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Implementation of United Nations recommendations for population census topics in the 2010 round¹

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I. Introduction

1. Revision 2 of the *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (P&R) was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session in 2007. The publication introduced several substantive changes relative to its earlier versions. For example, its recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses are more output oriented and introduce a set of recommended tabulations on population and housing characteristics that all national statistical/census authorities are requested to generate at least once during the 2010 census round. In line with that overall approach, the selection of census topics in the P&R is based on outputs expected to be produced by the census.

2. The list of topics included in the P&R for population censuses are based on the global and regional census experience of the last several decades. There is considerable agreement in regard to both the importance and the feasibility of collecting the data for these topics in a census. The topics—which are listed in paragraph 2.16 of the P&R and reproduced in annex I of this report—are grouped under nine headings: “Geographical and internal migration characteristics”, “International migration characteristics”, “Household and family characteristics”, “Demographic and social characteristics”, “Fertility and mortality”, “Educational characteristics”, “Economic characteristics”, “Disability characteristics” and “Agriculture”. Within each heading, a distinction is made between topics collected directly (those that appear in the census questionnaire), and derived topics. The former are those for which data are collected by a specific item on the census. Although data for the derived topics also come from information in the questionnaire, they do not necessarily come from replies to a specific question. Such derived topics may perhaps be more correctly considered as tabulation components, but they are listed as topics in order to emphasize the fact that the questionnaire must in some way yield this information.

3. In the list of population census topics, core topics are shown in bold and are represented by ♦ for topics that are collected directly, and by □ for those that are derived. Additional (non-core) topics are represented by ○. The core topics correspond to those that were included as “priority topics” in the majority of the regional recommendations in previous census decades. For each of the core topics there is a recommended tabulation.

4. The set of topics covered in these recommendations is quite comprehensive and countries are not expected to attempt to cover all the topics included. Rather, countries will need to make their selection of topics taking into consideration the priority of national needs, suitability of topics, resources available, willingness and ability of the public to give adequate information on the topics, international comparability and regional recommendations pertaining to census topics. The recommended topics are one of the means by which the P&R promotes harmonization of census outputs and comparability of international data.

II. Objective and organization of the report

5. The main objective of this report is to review and document country practice in the implementation of population census topics—as recommended in the P&R—and thereby provide some background information for the discussion related to the revision and updating of the

publication in preparation for the 2020 round of censuses. The report will attempt to ascertain to what extent P&R recommendations on population census topics have been implemented in 2010 round censuses. Beyond coverage of topics—where it is possible—the report reviews the concepts, definitions and classifications applied by countries in their census questionnaires in relation to P&R recommendations. Furthermore, the report aims to document topics not presently included in the P&R but that appeared in population census questionnaires across regions during the 2010 round for possible identification of “new” topics that could be considered for inclusion in the revised P&R for the 2020 round.

6. The remaining parts of the report are structured as follows: part III describes the scope and method of review applied for the preparation of this report including some caveats on the limitations of the findings and their interpretation; part IV presents a global summary and highlights of the findings of this report; part V delves into each of the P&R recommended topics one by one with a view to documenting country practice with respect to coverage of topics and application of concepts and classifications (where possible); part VI provides a list of population census topics observed in the questionnaires of several countries (individual questionnaires for all respondents) but that are not presently included in the P&R list of recommended population topics; last, part VII makes concluding remarks and presents a few points for discussion. The annexes present the list of P&R recommended population topics; the list of countries whose census questionnaires were reviewed for the preparation of this report; and, the list of other population topics that appeared in the questionnaires of several countries that are not presently included in the P&R list of recommended population topics.

III. Scope and method of review

7. The present report is based on a comprehensive review of census questionnaires used in 124 countries across the world—27 countries in Africa, 18 in North America, 6 in South America, 27 in Asia, 24 in Europe and 22 in Oceania. Annex II lists for each of the six regions the countries included in this report along with the census year. The questionnaires for this review came from the knowledge base repository of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). It should be pointed out that the review in this report covers mostly countries that rely on the traditional census. The experience of countries using registers and other sources not involving fieldwork through a questionnaire are not included.

8. This report is based solely on the review of census questionnaires and the information contained therein. Detailed information contained in other census documents, instructions and manuals—which would be needed for a fuller understanding of a country’s experience and compliance with international recommendations in terms of concepts, definitions and classifications used—were not consulted for the purpose of this review.

9. The method for identifying the topics implemented by the countries involved a review of the wordings and the meanings contained in the instructions, question headings, questions, sub-questions, response categories, classifications and codebooks (when found on the questionnaires). This information was examined in relation to the topics, concepts, definitions, classifications and explanatory text contained in the P&R. That information was subsequently

summarized to obtain the rates of implementation of the recommended topics at the regional and global levels.

10. It should be noted at the outset that there are a few challenges and limitations that should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings of this report. First, the P&R does not provide recommended and specific wordings for questions on the topics that it recommends. As a result, one's reading of the questions appearing on census questionnaires in relation to the text in the P&R could lead to different interpretations. Second, because of space limitation on census questionnaires, countries are restricted in the amount of detail they can provide, which in turn limits a fuller appreciation of the questions posed and the concepts behind them. Third, due to the existence in some countries of reliable non-census sources (eg. administrative registers, established surveys) for some of the P&R recommended topics, such topics may not appear on the census questionnaires of those countries. Just because a topic did not appear on the census questionnaire of a country, it could not automatically be assumed that that topic was not of relevance to that country. The foregoing limitations and caveats should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings in this report.

IV. Summary of findings

11. Overall, the set of population census topics, as recommended in Revision 2 of the P&R, has been implemented by a considerable number of countries across the world. While most of the recommended population census topics were found to be relevant to all regions, some topics were a priority and of high relevance only in a few regions.

12. Figure 1 presents the proportion of countries—at the global level—that have implemented the P&R core and non-core population census topics. Among the core population census topics, those relating to basic demographic characteristics (such as sex, age, marital status and relationship to the head of household) were found to have been included in the questionnaires of virtually all countries. Likewise, the core topics under the heading of economic characteristics (activity status, occupation, industry and status in employment) were consistently implemented by all or nearly all countries in all regions. The same holds for two core topics relating to educational characteristics—school attendance and educational attainment. The core topics pertaining to internal and international migration (place of birth, country of birth, citizenship), household characteristics (relationship to head of household), fertility (children ever born alive) and disability status have also been implemented by a large number of countries.

13. Regional differences are apparent in the implementation of some core population topics, reflecting differences in priorities and in levels of statistical system development. Table 1 presents the implementation of P&R recommended core and non-core population topics by region. Literacy—a topic measured by 60 per cent of countries globally—was included in the census of nearly 90 per cent of the countries in Africa while the corresponding proportion was just slightly over one-third in Europe. Similarly, the topic of household deaths in the past 12 months was included in three-quarters of the countries in Africa while no country in Europe included it. It should be pointed out that while the topic of literacy may be of less interest to regions that have already achieved high levels of human development, in the case of the topic on

mortality the difference may be due to the presence, or lack, of alternative data sources such as a reliable system of vital statistics.

14. Despite being designated as non-core, population topics pertaining to ethno-cultural characteristics (religion, language and ethnicity) were included in the censuses of more than half of all the countries reviewed. The non-core topics of educational qualification and place of work were likewise consistently included across all regions, albeit with some regional differences. The lowest level of priority was accorded to the non-core topics pertaining to informal employment, household and family status, and the fertility topic of “age of mother at birth of first child born alive”; all were collected by less than 20 per cent of all the countries reviewed.

15. Among some of the main findings of the review with regard to the implementation of core and non-core population census topics in the 2010 round are:

- Countries used a variety of national definitions of usual residence deviating from that recommended by the P&R, particularly in regard to the time dimension of residence (12 months threshold);
- Internal migration characteristics were collected in 116 countries either on the basis of both "duration of residence" and "previous place of residence" or on the basis of “place of previous residence at specified date in the past”;
- The international migration topic of country of birth was collected in 117 countries (94 per cent) while that on citizenship was collected in 99 countries; the length of stay of international migrants could be established in 63 countries on the basis of either the “calendar year/month of arrival” or “time since arrival”;
- “Consensual union” was included in the questionnaires of 62 countries either as a category of marital status or in a separate question on de facto union;
- Disability was measured in 94 countries (76 per cent); however, only 32 countries utilized the Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions;
- Literacy was investigated in 75 countries (60 per cent); only 3 countries (Macao SAR, Samoa and South Africa) queried on literacy as an applied skill;
- Among the 124 countries that collected on economic activity status, 103 (or 83 per cent) used the concept of “currently active” while 11 (or 9 per cent) relied on the “usually active” concept;
- The P&R classifications pertaining to relationship to head of household, marital status and status in employment were applied as is or with slight modification (adding or removing one or two categories) only in a handful of countries; in the majority of countries the classifications were heavily modified to accommodate national circumstances;
- Among topics that are not recommended in the P&R but that were commonly included in 2010 round censuses include: emigration; ever-lived abroad; remittances; reason for changing previous place of residence; de facto union status; level/grade and type of educational institution currently attending; cause of disability; commuting; health insurance coverage; birth registration; and, access/use of ICTs at the individual level.

Figure 1. Proportion of countries implementing core and non-core population census topics



Note: ♦ designates core population topics. ○ designates non-core population topics.

Table 1: Implementation of recommended population census topics by region

	All 124 countries	Africa (27)	America, North (18)	America, South (6)	Asia (27)	Europe (24)	Oceania (22)	All 124 countries	Africa	America, North	America, South	Asia	Europe	Oceania
	<i>Number</i>							<i>Percentage</i>						
1. Geographical and internal migration char.														
Place of usual residence ♦	100	18	17	4	22	24	15	81	67	94	67	81	100	68
Place where present at time of census ♦	69	26	3	2	14	10	14	56	96	17	33	52	42	64
Place of birth ♦	95	23	13	6	19	16	18	77	85	72	100	70	67	82
Duration of residence ♦	57	19	7	1	16	11	3	46	70	39	17	59	46	14
Place of previous residence ♦	43	13	6	1	13	10	0	35	48	33	17	48	42	0
Place of residence at a specified date in the past ♦	83	15	13	5	15	15	20	67	56	72	83	56	63	91
2. International migration characteristics														
Country of birth ♦	117	25	18	6	23	23	22	94	93	100	100	85	96	100
Citizenship ♦	99	25	8	4	20	24	18	80	93	44	67	74	100	82
Year or period of arrival ♦	63	4	15	2	7	23	12	51	15	83	33	26	96	55
3. Household and family characteristics														
Relationship to head/other reference member of hh ♦	121	27	17	6	27	22	22	98	100	94	100	100	92	100
Household and family status ○	17	0	1	0	2	14	0	14	0	6	0	7	58	0
4. Demographic and social characteristics														
Sex ♦	124	27	18	6	27	24	22	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Age ♦	124	27	18	6	27	24	22	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Marital status ♦	122	27	18	6	27	22	22	98	100	100	100	100	92	100
Religion ○	80	17	12	2	19	14	16	65	63	67	33	70	58	73
Language ○	69	8	9	5	13	19	15	56	30	50	83	48	79	68
Ethnicity ○	83	14	15	4	13	18	19	67	52	83	67	48	75	86
Indigenous peoples ○	13	0	6	4	0	0	3	10	0	33	67	0	0	14
5. Fertility and mortality														
Children ever born alive ♦	92	21	15	5	17	14	20	74	78	83	83	63	58	91
Children living ♦	69	21	10	5	17	2	14	56	78	56	83	63	8	64
Date of birth of last child born alive ♦	39	5	10	5	4	2	13	31	19	56	83	15	8	59
Age, date or duration of first marriage ○	24	7	5	0	7	5	0	19	26	28	0	26	21	0
Age of mother at birth of first child born alive ○	12	2	7	0	2	1	0	10	7	39	0	7	4	0
Household deaths in the past 12 months ♦	48	20	7	2	13	0	6	39	74	39	33	48	0	27
Maternal or paternal orphanhood ○	27	17	1	0	2	0	7	22	63	6	0	7	0	32
6. Educational characteristics														
Literacy ♦	75	24	7	5	21	9	9	60	89	39	83	78	38	41
School attendance ♦	117	25	18	6	26	21	21	94	93	100	100	96	88	95
Educational attainment ♦	105	23	17	5	22	19	19	85	85	94	83	81	79	86
Field of education ○	25	3	6	0	6	4	6	20	11	33	0	22	17	27
Educational qualifications ○	64	11	17	3	6	11	16	52	41	94	50	22	46	73
7. Economic characteristics														
Activity status ♦	124	27	18	6	27	24	22	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Occupation ♦	120	26	18	5	26	23	22	97	96	100	83	96	96	100
Industry ♦	114	25	18	6	26	21	18	92	93	100	100	96	88	82
Status in employment ♦	113	23	18	6	24	24	18	91	85	100	100	89	100	82
Time worked ○	42	3	13	2	8	6	10	34	11	72	33	30	25	45
Income ○	34	2	13	3	4	0	12	27	7	72	50	15	0	55
Institutional sector of employment ○	26	7	3	0	7	2	7	21	26	17	0	26	8	32
Employment in the informal sector ○	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	0	0	0	0	0
Informal employment ○	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place of work ○	64	6	11	3	11	22	11	52	22	61	50	41	92	50
8. Disability characteristics														
Disability status ♦	94	23	18	5	22	11	15	76	85	100	83	81	46	68
9. Agriculture														
Own-account agriculture production ○	42	16	7	0	6	3	10	34	59	39	0	22	13	45
Characteristics of all agri. jobs during the last year ○	41	6	8	4	8	5	10	33	22	44	67	30	21	45

Note: ♦ designates core population topics. ○ designates non-core population topics.

V. Implementation of core and non-core population topics recommended in the Principles and Recommendations, Rev. 2

1. Geographical and internal migration characteristics

A. Place of usual residence and place where present at time of census

16. An important aspect of a population census is determining on what basis information about each person should be collected. Information about each person can be collected on the basis of either where the person was present on the day of the census or at his/her place of usual residence. While the P&R does not specifically recommend one over the other, it, nonetheless, recognizes that for planning and policy purposes the count and distribution of usual residents usually provides the best indication of where people will demand and consume services.

17. The P&R recommends that, where possible, separate information should be collected for each household concerning: a) persons usually resident and present at the time of the census; b) persons usually resident but temporarily absent at the time of the census; and c) persons temporarily present at the time of the census that are usually resident elsewhere. The extent to which countries collect on each of these groups of persons will determine whether they are able to produce population counts and other tabulations on the basis of population present (de facto) and/or usual resident population (de jure).

18. The review of questionnaires from the 124 countries shows that the instructions on census forms—for listing household members—usually contain information that helps to determine whether a country is collecting information on the basis of place of usual residence and/or presence at the time of census as well as provide indication on which of the three groups of persons are to be enumerated. A sampling of these instructions include: “list each person who spent census night in this household”; “list the names of the persons who usually live in this household”; and, “list the names of all household members, including those persons who are temporarily elsewhere”. Certain questions—on the whereabouts of persons on census night and location of usual residence—considered alone or together with other questions and/or the instructions also provide an indication on what basis and on which of the three groups is information being collected. Some of these helpful questions include: “where does the person usually live?”; and, “residential status on census night?” along with the answer categories of “resident present”, “resident absent” and “visitor”.

19. The review² shows that out of the 124 countries, 55 collected information about each person on the basis of place of usual residence only, while 24 did so on the basis of presence at the time of census only. 45 countries collected on the basis of both place of usual residence and

² Here it should be cautioned that—for the purpose of this paper—information contained in household and individual questionnaires was the primary basis for categorizing countries as collecting information on the basis of place of usual residence and/or presence at time of census. In several instances, the information contained on the questionnaires—instructions for listing household members and questions and responses corresponding to location of usual residence and whereabouts on census night—was insufficient to make a reasonable determination. In some cases, a more precise use of terminologies and language on the questionnaires could have helped avoid ambiguities. Resort was made, in a few cases, to readily found other census documents which provided detailed information on methodology. Some of the categorizations in this table should be deemed tentative and would benefit from input and validation by national statistical offices.

presence at the time of census (see table 2). Overall, 100 countries collected on the basis of usual residence, adding together the countries that collected on the basis of usual residence only and those on the basis of both usual residence and presence at the time of census. On the other hand, 69 countries collected on the basis of presence at the time of census, again adding together those that collected on the basis of presence at the time of census only and those that did so on the basis of both usual residence and presence at the time of census. All countries in Europe and nearly all in North America (except Panama, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago) and about two-thirds each in Africa, South America and Oceania collected population information on the basis of place of usual residence (see table 1). In Africa all countries except Reunion collected on the basis of presence at the time of census. About two-thirds in Oceania and about half in Asia collected on the basis of presence at the time of census.

20. Among the 45 countries that collected information on the basis of both place of usual residence and place where present at the time of census, various amounts of population characteristics were collected on each of the three groups of persons. Among these countries, table 2 identifies three categories depending on whether all characteristics or a limited set of basic demographic characteristics (such as sex, age, marital status, relationship to head of household, citizenship, etc) were collected. 7 countries (Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ghana, Ireland, New Zealand and Tokelau) collected all characteristics on present usual residents and temporarily present persons (visitors) and only a limited set of population characteristics on absent usual residents. Such countries could presumably tabulate on all characteristics on the basis of presence at the time of census (*de facto*) and on a few characteristics on the basis of usual residence (*de jure*). Among the remaining countries, 23 collected all characteristics on present and absent usual residents as well as on temporarily present persons (visitors), while 15 collected all characteristics on present and absent usual residents and only a limited set of population characteristics on temporarily present persons (visitors).

21. Countries that collected supplementary information on the temporarily present persons (visitors) and the temporarily absent residents are identified in table 2. The information collected included the duration and reason of absence/presence and the location of temporary absence and that of usual residence of the temporarily present. Information on such items permits a better understanding of the characteristics of those temporarily absent/present as well as a better management of complications arising from the application of the concept of place of usual residence. Such information can help improve the coverage of the population—particularly the usual resident population—by reducing the incidence of overcounts and undercounts. It might be especially important for countries which have high levels of internal and international population movements.

Table 2: List of countries enumerating on the basis³ of place of usual residence and/or place where present at the time of census

Place of usual residence (55 countries)

Africa: Réunion
America, North: Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, United States, United States Virgin Islands
America, South: Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Venezuela
Asia: Cyprus², DPR of Korea, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam
Europe: Belarus^{3,5}, Czech Republic, Færoe Islands, France, Hungary, Isle of Man, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro^{1,3,5}, Romania^{1,3,5}, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland
Oceania: American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, Marshal Islands, Micronesia, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau

Place where present at the time of census (24 countries)

Africa: Botswana, Egypt², Kenya, Liberia, Namibia², Nigeria², St. Helena, South Africa², Sudan²
America, North: Panama
America, South: Ecuador, Peru²
Asia: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, State of Palestine, Timor-Leste
Oceania: Kiribati, Niue, Norfolk Island², Samoa, Solomon Islands², Tonga, Vanuatu

Both place of usual residence and place where present at the time of census (45 countries)

- **All characteristics collected on present and absent usual residents and visitors (23 countries)**

Africa: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon², Congo, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius², Seychelles, Togo², Zambia
America, North: Saint Lucia², Trinidad and Tobago²
Asia: Iran, Mongolia^{1,2}, Qatar, Sri Lanka
Europe: Croatia^{1,2,3,4,5,6}, Latvia², Lithuania^{2,3,4,5,6}, Serbia^{1,2,3,4,5,6}
Oceania: Fiji², Nauru
- **All characteristics collected on present and absent usual residents ... but limited⁷ characteristics collected on visitors (15 countries)**

Africa: Burundi, Djibouti^{5,6}, Malawi, Mayotte, Swaziland
Asia: Armenia^{1,2,3,4,5,6}, China: Hong Kong SAR, China: Macao SAR
Europe: Albania², Bulgaria^{2,3}, Estonia², Italy^{1,2}, United Kingdom²
Oceania: Cook Islands², Wallis and Futuna Islands
- **All characteristics collected on present usual residents and visitors ... but limited⁷ characteristics collected on absent usual residents (7 countries)**

Africa: Ghana^{1,3}
Asia: Bhutan^{1,3}, Cambodia^{1,2,3}
Europe: Ireland^{1,2,3}
Oceania: Australia^{2,5}, New Zealand², Tokelau^{2,3,5}

Notes: ¹ Location of temporarily absent residents collected. ² Location of usual residence of temporarily present persons (visitors) collected. ³ Duration of absence for temporarily absent residents collected. ⁴ Duration of presence for temporarily present persons (visitors) collected. ⁵ Reason of absence for absent usual residents. ⁶ Reason of presence for temporarily present persons (visitors). ⁷ "Limited characteristics collected" refer to the collection of a few basic demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status and relationship to head of household.

³ See footnote 2.

22. Countries face a range of challenges in enumerating the population on the basis they select. The challenges for a usual resident population count are more demanding than those for a population present count because of the difficulty in defining usual residency for certain groups of the population. It is necessary to have a precise definition of residence and the P&R suggests that countries apply a threshold of 12 months when considering place of usual residence according to one of the following two criteria: (a) The place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the last 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months; (b) The place at which the person has lived continuously for at least the last 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least 12 months. In cases where countries apply a different definition of usual residence for national purposes, the P&R recommends that such countries should produce a usual resident population count using the recommended 12-month definition for the purpose of international comparability.

23. Only about a fifth of the countries reviewed included a definition of usual residence on their census questionnaires—either as part of the instructions or in the phrasing of questions and possible responses pertaining to usual residence. Among these, a few countries (eg. Albania, Australia, Cayman Islands, Sudan) applied one or the other P&R criterion for usual residence. South Africa used a slightly modified version of one of the P&R criterion by defining a usual resident as a person who “usually lives in the household for at least 4 nights a week for at least 6 months or intends to live at least 4 nights a week for the next 6 months”. The majority of the countries with a definition of usual residence appearing on their census forms, however, used a variety of definitions corresponding to time periods at variance with the 12 months threshold recommended by the P&R. For instance: Japan defined usual residents as persons “who have been living, or are going to live, in the household for three months or more”; the United States defined residents as “everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months”; Costa Rica and Nicaragua defined a usual resident as “the person who usually lived in the home for six months or more, or having lived less time intends to live in this home” (with no time span given to intended stay); Belize defined residents as “persons who usually sleep at least 4 nights per week and share a daily meal with the household”. In some instances a usual resident was simply defined as a “member of the household who usually lives here”, without any time dimension associated with the definition. In Europe where the issue of multiple residences comes up frequently, a few countries (eg. Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Hungary, Israel, Malta, United Kingdom) investigated secondary/additional residences.

B. Place of birth

24. The P&R defines the place of birth as the civil division in which the person was born or, for those born in other countries, the country of birth. For persons born in the country where the census is taken (the native-born population), the concept of place of birth usually refers to the geographical unit of the country in which the mother of the individual resided at the time of the person’s birth. In some countries, however, the place of birth of natives is defined as the geographical unit in which the birth actually took place.

25. Out of the 124 countries reviewed, 95 (or 77 per cent) included the topic of place of birth (the civil division in which the person was born) in their questionnaires (see table 3). All countries in South America and over 80 per cent in Africa and Oceania collected information on place of birth. Less than three-quarters of the countries in Asia, Europe and North America collected on the topic. Among countries that collected on place of birth there was one instance where information was not collected on all respondents and another case where it was possible to derive the place of birth from the question on citizenship. In the case of the Republic of Korea, information on place of birth was sought only on persons affected by the separation of families between North and South Korea. In Mauritius, the place of birth could easily be derived from the question on citizenship which had response categories that included four places of birth (islands) in Mauritius. Out of the 29 countries that did not include the topic of place of birth, 22 (mostly small island countries) posed a question on country of birth.

Table 3: Number of countries that collected information on place of birth

	Total number of countries reviewed	Countries that collected on place of birth		Countries that specified place of birth as the place of residence of the mother at the time of birth
		Number	%	
All 124 countries	124	95	77	20
Africa	27	23	85	2
America, North	18	13	72	6
America, South	6	6	100	1
Asia	27	19	70	4
Europe	24	16	67	4
Oceania	22	18	82	3

26. The majority of countries collected information on place of birth by asking: “where was [name] born?” or “what is your place of birth?” Mostly, the answer sought was the location (minor/major civil division) in the case of birth in the same country or the country name (or, in a few cases, region/continent) in the case of birth outside the country of enumeration. Another question which appeared in the questionnaires of 20 countries sought the usual place of residence of the mother at the time of birth. These countries either directly asked “where was [name’s] mother usually living when [name] was born?” or defined place of birth—on the census form—as the usual place of residence of the mother at the time of birth. A few countries (Belize, Colombia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia) included a question on the place of usual residence of the mother as a follow up to the query on place of birth.

27. Other questions related to place of birth that were asked included questions on the place of birth of parents and grand-parents. American Samoa, Aruba, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Guam, Isle of Man, Northern Mariana Islands and Switzerland collected on the place of birth of the mother and/or the father. Estonia and Isle of Man also collected on the place of birth of the respondent’s grand-parents.

C. Duration of residence and place of previous residence

28. The P&R defines “duration of residence” as the interval of time up to the date of the census, expressed in complete years, during which each person has lived in the locality (the minor/major civil division) that is his or her usual residence at the time of the census, and “place of previous residence” as the major/minor civil division, or the foreign country, in which the individual resided immediately prior to migrating into his or her present civil division of usual residence. To be relevant for compilation of internal migration data, the P&R recommends that information on the duration of residence should be investigated along with the place of previous residence.

29. The review of the 124 questionnaires shows that information on duration of residence was collected in 57 countries while that on place of previous residence was collected in 43 (see table 4). A higher proportion of countries in Africa, Asia and Europe than in the remaining regions collected on the topics of both “duration of residence” and “place of previous residence”. Only a few countries collected such information in North and South America and Oceania.

Table 4: Countries that collected on duration of residence and place of previous residence

	Duration of residence		Previous place of residence	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
All 124 countries	57	46	43	35
Africa (27)	19	70	13	48
America, North (18)	7	39	6	33
America, South (6)	1	17	1	17
Asia (27)	16	59	13	48
Europe (24)	11	46	10	42
Oceania (22)	3	14	0	0

Table 5: Number of countries that could generate internal migration statistics

	Both "duration of residence" and "previous place of residence" (1)	Place of previous residence at a specified date in the past (2)	Countries that could generate internal migration statistics on the basis of either (1) or (2)
All 124 countries	43	83	116
Africa (27)	13	15	26
America, North (18)	6	13	18
America, South (6)	1	5	6
Asia (27)	13	15	25
Europe (24)	10	15	21
Oceania (22)	0	20	20

30. It is recommended that, for the study of internal migration, the data on place of birth be supplemented by information collected on duration of residence and place of previous residence or of residence at a specified date in the past. Table 5 presents the number of countries that collected on relevant items that would allow the production of internal migration statistics on the basis of both "duration of residence" and "previous place of residence", and “place of previous residence at specified date in the past”. On the basis of both "duration of residence" and

"previous place of residence", 43 countries could generate internal migration statistics, while 83 could do so on the basis of "place of previous residence at specified date in the past". On the basis of either the former or the latter a total of 116 countries could generate internal migration statistics.

D. Place of residence at a specified date in the past

31. The "place of residence at a specified date in the past" is the major/minor civil division, or the foreign country, in which the individual resided at a specified date preceding the census. The reference date chosen should be that most useful for national purposes. In most cases, the reference date has been deemed to be one year or five years preceding the census. The former reference date provides current statistics of both internal and international migration during a single year, while the latter may be more appropriate for collecting data for the analysis of international migration.

Table 6: Number of countries collecting on place of residence at a specified date in the past

	Total	1 yr before census only	5 yr before census only	10 yr before census only	"Other" ¹ yr before census only	1 & 5 yrs before census	1 & 10 yrs before census	1 & "other" ¹ yrs before census	5 & 10 yrs before census	5 & "other" ¹ yrs before census
All 124 countries	83	21	37	4	3	12	1	1	2	2
Africa (27)	15	6	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	2
America, North (18)	13	3	5	1	0	3	0	0	1	0
America, South (6)	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	15	1	11	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Europe (24)	15	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0
Oceania (22)	20	3	12	0	0	5	0	0	0	0

¹ "Other yr" corresponds to year of last census, with the inter-census period not in keeping with the customary 5- or 10-year periodicity of censuses.

32. Of the 83 countries that collected information on the "place of residence at a specified date in the past", the majority (65 countries) chose a single reference date (see table 6). In 37 of these countries, "5 years before the census" was the preferred reference date. 18 countries collected information on two reference dates, with the 1 and 5 years before the census being the most commonly selected reference dates. Six countries used "other" time references that differed from the customarily applied time spans: one year, five years and ten years preceding the census. The "other" reference dates coincided, in all cases, with the time of the previous census, with the inter-census period failing to keep with the typical 5- or 10-year periodicity of censuses.

2. International migration characteristics

A. Country of birth

33. Information on the country of birth is important for distinguishing between the native-born population and those born elsewhere (foreign-born). The P&R recommends that information on

this topic be asked of all persons even in countries where the proportion of the foreign-born population is insignificant. Even if a country's interest is in compiling information only on the place of birth of the native-born population, it first must separate the native-born from the foreign-born population. Where information needs to be compiled on international migrants, information on country of birth for the foreign-born population would be necessary.

34. 117 countries collected information on the country of birth. All countries in North and South America and Oceania collected on this topic. The vast majority of countries in the rest of the regions included the topic: Africa (93%), Europe (85%) and Asia (96%). The 7 countries that did not collect on country of birth include: Ethiopia, Seychelles, DPR of Korea, Japan, Philippines, Viet Nam and Switzerland. In the case of Switzerland, however, since the census sample survey was used to collect only information not available in its population registers, it could be surmised that the information may already be available in the registers.

B. Citizenship

35. The P&R defines citizenship as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State. A citizen is a legal national of the country of enumeration, whereas a foreigner is a non-national of the country (that is, a citizen of another country). Because the country of citizenship is not necessarily identical to the country of birth, the P&R recommends that both items should be collected in a census. The P&R also recommends that additional information on citizenship should be collected so as to permit the classification of the population into (a) citizens by birth, (b) citizens by naturalization whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means, and (c) foreigners (citizens of another country). In addition, information on the country of citizenship of foreigners should be collected.

36. 99 countries out of 124 (or 80%) asked a question on either citizenship or nationality (see table 7). All countries in Europe and a large proportion of countries in Africa (93%) collected information on citizenship or nationality. Less than half (44%) of the countries in North America collected information on citizenship or nationality. Additional information on citizenship that would allow the classification of the population into i) citizens by birth, ii) citizens by naturalization, and iii) foreigners was collected only in 23 countries. This information was often collected through the question on citizenship with response categories suited for capturing such information (eg. Brazil, Canada, Mauritius, United States and Venezuela) or through a separate question on the method of acquisition of citizenship (eg. Bahamas and Bermuda). The question on citizenship that appeared on Mauritius' census questionnaire had the following response categories: Mauritian born in the various islands; Mauritian by descent, registration or naturalization; and, Non-Mauritian (specify country of citizenship). Bahamas collected such information through an additional question: "If you are a Bahamian citizen, by what method did you acquire citizenship?" with the answer categories of "Born to Bahamian parent(s)", "Born in the Bahamas to Non-Bahamians", "Adopted by Bahamians", "Married to a Bahamian", and "Other, Naturalization".

37. Countries typically investigated the topic of citizenship or nationality by posing a variation of the question "what is the country of ...'s citizenship/nationality?" Usually that question is accompanied by two answer categories: i) the name or nationality of the country of enumeration,

and ii) foreigner/other/non-citizen, with a request to specify the country of citizenship or nationality of the foreigner. In several instances the response categories included a selected list of countries or regions believed to be represented among the foreign population in the country (eg. Botswana, Djibouti, Lesotho, Aruba, Cayman Islands, Iran, Lao PDR, Macao SAR, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Isle of Man, Malta, Marshall Islands). In a few instances the country of citizenship of foreigners was not requested to be specified. Maldives provided response categories consisting of only “Maldivian” and “Foreigner” without a request to specify the country of citizenship of foreigners. South Africa and Australia posed the question “is ... a citizen?” followed by the response categories of “yes” and “no”. Similarly Brazil and Bermuda did not request the country of citizenship of foreigners to be specified, although Bermuda provided additional response categories to further identify foreigners as being “Non-Bermudian Permanent Resident Certificate Holder”; “Non-Bermudian-Spouse of Bermudian”; “Other Non-Bermudian”; and “Not stated”. Ecuador asked “Has Ecuadorian citizenship card?” without asking the country of citizenship of foreigners to be specified. The United Kingdom asked “What passports do you hold?”, with the option to tick all categories that apply: “United Kingdom”, “Irish”, “Other, write in”, and “None”.

Table 7: Number of countries that collected on citizenship or nationality

	Total number of countries reviewed	Citizenship or nationality	Classification of population into: citizens by birth; citizens by naturalization; and, foreigners	Dual/Multiple citizenships
All 124 countries	124	99	23	18
Africa	27	25	4	0
America, North	18	8	5	2
America, South	6	4	3	0
Asia	27	20	0	2
Europe	24	24	1	12
Oceania	22	18	10	2

38. In a few instances (Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Togo and Indonesia), the question on ethnicity had the dual purpose of collecting information on ethnicity of citizens and the country of citizenship of foreigners. Such questions sought the ethnicity of a respondent in case he/she is a citizen and the country of citizenship in the case of a foreigner respondent. Congo and Cameroon asked “what is each person’s ethnic group or nationality”. Kenya: “what is name’s tribe or nationality?” (for Kenyans, write tribe, for non-Kenyans write code of nationality). Indonesia asked: “What is (name)’s citizenship and ethnicity?”: a. Indonesian, specify ethnicity; b. Foreigner, specify country of citizenship.

39. Where there is need for information on people holding more than one citizenship, the P&R supports collecting information on multiple citizenship. Out of the 124 countries reviewed, 18 (Canada, Cayman Islands, Armenia, Cyprus, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom, Nauru and Samoa) collected information on dual or multiple citizenships. For countries where the population includes a significant proportion of naturalized citizens, it may be useful to ask additional questions on previous citizenship, method of acquisition of citizenship

and year of naturalization. Two countries (Italy and Luxembourg) asked a question to specify the foreign country of previous citizenship. It was observed that a number of European countries (Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro and Serbia) had a response category for certain foreigners deemed stateless, without citizenship, undefined citizenship or refugee.

C. Year or period of arrival

40. The P&R recommends collecting the calendar year and month of arrival of a foreign-born person to the country of enumeration as such information allows establishing the length of stay of international migrants. Information on the month and year of arrival also allows classifying foreign-born persons by period of arrival. Information on time since arrival can also be collected by asking how many years have elapsed since the time of arrival. However, the P&R does not recommend this approach because it is likely to yield less accurate information.

41. 54 countries (44 per cent) collected the calendar year and/or month of arrival of foreign-born persons (see table 8). Year and month of arrival is predominantly collected in Europe where 22 countries out of 24 (92 per cent) sought such information. In North America 14 countries (more than three-quarters) included the topic in their censuses. Very few countries collected on this topic in Africa and Asia. Of the 54 countries that collected on the calendar year and/or month of arrival, 32 collected on the basis of the date of the last or most recent arrival while 6 did so on the basis of the date of first arrival in the country. Information on time since arrival was collected in 9 countries bringing to 63 the total number of countries that could establish—on the basis of either calendar year/month of arrival or time since arrival—the length of stay of international migrants.

Table 8: Number of countries collecting information on date of arrival, time since arrival and return of native born

	Total number of countries reviewed	Date of arrival (year or month/year)	Time since arrival (years or months/years)	Collection by either date of arrival or time since arrival	Collection on return of native born
All 124 countries	124	54	9	63	18
Africa	27	1	3	4	2
America, North	18	14	1	15	2
America, South	6	2	0	2	0
Asia	27	5	2	7	1
Europe	24	22	1	23	13
Oceania	22	10	2	12	0

42. The review found that some countries that had experienced migration outflows have collected information on returning migrants (native-born citizens) that resided abroad for various lengths of time (most commonly for more than 12 months). A total of 18 countries—nearly three-quarters of which are in Europe—collected information on the year and month of arrival of returning native-born persons. Other questions that frequently appeared in relation to the arrival

of foreign born persons or the return of the native-born include: previous country of residence; duration of intended stay; and, reason for arrival/return (employment, business, study, family, marriage, visit, tourism, medical treatment, asylum, refugee, forced migration, voluntary return, military, missionary activities, etc.)

3. Household and family characteristics

A. Relationship to the head or other reference person

43. The P&R recommends that each member of the household be distinguished in relation to the reference member of the household. The P&R provides the following categories of relationship: (a) spouse, (b) partner in consensual union (cohabiting partner), (c) child, (d) spouse of child, (e) grandchild or great-grandchild, (f) parent (or parent of spouse), (g) other relative, (h) domestic employee or (i) other person not related to the head or other reference member. Where this classification is considered too detailed, the P&R suggests that categories (f) and (g) be consolidated as “Other relative” and (h) and (i) be consolidated as “Other unrelated person”.

44. The review shows that all countries (except Aruba, Hungary and Spain) collected information on the relationship of each household member to the head or reference person. A significant majority of these countries (about 70%) provided categories of relationship beyond those specified in the P&R. Most of these countries added several of the following relationships to the reference person: brother/sister, uncle/aunt, nephew/niece, grand-father/grand-mother, stepchild, adopted child, and brother-in-law/sister-in-law. According to the P&R classification, such relationships would be presumed as “Other relative”. Among the additional relationships fitting in P&R’s “Other relative” category that were provided in the questionnaires of a few countries were: step-mother/step-father, great-grandparent, cousin, foster child, and same-sex partner. Relationships that presumably fall under P&R’s “Other unrelated persons” that appeared in many questionnaires included: visitor, boarder, and roommate.

45. Only a handful of countries strictly followed the P&R classification. Most added relationship categories as described above. Furthermore, several countries modified the P&R classification by combining a few relationships into one category. The most frequently encountered combinations of categories of relationship included: spouse/partner, brother/sister or brother/sister-in-law, child/stepchild, child/adopted child, father/mother or stepfather/stepmother. Several countries (eg. American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, South Africa, United States, United States Virgin Islands) distinguished between biological child, adopted child and step-child. The P&R does not specify whether the category “child” also includes stepchild and adopted child. Several other countries (eg. Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago) distinguished between the child of head and spouse/partner, child of head only, and child of spouse/partner only.

46. The review showed that the typical manner in which countries investigated the topic of relationship to the head or other reference person was by posing the question: “what is's relationship to the head of household?”. In instances where relationship to the head or other reference person is collected during the listing of household members, the instruction typically

read: “For each person usually living here, describe his / her relationship to Person 1.” Usually such a question or instruction is accompanied with a list of pre-defined categories and associated codes for each type of relationship. However, thirteen countries (India, Thailand, Kiribati, Niue, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, France, French Guiana, Reunion, and French Polynesia) did not provide answer categories of relationship and requested the relationship be specified (write-in response). Some countries (eg. Faeroe Islands, Switzerland and United Kingdom) sought information on relationship not only to the reference person but also to all other members of the household listed prior to the respondent (multiple relationships). The question posed in such situations read: “How are members of this household related to each other?” or “What is the relationship between the members of this household?”

47. In identifying the members of a household, the P&R recognizes the usefulness of first identifying the household reference person or household head. In that regard, the P&R urges countries to use the term they deem most appropriate to identify this person (household reference person, head of household, householder, among others) as long as the person so identified is used solely to determine relationships between household members. In order to obviate common sex-based stereotype and prevent the traditional notion of head of household from distorting the true picture, particularly with regard to female heads of households, the P&R urges clear instructions be provided as to who is to be treated as the head of the household so as to avoid the complications of preconceptions on the subject by the enumerator or respondent. The review of questionnaires shows that several countries exercised caution in this regard. Out of 121 countries that collected information on relationship to head/reference person, 41 avoided the use of the term “head of household” and instead used terms such as “person 1” (used by 22 countries), “reference person” (11), “householder” (4), “person listed first” (3) and “responsible person” (1). It was observed that a few countries (Lesotho, Nigeria, South Africa, and Swaziland) used the terms “absentee head”, “acting head” and “de facto head” in addition to or in combination with “head of household”. Brazil and Costa Rica recognized shared headship/responsibility.

48. Some countries supplement information on relationship to the head of household with information on direct relationships between household members by, for instance, relating a child to its parents even when neither parent is the head of household. Such information is useful for estimating fertility by the own children method. For such purpose the natural mother of each child under 15 years of age should be identified if she appears in the same questionnaire as her child. One way of doing this is to provide the line number of the mother alongside that of the child, if both are living in the same household. The review shows that 19 countries investigated whether the biological mother was present in the household. These countries posed a variation of the question: “Write line number of biological mother if present in the household”.

B. Household and family status (additional topic)

49. Classifying persons according to household and family status is a different approach from the traditional one of classifying household members solely according to their relationship to the head or reference person. Classifying persons according to household and family status has uses in social and demographic research and policy formulation. Census data could be presented according to both household and family status for a variety of purposes. Household and family status is based on information derived from responses to the item on relationship to the head or

other reference member of the household and other items. As a result, all the countries that collected information on relationship to household reference person can potentially generate statistics on household and family status.

50. The review shows that 17 countries directly collected information on household and family status. Out of these, 14 were European countries. Serbia directly collected information on status in the family with the following response categories: husband/wife; consensual partner; mutual child; mother with child/children; father with child/children; child living with only one parent; child of only female partner/wife; child of only male partner/husband; and, person doesn't belong to the family. Hungary posed the question “what role do you have in the family (household)?” with the response categories: husband, wife; cohabiting partner; lone parent living together with her/his children (if the children do not live in couple relationship); child (including fostered and adopted children); ascendant (parents and grandparents living together with the family); other relative; not relative; and, living alone (no other persons belong to the household).

4. Demographic characteristics

A. Sex

51. Along with age, sex represents one of the most basic demographic information collected about individuals in censuses and surveys. The P&R recommends that the sex of every individual should be recorded in the census questionnaire because sex disaggregation is a fundamental requirement for cross-tabulation and analysis of socio-economic and demographic characteristics of a population. The review of census questionnaires conducted for this paper shows that the topic of sex was included in the census questionnaire(s) of all countries in all regions of the world. Countries elicited information on sex by asking a question on the sex or gender of the individual. In some instances the question was posed without reference to sex or gender and by directly asking whether the individual is “male or female”. Usually the answer choices of “male” and “female” were provided along with the question. A few countries (eg. Belize, India) provided a third response category of “other” or “DK/NS” (“Don't know/Not sure”). In the case of India, the census form instructs enumerators to select the “other” response category in case the respondent wishes to identify as other than “male” or “female”.

B. Age

52. Age is one of the most basic demographic information collected about individuals in censuses. This demographic topic is included in the census questionnaire(s) of all the countries reviewed for this paper. Countries elicited information on age primarily by asking the date of birth and/or age in completed years at the person’s last birthday or at the time of census. The only country that did not directly ask a question on age is Latvia. That may be because the question on “identity no” on the census form secures information on age as the first six digits of the “identity no” in Latvia comprise the date of birth.

53. The P&R states that information on age collected through a question on date of birth yields more precise information and should be used whenever circumstances permit. The P&R cautions that a direct question on age is likely to yield less accurate responses for a number of reasons including: misunderstanding on the part of the respondent, rounding to the nearest age ending in zero or five, difficulty in reporting the age of children under one year of age, and different methods of calculating age by different groups of respondents. Despite its shortcomings, the direct question on age is the only method to be used when respondents cannot provide date of birth, especially in cultures where knowledge of age is not widespread.

Table 9: Number of countries that collected information on date of birth and age

	Total number of countries reviewed	Both "Date of birth" and "Age"	Date of birth only	Age only
All 124 countries	124	61	41	22
Africa	27	14	3	10
America, North	18	14	1	3
America, South	6	4	1	1
Asia	27	9	11	7
Europe	24	3	21	0
Oceania	22	17	4	1

54. The review shows that countries secured information on age by asking questions about age and/or date of birth. In the African region, 14 out of the 27 countries reviewed asked a question on both date of birth and age, while 10 asked a question only on age (see table 9). Three countries (Algeria, Mali, Saint Helena) asked only on date of birth. In North America, out of 18 countries, 14 asked both date of birth and age while 3 countries (Bahamas, Bermuda, Mexico) asked age only and one country (Aruba) asked date of birth only. In Europe nearly all countries sought date of birth while only three countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Russia) solicited information on both date of birth and age. In Asia, 9 countries sought information on both date of birth and age, while information on date of birth and age were sought by 11 and 7 countries, respectively. In Oceania, the majority of countries (17 out of 22) collected information on both date of birth and age while 4 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tokelau) collected on date of birth only and one country (Norfolk Island) on age only.

55. In several instances information on age was sought only when the date of birth was not known (eg. Australia). In the majority of cases where date of birth was asked, the day, month and year of birth were solicited. In some cases, only the month and year of birth were sought (eg. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Hong Kong SAR, Japan). Brazil is the only country that asked the year of birth without requiring information on the day and month of birth. Luxembourg asked for the year and period of birth, with two periods (1/1 - 31/1 and 1/2 - 31/12) available for selection. The P&R recommends seeking information on age in completed years at the person's last birthday, however, several countries sought information on age in completed years at the time of census instead of at last birthday.

C. Marital status

56. The P&R defines marital status as the personal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws or customs of the country. The P&R recommends that at least the following categories of marital status should be identified in the census: (a) Single, in other words, never married; (b) Married; (c) Widowed and not remarried; (d) Divorced and not remarried; (e) Married but separated. In countries where the size of persons outside of the above five statuses warrants it, the P&R recommends adding status categories, for example, to capture: customary unions, registered partnerships, consensual unions and annulments. In countries where there are difficulties in distinguishing between formal marriages and de facto unions and that between the legally separated and the legally divorced, the P&R justifies deviating from the recommended classification of marital status. The P&R also recognizes the need in some countries to collect additional information related to customs such as polygamy.

57. The review shows that almost all countries included a question on marital status. Isle of Man and Switzerland—the only countries that did not include a question on marital status on their census forms—relied on sources other than the census such as administrative registers. Very few countries strictly applied the P&R classification as is. Most used a classification that modified or added to the minimum five categories identified in the P&R. Most of the additional categories involved de facto unions (such as “cohabitation” and “consensual union”), “common law” marriage, “customary” marriage, “registered partnership”, and polygamous relationships.

58. Table 10 presents the additional categories of marital status observed. A total of 41 countries added the category of consensual union while 8 added customary marriages (such as traditional and religious marriages). 3 countries added the category of “common-law” marriage. The category of “registered partnership” (“civil union”)—exclusively for, or including, same-sex relationships—was included in the marital status question of 4 countries (Hungary, Luxembourg, New Zealand and United Kingdom). In the case of Hungary, the question on legal marital status included the categories: registered same-sex cohabiting partner; widowed registered same-sex cohabiting partner; and divorced registered cohabiting same-sex partner. Similarly, the United Kingdom included: never married and never registered a same-sex civil partnership; in a registered same-sex civil partnership; separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership; formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved; surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership. The question on marital status in Luxembourg and New Zealand included categories referring to registered partnerships or civil union which are applicable to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples as such partnerships/unions are legal alternatives to marriage available to both opposite-sex and same-sex couples in those countries.

59. In Africa, where the practice of polygamy is prevalent in some parts of the continent, 9 countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mayotte and Togo) had response categories for distinguishing between monogamous and polygamous marriages. Among these, five countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Mayotte and Togo) had response categories that afforded the option to indicate the number of wives. Egypt asked for the number of current wives in a separate question not related to marital status. Outside of Africa, Nepal investigated polygamous relationships through the question on marital status. Bangladesh and

Qatar are the only other non-African countries that collected information on the number of wives in a separate question.

Table 10: Number of countries that included additional categories of marital status

	Total number of countries reviewed	Additional category of marital status					Separate question on de facto union
		Consensual union	Common law marriage	Customary marriage	Registered partnership (civil union)	Polygamous relationship	
All 124 countries	124	41	3	8	4	10	21
Africa	27	14	0	4	0	9	3
America, North	18	6	0	1	0	0	7
America, South	6	4	0	0	0	0	2
Asia	27	7	1	2	0	1	0
Europe	24	0	1	0	3	0	6
Oceania	22	10	1	1	1	0	3

60. The response categories corresponding to the question on marital status differed from country to country reflecting the diverse national circumstances. The response categories for Armenia, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia and Swaziland made a distinction between civil/registered marriages and religious/traditional marriages. Bermuda, Faeroe Islands, Ireland and Nepal distinguished first marriage from remarriage following divorce, widowhood or annulment. Serbia made a distinction between those married living together and those married not living together. The Dominican Republic, Italy, Panama and Venezuela made a distinction between separation from marriage (de jure union) and that from consensual union (de facto union). Among those in consensual union, Colombia distinguished between partnerships for less than 2 years and those for 2 or more years. Belize and Trinidad and Tobago had a response category for “visiting partner relationship”. With respect to annulment, Malta seems to be the only country with a response category providing annulled marital status.

61. 21 countries posed a separate question on “de facto unions” as an additional subject of inquiry to marital status. In Europe, where the number of persons living in consensual unions is significant, 6 countries asked all persons to respond to two separate questions: one on legal (de jure) marital status and another on de facto marital status⁴. The question on de facto marital status was posed in a variety of formats. Montenegro, Romania and Serbia asked whether the respondent lived in consensual union with a partner, along with the response categories of “yes” or “no”. France—without regard as to de jure or de facto status—simply asked the question “Are you currently living as a couple?” with the response categories of “yes” or “no”. Bulgaria investigated de facto union with the response categories of “not in marriage”, “in marriage” and “cohabiting”. Croatia requested the type of union with the response categories of: “married”; “consensual union”; “same-sex partnership”; and, “not in marriage, consensual union or same-sex partnership”.

⁴ The UNECE–Conference of European Statisticians-EUROSTAT recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing, adopted in Geneva in 2006, encouraged countries experiencing increases in the number of persons living in consensual unions to collect information not only on the de jure status but also on the de facto status.

62. Outside of Europe, the Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Canada, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago had a number of categories for capturing various forms of de facto unions. Aruba asked “Is this person currently living on a durable basis with a partner (married or not)?” with “yes” and “no” offered as response categories. Like in France, the simple question “Are you currently living as a couple?” with the response categories of “yes” or “no” was posed in French Guiana, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna Islands. The Czech Republic had a separate question on registered partnership of persons of the same sex with the categories: enduring [partnership]; dissolved by decision of court; and, ended by death of partner.

D. Religion (additional topic)

63. The P&R recommends two definitions of religion for census purposes: (i) religious or spiritual belief of preference, regardless of whether or not this belief is represented by an organized group; or, (ii) affiliation with an organized group having specific religious or spiritual tenets. The P&R also recognizes that each country that investigates religion in its census should use the definition most appropriate to its needs.

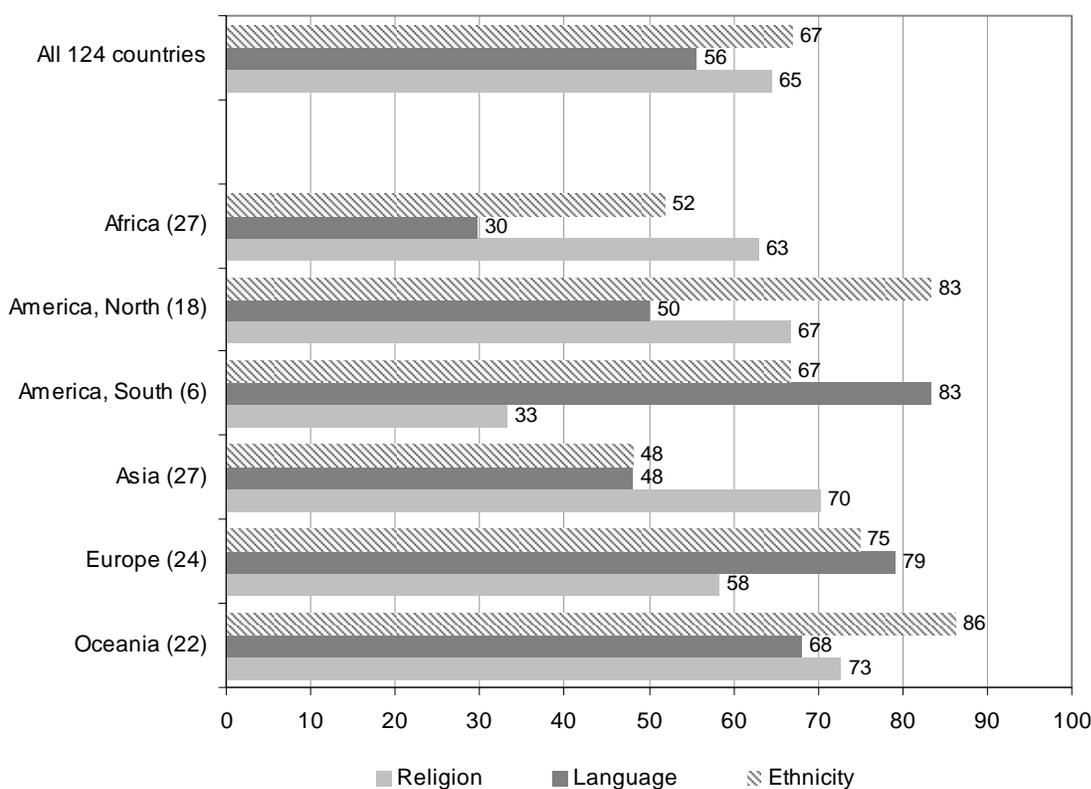
64. The review of questionnaires from the 124 countries shows that 80 (or about two-thirds) collected information on the topic of religion (see figure 2). Since the P&R treats religion (and other ethno-cultural characteristics) as a non-core topic, it is not surprising that a smaller proportion of countries included a question on this topic. The typical question posed in the vast majority of countries (55 out of 80, or 69 per cent) was a variation of “what is ...’s religion?”, making it difficult to ascertain which of the two P&R concepts/definitions of religion was used. The phrasing of the questions and/or accompanying instructions were helpful, however, in ascertaining that 23 countries (mostly in Europe and the Caribbean sub-region of North America) collected information on the basis of the second definition (religious affiliation). Among such countries the question posed was a variation of “what is's religious affiliation/denomination?” Only in two cases (Czech Republic and Faeroe Islands) was the phrasing of the question and/or instructions helpful in ascertaining the use of the first definition of religion (religious or spiritual belief of preference). In a number of countries (eg. Albania, Czech Republic, Faeroe Islands, Montenegro and Romania) the question on religion was optional and not obligatory.

65. Owing to the sensitivity and subjective nature of ethno-cultural characteristics, the P&R recommends that such information be acquired through self-declaration of respondents, and when possible respondents should have the option of indicating multiple affiliations. The review shows that countries used three question/response formats to collect information on religion: open-ended questions with write-in responses; questions with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses; and, closed questions with pre-defined response categories only. The write-in responses typically invited respondents to specify their self-declared ethno-cultural characteristics. Table 11 presents a summary of the question/response formats observed in the 80 questionnaires that included a question on religion. 36 (or 45 per cent) countries utilized the combined approach with the question followed by a list of pre-defined responses for the most commonly anticipated responses along with the option for the respondent to specify a write-in response. 29 countries utilized a closed question with pre-defined response categories while 15 adopted an open-ended question format.

Table 11: Number of countries that collected on religion by format of question/response

	Number of countries collecting on religion	Open-ended question with write-in responses		Question with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses		Closed question with pre-defined response categories only	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total (80 countries)	80	15	19	36	45	29	36
Africa	17	1	6	4	24	12	71
America, North	12	1	8	8	67	3	25
America, South	2	1	50	0	0	1	50
Asia	19	4	21	5	26	10	53
Europe	14	3	21	10	71	1	7
Oceania	16	5	31	9	56	2	13

Figure 2: Proportion of countries that collected on religion, language and ethnicity



E. Language (additional topic)

66. The P&R states that three types of language data can be collected in censuses, namely: (a) mother tongue, defined as the language usually spoken in the individual's home in his or her early childhood; (b) usual language, defined as the language currently spoken, or most often

spoken, by the individual in his or her present home; and, (c) ability to speak one or more designated languages. The P&R further states that each of these types of information serves a very different analytical purpose and that each country should decide which, if any, of these types of information is applicable to its own needs.

Table 12: Number of countries that collected on language by concept of language

	Number of countries collecting on language	Mother tongue		Usual language		Ability to speak	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Total (69 countries)	69	21	30	27	39	21	30
Africa	8	2	25	5	63	1	13
America, North	9	0	0	4	44	5	56
America, South	5	0	0	1	20	4	80
Asia	13	6	46	6	46	1	8
Europe	19	12	63	3	16	4	21
Oceania	15	1	7	8	53	6	40

67. In total, 69 countries out of 124 (or, 56 per cent) collected information on the topic of language (see figure 2). A relatively higher proportion of countries in Europe, South America and Oceania collected information on language. In the remaining regions—Africa, Asia and North America—half or less than half collected information on language. Unlike in the case of religion, the phrasing of the questions and/or accompanying instructions were helpful in determining, in all cases, the type of language data collected. Overall, “usual language” was the most sought language type with 27 countries out of 69 seeking information on that type, while “mother tongue” and “ability to speak” were sought by 21 countries each (see table 12).

Table 13: Number of countries that collected on language by format of question/response

	Number of countries collecting on language	Open-ended question with write-in responses		Question with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses		Closed question with pre-defined response categories only	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Total (69 countries)	69	14	20	37	54	18	26
Africa	8	1	13	4	50	3	38
America, North	9	2	22	4	44	3	33
America, South	5	0	0	3	60	2	40
Asia	13	4	31	5	38	4	31
Europe	19	3	16	13	68	3	16
Oceania	15	4	27	8	53	3	20

68. In Europe the majority of countries sought information on “mother tongue”. The typical question posed in relation to “mother tongue” was found to be a variation of “what is (name’s) mother tongue?” or “what was the first language you learned to speak at home?” Questions posed to seek information on “usual language” included: “what language does ... speak most

often at home?"; and, "write the language mainly spoken by the person in the household". Information on "ability to speak" was collected through questions such as: "which language(s) does (name) speak well enough to conduct a conversation?", "what language does...speak fluently?" and "knowledge of languages". Seven countries (Belarus, Faeroe Islands, Hungary, Mali, Nauru, Luxembourg and Switzerland) collected information on more than one type of language. In all of these cases the first question was either on "mother tongue" or "ability to speak" while the second was on "usual language". In the questionnaires of 27 countries, respondents were provided the option to indicate ability to speak more than one language.

69. In terms of question/response format used in connection with the collection of information on language, the review showed that the majority of countries (37 out of 69) utilized the combined approach with the question followed by a list of pre-defined responses for the most commonly anticipated responses along with the option for the respondent to specify a write-in response (see table 13). 18 countries utilized a closed question with pre-defined response categories while 14 made use of the open-ended question format.

F. Ethnicity (additional topic)

70. The P&R states that ethnicity can be measured using a variety of concepts, including ethnic ancestry or origin, ethnic identity, cultural origins, nationality, race, color, minority status, tribe, language, religion or various combinations of these concepts. The P&R cautions that the method and the format of the question used to measure ethnicity can influence the choices that respondents make regarding their ethnic backgrounds and current ethnic identification. The subjective nature of the term requires that information on ethnicity be acquired through self-declaration of a respondent. Respondents should also have the option of indicating multiple ethnic affiliations. The P&R further cautions that countries collecting data on ethnicity should note that the pre-coding or the pre-classification of ethnic groups at the time of data capture may have a tendency to lose detailed information on the diversity of a population.

71. 83 countries, or about two-thirds of the 124 countries reviewed, collected information on ethnicity (see figure 2). This is information collected separately from questions on citizenship/nationality intended to elicit information on country of origin of the foreign-born population. A higher proportion of countries in Oceania, North America and Europe collected information on ethnicity than those in the other regions of the world. In Asia less than half of the countries collected such information.

72. The review found that countries collected data on ethnicity in different ways, using either a single concept of ethnicity or a mix of several concepts. Table 14 attempts to summarize the different ways in which countries measured their ethno-cultural composition. Out of the 83 countries that collected information on ethnicity, 41 did so using a concept of ethnicity involving ethnic ancestry, ethnic origin, ethnic identity, cultural origin, tribe, religious/language group and that seemingly excluded—both in the phrasing of the question and in the pre-defined response categories provided—the notions of nationality, race, color and geographic origin. Among the questions posed by such countries include: "to which ethnic group does [name] belong?" (Ghana); "what is [name's] ethnic origin?" (Lao PDR); "ethnic/dialect group" (Singapore); "what is the caste/ethnicity of [name]?" (Nepal). 8 countries, mostly in Europe, collected

information on ethnicity on the basis of nationality. The concept of racial group or skin color was used in 9 countries. Among such countries, Bermuda and the Bahamas asked “to which racial group do you belong?” South Africa posed the question “how would [name] describe him/herself in terms of population group?” with a pre-defined list of answer categories that reflected the various races/colors in the country. A few countries (eg. Barbados) asked “what is your ethnic origin?”, with answer categories that were seemingly racial in nature: “Black”, “White”, “Oriental”, “East Indian”, “Middle Eastern”, “Mixed”, ‘Other’, and “Not stated”. Two countries (Nigeria and the Sudan) collected information on ethnicity via questions on geographic origin. Nigeria asked “what is name’s State and LGA [local government areas] of origin?” while Sudan posed two questions: “what is (name’s) region of origin?” and “to what regional group does (name) belong?”

Table 14: Number of countries that collected on ethnicity by concept of ethnicity

	Number of countries collecting on ethnicity	Ethnic/Cultural group (1)		Nationality (2)		Racial group/Skin color (3)		Geographic origin (4)		Combination (any of 1,2,3,4)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total (83 countries)	83	41	49	8	10	9	11	2	2	23	28
Africa	14	6	43	1	7	1	7	2	14	4	29
America, North	15	2	13	0	0	7	47	0	0	6	40
America, South	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	100
Asia	13	10	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	23
Europe	18	9	50	7	39	1	6	0	0	1	6
Oceania	19	14	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	26

Table 15: Number of countries that collected on ethnicity by format of question/response

	Number of countries collecting on ethnicity	Open-ended question with write-in responses		Question with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses		Closed question with pre-defined response categories only	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total (83 countries)	83	16	19	37	45	30	36
Africa	14	2	14	1	7	11	79
America, North	15	0	0	9	60	6	40
America, South	4	0	0	4	100	0	0
Asia	13	3	23	4	31	6	46
Europe	18	6	33	11	61	1	6
Oceania	19	5	26	8	42	6	32

73. The “combined” category in table 14 consists of countries that used a mix of ethnicity concepts—for instance, ethnic origin and nationality or ethnic origin and racial groups. Countries that asked multiple questions involving at least two or several concepts of ethnicity (Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong SAR, United States and United Kingdom) are also included in this category. 23 countries collected information on ethnicity using a mix of concepts of ethnicity. Such

countries either combined a variety of concepts of ethnicity in the phrasing of their questions or the response categories consisted of a mix of concepts of ethnicity. For example, St. Lucia asked “to which ethnic, racial or national group do you belong?” while American Samoa posed “what is this person’s ethnic origin or race?” Belize, which inquired “to which ethnic group do you belong?” had answer categories that showed a mix of ethnic, racial and national groups. In a number of countries (eg. Czech Republic) the provision of information on ethnicity by respondents was not obligatory.

74. As in the case of both religion and language, relatively more countries (37 out of 83) used the combined question/response format to collect information on ethnicity (see table 15). 30 countries utilized a closed question with pre-defined response categories while 16 made use of the open-ended question format.

G. Indigenous peoples (additional topic)

75. The P&R defines indigenous peoples of a particular country as social groups with an identity that is distinct from the social and cultural identity of the dominant society in that country. The P&R instructs that questions on indigenous identity should abide by the principle of self-identification. It is important that, where such an investigation is undertaken, multiple criteria are developed to accurately capture identity and the socio-economic conditions of indigenous peoples. Defining the indigenous population can be done in many ways, such as through a question on ethnic origin (that is to say, ancestry) and/or on indigenous identity.

76. The review found that 13 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, México, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela) included a question on indigenous peoples. This number could potentially be higher if account is taken of some of the countries that may be collecting such information through a question on ethnicity without explicitly referring to some groups as indigenous peoples. Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela had a follow up question on indigenous language spoken. Peru’s question on language had answer categories for indigenous languages, although the country did not have a question on ethnicity or indigenous status.

Selected questions on the topic of indigenous peoples

Costa Rica:	“[Name] considers himself or herself Indigenous?” (if so) “What is the indigenous group [name] belong to?”
New Zealand:	“Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?”
Brazil:	“Do you consider yourself indigenous?” (if yes) “Do you speak indigenous language in the housing unit (including the use of sign language)?” (if so) “Specify the indigenous language(s) spoken” (up to two entries)
Australia:	“Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?": Yes / No

77. Various terms were used to describe indigenous peoples. Some countries used their own national concepts to identify the indigenous population. For example, in Australia the terms

“aboriginal” or “Torres Strait Islander” were used, while in New Zealand the term used was “Maori”. Canada used the term “aboriginal” person to refer to persons identifying as First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit).

5. Fertility and mortality

78. The investigation of fertility and mortality in population censuses is particularly important in countries lacking a timely and reliable system of vital statistics because of the opportunity the data provides for estimating vital rates that would not otherwise be available. Even in countries with reliable vital registration of births, census information on these topics can be useful for assessing the completeness of the registration system and for estimating levels of lifetime fertility for older cohorts. Although surveys can provide better quality data on fertility and mortality, the capability of a census to generate statistics at the small area level makes the inclusion of questions on such topics a priority for many countries.

A. Children ever born alive

79. The P&R recommends the inclusion of the topic “children ever born” in the census of all countries, including those with reliable vital registration. The P&R states that information on the number of children born alive (lifetime fertility) should include all children born alive (excluding foetal deaths) during the lifetime of the woman. The number recorded should include all live-born children, whether born in or out of marriage, whether born in the present or a prior marriage, or in a de facto union, or whether living or dead at the time of the census.

80. The review found that 92 countries (74 per cent) collected information on children ever born alive (see table 16). Over three-quarters of the countries in Africa, the Americas and Oceania included at least one question on children ever born alive. In Asia and Europe, the proportion of countries that collected information on this topic was less than two thirds. Data on the number of children ever born alive by sex may improve the accuracy of the information as it allows quality checks through sex ratios and indirect estimation of sex differentials in infant and child mortality. Despite the value of such information, only 53 countries collected data on children ever born alive by sex.

81. The P&R recommends that data on the total number of live-born children should be collected for all women 15 years of age and over, regardless of marital status. The P&R further notes that, in accordance with the conditions in some countries, it may be appropriate to reduce the lower age limit by several years. The review found significant variation in the lower and upper age limits of women selected for collection of information on fertility characteristics. While a large number of countries used 15 years of age and older as the lower age limit, several others (mostly in Africa and the Americas) used the lower thresholds of 10 and 12 years. Where it is applied, the upper age limit also shows large variation, with some countries capping it at 49 years while a few others used the upper limits of 54 and 64.

Table 16: Number of countries collecting on the number of children ever born alive

	Question on number of children ever born alive	by Sex	Age of mother
All 124 countries	92	53	
Africa (27)	21	17	12+ (12x); 10+ (3x); 12-49 (2x); 12-50; 12-54; 15-54
America, North (18)	15	9	12+ (4x); 15+ (3x); 15-49 (3x); 13+; 14+; 14-54; 15-64
America, South (6)	5	4	12+ (4x); 10+
Asia (27)	17	11	15+ (6x); 10+ (3x); 15-49 (3x); 12+; 16+
Europe (24)	14	0	15+ (7x); 12+
Oceania (22)	20	12	15+ (15x); 14+ (3x); 12-54; 15-49

B. Children living

82. Data on children living, in conjunction with those on children ever born, are used in indirect estimation of infant and child mortality in situations where there are no reliable data from a civil registration. The P&R underscores that an improved coverage and quality of data on the total number of children ever born will be achieved if more detailed questions about the current residence of children ever born are asked. The number of children, male and female, who are alive at the time of the census, should include those living with the mother in the household and those living elsewhere, no matter where the latter may reside and regardless of their age and marital status.

Table 17: Number of countries collecting on children living

	Question on number of children living	by Sex	Living in same household	Living else where	Number that died	by Sex
All 124 countries	69	54	29	29	34	29
Africa (27)	21	19	10	10	10	10
America, North (18)	10	7	1	1	2	1
America, South (6)	5	3	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	17	13	8	8	11	9
Europe (24)	2	0	0	0	0	0
Oceania (22)	14	12	10	10	11	9

83. A total of 69 countries—out of the 124 reviewed—collected on the topic of “children living” (see table 17). In 54 of them, the sex of the child was specified. All the countries in Africa, South America and Asia that collected information on “children ever born alive” also collected on “children living”. Only 2 countries in Europe asked a question about children living, although 14 did so on “children ever born alive”. Information on the number of children living in the same household as the mother or elsewhere at the time of the census was collected in 29 countries, almost all of which are in Africa, Asia and Oceania. Such information is desirable as it enables a more complete and accurate reporting of children ever born alive.

C. Date of birth of last child born alive

84. Information on the date of birth (day, month and year) of the last child born alive and on the sex of the child is used for indirect estimation of current fertility levels, especially in countries where vital registration of births and deaths is incomplete or unreliable.

Table 18: Number of countries collecting on the date of birth of last child born alive and that of first child born alive

	Question on date of birth of last child born alive	by Sex	Last child born still alive?	Age of mother at birth of last child born alive	Date of birth of first child born alive	Age of mother at birth of first child born alive
All 124 countries	39	14	16	3	9	12
Africa (27)	5	4	4	0	0	2
America, North (18)	10	0	4	3	1	7
America, South (6)	5	1	2	0	3	0
Asia (27)	4	3	2	0	0	2
Europe (24)	2	0	0	0	3	1
Oceania (22)	13	6	4	0	2	0

85. 39 countries (about one third of those reviewed) asked the date of birth of the last child born alive: 5 each in Africa and South America; 10 in North America; 4 in Asia; 2 in Europe; and, 13 in Oceania (see table 18). The P&R recommends that a census question on “date of birth of last child born alive” should always be paired with a simple follow-up question about whether the child is still alive, which yields data that can be used for studying child mortality. The review shows that 16 countries collected such information. Countries asked additional questions in connection with the data of birth of the last child born alive such as whether the last birth was registered, where the delivery took place, and age of the mother at the birth of last child born alive (collected by three countries: Barbados, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago). Although not recommended in the P&R, 9 countries collected information on the “date of birth of first child born alive”. Age of mother at birth of first child born alive was asked in the questionnaires of 12 countries.

86. An estimate of the number of live births during the 12 months immediately preceding the census date can be derived from information on the “date of birth of last child born alive.” Despite this possibility, the review shows that some countries opted for directly collecting on the number and particulars of live births in past 12 months. 39 countries—all in Africa, North America and Asia—collected information on the topic of children born in the past 12 months to women aged 15 to 49 years (see table 19). Of these, 28 collected the information specified by sex while 5 collected supplementary information on the date of birth. Information on children still alive (of those born in the past 12 months) was collected in 20 countries. Several countries (eg. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia and Timor-Leste) collected information on the related subjects of where the delivery took place and who assisted in the delivery.

Table 19: Number of countries collecting on live births in the past 12 months by women aged 15 to 49

	Question on live births	by Sex	by Date of birth	Still alive	
				Total	by Sex
All 124 countries	39	28	5	20	18
Africa (27)	19	15	3	12	11
America, North (18)	9	3	2	5	4
America, South (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	11	10	0	3	3
Europe (24)	0	0	0	0	0
Oceania (22)	0	0	0	0	0

D. Age, date or duration of first marriage (additional topic)

87. Date of first marriage comprises the day, month and year when the first marriage took place. In countries where date of first marriage is difficult to obtain, it is advisable to collect information on age at marriage or on how many years ago the marriage took place (duration of marriage). Information on age, date or duration of marriage/union may improve fertility estimates based on children ever born. Only 14 countries collected on age at first marriage. Date of first marriage was collected by 10 countries while first marriage by duration was collected by 1 country (see table 20). The topic of age, date or duration of first marriage is among those accorded the least priority by countries.

Table 20: Number of countries collecting on age, date or duration of first marriage

	Age	Date	Duration
All 124 countries	14	10	1
Africa (27)	6	1	0
America, North (18)	3	2	1
America, South (6)	0	0	0
Asia (27)	5	2	0
Europe (24)	0	5	0
Oceania (22)	0	0	0

E. Age of mother at birth of first child born alive (additional topic)

88. Age of mother at the time of the birth of her first live-born child is used for the indirect estimation of fertility based on first births and to provide information on onset of childbearing and also for the indirect estimation of child mortality. If the topic is included in the census, information should be obtained for each woman who has had at least one child born alive.

As table 18 above indicates, only a dozen countries collected information on age of mother at birth of first child born alive. Of these, 7 were in North America, with the rest being Namibia,

South Africa, Lao PDR, Qatar and Faeroe Islands. This topic is among those non-core population census topics that have been accorded less priority by countries.

F. Household deaths in the past 12 months

89. Information on household deaths in the past 12 months classified by sex of the deceased and age at death is used to estimate the level and pattern of mortality in countries that lack a reliable civil registration. The P&R recommends that information on mortality should be sought for each household in terms of the total number of deaths in the 12-month period prior to the census date. For each deceased person reported, name, age, sex, date (day, month and year) of death should also be collected.

90. Compared to fertility related topics of children ever born and children living, a lower proportion of countries collected information on household deaths. A total of 48 countries (39 per cent of those reviewed) collected such information (see table 21). 20 of these countries were in Africa while 13 were in Asia. In South America and Oceania less than a third of the countries inquired on household death. No one country in Europe included a question on household deaths in its census questionnaire. In each country where the number of household deaths was collected, the sex of the deceased and the age at death were also recorded. Fewer countries (22) collected on the date of death.

Table 21: Number of countries that collected on household deaths in the past 12 months and on maternal and paternal orphanhood

	Household deaths in the past 12 months						Maternal orphanhood	Paternal orphanhood
	Total	by Sex	Age at death	Date of death	Cause of death	Maternal death		
All 124 countries	48	48	48	22	16	34	27	27
Africa (27)	20	20	20	7	9	16	17	17
America, North (18)	7	7	7	3	1	3	1	1
America, South (6)	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	13	13	13	5	4	11	2	2
Europe (24)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oceania (22)	6	6	6	6	2	4	7	7

91. When information is collected on household deaths, the P&R recommends that two follow-up questions be asked on: i) the cause of death; and, ii) in the event the deceased is a woman aged 15 to 49, whether the death occurred while she was pregnant or during childbirth or during the six weeks after the end of pregnancy. The review found that 16 countries inquired as to the cause of death, most of them by providing broad categories of cause of death including: accident, violence, homicide and suicide. Where the deceased was found to be a female aged 15 to 49, a relatively larger number of countries (34) inquired whether the death was caused by pregnancy, during childbirth or during a period of time after the end of pregnancy. While most countries selected the recommended period of six weeks after the end of pregnancy, some counties chose

to use different periods. Indonesia used a two months period while Nauru selected six months. Some countries additionally inquired whether the maternal death was related to miscarriage or abortion (eg. Bangladesh, Viet Nam). The question on maternal death in most cases elicited a simple “yes/no” answer. Several countries posed additional questions related to the subject of maternal death including: where the death took place (hospital, health center, home, other) and who attended or assisted with delivery before death (doctor, nurse, midwife, traditional birth attendant, other).

G. Maternal or paternal orphanhood (additional topic)

92. Census data on the topics of maternal or paternal orphanhood are useful for indirect estimation of mortality by sex. Information on these two topics can help to ascertain the level and patterns of mortality in the population. For the collection of information on orphanhood, two direct questions on the biological parents should be asked, namely (a) whether the natural mother of the person enumerated in the household is still alive at the time of the census, and (b) whether the natural father of the person enumerated in the household is still alive at the time of the census, regardless of whether or not the mother and father are enumerated in the same household.

93. The review found that a total of 27 countries included the topics of maternal orphanhood and paternal orphanhood in their census questionnaires (see table 21 above). The topics appear to be most relevant for the African region where 17 countries (more than two-thirds) included the topics. In Oceania 7 countries collected on these topics. Outside of the two regions, the topics seemed to be of interest to only Belize, Bangladesh and Timor-Leste. No country in South America and Europe collected on these topics.

6. Educational characteristics

A. Literacy

94. The P&R recommends that data on literacy be collected for all persons 10 years of age and over. In the collection of information on literacy, the P&R recommends that consideration be given to distinguishing broad levels of literacy skills. Since literacy is an applied skill, the P&R further recommends that it be measured in relation to particular tasks, such as reading with understanding personal letters and newspapers or writing a personal letter or message.

95. The review shows that 75 countries out of 124 (60 per cent) included a question on the topic of literacy (see figure 3). The large majority of countries in Africa, South America and Asia measured literacy. In the remaining regions of the world less than half of the countries collected information on literacy. In Europe, where levels of illiteracy are very low, only 9 countries (Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Malta, Montenegro, Russian Federation and Serbia) sought information on the topic.

96. Countries typically collected information on literacy by posing the question: “can [name] read and write in any language?” along with the response categories of “yes” or “no”. Quite often, the question on literacy was posed as: “in what language can [name] read and write?” In multilingual countries, the query on literacy was followed with a list of languages in which respondents can claim ability to read and write. Broad levels of literacy skills were provided as response categories in only two countries. Lesotho provided the response categories of “yes with ease”, “yes with difficulty” and “not at all” while South Africa offered the options: “no difficulty”, “some difficulty”, “a lot of difficulty”, “unable to do” and “do not know”. South Africa’s question on literacy was posed in a manner that tested literacy as an applied skill: “Does [name] have difficulty in doing any of the following? -Writing his/her name; -Reading (eg. newspapers, magazines, religious books, etc) in any language; -Filling in a form (eg. Social grants form); -Writing a letter in any language; -Calculating/working out how much change he/she should receive when buying something; -Reading road signs. Despite P&R’s encouragement to measure literacy as an applied skill, the review found very few countries formulated their question on literacy in such a manner. Besides South Africa, Macao SAR and Samoa are the only other countries that attempted to measure literacy as an applied skill.

97. Though the P&R recommends that data on literacy be collected for all persons 10 years of age and over, the review found that only 11 countries out of 75 did so. In 46 countries the minimum age for collection was below the recommended 10 years, while in 13 other countries it was above 10 years. In 10 countries (mostly in Africa and South America) the minimum age for collection was either 2 or 3 years. 5 countries did not specify a minimum age.

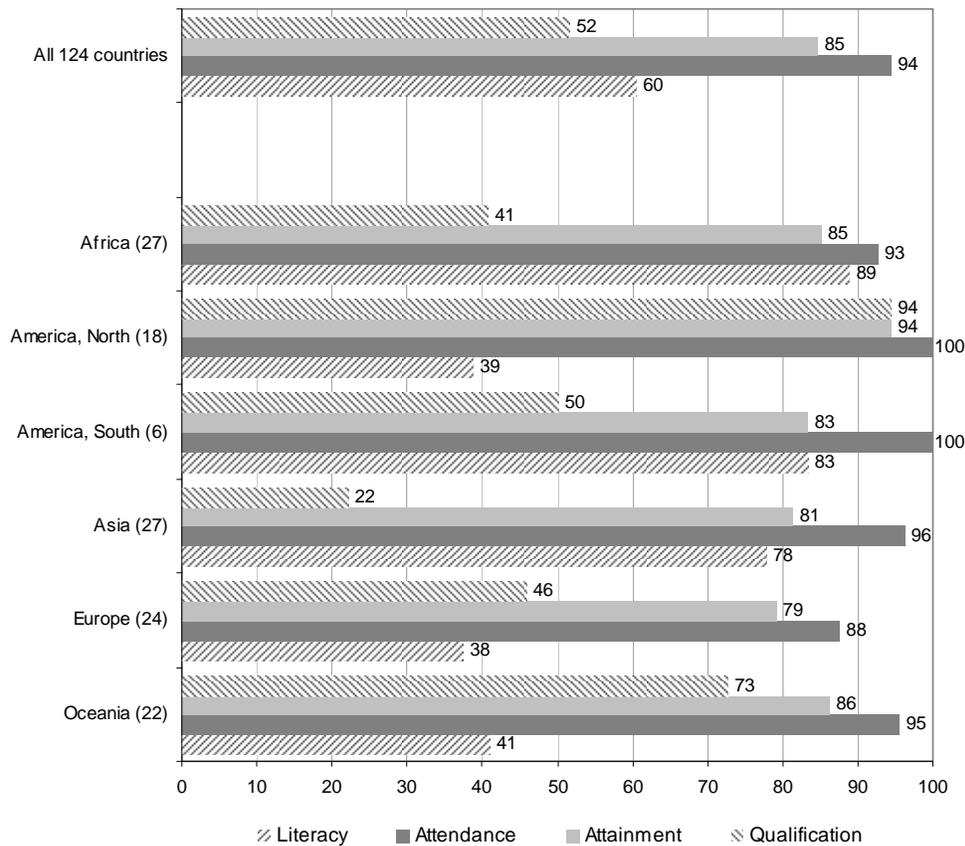
98. The P&R recommends that information on literacy status, school attendance and educational attainment be collected and tabulated separately and independently of each other, without any assumption of linkages between them. The review, however, found that in a handful of countries (that did not include a separate question on literacy) the question on educational attainment contained response categories pertaining to literacy (Egypt, Italy, Lao PDR, Lithuania, Qatar, Spain, State of Palestine and Turkey). For instance, the State of Palestine’s question on educational level and specialization included the response categories: “illiterate” and “can read and write”. Similarly, Turkey’s question on education level included the response categories of “illiterate” and “literate but not school graduate”.

99. In a few countries the question on literacy was not posed to all respondents above the lower age limit. Belarus’ question on literacy was to be answered only if the respondent has no education. Croatia designed its question on literacy to be answered only if the answer “no schooling” is given to the question on educational attainment.

B. School attendance

100. School attendance is defined as regular attendance at any regular accredited educational institution or programme, public or private, for organized learning at any level of education. The P&R recommends information on school attendance be collected, at least in principle, for all persons of all ages although the inquiry on this topic usually relates to the population of official school age, which ranges from 5 to 29 years of age.

Figure 3: Proportion of countries collecting on the educational characteristics of literacy, attendance, attainment and qualification



101. A total of 117 countries (94 per cent) included a question on school attendance (see figure 3). All countries in the Americas and almost all in each of the remaining regions collected information on school attendance. In line with P&R suggestion a total of 36 countries collected for all ages. The lower age limit of 3 years was used in 22 countries while that of 5 and 6 were used in 26 and 25 countries, respectively. The remaining countries used a variety of minimum ages (2+, 4+, 14+, 15+ and <16). In 7 countries an upper age limit ranging from 24 to 64 years was applied. The diversity in the minimum age reflects differences in the national education structures and depends on whether data collection is extended to cover pre-primary education and other educational and training programmes for adults.

102. The majority of countries investigated persons “currently” attending. In a few cases, information on attendance was sought in relation to a reference period. The week before the census was used as the reference period in Malta. Other reference periods observed were the last 30 days (Faeroe Islands, Sri Lanka) and the last 3 months (United States of America). In some countries the information sought was on “ever” attendance. In several countries the question posed lent itself to collecting information on both the currently attending and the ever attended (eg. Israel asked: “have you studied in the past, or are you studying today, in a school?” along with the response categories: studied in the past; studying today; and, never studied at all).

103. Half of the countries reviewed collected additional information related to the subject of attendance. Some of the most commonly included subjects were: level of education attending; full-time/part time status; type of educational institution (public, denominational, private non-denominational); location and name of institution; name of programme of study; age of leaving school; reasons for not attending (material conditions, health conditions, etc.); main language of instruction; means of commuting to school; time of leaving home for school; length of time to travel to school; and, number of days attended in a week.

C. Educational attainment

104. The P&R defines educational attainment as the highest grade completed within the most advanced level attended in the educational system. The P&R recommends information on educational attainment be collected for all persons 5 years of age and over. It further recommends that in order to guarantee international comparability, countries ensure that the national educational attainment classification used is able to be mapped into UNESCO's ISCED97 classification.

105. 105 countries (85 per cent) included a question on educational attainment (see figure 3). Nearly all countries in the Americas and the vast majority (more than three-quarters) in the other regions collected information on this topic. 16 countries that did not collect on educational attainment did so on educational qualification. In some of these cases, information on educational qualification could potentially provide sufficient data for outputs to be presented on educational attainment according to ISCED97 classification. If account is taken of such countries then the number of countries that could potentially generate outputs for educational attainment would be larger than 105.

106. Almost all the countries that collected on educational attainment did so on the highest grade completed. A few countries (eg. Barbados, Jamaica and Swaziland), however, collected on the basis of the highest grade attended. The review shows that only 21 countries collected for all persons 5 years of age and over, in line with P&R suggestion. In 24 countries (half of which were in Africa) the minimum age for collection was less than 5 years while that in 38 other countries was larger than the recommend 5 years. 22 countries collected for all ages. It was observed that most countries applied national classifications of levels of education. In some countries ISCED97 was used with modification.

D. Field of education (additional topic)

107. Information on persons by field of education along with level of education is important for examining the match between the supply and demand for qualified manpower with specific specializations within the labor market. The P&R suggests that a question on field of education be posed to persons 15 years of age and over who attended at least one grade in secondary education or its equivalent in other organized educational and training programmes. In order to ensure continued and improved international comparability of census data by field of education, the P&R recommends that the classification for the fields of education be based on the ISCED97.

108. 25 countries (20 per cent) collected information on field of education through their censuses. The majority of countries (16) utilized an open-ended question format with a write-in response (see table 22). Three countries (Qatar, South Africa and Spain) offered a pre-defined list of fields of education. Among these three, the classifications for South Africa and Spain were available on the census form. Both countries applied a national classification that appeared to easily map into ISCED97.

Table 22: Number of countries collecting on field of education by format of question/response

	Question on field of education	Open-ended question with write-in responses		Question with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses		Closed question with pre-defined response categories only	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
All 124 countries	25	16	64	6	24	3	12
Africa (27)	3	1	33	1	33	1	33
America, North (18)	6	4	67	2	33	0	0
America, South (6)	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
Asia (27)	6	4	67	1	17	1	17
Europe (24)	4	3	75	0	0	1	25
Oceania (22)	6	4	67	2	33	0	0

E. Educational qualifications (additional topic)

109. Qualifications are the degrees, diplomas, certificates, professional titles and so forth that an individual has acquired, whether by full-time study, part-time study or private study, whether conferred in the home country or abroad, and whether conferred by educational authorities, special examining bodies or professional bodies. The acquisition of an educational qualification therefore implies the successful completion of a course of study or training programme.

110. The review found that 64 countries (52 per cent) included the topic of educational qualification in their census questionnaires. Almost all countries of North America, nearly three-quarters of those in Oceania and about half of those in Europe and South America collected on educational qualification (see figure 3 above). In the majority of countries the information sought was the highest degree/diploma received, highest educational or professional qualification achieved, or the highest examination ever passed. 16 countries that collected on qualification did not pose a question on educational attainment. Several countries had additional questions related to educational qualification such as the date and place where qualification was received, and the second and third highest qualification.

7. Economic characteristics

A. Activity status

111. Questions on the topic of economic activity status yield information on the number and characteristics of the employed, unemployed and inactive persons. For determination of the economic activity status, the P&R recognizes two concepts of the economically active population: (i) the usually active population, measured in relation to a long reference period such as a year; and, (ii) the currently active population measured in relation to a short reference period such as one week or one day. The P&R leaves the choice between these measurement approaches to countries with the advice that countries should take into account the advantages and disadvantages of each approach, as well as national circumstances such as the need for comparability with other national sources of data on economic characteristics. The P&R points out that the “current activity” measure is the one used as the basis for international comparisons of the economically active population, employment and unemployment.

112. The review found that all 124 countries collected on economic activity status. Of these, 103 (or 83 per cent) used the concept of “currently active” while 11 (or 9 per cent) relied on the “usually active” concept (see table 23). In 10 countries, the concept used could not be ascertained on the basis of the questions and instructions provided on the census questionnaires. In South America, Europe and Oceania, all countries used the “currently active” concept. Among countries that relied on the “currently active” concept, the reference period of the “last calendar week” or the “last seven days” prior to census night was exclusively used except in two countries (the Czech Republic and Mali). The Czech Republic used the “census day” and Mali the “past four weeks” as the reference period. Work of at least one hour in the past 7 days/last week was the current activity criterion applied in 25 countries (Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Belize, Jamaica, Brazil, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Hong Kong SAR, Israel, Republic of Korea, Maldives, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Montenegro and Serbia). Aruba and Ethiopia selected work of at least 4 hours during the reference week while Burkina Faso applied work of at least 3 days in the last 7 days. The “usually active” concept was used in 3 countries in Africa (Liberia, Nigeria and Zambia), one country in North America (Barbados) and 7 countries in Asia (Cambodia, DPR of Korea, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka). The corresponding reference period was the “preceding 12 months” or the “preceding calendar year” from census date except in DPR of Korea where the reference period was the “past 6 months”.

113. Both concepts were made use of in 10 countries that principally measured economic characteristics of the currently active population. In 9 of these countries (American Samoa, Bermuda, Guam, Israel, Lithuania, Northern Mariana Islands, Saint Lucia, United States of America and the United States Virgin Islands), the usually active concept was used to measure income and/or time worked in the past 12 months/calendar year. In Timor-Leste, the usually active concept was used to collect information on the main and the secondary economic activity in the past 12 months.

114. Information on activity status is usually collected for each person at or above a minimum age set in accordance with the conditions in each country. The P&R recognizes that countries in

which many children participate in agriculture or other types of economic activity will need to select a lower minimum age than countries where employment of young children is uncommon. While the P&R does not recommend a specific lower age limit for collection purposes, it nonetheless recommends—to achieve international comparability—tabulation for persons 15 years of age and over. The review found that countries used a variety of age limits. The majority (60 per cent) used the ages 14, 15 or 16 years as the lower age limit. In 18 countries (16 per cent) the lower age limit used was less than 10 years. These countries were mostly in Africa and South America. Although a maximum age limit is not recommended in the P&R, the Russian Federation applied 72 years and Armenia 75 years as the upper age limit.

Table 23: Number of countries collecting on economic activity by primary concept of economic activity

	Question on activity status	Primary concept of economically active population				Minimum age	
		Currently active population	Reference period	Usually active population	Reference period		Concept couldn't be ascertained
All 124 countries	124	103		11		10	
Africa (27)	27	19	last week ¹ (18x); past 4 weeks (1x)	3	last year ² (3x)	5	5+ (4x); 6+ (8x); 8+; 9+; 10+ (6x); 14+ (3x); 15+
America, North (18)	18	17	last week ¹ (17x)	1	last year ² (1x)	0	10+ (4x); 12+ (3x); 14+ (3x); 15+ (8x)
America, South (6)	6	6	last week ¹ (6x)	0		0	5+ (2x); 6+; 10+ (2x); 14+
Asia (27)	27	19	last week ¹ (19x)	7	last year ² (6x); last 6 months (1x)	1	7+; 10+ (6x); 14+; 15+ (11x); 16+ (2x); na (6x)
Europe (24)	24	21	last week ¹ (20x); census day (1x)	0		3	14+; 15+ (15x); 16+ (4x); na (4x)
Oceania (22)	22	21	last week ¹ (21x)	0		1	10+ (2x); 12+; 14+ (3x); 15+ (16x)

Note: ¹ The reference period is either for the last week or the past 7 days prior to the census. ² The reference period is either for the past 12 months preceding the census or for the last calendar year.

115. A total of 64 countries probed the characteristics of the unemployed by asking additional questions. These questions explored some of the following subjects: main reason for not working; status of job search; status of availability to work; status of willingness to work; duration of unemployment; and, past work history. Furthermore, 17 countries posed questions to identify persons who provided social and personal services to their own household and other households. 7 countries (Australia, Ireland, Maldives, New Zealand, Niue, Spain and Tokelau) inquired about unpaid voluntary service to other households, communities and/or non-profit organizations.

B. Occupation

116. Occupation refers to the type of work done in a job by the person employed (or the type of work done previously, if the person is unemployed), irrespective of the industry or the status in employment in which the person should be classified. Type of work is described by the main tasks and duties of the work. For purposes of international comparison, the P&R recommends that countries prepare tabulations involving occupations in accordance with the latest revision available of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

117. The topic of occupation was included in the census questionnaires of 120 countries (97 per cent of countries reviewed). All or nearly all countries in each region collected on the topic of occupation. The majority of countries (75) used an open-ended question with write-in responses while 36 chose the combined question/response format of pre-defined response categories and write-in responses (see table 24). Since the occupation codes were not included in the census questionnaires reviewed in most cases it was not possible to ascertain to what extent countries applied the ISCO classification.

Table 24: Number of countries collecting on occupation by format of question/response

	Question on occupation	Open-ended question with write-in responses		Question with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses		Closed question with pre-defined response categories only	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
All 124 countries	120	75	63	36	30	9	8
Africa (27)	26	11	42	9	35	6	23
America, North (18)	18	11	61	7	39	0	0
America, South (6)	5	5	100	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	26	14	54	12	46	0	0
Europe (24)	23	18	78	3	13	2	9
Oceania (22)	22	16	73	5	23	1	5

C. Industry

118. Industry (branch of economic activity) refers to the kind of production or activity of the establishment or similar unit in which the job(s) of the economically active person (whether employed or unemployed) was located during the time-reference period established for data on economic characteristics. For purposes of international comparison, the P&R recommends that countries prepare tabulations involving industry in accordance with the latest revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC).

119. 114 countries (92 per cent of countries reviewed) included the topic of industry in their census questionnaires. All the countries in the Americas and the vast majority in the remaining regions collected on industry. 59 countries provided an open-ended question/response format while 44 offered the combined question/response format (see table 25). The industry codes were not included in the census questionnaires of all countries reviewed except in two (Bhutan and Italy). The classification of industry codes used by both Bhutan and Italy conform to ISIC.

120. In countries with reliable business registers, information on industry could be derived from the registers as long as the countries collected on the name and address of the place of work.

Table 25: Number of countries collecting on industry by format of question/response

	Question on industry	Open-ended question with write-in responses		Question with both pre-defined response categories and write-in responses		Closed question with pre-defined response categories only	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
All 124 countries	114	59	52	44	39	11	10
Africa (27)	25	9	36	9	36	7	28
America, North (18)	18	9	50	9	50	0	0
America, South (6)	6	6	100	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	26	12	46	13	50	1	4
Europe (24)	21	16	76	3	14	2	10
Oceania (22)	18	7	39	10	56	1	6

D. Status in employment

121. Status in employment refers to the type of explicit or implicit contract of employment with other persons or organizations that the economically active person has in his/her job. The P&R recommends that the economically active population be classified by status in employment as follows: (a) employees, among whom it may be possible to distinguish between employees with stable contracts (including regular employees) and other employees; (b) employers; (c) own-account workers; (d) contributing family workers; (e) members of producers' cooperatives; and, (f) persons not classifiable by status.

122. The review shows that 113 countries (91 per cent) included the topic of status in employment. All countries in the Americas and Europe as well as the vast majority in the rest of the regions (more than 80 per cent) collected on status in employment. The P&R classification on status in employment was applied as is or with slight modification (adding or removing one or two categories) in only about a dozen countries. In the majority of the countries, the P&R classification was modified to country circumstances. The statuses "employees" and "own-account workers" were subjected to significant modification.

Employee

American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands	Employee of a private-for-profit Employee of private not-for-profit Employee of local government Employee of federal government employee
Aruba	Permanent employee Temporary employee deployed by a temp agency Temporary employee on contract basis
Bahamas	Government employee Quasi government employee Private sector employee
Belize	Paid employee - Government (central or local) Paid employee - Quasi Government Paid employee - Private/NGO Paid employee - International Organisation....Embassy
Botswana	Employee - paid cash Employee - paid in kind
Brazil	Employee with a formal contract Army, navy and air force, police and firemen military member Public sector employee Employee without a formal contract
Cook Islands	Employee full time Employee part time

Costa Rica	Private employee Employee in the public sector Employee in private households
Estonia	Employee with at least one year employment relationship Employee with less than one year employment relationship
Ethiopia	Employee - Government Employee - Government parastatal Employee - Private organisation Employee - NGO, International org. Employee - Domestic Employee - others
Isle of Man	Works full-time (≥ 30 hrs per week) Works part-time (< 30 hrs per week) Works for more than one employer part-time (< 30 hrs per week)
Italy	Fixed-term Permanent
Jamaica	Paid Government employee Paid private enterprise employee Paid employee in private home
Japan	Regular employee (employment period > 1 year) Temporary employee (employment period < 1 year or employed on a daily basis)
Malawi	Public service Private sector
Mauritius	Employee paid by the month Employee paid by day, week, fortnight, job
Namibia	Employee (Communal farms) Employee (Commercial farms) Employee (Government) Employee (Parastatal) Employee (Private)
Nigeria	Salary....wage worker Casual wage worker
Saint Lucia	Paid Government employee Paid private enterprise employee Paid employee - Statutory body Paid employee in private home
Seychelles	Employee – Government Employee - Parastatal Employee - Private
Sri Lanka	Government paid employee Semi government paid employee Private sector paid employee
State of Palestine	Regular wage employee Irregular wage employee
Switzerland	Employee with managerial responsibility Employee without managerial responsibility
Thailand	Government State enterprise Private sector worker

Own account

Albania, Bahamas, Belarus, Botswana, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Faeroe Island, Ghana, Isle of Man, Japan, Lithuania, Mauritius, Monaco, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom	Self employed with employees Self employed without employees
Belize, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, Nigeria, Saint Lucia	Own business/self employed with paid employees Own business/self employed without paid employees
American Samoa	Self employed in own not incorporated business, professional practice or farm Self employed in own incorporated business, professional practice or farm
Armenia	Self-employed in farm household Self-employed in other activity
Australia	Working in own business (incorporated) Working in own business (unincorporated)
Bangladesh	Self-employed (agriculture) Self-employed (non-agriculture)
Israel	Self-employed with no employees Self-employed with 1-2 employees Self-employed with 3-9 employees Self-employed with 10 employees or more employees

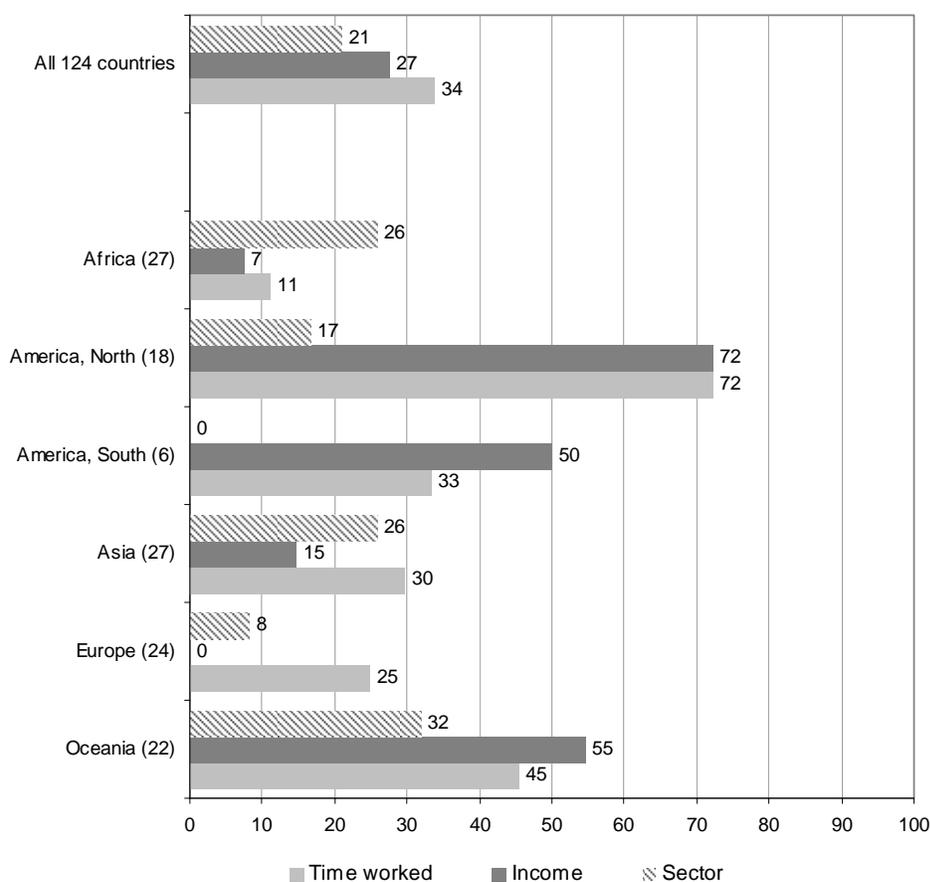
E. Time worked (additional topic)

123. Time worked is the total time actually spent producing goods and services, within regular working hours and as overtime, during the reference period adopted for economic activity in the census. Inclusion in the census of an item on time worked helps to ensure a more accurate

measurement of the volume of work performed and the full contribution of persons, especially when such persons have non-standard working hours.

124. Overall 42 countries (34 per cent) measured time worked (see figure 4). Almost three-quarters of the countries in North America and almost half in Oceania measured time worked while in the rest of the regions a third or less than a third did so. In Africa only three countries (Kenya, Mauritius and Seychelles) measured time worked. Countries that collected on the basis of the currently active primarily measured the number of hours worked per week. Those who collected on the usually active measured in units of weeks per year or months per year. While the majority of countries measured total time worked, in some countries information was sought on the time spent on the main job/principal activity. A few countries measured time worked on secondary activities.

Figure 4: Proportion of countries collecting on time worked, income and sector of employment



F. Income (additional topic)

125. Income may be defined as: (a) income, in cash or kind, received by each household member; (b) total household income in cash and in kind from all sources. The P&R suggests that the preferred reference period for income data should be the preceding 12 months or past year.

The income could be classified as income from paid employment, self-employment, property and other investment, transfers from governments, other households and non-profit institutions.

126. Information on income was collected by a total of 34 countries (27 per cent) (see figure 4). More than two-thirds of the countries in North America and over half of those in Oceania measured income (monetary amount). No one country in Europe collected information on amount of income. Information on the various sources of income was collected by 15 countries, 7 of which were in Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Lithuania, Russian Federation and Serbia). While the majority of countries sought information on income at the individual level, in several instances the information sought was at the household level (eg. Colombia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Seychelles and Tokelau).

G. Institutional sector of employment (additional topic)

127. The institutional sector of employment relates to the legal organization and principal functions, behavior and objectives of the enterprise with which a job is associated. The P&R recommends that four institutional sectors—corporation; general government; non-profit institutions serving households; and, households—be distinguished in censuses.

128. Information on the institutional sector of employment was sought in 26 countries (21 per cent) (see figure 4). In none of the regions did the proportion of countries that asked on sector of employment reach a third. In most countries, the information concerning institutional sector of employment was captured through pre-coded alternatives. Several countries modified the P&R classification of institutional sectors to suit their national circumstances. Countries with reliable business registers have the possibility to derive information on institutional sectors from the registers if they collected on the name and address of the place of work.

H. Employment in the informal sector and informal employment (additional topics)

129. The population employed in the informal sector comprises all persons who, during a given reference period, were employed in at least one informal sector unit, irrespective of their status in employment and whether it was their main or secondary job. The concept of informal employment is complex and suited for collection through household surveys, although the census could potentially yield reasonably good estimates of the population employed in the informal sector. Perhaps, it is in recognition of its complexity or preference for surveys for collecting it that no country posed a dedicated question on the topic of the informal sector and informal employment. Four countries—Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa—however, referenced the informal sector through their question on the institutional sector of employment.

I. Place of work (additional topic)

130. The P&R defines the place of work as the location in which a currently employed person performed his or her main job, and where a usually employed person performed the main job used to determine his/her other economic characteristics such as occupation, industry and status in employment. Type of place of work refers to the nature of the workplace and distinguishes between the home and other workplaces, whether fixed or otherwise. The response categories

of—work at home, no fixed place of work, and, with a fixed place of work outside the home—are recommended by the P&R, subject to variation as necessitated by national circumstances.

131. A total of 64 countries (52 per cent) gathered information on the place of work (see table 26). Of these, 60 also asked for the location (major/minor civil division) or exact address to be specified, while 58 asked for the name of the business/organization. Countries with reliable business registers could potentially match responses to questions on name and place of work to entries in their registers to generate information on industry and sector of employment.

Table 26: Number of countries that collected information on place of work and business name by region

	Place of work	Location / address specified	Business name
All 124 countries	64	60	58
Africa (27)	6	7	7
America, North (18)	11	12	13
America, South (6)	3	3	2
Asia (27)	11	9	9
Europe (24)	22	20	15
Oceania (22)	11	9	12

8. Disability characteristics

A. Disability status

132. For the purpose of determining disability status using census data, the P&R defines persons with disabilities as those who are at greater risk than the general population for experiencing restrictions in performing specific tasks or participating in role activities. This definition requires that disability be defined in terms of limitations in basic activity functioning, and not by performance of, or participation in, organized activities (such as educational attendance or work participation). Because they can be reasonably measured using a census and they are deemed appropriate for international comparison, four domains—walking, seeing, hearing and cognition—are considered by the P&R to be essential in determining disability status. If space permits, the P&R recommends the following additional domains: self care, communication, upper body functioning and psychological functioning.

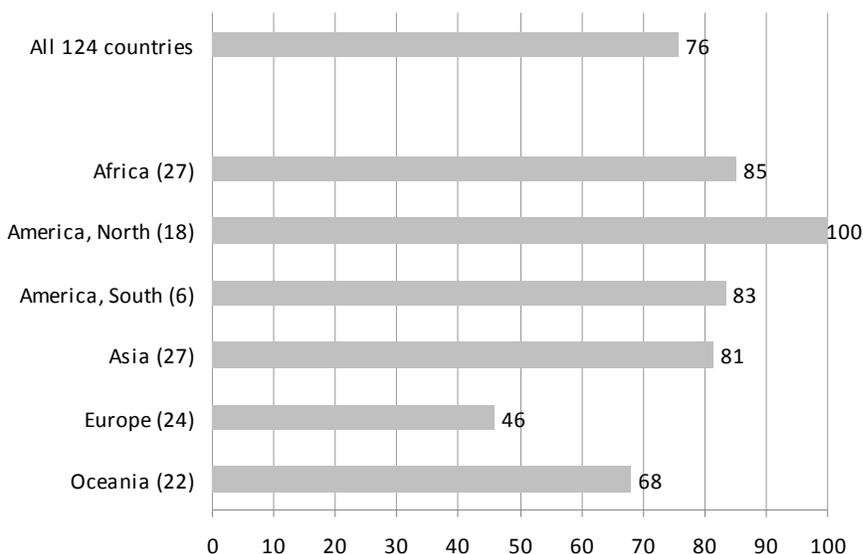
133. At least one question on the topic of disability was asked in 94 countries out of the 124 reviewed (76%) (see figure 5 and table 27). All the countries of North America and over 80% of those in Africa, South America and Asia collected on disability status. In Europe less than half of the countries collected such information in their censuses.

134. A comprehensive measurement of disability requires the application of the broader concept of disability and functioning as articulated in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). For census purposes, the Short Set of Disability Questions

developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics focus on a few of the several ICF dimensions. These Washington Group recommended questions focus on the degree of difficulty in performing specific tasks in four essential domains—walking, seeing, hearing and cognition—and the additional domains of self care, communication, upper body functioning and psychological functioning. The accompanying response categories represent four levels of difficulty: “no difficulty at all”; “some difficulty”; “a lot of difficulties”; and, “cannot do at all”.

135. The review found that only 32 countries utilized the Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions. In 15 of these countries, the response categories were slightly modified. 7 countries (Indonesia, Mauritius, Nauru, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu) reduced the response categories to three, while 3 other countries (Belize, Serbia, South Africa) slightly expanded the response categories by including either one or two of the following: “does not want to answer”; “do not know”; “cannot yet be determined”; and, “DK/NS”. American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, United States of America and United States Virgin Islands collapsed the response categories into “yes” and “no”. The four essential domains were investigated in almost all of the 32 countries that adopted the Washington Group Short Set questions (see table 28). Fewer countries investigated the additional domains of self care (17 countries), communication (14), upper body functioning (7) and psychological functioning (2).

Figure 5: Proportion of countries collecting on disability



136. In 22 countries, the primary information collected on the topic of disability involved impairment (or handicap) rather than limitations to activities. In some cases, limitations to activities were listed mixed with impairments and restrictions to participation. Aruba, Bahamas and Panama collected information on handicap separately and in addition to a question on limitations of activity. In other instances, information on the topic of disability was collected conflated with, or in the context of, general health. The United Kingdom asked: “Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?” Cameroon posed the question: “Has person any chronic disease or

predominant handicap?” Similarly, Hungary asked “Do you have any long-lasting disease or deficiency?”

Table 27: Number of countries that collected on disability

	Total number of countries reviewed	Question on topic of disability	Use of Washington Group Short Set of Questions	Measurement of impairment (handicap)
All 124 countries	124	94	32	22
Africa	27	23	2	12
America, North	18	18	7	2
America, South	6	5	1	1
Asia	27	22	9	5
Europe	24	11	4	2
Oceania	22	15	9	0

Table 28: Number of countries that collected on disability through the Washington Group Short Set of Questions by essential and additional domains

	Use of Washington Group Short Set of Questions	Essential domains				Additional domains			
		Walking	Seeing	Hearing	Cognition	Self care	Communication	Upper body functioning	Psychological functioning
All regions (124 countries)	32	32	30	31	32	17	14	7	2
Africa (27)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
America, North (18)	7	7	7	7	7	6	5	4	1
America, South (6)	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Asia (27)	9	9	8	8	9	3	3	1	0
Europe (24)	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	0	0
Oceania (22)	9	9	8	9	9	3	1	1	0

137. Except in a few cases, information on disability was collected at the individual level (through individual questionnaires). But in a few cases (eg. Fiji, Nicaragua, Peru), information was collected at the household level (through a household questionnaire) seeking information on the presence of persons with disabilities in the household. Some of the countries which asked questions on disability status collected not only on the type of disability but also on the cause and severity of disability as well as care and assistive tools available to persons with disability. Below are some of the disability related subjects countries investigated.

List of selected disability related subjects investigated

Cause of disability	Bahamas:	What was the cause of your disability? ... 1 From birth ... 2 Disease/ illness contracted ... 3 Accident (road traffic) ... 4 Accident (other) ... 5 Exposure to toxic substances (gases, chemicals, etc.) ... 6 Other _____ ... 7 Not known
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	State of Palestine:	1. Congenital ... 2. During delivery ... 3. Illness ... 4. Psychological/physical abuse ... 5. Aging ... 6. Work injury ... 7. Traffic accident ... 8. Other accident ... 9. War ... 10. Other
Assistive devices	St. Lucia:	Are you using any of the following aids? (mark all that apply) ... 1 Wheelchair ... 2 Walker ... 3 Crutches ... 4 Braille ... 5 Adapted Car ... 6 Cane ... 7 Prosthesis/artificial body part ... 8 Orthopedic Shoes ... 9 Hearing Aid ... 10 Other (Specify) ... 11 None
	South Africa:	Does name use any of the following? ... Eye glasses; ... Hearing aid; ... Walking stick or frame; ... Wheelchair; ... Chronic medication
Social care	Aruba:	Do you need help from others due to a physical or mental limitation with personal care or household chores (e.g. bathing, eating, cleaning)? Who provides this personal care or household help?
	United Kingdom:	Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: long-term physical or mental ill-health / disability? problems related to old age? (Do not count anything you do as part of your paid employment)... No; .. Yes, 1 - 19 hours a week; ... Yes, 20 - 49 hours a week; ... Yes, 50 or more hours a week
Medical care	Barbados:	Was your disability/major impairment ever diagnosed by a medical doctor? What type of aid are you required to use as a result of the disability?
Participation	Trinidad and Tobago:	Does any of (name's) disabilities or conditions affect (name) from performing any of the following? 01..Taking care of himself/herself 02...Getting around within the home 03...Going outside the home 04...Working at a job or business 05...Undertaking educational activities 06...Participating in social activities 07...No effect
	Namibia:	Because of the disability does (name) have any difficulties in engaging in any learning and/or economic activity? ... 1 Yes ... 2 No ... 9 Don't know
	Canada:	Does a physical condition or mental condition or health problem reduce the amount or the kind of activity this person can do: (a) at home? (b) at work or at school? (c) in other activities, for example, transportation or leisure?
Onset of disability	Bahamas:	How old were you when you became disabled?
	Hungary:	When did your deficiency arise? ... Congenital ... Before school age ... At school age but before 18 years of age ... After 18 years of age but before 60 ... After 60 years of age ... Do not know .. Do not wish to answer
	Lesotho:	For how long has (name) been disabled?
Special education	Ecuador:	Do you attend (...) currently special education for people with disabilities?

9. Agriculture

138. For countries that wish to collect in the population and housing census information that would facilitate the preparation of a frame for a subsequent agricultural census, the P&R recommends two non-core topics on agriculture: i) own-account agricultural production activities, to be collected at the household level; and, ii) characteristics of all agricultural jobs, at the individual level, aimed at identifying persons involved in agricultural activities during a longer period, such as a year.

A. Own-account agricultural production

139. Information on the topic of own-account agricultural production should be collected for all households on whether any member of the household is engaged in any form of own-account

agricultural production activities. Where possible, the P&R recommends that information should be collected separately on the type of activity under the broad headings of crop production and livestock production. For countries where household level agriculture is particularly important, additional information on the size (area) of the agricultural holding and the numbers of livestock by type may also be collected in the population census.

140. Note: This topic is covered in the paper prepared by UNSD on the topic of housing censuses entitled “Implementation of international recommendations for housing topics in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses” (document number: ESA/STAT/AC.277/5).

B. Characteristics of all agricultural jobs during the last year

141. As presented earlier in the section of the paper dealing with economic activity, information on occupation was collected in 120 countries while that on industry was captured in 114. Because agricultural activities are included in the classifications pertaining to occupation and industry most countries that collected on those topics could potentially identify persons who engaged in agricultural activities. However, since in the vast majority of those countries the reference period used in connection with economic activity was the last week or the 7 days preceding census day, the information collected through those topics may not capture all persons who engaged in agricultural activities because of the seasonality of agricultural activities.

142. The review found that 41 countries (33 per cent) collected information on agricultural activity through a question other than that on occupation or industry. Over two-thirds of the countries in South America and nearly half of those in North America and Oceania had such a question. Information on agricultural activity was collected primarily through a question on main or secondary activity. In a few countries, the questions on sector of employment, time worked and place of work contained response categories that identified individuals involved in agricultural activity.

VI. Other population topics implemented by countries but not presently included in the Principles and Recommendations, Rev. 2

143. Annex III presents population topics which are not presently recommended in the P&R but that appeared in the questionnaires of several countries (individual questionnaires for all respondents). The annex lists these topics—where there is correspondence—under the familiar P&R topic headings. While some of the topics seemed to be of particular interest to specific countries/regions, others appeared across several regions. Some of these topics may perhaps be considered for possible inclusion in the next revision of the P&R.

144. Among topics with correspondence to P&R headings, the ones that appeared most commonly (at least in 10 countries) include: emigration; ever-lived abroad; country of birth of mother/father; country of previous residence; reason for arrival/return; remittances; reason for changing previous place of residence; reason of absence/presence on census night; duration of absence/presence; de facto union status; age of mother at birth of first child born alive;

level/grade and type of educational institution (public/private) currently attending; location of school; and, cause of disability.

145. Among topics that do not fit under existing P&R headings, items related to commuting to work and/or school made the most appearance. Main mode of transportation was enquired in the questionnaires of 34 countries. The associated subjects of length of commute time, commute start time, and frequency of commute also appeared in several census questionnaires. Topics relating to health insurance coverage and birth registration/certificate as well as those pertaining to information and communications technologies (ICTs) at the individual level—particularly with reference to access/use of the internet, computer and mobile phone—were commonly observed.

VII. Conclusion and points for discussion

146. In general, the findings of the review indicate that the core and non-core population census topics as recommended in Revision 2 of the *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* have been implemented by a considerable number of countries during the 2010 round. Most of the core population census topics, such as those relating to basic demographic, household, economic and educational characteristics as well as those pertaining to internal and international migration have been included in the censuses of a large number of countries. Among non-core population topics, information on ethno-cultural characteristics, educational qualification and place of work were collected in more than half of the countries reviewed.

147. The findings, however, show some regional variation in the implementation of some of the core as well as non-core topics, with some topics being more relevant to some countries and regions than to others. The extent to which countries implemented the recommended population census topics reflected their level of interest and priority for the selected topics and the availability, or lack, of data sources other than the census.

148. It should be taken into consideration that the findings in this paper are entirely based on a review of the information contained in census questionnaires. The limited scope of the review did not allow it to assess national experience in operationalizing the recommended topics—from data collection to editing, processing and analysis—and the lessons learned in the process. Complementing the findings in this review with a survey of the countries with the aim of compiling additional information on concepts used, outputs produced and challenges faced in implementing the topics would provide a more rich information base for the review process of the P&R. The findings in this review, nonetheless, provide a useful overview of the topics found to be relevant, and the concepts and classifications applied, in 2010 round censuses.

149. The Expert Group may wish to consider the following points as subjects of discussion for the review of the core and non-core population census topics contained in the P&R:

- i) Is there a need for revising the list of core and non-core population topics, taking into account the rate of implementation of the topics and the experience of countries in operationalizing them?
- ii) Are there specific concepts and definitions (eg. usual residence, ethnicity, etc) that require further elaboration and guidance?
- iii) Should more specific recommendations on how to formulate questions on certain topics deemed sensitive and subjective be provided? (eg. disability, income, the ethno-cultural characteristics of ethnicity, religion and language, etc)
- iv) Should some of the population census topics not presently recommended in the P&R but that nonetheless appeared in the questionnaires of a large number of countries be included in the revised P&R as core or additional topics? (eg. emigration, ever-lived abroad, commuting, access/use of ICTs at the individual level, etc)
- v) Are there any factors to be taken into consideration before incorporating recently adopted, revised international classifications (eg. ISCED 2011, ISCO-08) that pertain to P&R topics?

Annex I: List of recommended population census topics

1. Geographical and internal migration characteristics

- Place of usual residence ♦
- Place where present at time of census ♦
- Place of birth ♦
- Duration of residence ♦
- Place of previous residence ♦
- Place of residence at a specified date in the past ♦
- Total population □
- Locality □
- Urban and rural □

2. International migration characteristics

- Country of birth ♦
- Citizenship ♦
- Year or period of arrival ♦

3. Household and family characteristics

- Relationship to head or other reference member of household ♦
- Household and family composition □
- Household and family status ○

4. Demographic and social characteristics

- Sex ♦
- Age ♦
- Marital status ♦
- Religion ○
- Language ○
- Ethnicity ○
- Indigenous peoples ○

5. Fertility and mortality

- Children ever born alive ♦
- Children living ♦
- Date of birth of last child born alive ♦
- Births in the past 12 months □
- Deaths among children born in the past 12 months □
- Age, date or duration of first marriage ○
- Age of mother at birth of first child born alive ○
- Household deaths in the past 12 months ♦
- Maternal or paternal orphanhood ○

6. Educational characteristics

- Literacy ♦
- School attendance ♦
- Educational attainment ♦
- Field of education ○
- Educational qualifications ○

7. Economic characteristics

- Activity status ♦
- Occupation ♦
- Industry ♦
- Status in employment ♦
- Time worked ○
- Income ○
- Institutional sector of employment ○
- Employment in the informal sector ○
- Informal employment ○
- Place of work ○

8. Disability characteristics

- Disability status ♦

9. Agriculture

- Own-account agriculture production ○
- Characteristics of all agri. jobs during the last year ○

Note: ♦ denotes core population topics. ○ denotes non-core population topics. □ denotes derived population topics.

Annex II: List of countries reviewed

	<i>Census year</i>		<i>Census year</i>		<i>Census year</i>
Africa		America, South			
Algeria	2008	Brazil	2010	Isle of Man	2006
Botswana	2011	Colombia	2005	Italy	2012
Burkina Faso	2006	Ecuador	2010	Latvia	2011
Burundi	2008	French Guiana	2006	Lithuania	2011
Cameroon	2005	Peru	2007	Luxembourg	2011
Congo	2007	Venezuela	2011	Malta	2011
Djibouti	2009			Monaco	2008
Egypt	2006	Asia		Montenegro	2011
Ethiopia	2007	Armenia	2011	Romania	2011
Ghana	2010	Bangladesh	2011	Russia	2010
Kenya	2009	Bhutan	2005	Serbia	2011
Lesotho	2006	Cambodia	2008	Spain	2011
Liberia	2008	Cyprus	2011	Switzerland	2010
Malawi	2008	DPR of Korea	2008	United Kingdom	2011
Mali	2009	Hong Kong SAR	2006		
Mauritius	2011	India	2011	Oceania	
Mayotte	2007	Indonesia	2010	American Samoa	2010
Namibia	2011	Iran	2006	Australia	2006
Nigeria	2006	Israel	2008	Cook Islands	2006
Réunion	2006	Japan	2005	Fiji	2007
Saint Helena	2008	Lao PDR	2005	French Polynesia	2007
Seychelles	2010	Macao SAR	2006	Guam	2010
South Africa	2011	Maldives	2006	Kiribati	2005
Sudan	2008	Mongolia	2010	Marshal Island	2011
Swaziland	2007	Nepal	2011	Micronesia	2010
Togo	2010	Philippines	2007	Nauru	2011
Zambia	2010	Qatar	2010	New Caledonia	2009
		Republic of Korea	2005	New Zealand	2006
America, North		Singapore	2010	Niue	2006
Aruba	2010	Sri Lanka	2012	Norfolk Island	2006
Bahamas	2010	State of Palestine	2007	Northern Mariana Islands	2010
Barbados	2010	Thailand	2010	Palau	2005
Belize	2010	Timor-Leste	2010	Samoa	2006
Bermuda	2010	Turkey	2011	Solomon Islands	2009
Canada	2011	Viet Nam	2009	Tokelau	2006
Cayman Island	2010			Tonga	2009
Costa Rica	2011	Europe		Vanuatu	2009
Dominican Republic	2010	Albania	2011	Wallis and Futuna Islands	2008
El Salvador	2007	Belarus	2009		
Jamaica	2010	Bulgaria	2011		
Mexico	2010	Croatia	2011		
Nicaragua	2005	Czech Republic	2011		
Panama	2010	Estonia	2012		
Saint Lucia	2010	Faeroe Islands	2011		
Trinidad and Tobago	2011	France	2008		
United States of America	2010	Hungary	2011		
United States Virgin Islands	2010	Ireland	2006		

Annex III: List of other population census topics implemented by countries but not presently included in the Principles and Recommendations, Rev. 2

Internal migration	
- reason for changing previous place of residence	Albania, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Bhutan, Cambodia, Egypt, India, Iran, Maldives, Romania, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey
- reason of absence/presence on census night	Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Croatia, Djibouti, Lithuania, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tokelau
- duration of absence/presence	Armenia, Belarus, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Croatia, Ghana, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tokelau
- secondary residence	Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Hungary, Israel, Malta, United Kingdom
International migration	
- emigration	Albania, Algeria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Ghana, Hungary, Jamaica, Kenya, Lithuania, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Romania, Saint Helena, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago
- ever-lived abroad	Albania, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Romania, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Switzerland, Tokelau, Trinidad and Tobago
- country where father/mother born	Aruba, American Samoa, Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Guam, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Spain, Switzerland, US Virgin Islands
- return of native-born	Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Burundi, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Romania, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Switzerland
- reason for arrival/return	Albania, American Samoa, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Guam, Lithuania, Maldives, Mauritius, Montenegro, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia
- remittances	Armenia, American Samoa, Botswana, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, El Salvador, Guam, Kiribati, Malawi, Micronesia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Romania, St. Lucia, Solomon Islands, Tonga
- reason for living abroad	Lithuania, Mauritius
- country of previous residence	Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Spain
- duration of intended stay	Croatia, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Montenegro, Serbia, United Kingdom
Household characteristics	
- mother/father live in household	Belize, Iran, Macao SAR, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia
- relationship to other members of household (not just to head of household)	Aruba, Faeroe Islands, Switzerland, United Kingdom
Demographic and social characteristics	
- union status/de facto union status/type of partnership/living as a couple	Aruba, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Islands, Congo, Croatia, France, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Mayotte, Montenegro, New Caledonia, Réunion, Romania, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Trinidad and Tobago, Wallis and Futuna Islands
- currently living with a partner (common-law partner)	Barbados, Canada, Jamaica
- ever been in common-law or visiting partner relationship	Belize, Jamaica

- registered partnership (same sex)	Croatia, Czech
- marital status prior to most recent marriage	Italy, Mauritius
Fertility and mortality	
- age of mother at birth of first child born alive	Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Faeroe Islands, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Namibia, Qatar, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago
- date of birth of first child born alive	Barbados, Colombia, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Hungary, Kiribati, Lithuania, Peru, Serbia
- who assisted in delivery	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka
- where did delivery take place (facility)	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
- number of pregnancies	Lesotho
Educational characteristics	
- level/grade currently attending	American Samoa, Aruba, Belize, Brazil, Burundi, Fiji, Ghana, Guam, Jamaica, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshal Island, Mauritius, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sudan, United States of America, United States Virgin Islands, Vanuatu, Viet Nam
- type of educational institution currently attending (public, private, denominational)	Australia, Barbados, Belarus, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Israel, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago
- location/name of school attending	Aruba, Bermuda, Cambodia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Thailand
- medium of instruction (in class, online, ...)	Belize, Bermuda, Cook Islands, Faeroe Island, Macao SAR
- reason for not attending	Barbados, Colombia, Latvia, Samoa
- country/name of institution granting highest diploma	Aruba, Faeroe Island, Fiji, Norfolk Island
- second/third highest qualification	Mauritius
Economic characteristics	
- sources of income	Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Armenia, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia Federation, Serbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
- unpaid domestic work	Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Tokelau, Ireland, Spain, Maldives, DPR of Korea, Colombia, Bangladesh, Faeroe Islands, Hong Kong SAR, Malawi, Swaziland
- voluntary work	Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Spain, Maldives, Niue, Tokelau
- main reason for not working/seeking work	South Africa, St. Lucia, Armenia, Hong Kong SAR, Maldives, Nepal, Singapore, Viet Nam, Albania, Belarus
- period of looking for work	Seychelles
- number of paid jobs	Bahamas
- language at work	Canada
- steps taken to search for job	St. Lucia
- engaged in activity for household gain/own consumption	Bangladesh
- fulltime/part-time status	Singapore
- type of employment (permanent, temporary, seasonal, casual, ...)	Egypt
- length of service with employer	Mauritius
- qualifications required by the job	Hong Kong SAR
Disability characteristics	
- cause of disability	Bahamas, Barbados, Burundi, Colombia, Croatia, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Montenegro, Romania, Saint Lucia, State of Palestine, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Zambia
- length of time in disability status	Lesotho
- limitation to participation (economic activity, learning)	Kenya, Namibia, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago

- use of assistive devices and medication	South Africa, Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Montenegro, Serbia
- provide help to friend/family with illness or disability	Ireland, United Kingdom, Australia
- who provides personal care or household help	Aruba
- disability diagnosed by doctor	Barbados
- require assistance (for daily activities)	Macao SAR, Australia
Agriculture	
- agriculture as secondary economic activity	Cambodia, Colombia, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Timor-Leste, Wallis and Futuna Islands
- involvement in agricultural activity	Barbados
- ownership of agricultural land	
- type of agricultural activity involved in	
- main reason for involvement in agricultural activity	
- land tenure	
- total area of the agricultural land owned	
- agricultural land under cultivation	
- main source of water supply	
Health	
- illnesses/health conditions	Barbados, Bermuda, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago
- illnesses diagnosed by medical doctor	Belize, Cayman Islands
- vaccination/immunization	Belize, Samoa
- smoke/consume alcohol	Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu
Social welfare	
- health insurance coverage	Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Mexico, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Peru, State of Palestine, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
- child care (provider)	Bermuda, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Republic of Korea, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
- receipt of /participation in social welfare/benefits	Costa Rica, Jamaica, Brazil, Colombia, Israel, Cook Islands, Nauru, Norfolk Island
Commute	
- main mode of transportation to work/school	Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Macao SAR, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech, France, Reunion, French Guiana, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands
- commute time	Bermuda, Canada, United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Macao SAR, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Czech, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
- start time of commute	United States of America, US Virgin Islands, Macao SAR, Ireland, Italy, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
- frequency of commute	Albania, Croatia, Czech, Jamaica, Spain, Switzerland
Information and communication technology (ICT)	
- access/use internet	Djibouti, Kenya, Namibia, Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Macao SAR, Qatar, Romania, Micronesia, Nauru, Vanuatu
- place of access/use internet	Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Kenya, Macao SAR, St. Lucia
- frequency of use of internet	Kenya, Micronesia
- purpose of use of internet	Macao SAR
- computer - access/use/own/literacy	Belize, Costa Rica, Croatia, Kenya, Macao SAR, Montenegro, Namibia, Qatar, Serbia, Trinidad and Tobago

- mobile phone - use/own	Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago
Misc.	
- registration of birth / birth certificate	Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Belize, Brazil, Congo, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Zambia
- national identity (registration) card	Swaziland, Zambia
- voter registration	Palau, Zambia