

# Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Census Mapping and Use of Geographical Information Systems

(Draft)

Date: 29 May -1 June 2007

Venue: New York

Host: United Nations Statistics Division

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Web site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusMappingEGM07/default.htm>

The United Nations Statistics Division is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Census Mapping and Use of Geographical Information Systems with an ultimate goal of producing a Technical Report on Best Practices in Census Mapping and Use of GIS. It is one of the priority activities of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses for this year, 2007, that will provide background material to support regional workshops that the UN Statistics Division is planning to organize and conduct, starting in September 2007. In addition, the results of the meeting will be an input into the revision and updating of the current Handbook on Geographic Information Systems and Digital mapping.

## Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to critically review contemporary frameworks and different approaches to census mapping and the capabilities offered by advanced technologies (Geographical Information Systems, Global Positioning Systems, Remote Sensing, Internet, etc.) to support census mapping operations. The meeting will also cover possible institutional, organizational and technological challenges. Sessions will focus on detailed discussion related to 1) Geo-coding: concepts and approaches to related data collection; 2) Use of Global Positioning System and geospatial technologies and digital delineation of enumeration areas; 3) Geographic databases, spatial analysis and data dissemination and 4) Organizational and institutional issues.

## Key issues

The Expert Group will, in addition, review and recommend some guidelines on best practices on:

### 1. *Geocoding Systems*

- The proposal is to introduce some definitions for Geocoding that are relevant for census mapping, and to review different methods of acquiring geocodes for units in population and housing censuses.

### 2. *Integration of geospatial technologies with Census Mapping*

- The paper will present a conceptual framework for the integration of geospatial technologies, (GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing, Internet, etc.) with census mapping operations at different stages of the census activities namely, data collection; data management; analysis and data dissemination.

### 3. *Institutional and organizational aspects of a GIS-based Census mapping project*

- The most critical obstacles for a GIS-based census mapping project are not only technical but also organizational and institutional.