Improving data on international migration: Capacity building and innovative practices

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UN/DESA – Key migration activities

- Population Division
  - Intergovernmental migration processes
  - Global migration estimates
- Statistics Division
  - Migration data collection
  - Migration data standards and guidelines
- Population + Statistics Division
  - Capacity building on migration data

Who is an international migrant?

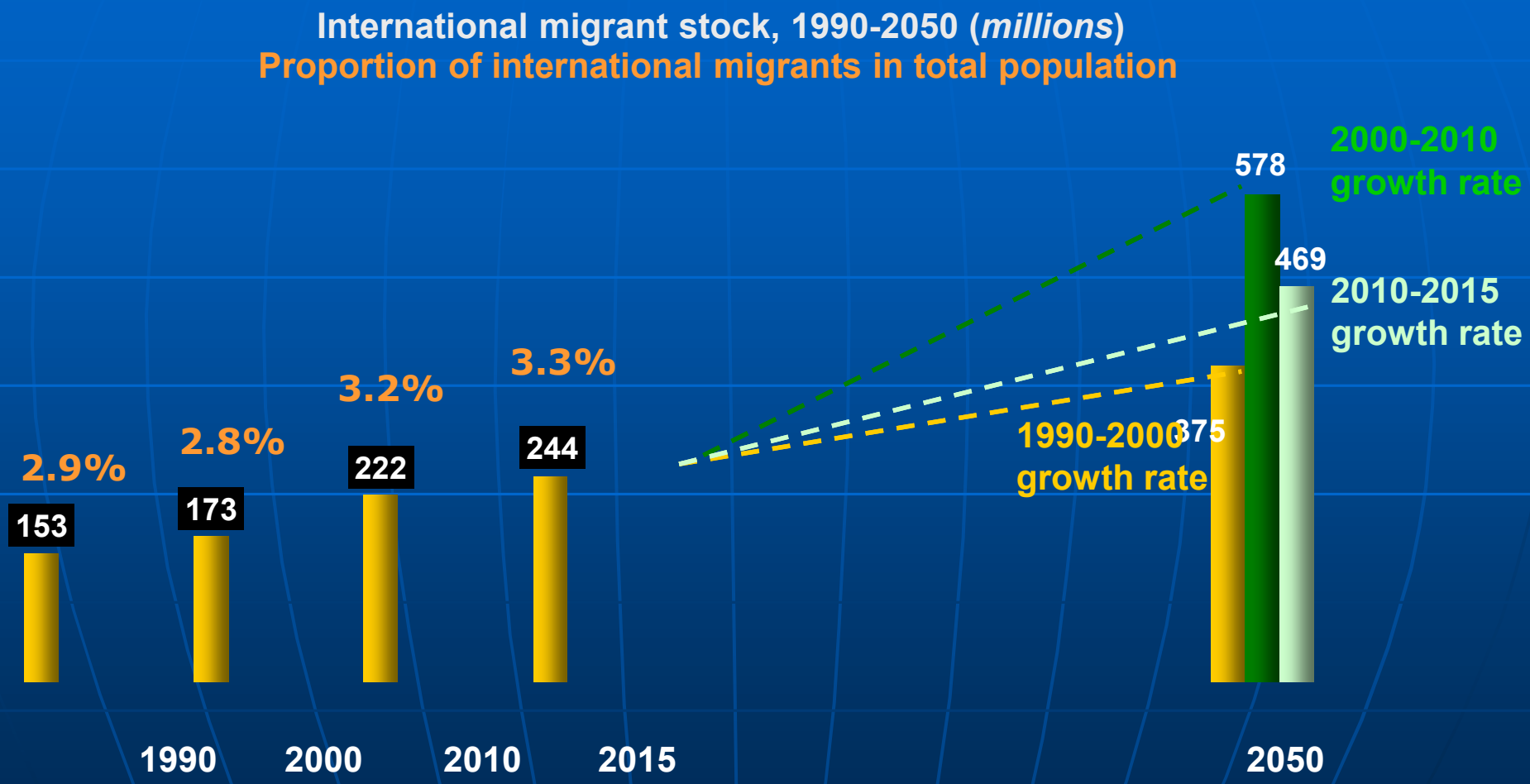
(UNDESA, 1998. Recommendation on statistics of international migration)

- Any person who changes her/his country of residence
  - Part of this definition:
    - A move
    - Minimum duration of stay
  - Not part of this definition:
    - Reason (work, family, study, asylum, etc.)
    - Legal status

Migration at the UNGA

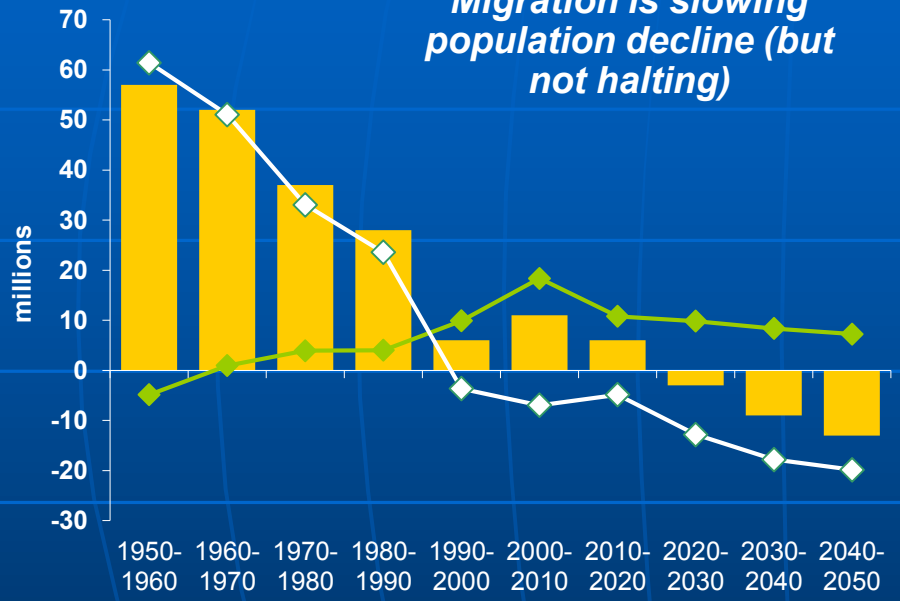
1. Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on international migration and development (2013)
2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, incl. SDGs and AAAA (2015)
3. NY Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016):
   - *Global migration compact (2018)*
   - *Global refugee compact (2018)*
   - *Guidance on vulnerable migrants (2018)*

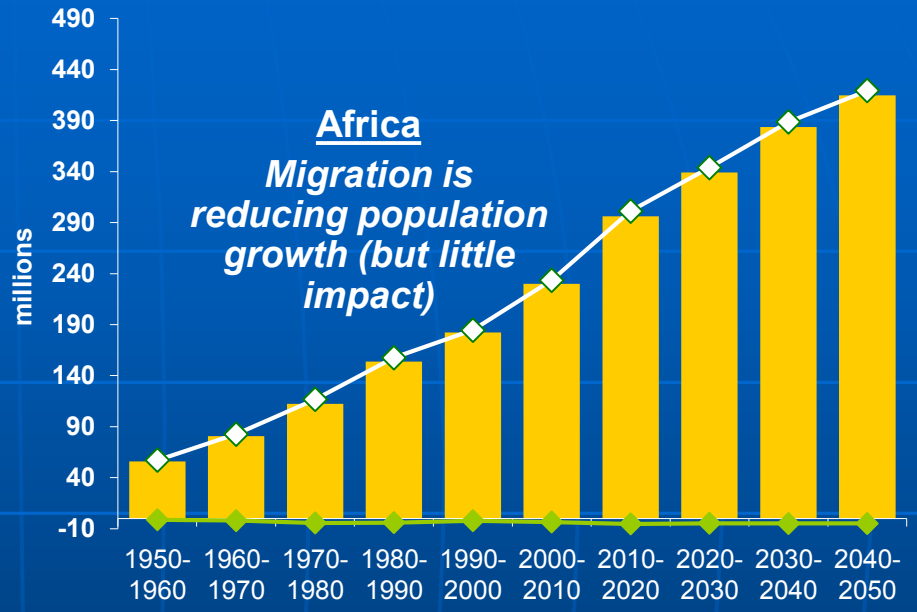
Global number of international migrants likely to increase



Source: UN/DESA, Population Division (2015).
Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 revision

The components of population change - Africa and Europe compared





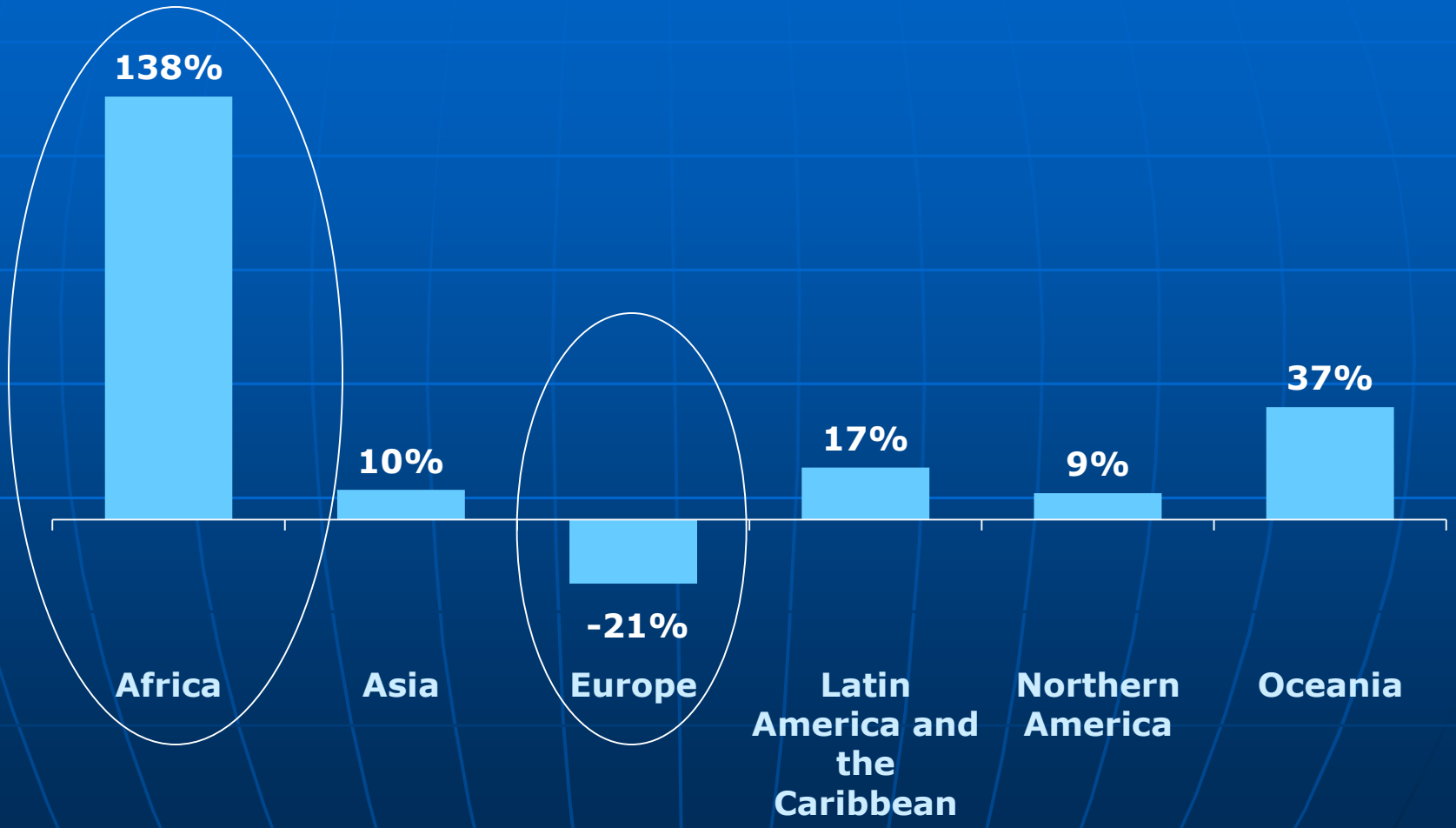
Total net population change

Immigration-emigration

Births-deaths

Demography: a powerful driver of migration and a case for development

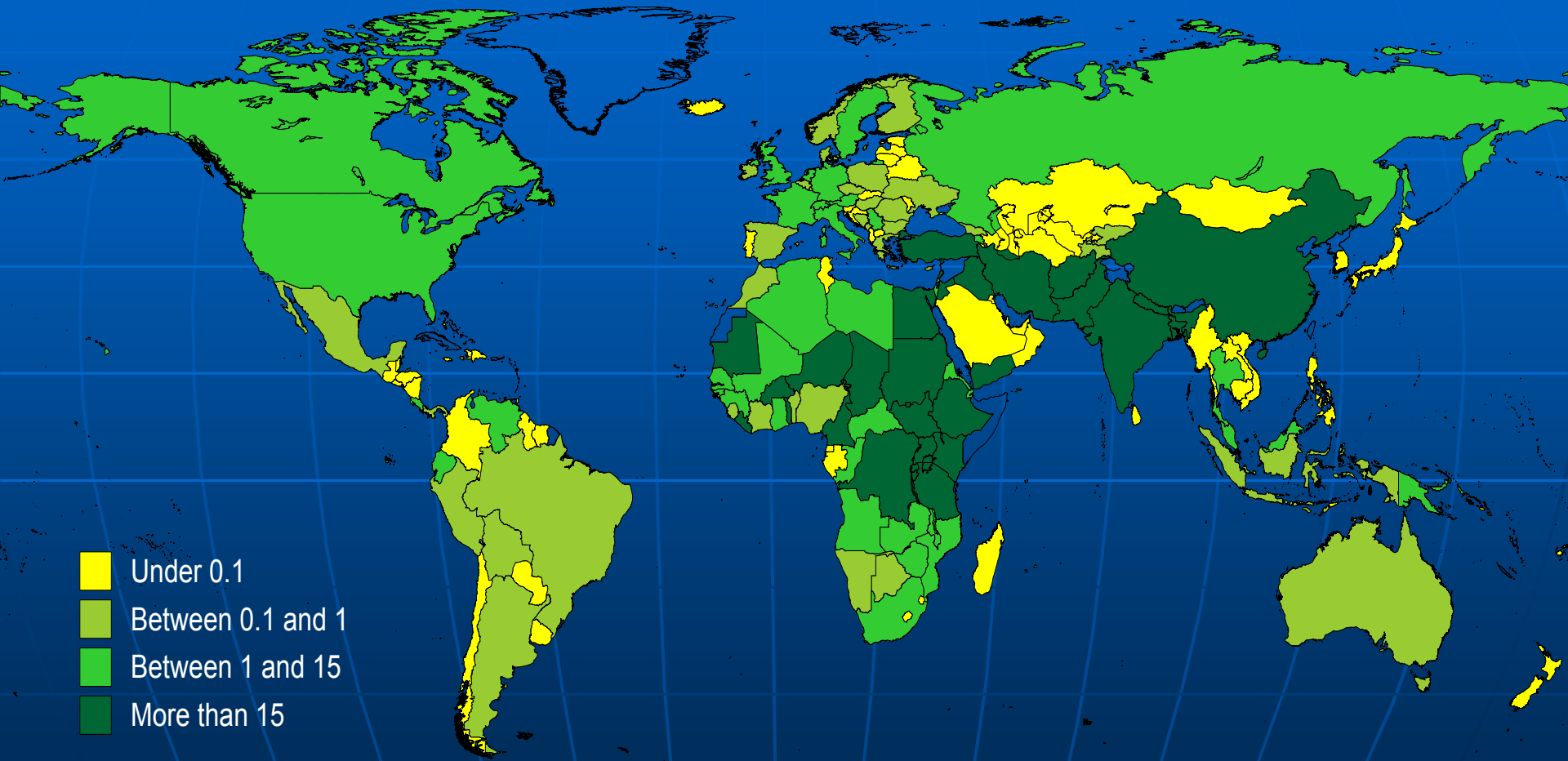
Changes in working age population by major area, 2015 – 2050



Source: UN, DESA, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

Uneven responsibility sharing for refugees

Ratio of refugee population to gross domestic product per capita *(PPPs)*



Source*: UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2014, Annex Table 26.*
Indicators of host country capacity and contributions, end-2014

Regional workshops on collecting and using migration data for development

- DESA in collaboration with ILO, IOM and UNHCR [Addis (2014), Dakar (2015), Rome (2016), Bangkok (2017), …]
- Global and regional policy context
- Data sources (census, admin, surveys)
- Data standards
- Migration-related SDGs

Main capacity building needs

(elements of DESA's project submission;
GMG partners welcome)

1. Scale up regional workshops
2. Professionalize learning materials
3. Develop web-based learning programme
4. Develop guidance on SDG migration indicators
5. Disseminate tabulations from population census
6. Disseminate data from administrative sources
7. Hire regional advisers for in-country support

Aligning existing efforts

1. Build on existing capacity building programmes on collecting and using migration data for development
2. Implement existing UN recommendations (census, migration, remittance, refugees) and statistical classifications (education, labour, etc.)
3. Involve GMG expertise (DESA, ILO, UNHCR, etc.)
4. Joint fundraising; donors can ensure UN collaboration