

Plans for organizing the Expert Group Meeting on the  
2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Note by the Statistical Division

1 The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its twenty-eighth session held in March 1995, endorsed the meeting of an expert group on the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme to consider, inter alia, concepts and definitions of families and households, recommendations on housing censuses, and the exploitation of census data, e.g., migration and gender specific information. Further, the Expert Group will consider the preparations requested by the Statistical Commission which would include the revision of the United Nations' Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Series M, No. 67) published in 1980.

2. Pursuant to this action, the Statistical Division of the United Nations plans to hold such a meeting, tentatively scheduled to take place in New York in early November 1995. The objectives of the Expert Group Meeting are:

a) to examine the increasing importance of the 2000 round of population and housing censuses for meeting data needs for the follow-up activities in light of the report of the international conferences and other regional meetings;

b) to review and discuss population census topics and related issues, e.g. international migration, family and household, educational and economic characteristics;

c) to review and discuss housing census and related topics;

d) to discuss and consider the impact of recent advances of technology and methodology in census operation, e.g. on census mapping and use of GIS, census quality control, data capture and processing and databases and data dissemination; and

e) to recommend further preparations for the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

3. Reflecting the above-mentioned objectives, the Expert Group Meeting will have before it the attached provisional agenda. The working language of the meeting will be in English. It will be attended by 15 to 20 experts in their individual capacity from countries around the world. In addition, representatives from concerned organizations are expected to participate in the meeting.



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**Expert Group on the 2000 World  
Population and Housing Census Programme**  
New York, 6 - 10 November 1995

### **Provisional Agenda**

1. **Opening address**
2. **Election of officers**
3. **Adoption of the agenda**
4. **Role of World Population and Housing Census Programme in the 21st Century**
  - a) Implication of ICPD Plan of Action on population censuses
  - b) Follow up of the Social Summit
  - c) and the World Conference on Women
  - d) The role of Housing Census, in anticipation of Habitat II
5. **Population Census Topics**
  - a) Migration characteristics
  - b) Family and household characteristics
  - c) Educational characteristics
  - d) Economic characteristics
  - e) Disability characteristics
6. **Housing Census Topics**
  - a) Concept and definition of living quarters
  - b) Housing census tabulation
  - c) Methods of data collection for population living in marginal housing and temporary settlement
7. **Recent Advances in census operation**
  - a) Census mapping, use of GIS
  - b) Enumeration methods and quality control
  - c) Data capture and data processing
  - d) Database and data dissemination
8. **Further preparation for the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme**
  - a) Substantive preparation
  - b) Training and other technical cooperation needs
9. **Other matters**
10. **Adoption of the report of the Expert Group**



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## Annotated Provisional Agenda

### 1 Opening address

A senior United Nations Official will address and inaugurate the Expert Group Meeting.

### 2. Election of officers

In accord with the usual practice the Expert Group Meeting will elect, a Chairman, and two Vice Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve for the duration of the meeting.

### 3. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting will review the revised provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat. The experts are invited to make suggestions not later than 15 August 1995 of additional items to be discussed in the meeting. Additional items suggested should be those that need to be addressed in the revision of the United Nations' Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (PRPHC). The meeting is expected to adopt the revised provisional Agenda, with modifications, if any.

### 4. Role of World Population and Housing Census Programme in the 21st Century

#### *a) Implication of the ICPD Plan of Action for population censuses*

The recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) emphasize that support for developing countries in policy and programme-relevant data collection and research needs to be further intensified and reinforced (see especially, Chapter XII: Technology, Research and Development). Population census is one of important sources to provide basic demographic and socio-economic data which are needed to achieving the successful implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action (*paper expected from UNFPA*).

#### *b) Data requirement for the follow up of the Social Summit*

"Measuring and Monitoring Economic and Social Development: The implication for statistics of the World Summit for Social Development". Report of the Central Statistical Office of the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted to the Twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, 27 February - 3 March 1995, (document E/CN.3/1995/20).

#### *c) Data requirement for the follow up of the World Conference on Women*

It is also expected that the follow-up of the World Conference on Women will require a variety of new and/or the improvement of the existing statistics on women. The meeting should address the kind of recommendations which should be included in the revised PRPHC (*papers expected from UNSD and INSTRAW*)

#### *d) The role of Housing Census and the World Conference on Habitat II*

Results of housing censuses will be very valuable to support the data requirement for the follow up activities resulting from the World Conference on Habitat II to be held in 1996. A paper covering data implication of the Conference for the 2000 round of housing census programme will be presented and discussed in undertaking revision of the PRPHC (*paper expected from Habitat*).

### 5. Population Census Topics

**a) Migration characteristics**

Census is one of the principal sources of migration statistics both internal and international. In regard to international migration, information on the immigrant stock or foreign born population is generally derived from census. The current concept of immigrant stock along with that of immigrant is under review by the Expert Group on International Migration Statistics that will meet from 10 to 14 July 1995. The conclusion of this Expert Group will be reported under this item for implementation in the 2000 Round of Censuses (*papers are invited from UNSD, Eurostat and others*).

**b) Family and household characteristics**

Census recommendation on households and families have remained the same since 1970 whereas the family structure has since changed dramatically. A report dealing with national practices on household and family statistics collected in censuses and proposals for revisions to present global recommendations will be submitted for consideration under this item (*papers are invited from UNSD and other countries*).

**c) Educational characteristics**

The education statistics collected in census will be reviewed, particularly with reference to the classification used by countries. The recent work of UNESCO on ISCED will be presented to the Expert Group for consideration (*papers are invited from UNESCO and other countries*).

**d) Economic Characteristics**

The Supplementary Recommendations dealt in detail with the new concepts and classifications of ISIC (Rev 3) and ISCO (88) concerning the economically active population. Under this item, the progress in their implementation in 1990 census round will be reviewed as well as ways of achieving further progress and of adopting them in 2000 round of censuses will be considered (*papers are invited from ILO and other countries*).

**e) Disability statistics**

A number of countries collect information on disability statistics in censuses. Ways of improved collection including concepts and classifications will be examined as part of proposed revision of the PRPHC (*papers are invited from Canada and other countries*).

**6. Housing Census Topics**

The housing census topics recommended by the United Nations in PRPHC have not been revised or updated since the beginning of the 1970's. The thrust, therefore, under this agenda item is to review housing census recommendations and identify/propose modifications as appropriate to the current recommendations. For this purpose it is proposed to take up the following three items:

**a) Concepts and definition of living quarters**

Based on national practices, the definition of living quarters with special emphasis on unconventional dwellings and their classifications will be considered. The basic concepts of household and housing unit will be clearly distinguished (*papers are invited from UNSD and other countries*).

**b) Methods of data collection**

This item will be devoted to consider ways of collecting information on marginal housing, temporary settlements and so on. In particular, the possibility of developing different approaches in respect of data collection in urban and rural areas.

**c) Housing census tabulation**

The present recommended list of tabulations will be reviewed and needed revisions proposed under this item in the light of users requirements (*papers expected from UNSD, Habitat, and other countries*).

**7. Recent Advances in census operation**

**a) Census mapping and use of Geographic Information System (GIS)**

In the present PRPHC, the importance of cartographic (mapping) work in census operations has been emphasized. In view of recent development of computer assisted mapping technology, the international recommendations on population censuses should include the advantages and disadvantages of adopting this new technology. The benefits of developing GIS in the national statistical organization should also be included in the discussions. The discussions should include problems that countries should be aware of in selecting the computer software as well as the type of expertise that should be necessary for maintaining computerized mapping and GIS (*papers to be invited from one or two of the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, U.S.A. etc.*)

**b) Enumeration methods and quality control**

The two methods of census enumeration, the canvasser and the householder, have been covered in the present PRPHC. Also method of enumerating the nomadic population is elaborated. The enumeration of refugees may be considered. Enumeration of the homeless population should also be included in the future revisions of the PRPHC. Another important topic which should be included in the future revision of PRPHC is field quality control techniques. It is expected that a paper on this subject will be prepared for the meeting (*papers to be invited from India, China, France, etc.*).

**c) Data capture and data processing**

Since the PRPHC was published in 1980, there has been a rapid development in the area of data capture, data editing and data processing. Sections covering this area in the PRPHC need to be rewritten. Papers on this subject are solicited to present in the meeting. The paper should cover experiences of countries in capturing and processing of data. Types of software that countries should look into, advantages and disadvantages of Optical Mark (or Character) Recognition devices and consequences of using particular method of data capture in data preparation and processing (*papers to be invited from New Zealand, USA, United Kingdom, Uganda, Japan, etc.*)

**d) Database and data dissemination**

The extensive use of microcomputers in all countries during the 1990 round of censuses opens the opportunity of development of population databases in a cost-effective manner as follow-up of census operations. Several United Nations workshops have been held to address the problem. Many countries, both developed and developing, have had considerable experience in developing population data bases. The meeting is expected to discuss this development. In addition, linkage of databases and the overall strategy of census data dissemination should be addressed (*papers to be expected from UNSD, Hungary, ECLAC, Australia*).

**8. Further preparations for the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme**

**a) Substantive preparation**

The 2000 World Population and Housing Programme officially begins in 1995 and will end in 2004. During this period several substantive material will need to be prepared and published. As follow-up of the Expert Group Meeting, drafting of the revision of the PRPHC will start based on the recommendations of the meeting. In addition, depending on the resources available, work will continue on the preparation of the series of Population Census Handbooks which have been already planned (*paper for discussions from UNSD*).

**b) Training and other technical cooperation needs**

The meeting is expected to deliberate on the need to hold training workshops, the topics to be covered and other technical support needed for various countries to successfully implement the 2000 World Population Census Programme. Consideration may be given to the need for establishing regional capability in providing support to developing countries in census data processing, computer assisted mapping, and data dissemination activities (*Papers invited from the CSTs and UNSD*)

**9. Other matters**

**10. Adoption of the report of the Expert Group**

