

SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IN THE POST-2015 UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza
UN-Habitat

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Why is Sustainable Urbanization Important?

- Urbanization is one of the most significant global trends in the 21st Century
- Cities are the locus of significant global challenges
- Urbanization is a vehicle for national economic and social transformation
- Cities and local authorities are important in achieving sustainable development

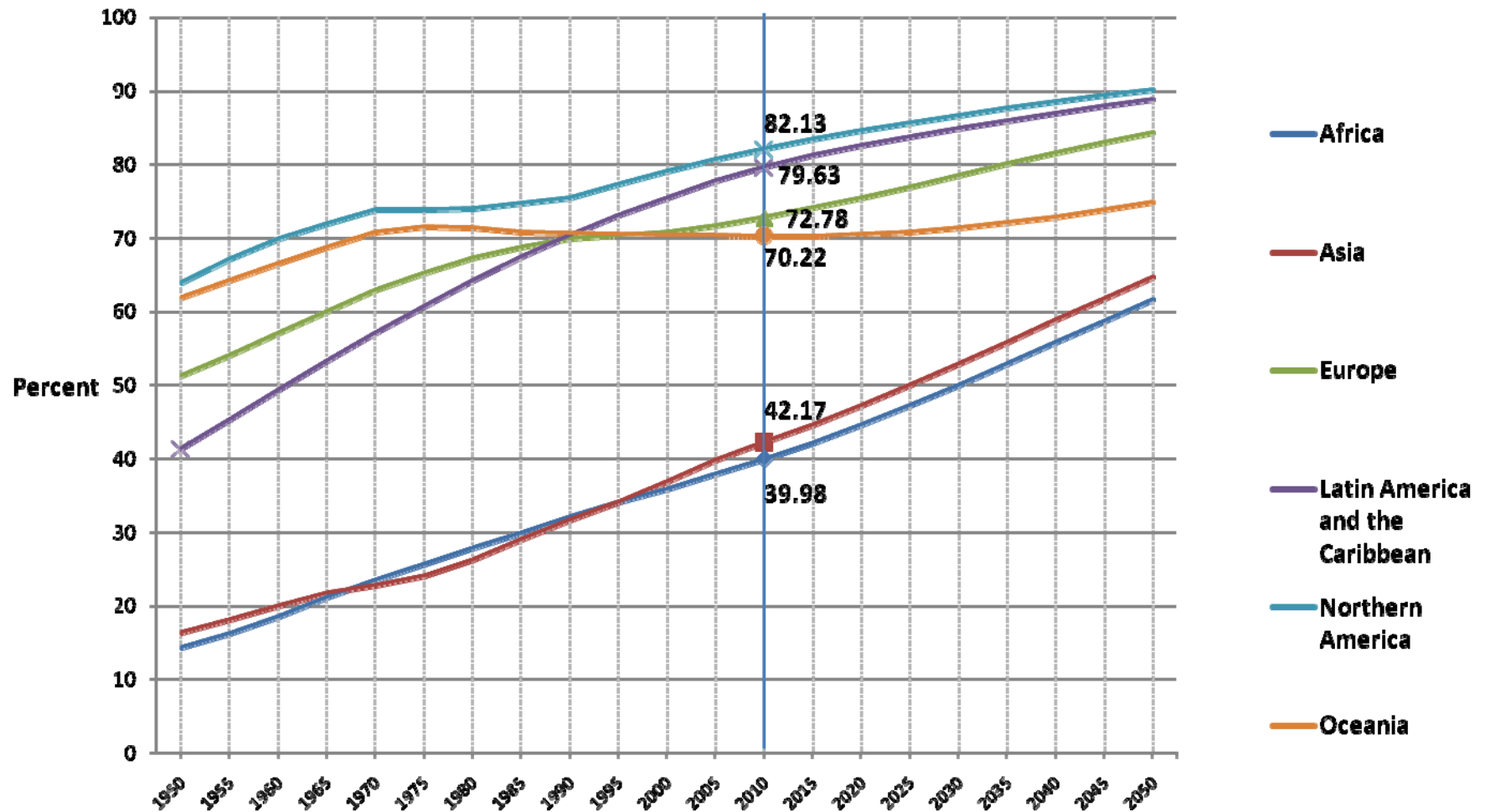
Demographic Trends and Challenges

- An urbanized world: more than 50% of world population is now in urban areas
- 5 billion people or 60% of world population will live in urban areas by 2030
- 90% of world urban population growth between now and 2030 will take place in developing countries
- Youth bulge in developing countries
- Ageing
- Shrinking urban population in developed countries



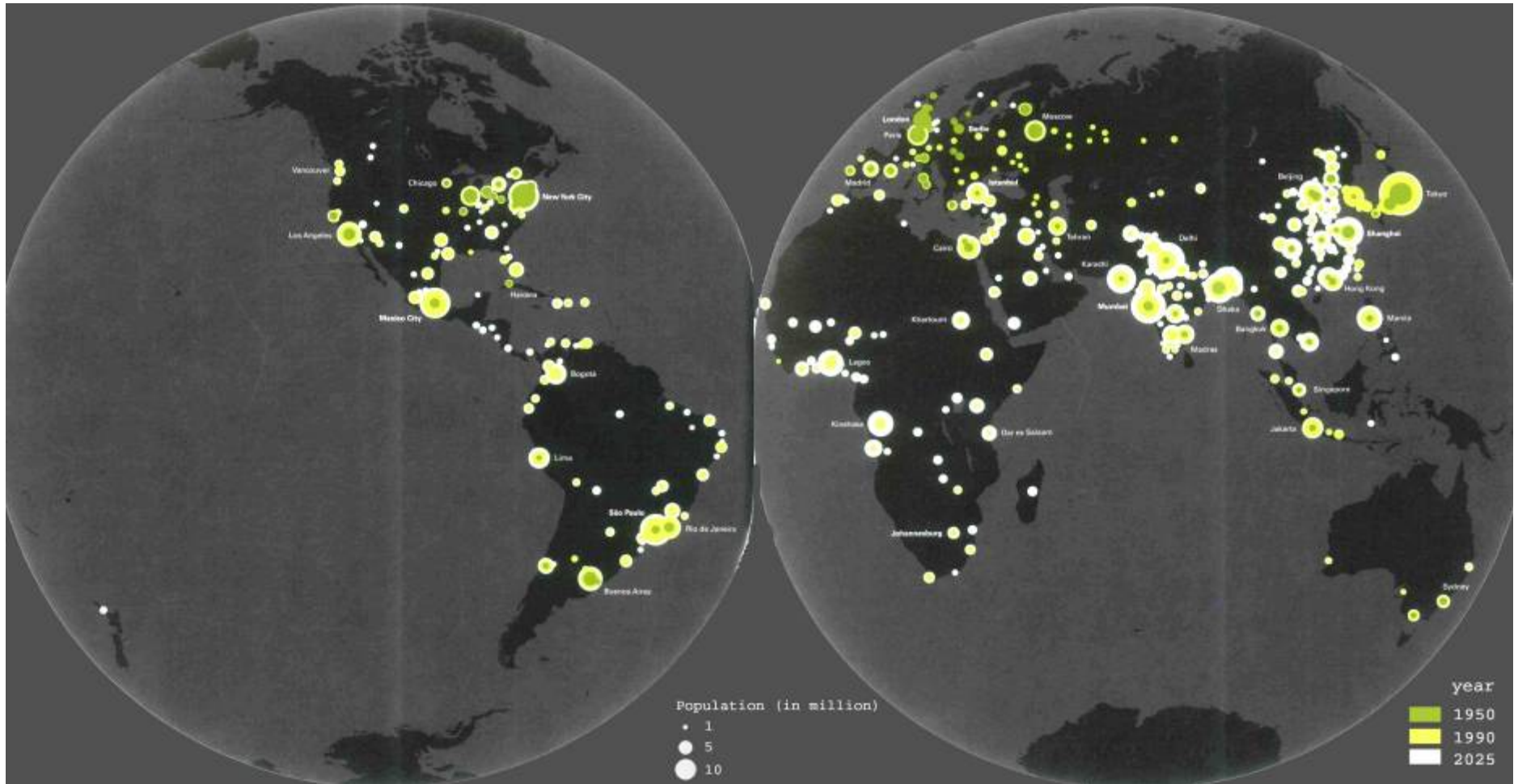
Urbanization Trends by Region

Urban Population, Regions



Source: UN

Where Are Cities Growing?



Environmental Trends and Challenges

- Cities are major contributors to global warming, emitting as much as 70% of human induced greenhouse gases
- Vulnerability to climate change related disasters: 40% of the world's urban population lives less than 100km from the coast
- High dependence on fossil fuels: 95% of urban transport uses petroleum, resulting in low density and sprawling urban forms
- Low levels of access to water, sanitation and waste management, especially in slums
- Opportunities: Many climate change mitigation and adaptation actions must take place in urban areas

Economic Trends and Challenges

- Urbanization taking place in the context of a relatively weakened global economy
- Growth rates are low in many developed countries - effects of the economic recession are still felt
- High rates of unemployment in both developed and developing countries, especially among youth
- Growth of the informal economy
- Opportunities: Cities are agents of national economic growth & the locus of innovation

Social Trends and Challenges

- Increasing levels of poverty in both developed and developing countries (3 times higher among youth)
- Proliferation of slums: 33% of urban population in developing countries
- Increasing levels of inequality in both developed and developing countries
- Opportunities: Cities are the locus of most future employment & are a vehicle for less costly provision of basic services

The Challenge of Urban Slums

Nearly **800 million** people are living in slums

Sub-Saharan Africa: 62%
of urban population

South Asia: 43% of urban
population

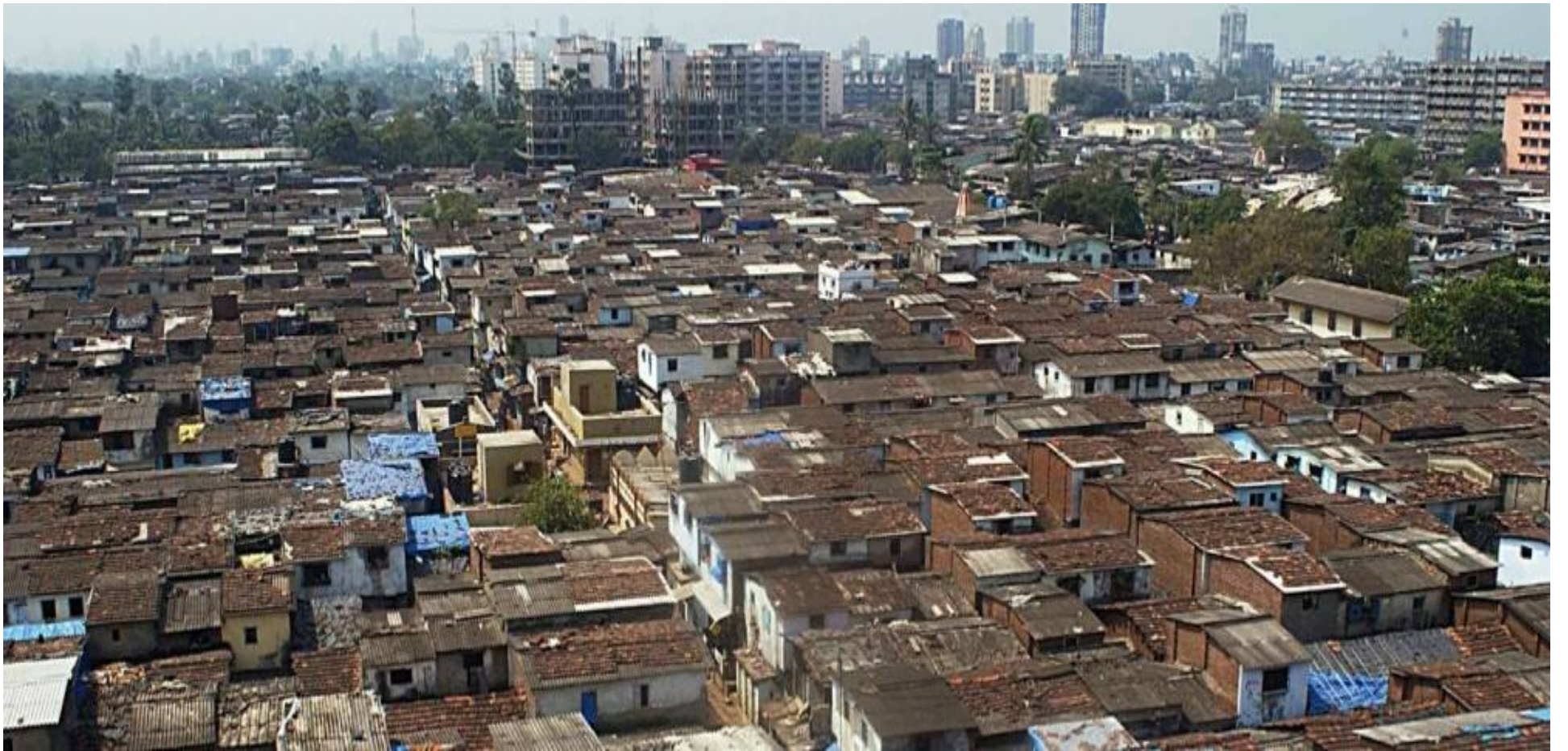
East Asia: 37% of urban
population

**Latin America and the
Caribbean:** 27% of urban
population



Spatial Trends and Challenges

- 62% of world's urban population live in small and medium sized cities with less than one million inhabitants
- 9% of global urban population resides in megacities
- Rapid spatial expansion of cities (sprawl, metropolitanization, uncontrolled peri-urbanization, huge urban corridors)
- Informality a dominant characteristic of urban spatial expansion in developing countries





Sustainable Urbanization in Post-2015 Development Agenda

Possible Goal: Sustainable cities that are environmentally safe, socially inclusive and economically productive

Possible Targets:

- 1.Improving urban planning and design in order to achieve greater compactness and resource efficiency, as well as adequate public space (including energy efficiency);
- 2.Reducing the number of slums dwellers;
- 3.Reducing the ecological footprint of cities;
- 4.Improving access to adequate water, sanitation and waste management;
- 5.Increasing access to sustainable means of urban transport and domestic energy
- 6.Improving access to decent urban jobs and livelihoods



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