



### Human development trends

- The very rich OECD countries have very similar Human Development Index (HDI) values. Yet their levels of human poverty, as measured by the Human Poverty Index (HPI-2) vary widely – from 6.8% in Sweden to 15.8% in the United States.
- In 1999, 2.8 billion people lived on less than \$2 a day, with 1.2 billion of them barely surviving on the margins of subsistence with less than \$1 a day.
- Among the 73 countries with data (and 80% of the world's people), 48 have seen inequality increase since the 1950s, 16 have experienced no change and only 9 – with just 4% of the world's people – have seen a fall.
- In 50 countries, with almost 40% of the world's people, more than one child in five under the age of 5 is underweight.
- Every year about 11 million children die of preventable causes, often for want of simple and easily provided improvements in nutrition, sanitation, maternal health and education.
- Every year more than 500,000 women die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, with huge regional disparities.
- By the end of 2000 almost 22 million people had died from AIDS, 13 million children had lost their mother or both parents to the disease and more than 40 million people were with HIV/AIDS - 90% of them in developing countries, 75% in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- At least 300 million people have acute cases of malaria, 90% of them in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 2000, 1.1 billion people lacked access to safe water, and 2.4 billion did not have access to any form of improved sanitation services.

### Trends in political participation and democracy around the world

- There have been great improvements in human political and civil rights: since 1980, 81 countries have taken significant steps in democratization, with 33 military regimes replaced by civilian governments. 81 countries have taken steps toward democratization in the last quarter century, but only 47 of these are considered full democracies today.
- Gallup International's Millennium Survey asked more than 50,000 people in 60 countries, "Would you say that your country is governed by the will of the people?" Less than a third said yes. The survey also asked, "Does government respond to the will of the people?" Only 10% said that it did.
- 106 governments still restrict many civil and political freedoms.
- Freedom House's Freedom of the Press Index shows that press freedom has been increasing in most regions.
- Conflict continues to blight the lives of millions: since 1990, 3.6 million people have died as a result of civil wars and ethnic violence, more than 16 times the number killed in wars between states.
- Civilians have accounted for more than 90% of the casualties—either injured or killed—in post-cold war conflicts.
- At the end of 2000 more than 12 million people were refugees, 6 million were internally displaced and nearly 4 million were returning refugees and asylum seekers—in all, an increase of 50% from 1990.
- Most of the world's publishing media are privately owned, although the public sector still accounts for 60% of television station ownership worldwide.
- With just two exceptions, all the richest countries of the world—countries with per capita income above \$20,000 (in 2000 purchasing power parity US\$)—have democratic regimes, and 42 of the 48 high human development countries are democracies.
- The number of international NGOs grew from 1,083 in 1914 to more than 37,000 in 2000. Nearly a fifth of today's international NGOs were formed after 1990.
- Dictatorships are more prone to violent upheavals than democracies, experiencing a war every 12 years, on average, compared with every 21 years in democracies.

## **Democratic deficits and innovations**

- In the United States the turnout of registered voters in presidential elections fell from 96% in 1960 to 51% in 2000, and in the United Kingdom from 78% in 1992 to 59% in 2001.
- In 103 countries the proportion of women in parliament increased between 1995 and 2000, but around the world it still averages just 14%. (p 71)
- Quotas are used in all 11 countries that have achieved more than 30% representation by women, from Sweden and other Nordic countries to Argentina- the first Latin American country to introduce a quota, in 1991- to Mozambique. (box 3.4)
- In India, 80,000 schools had opened in the 50 years since independence. Within 3 years of the announcement of a decentralization scheme in 1997, 30,000 new schools were created.
- In 1989 Porto Alegre, Brazil, introduced a process that enables citizens to participate in preparing municipal budgets. In its first seven years the process resulted in remarkable gains in human development spending for poor people: the share of households with access to water services went up from 80% to 98%, the portion of people with access to sewage facilities jumped – from 46 % to 85 % and the number of children enrolled in public school doubled.
- One critical problem is money in politics, which subverts democratic institutions when it exerts undue influence on who gets elected and what legislators vote for. In the 2000 U.S. elections cycle, corporations gave \$1.2 billion in political contributions.
- Between 1970 and 1996 the number of daily newspapers in developing countries more than doubled, from 29 to 60 per 1000 people.
- In 2001, 37 journalists died in the line of duty. Another 118 were imprisoned. World-wide, more than 600 journalists or their news organizations were intimidated or physically attacked.

## **Democratizing the armed forces and the police**

- In the second half of the 20th century 46 elected governments were forcibly overturned by authoritarian rule. And since 1989 national armies have directly intervened in the political affairs of 13 Sub-Saharan countries, or more than one in four of the region's countries.
- During the 20th century governments killed about 170 million people, far more than died in wars between countries.
- With 53 major armed internal conflicts in the 1990s resulting in an estimated 3.6 million deaths (mostly civilians), it is easy to understand why some people may favour a despotic peace over no peace at all
- During the 20th century “deaths by government” or “democides”— through direct violence or gross negligence in major disasters—were estimated at 170 million people, far higher than the number of deaths in wars.
- In the Russian Federation and Ukraine interior ministries have 100,000 troops and heavy equipment to manage internal political dissent.
- Since 1974 more than 20 war crime tribunals or Truth commissions have sought to set straight a countries' historical record, with varying objectives, structures and results.
- Worldwide, the uncontrolled proliferation of an estimated 550 million small arms— including 100 million assault rifles—contributes to some 500,000 firearm-related deaths each year.
- Ninety countries are affected by landmines and unexploded ordinance, with rough estimates of 15,000 to 20,000 mine victims each year.

## **Imperatives for deepening democracy at the global level**

- The worst plague in the human history is AIDS: its death toll surpasses that of the bubonic plague in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- Seven rich countries hold 48% of the voting power at the IMF, and 46% at the World Bank: The United States, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian Federation.
- The board of directors of the IMF is composed exclusively of men. At the World Bank, 8% of the members of the board are women.
- Of the 400 companies who have expressed an interest in supporting the core principles of the UN Global Compact, only 70 have provided examples of how the company has put these principles into effect.
- The WTO is dominated by a few major industrial countries-while the poorest developing countries have little or no representation or negotiation capacity. In 2000 as many as 15 African countries did not have a single representative at WTO headquarters in Geneva – while Mauritius, a very small country, had five.
- Countries belonging to the OECD provide about \$1 billion a day in domestic agriculture subsidies – more than six times what they spend on official development assistance for developing countries.