

ANNEX I

DEFINITION OF THE INDICATORS OF POPULATION AGEING

A. AGEING INDEX

The **ageing index** is calculated as the number of persons 60 years old or over per hundred persons under age 15.

B. DEPENDENCY RATIO

The **total dependency ratio** is the number of persons under age 15 plus persons aged 65 or older per one hundred persons 15 to 64. It is the sum of the youth dependency ratio and the old-age dependency ratio.

1. The **youth dependency ratio** is the number of persons 0 to 14 years per one hundred persons 15 to 64 years.

2. The **old-age dependency ratio** is the number of persons 65 years and over per one hundred persons 15 to 64 years.

C. GROWTH RATE

A population's **growth rate** is the increase (or decrease) in the number of persons in the population during a certain period of time, expressed as a percentage of the population at the beginning of the time period. The **average annual growth rates** for all ages as well as for particular age groups are calculated on the assumption that growth is continuous.

D. ILLITERACY RATE

The **illiteracy rate** of a particular age group indicates the proportion of persons in that group who cannot read with understanding and cannot write a short simple statement on their everyday life.

E. LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

The **labour force participation rate** consists of the economically active population in a particular age group as a percentage of the total population of that same age group. The active population (or labour force) is defined as the sum of persons in employment and unemployed persons seeking employment. This definition of employment is the one adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1982). National definitions may in some cases differ. For information on the differences in scope, definitions and methods of calculation used for the various national series, see International Labour Organization, *Sources and Methods: Labour Statistics* (formerly *Statistical Sources and Methods*), vol. 2, *Employment, Wages, Hours of Work and Labour Cost (Establishment Surveys)*, 2nd edition (Geneva, 1995); vol. 3, *Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Hours of Work (Household Surveys)*, 2nd edition (Geneva, 1990); and vol. 4, *Employment, Unemployment, Wages and Hours of Work (Administrative Records and Related Sources)* (Geneva, 1989).

F. LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy at a specific age is the average number of additional years a person of that age could expect to live if current mortality levels observed for ages above that age were to continue for the rest of that person's life. In particular, **life expectancy at birth** is the average number of years a newborn would live if current age-specific mortality rates were to continue.

G. MEDIAN AGE

The **median age** of a population is that age that divides a population into two groups of the same size, such that half the total population is younger than this age, and the other half older.

H. PARENT SUPPORT RATIO

The **parent support ratio** is the number of persons 85 years old and over per one hundred persons 50 to 64 years.

I. POTENTIAL SUPPORT RATIO

The **potential support ratio** is the number of persons aged 15 to 64 per every person aged 65 or older.

J. SEX RATIO

The **sex ratio** is calculated as the number of males per one hundred females in a population. The sex ratio may be calculated for a total population or for a specific age group.

K. SURVIVAL RATE

The **survival rate** to a specific age X is the proportion of newborns in a given year who would be expected to survive at age X if current mortality trends were to continue for at least the next X years. Survival rates are derived from the life table, which is an analytic procedure designed to produce estimates of life expectancies and other measures of mortality, based on prevailing age-specific death rates.

L. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

The **total fertility rate** is the average number of children a woman would bear over the course of her lifetime if current age-specific fertility rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years (normally between the ages of 15 and 49). The current total fertility rate is usually taken as an indication of the number of children women are having at the present.