

PREFACE

The *World Population Policies 2013* report delineates Governments' views and policies concerning population and development for 197 countries, including all 193 Member States, two Observer States (the Holy See and the State of Palestine) and two non-member States (Niue and Cook Islands). In particular, it itemizes policies in the areas of population size and growth, population age structure, fertility, reproductive health and family planning, health and mortality, spatial distribution and internal migration, and international migration. The *World Population Policies* report has been published biennially since 2003. Prior to 2003, the report was published as *National Population Policies* in 2001 and 1998. Before 1998, the world population policies data were published in a series of monitoring reports and biennial revisions of the *Global Review and Inventory of Population Policies (GRIPP)* database.

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 Population Division has been implementing *the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development* every five years since 1963 to gather information about Governments' views and policies about population issues. The systematic 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 trends and policies.

Responsibility for World Population Policies reports rests with the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Preparation of *World Population Policies 2013* 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 data on World Population Policies presented in this publication, as well as the country profiles and other population information, can be accessed on the Population Division website at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>. The data and the publication can also be requested in electronic format on a CD-ROM from the Policy Section of the Population Division.

Questions and comments concerning this publication should be addressed to the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, New York, NY 10017, phone: 212-963-3209, fax: 212-963-2147, e-mail: population@un.org.

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.

CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Mr. Vinod Mishra, Mr. Victor Gaigbe-Togbe, Ms. Yumiko Kamiya and Ms. Julia Ferre. Mr. John Kanakos provided programming and data analysis support and Ms. Theresa Nguyen provided formatting and editorial support.

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