The United Nations (2002) designated the following 49 countries as the least developed countries in the world:

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin,
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau,
Haiti
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Zambia

Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali,
Mauritanie
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
Samoa
São Tomé and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Togo
Tuvalu
Uganda,
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu,
Yemen

According to the United Nations, the following is a list of the most developed countries of the world (2002):

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
France
Germany
Italy
Japan

Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Russia
South Korea
Sweden
Switzerland
United States
United Kingdom

Three nations not mentioned on this list are considered “newly developed” countries:

Mexico     India     South Africa
Among the most developed countries, the following eight nations are members of the G8 (2003), an organization of the most highly industrialized countries of the world:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Russia
- United States
- United Kingdom

In 1975, this group began as the G6, as it had only six members. Canada became a member in 1976 making it the G7; and Russia became a member in 1997 making it the G8. The European Union also participates in G8 meetings, represented by the President of the European Commission and by the leader of the country that holds the presidency of the European Council at the time of the G8 Summit.

Sources:
Canada's G8 Website:
<www.g8.gc.ca/menu-en.asp>
*The Least Developed Countries Report 2002*, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:
<www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=2026&intItemID=1397&lang=1&mode=highlights>