close to reaching the goal. Although overall expansion of enrolment has outpaced population growth in recent years, the rate of increase still falls short of the pace necessary to meet the goal of universal enrolment in all regions. There are still more than 100 million children out of school, and 60% of these are girls. One child in four drops out without completing five years of basic education. Table 1 shows the level of effort that would be required to accomplish the goal of universal primary education by 2015.

These data show that, to achieve UPE by 2015, primary schools in developing countries will need to accommodate about 156 million more children than in 1997, an increase of 27%. At a minimum, this will require maintenance of the previous enrolment effort, i.e. an average annual increase of 8.7 million pupils. For most countries, school enrolment growth of 5% per year over the next 15 years would suffice to achieve EFA goals, though several will need to grow at up to 10% per year. Meanwhile, there are serious concerns regarding the trends in numbers of out-of-school children in the developing regions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia and the Arab States, which are home to 95% of out-of-school children (see Figure 2). Due to a high demographic growth, the expansion in enrolment has not allowed any substantial reduction in the number of out-of-school children in these regions.

- A particular effort will be needed in sub-Saharan Africa, which will have to accommodate more than half of the additional school places required at the global level. This corresponds to an almost 150% increase from its 1997 enrolment level, or an annual enrolment increase of 4.9 million – which is almost three times the effort undertaken during the period 1990–97.

- Particularly large increases of the order of more than 10 times the previous effort will need to be made in Angola,