% a year in terms of area. Growth in the land covered by cities was higher in low-income countries (2.6%), than in middle-income countries (1.9% in lower middle and 1.5% in upper middle) or high-income countries (1%) (EC OECD, 2020). Due to that expansion, many cities have grown beyond the boundaries of their central municipality.¹

Rising population and uncontrolled urban land consumption rates have been responsible for the rise of bigger and denser cities and metropolises. **Definitions of cities, urban agglomerations and metropolitan areas vary depending on legal, administrative, political, economic or cultural criteria in the respective countries and regions.** In March 2020, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a global definition of cities to facilitate international comparison.² This definition captures the full extent of a city including the dense areas beyond the municipal boundaries. It defines a metropolitan area as a city and its commuting zone, which consists of suburban, periurban and rural areas economically and socially linked to the city. An approach supported by metropolitan authorities and experts and the World Urbanization Prospects (WUP).

WUP uses the term **urban agglomeration** for cities whose contiguous territory have surpassed the “city proper” or local administrative boundaries and includes the adjacent suburban and peri-urban areas. WUP also uses the term **metropolitan area** to include rural areas socially and economically linked. This Data Booklet uses the datasets from the 2018 revision of WUP to analyse global and regional metropolitan trends among the United Nations Regional Groups.³ This Booklet is in support of the forthcoming UN-Habitat Global State of Metropolis Report.



2. A recommendation on the method to delineate cities, urban and rural areas for international statistical comparisons.

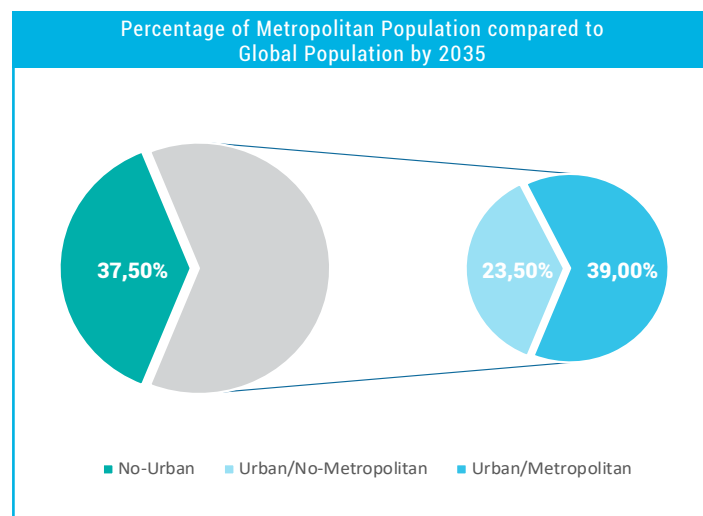
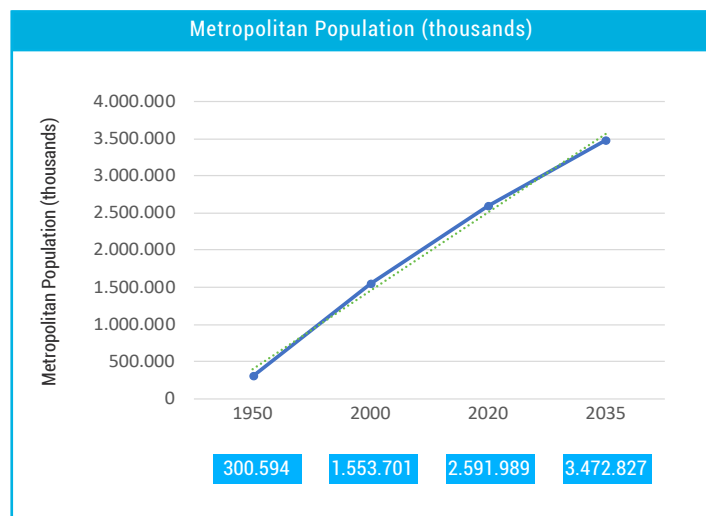
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3-Recommendation-E.pdf>

3. The numbers in this Data Booklet must be understood as minimum figures which could be larger if new information is reported to and analysed by UN Population Division.

1. World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision – Key Facts. UN (2018). <https://population.un.org/wup/> and Cities in the World: A New Perspective on Urbanisation. EC OECD (2020). <http://oe.cd/pub/32b>

Metropolitan population will grow rapidly

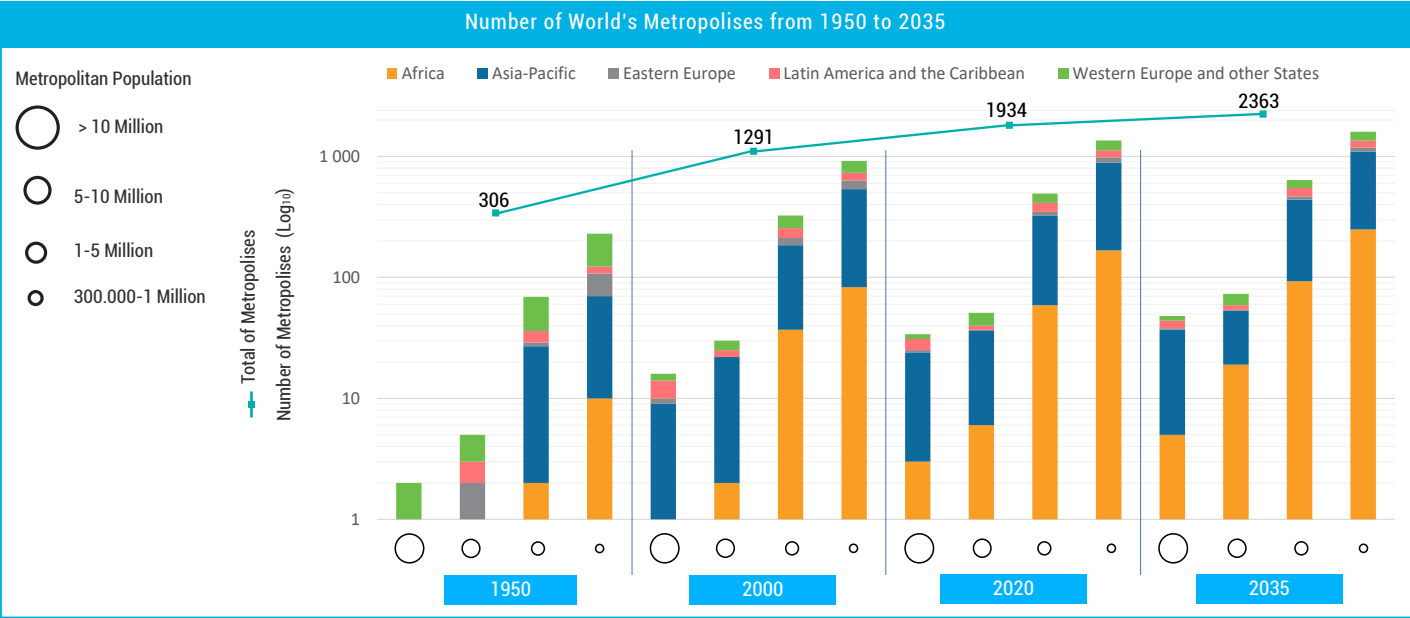
It is projected that the number of **people living in metropolises in 2035 will increase to 3.47 billion** representing 39% of the global population and 62.5% of the world's urban population. Almost 1 billion people will become metropolitan inhabitants in the next fifteen years.



Metropolises will represent the human settlements typology with the largest population worldwide, followed by rural settlements and other urban settlement configurations. On their part, non-agglomerated cities with less than 300,000 inhabitants will represent almost a quarter of the world's population and 23.5% of the urban population, equivalent to 2 billion people.

The number of world's metropolises will continue to increase in the coming years

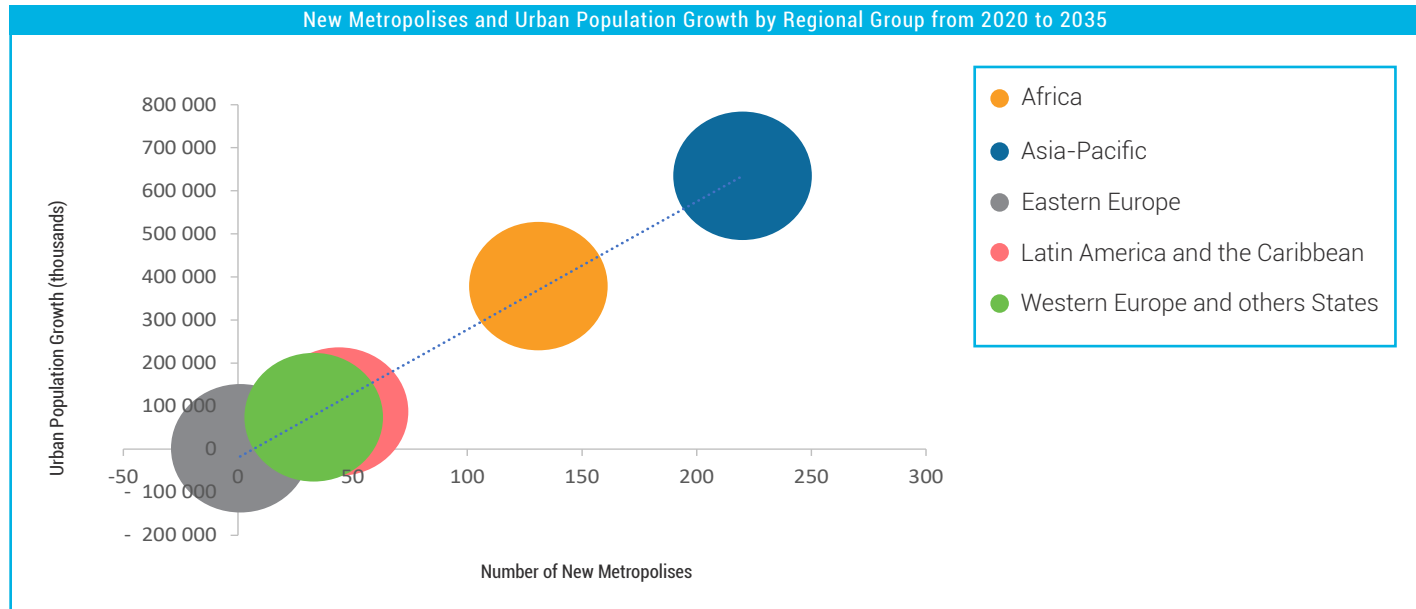
A new metropolis will arise every two-weeks in the next fifteen years for a total of **429 new metropolises**.



2363 metropolises are projected to exist by 2035. Out of these, there will be 14 new metropolises with more than 10 million inhabitants and 22 new metropolises with a population of between 5 and 10 million.

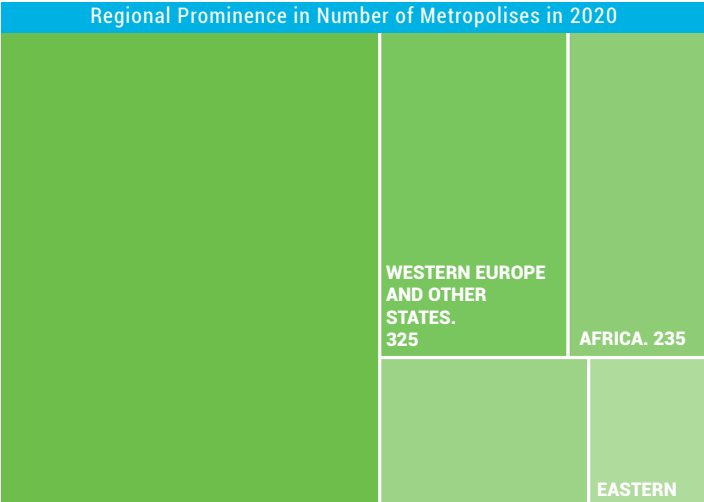
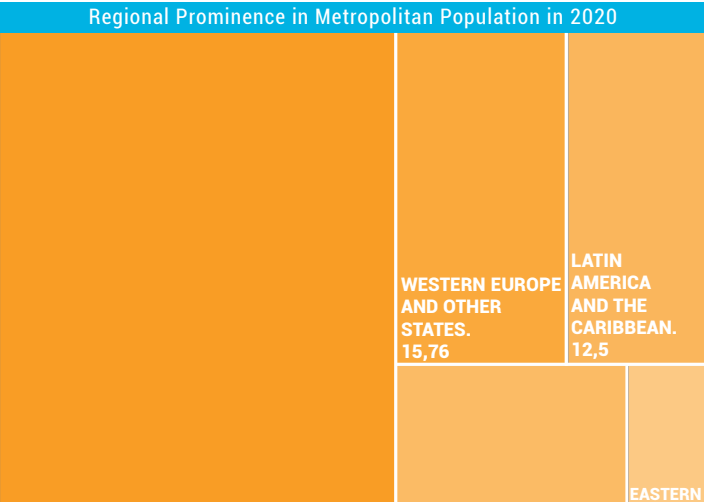
Urban population growth and the emergence of new metropolises are related

There is a **positive relationship between urban population growth and the emergence of new metropolises** among the Regional Groups. All the regions will exhibit an emergence of new metropolises along with the rise in urban population.



Asia-Pacific and Africa will lead the growth while Eastern Europe will remain stable. Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Western Europe and other States will show an increase in numbers albeit at slower rates.

Asia-Pacific is the most prominent Regional Group with regards to metropolitan figures while Eastern Europe is the least in 2020



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