Cities In the World
A new Perspective on Urbanisation

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Harmonised definitions shed new light on urbanisation

- Two **consistent, global definitions** of cities and metropolitan areas
- **Fills a void:** no consistent existing global definitions
Where do people live?

- City populations have doubled over the last 40 years and will increase from 48% to 55% of the world’s population by 2050.
What does the future hold for city and rural populations?

City populations are projected to grow from **3.5 billion in 2015** to **5 billion in 2050**.
Focus of *Cities of the World* report

1. Determines **which metropolitan areas grew and declined**, and why.
2. Examines how the urban system **changes with economic development**.
3. Analyses differences in **quality of life** across different areas.
4. Assesses the **changing shape** of cities and its impact on **service delivery** and **sustainable development**.
Metropolitan Growth
Population growth is increasingly concentrated in large metropolitans.

This exacerbates challenges for:

- transport provision
- affordable housing
- pollution

**Annual growth - metropolitan areas (2000 – 2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Growth - metropolitan areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50k-250k</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250k-1mil</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1mil-5mil</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5mil+</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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</table>
One-fifth of metropolitan areas in the world are shrinking

Currently 20% decline since 2005

Looking forward 30% decline by 2050
Development & Urban systems
Countries with higher GDP per capita have larger proportions of the population living in metropolitan areas.
Metropolitan structure matters for within-country regional disparities:

• Regions with larger metropolitan areas tend to be richer.
• Regional income disparities are greater in middle-income countries than in the poorest and the richest countries.
Life in Cities
Cities offer the highest quality of life

• Evidence from 111 countries shows that city residents are more satisfied with their lives.
• This trend explains why people continue to be attracted by cities, driving urbanisation.
Residents in cities enjoy better living conditions:

- Fewer health problems, better access to services (digitalisation)

But cities also face:

- More crime and violence, urban ills (air pollution, obesity, stress)
Shape of cities and sustainable development
How do cities grow?

- Globally, cities have **continuously become denser** over the past 40 years.
- Policy-makers need to accompany the increasing population density with **better access to services and affordable housing**.

### Decomposing average annual population growth in cities, 1975-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Densification</th>
<th>Expansion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975-1990</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2015</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The growth & increasing density of cities raise serious challenges

- The growth and increasing density of cities raises their exposure to climate change risks.
- In cities, risks associated with sea-level rise has been increasing.
The way forward
Implications for future OECD work

OECD and EC setting a new benchmark for sub-national statistics

Key instrument for urban policy and SDG monitoring: better data for better lives

Important topics for future work:

- Shrinking cities & managing decline smartly
- Managing urbanisation with sustainable development
- Specific challenges of intermediary cities
- Digital and physical infrastructure investment needs in rural areas
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What is a Metropolitan Area?

For the OECD and the European Commission, Metropolitan Areas extend beyond cities to include cities' commuting zones.

Where does your region or city stand today with respect to the 2030 Agenda?
THANK YOU

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