

1 **S1 Text: Details relating to Figure 1: Country groups**

2 We analyzed larger, demographically important nations by excluding countries with populations
3 < 1 million in 2000; these are mainly small islands but, in the MACs, include two sub-Saharan
4 mainland countries (Djibouti and Equatorial Guinea) and one northern African country (Western
5 Sahara). The MACs also excluded the five, southern sub-Saharan African countries, which have
6 already reached a TFR of 2.51.

7 We used one of two criteria to determine the ODC group. (1) The country had $TFR \geq 6$
8 in 1950-55 (the first period for which UN world data are available) or later. (2) If TFR never
9 reached 6, it reached and exceeded 5.5 and increased or stayed level for at least two estimation
10 periods before decreasing. For example, India's first three estimated values were: 5.9, 5.9 and
11 5.89; Jamaica's first four were: 4.22, 5.08, 5.64, and 5.78. The TFRs of nine of the 61 ODCs
12 never reached 6. Of the 37 MACs only two had maximum $TFR < 6$: Central African Republic
13 (max $TFR = 5.95$) and Gabon (max $TFR = 5.72$). Low initial fertilities in MACs and some
14 ODCs in South Asia were likely induced by disease-related infertility [1-3], but a few ODCs
15 may have begun fertility decline before data became available in 1950-55; however, they passed
16 through the great majority of their declines thereafter. We excluded China because of its unique
17 1-child policy.

18 **References**

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