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**Tables illustrating aspects of the
situation of housing in a range of countries**

Background document

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Introduction

1. The objective of this Expert Group Meeting is to advise the United Nations Statistics Division on the content of housing censuses as part of the 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses (the 2010 World Programme). It is important to note that the objectives of the 2010 World Programme are focussed on providing information to enable informed decision making, and as such will include specification of a range of specified tables.
2. In the recent past the United Nations Statistics Division has not produced a wide range of statistics relating to housing. Most recently the Division, in association with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) published the Sixth Issue of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics¹. The sources of information used in compiling that publication are described as:
 - *The Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire 1998* (prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division and Habitat;
 - *The United Nations Demographic Yearbook* and associated databases;
 - *World Urbanisation Prospects – The 1999 Revision, Data Tables and Highlights*, prepared by the United Nations Population Division; and
 - Habitat Household Projections Project.²
3. The names of countries or areas used are the commonly used short titles as they appear in the various editions of the Compendium and relate to the boundaries as defined in those publications.
4. The tables in this publication only cover a small proportion of the range of housing topics covered in the *Principles and Recommendation for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1*³. Relatively few countries contributed information to the publication. Finally many of the tables in the publication are subject to gaps where contributing countries were unable, for whatever reason, to provide the full range of cross classifications sought.
5. Despite these deficiencies it is believed that extracting information for some countries will assist the Experts at this meeting to maintain a view of the diverse range of housing situations that existed in (approximately) the time frame of the 2000 World Programme. There is little evidence that this diversity has significantly diminished since the times to which these statistics apply.
6. The choice of the countries depicted in each table was guided by a desire to show the widest possible range of situations. Thus for each table a few countries were selected to cover:
 - a. A range of continents

¹ United Nations, 2001, Publication Sales No. E.01.XVII.5

² Note that the information from this publication used in the Compendium were not examined in preparing this background paper.

³ *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses – Revision 1*; Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 67/Rev.1, 1998 (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.1).

- b. Countries at various stages of development; and
 - c. Countries of various sizes.
7. Further criteria for the selection of countries were that the countries had reported a wide range of data types (making some allowance for the chance that not all countries will show all categories in some tables) and that separate data was shown for rural and urban areas. It should be noted that the definitions of rural and urban were taken as given by the countries⁴: no attempt was made, nor for the illustrative purposes of this paper were they seen as necessary, to apply a common definition of these terms.
 8. The brief commentary following each table is merely a set of suggestions representing some points of interest observed in compiling the table. Other salient facts could well be extracted, from the tables offered, by Experts to inform the Meeting.
 9. Table 3 concludes with a very simple comparison of data reported by countries for earlier years. Data were sourced from previous editions of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics relating to 1983⁵ and 1995⁶. It was found that the problems of sparse data indicated in paragraph 3 above posed even greater difficulties, and it was not possible to extract data for one country over all three of the reference periods of the books. However it is considered that the material depicted provides further material for consideration by Experts.

⁴ The definitions used in the Sixth Issue of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics are described commencing on page 4 of the text of that publication.

⁵ United Nations 1985, Sales No. E/F.84.XVII.5

⁶ United Nations 1995, Sales No. E.95.XVII.11

Table 1: Households by type of living quarters

| Country | Location | Total | Conventional | Basic Dwelling | Temp H/U | Marginal H/U | Collective LQ | Not stated |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Niger (LQ) 1988 | Urban | 182,969 | 10,612 | 165,953 | 2,379 | 0 | 0 | 4,025 |
| | Rural | 946,157 | 946 | 922,503 | 13,246 | 0 | 0 | 9,462 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 5.8 | 90.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 0.1 | 97.5 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 5,801 | 93 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 220 |
| South Africa (HH) 1996 | Urban | 5,426,875 | 3,563,620 | 475,313 | 1,312,797 | 0 | 8,405 | 66,740 |
| | Rural | 3,632,698 | 1,648,108 | 1,652,535 | 279,851 | 0 | 8,721 | 43,483 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 65.7 | 8.8 | 24.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.2 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 45.4 | 45.5 | 7.7 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.2 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 145 | 19 | 314 | 0 | 65 | 103 |
| Nicaragua (LQ) 1995 | Urban | 408,614 | 144,559 | 247,159 | 4,691 | 12,205 | 0 | 0 |
| | Rural | 312,590 | 5,332 | 273,680 | 26,832 | 6,746 | 0 | 0 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 35.4 | 60.5 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 1.7 | 87.6 | 8.6 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 2,074 | 69 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Argentina (LQ) 1991 | Urban | 7,520,603 | 5,918,795 | 992,232 | 73,011 | 391,683 | 15,015 | 129,867 |
| | Rural | 1,012,313 | 364,003 | 415,838 | 12,069 | 197,691 | 2,460 | 20,252 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 78.7 | 13.2 | 1.0 | 5.2 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 36.0 | 41.1 | 1.2 | 19.5 | 0.2 | 2.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 219 | 32 | 81 | 0 | 82 | 86 |

| Country | Location | Total | Conventional | Basic Dwelling | Temp H/U | Marginal H/U | Collective LQ | Not stated |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Republic of Korea (LQ) 1995 | Urban | 6,599,744 | 6,562,695 | 8,482 | 0 | 24,851 | 3,716 | 0 |
| | Rural | 2,653,623 | 2,642,234 | 474 | 8,681 | 0 | 2,234 | 0 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 99.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 99.6 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 100 | 720 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 |
| Portugal (LQ) 1991 | Urban | 1,608,701 | 1,501,870 | 16,884 | 82,044 | 632 | 6,875 | 396 |
| | Rural | 1,768,032 | 1,553,634 | 9,450 | 199,520 | 676 | 4,431 | 321 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 93.4 | 1.0 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 87.9 | 0.5 | 11.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 106 | 196 | 45 | 0 | 171 | 136 |

LQ = Living Quarters

HH = Housing Units

Commentary

There is clearly a wide range in the proportion of dwellings in a country regarded as meeting the conditions for being regarded as a 'conventional dwelling'. In this sample of data the values range from 0.1% in rural Niger to over 99% of the housing stock in the Republic of Korea.

In most countries the proportion of housing units rated as 'conventional' is higher in urban areas than rural areas while in most, but not all, countries the proportion of basic dwellings is higher in the rural areas. These observations tend to support the view expressed in the Sixth edition of the Compendium that "urban areas provide a different way of life and usually a higher level of living than I found in rural areas."⁷

The range of proportions of housing units rated as Temporary or Marginal is very wide. Looking at the two classes in combination may be a better approach. It could be suggested that countries did not apply similar criteria in deriving the classification of their housing stock to these classes. Examining the classifications listed in the Sixth Compendium⁸ makes it clear that while temporary housing "... has some of the facilities, of a conventional dwelling ..." the marginal housing unit ".. does not have many of the features of a conventional dwelling ...". Similar definitions are proposed to be incorporated in the text of the Second Revision of the Principles and Recommendation for Population and Housing Censuses.

In no country do collective living quarters amount to a high proportion of the total counting units (although they may, due to the size of these units, account for a much higher proportion of the population). It should be noted that some types of dwelling becoming of increasing importance in the last decade may come close to the boundary between collective living quarters and dwellings. These include:

- Retirement villages containing:
 - units in which the residents live independently, and
 - units in which some of the facilities (eg kitchen facilities) are provided centrally; and
 - units more like a small hospital.;
- Many hotels and motels (collective living quarters) provide many of the facilities of serviced apartments (dwellings). In some cases the same building may contain both types of accommodation with the core difference being the ownership arrangements for the individual units.

⁷ United Nations 2001, New York *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics, Sixth Issue*, p4

⁸ Ibid, p 22

Table 2 Occupied Housing Units by number of rooms

| Country | Location | Numbers of rooms in Dwelling | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Total | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8+ |
| OHU =Number of occupied Housing Units | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gambia (OHU) 1993 | Urban | 54,042 | 6,160 | 5,191 | 5,211 | 5,194 | 4,961 | 4,445 | 3,851 | 19,029 |
| | Rural | 61,959 | 2,139 | 2,409 | 3,166 | 4,110 | 4,595 | 5,126 | 5,079 | 35,335 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100.0 | 11.4 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 8.2 | 7.1 | 35.2 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100.0 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 5.1 | 6.6 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 57.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 330 | 247 | 189 | 145 | 124 | 99 | 87 | 62 |
| Jamaica (OHU) 1991 | Urban | 353,195 | 103,701 | 80,024 | 75,396 | 44,540 | 23,435 | 11,781 | 9,708 | 4,610 |
| | Rural | 235,145 | 61,639 | 63,120 | 52,038 | 28,566 | 15,456 | 7,034 | 4,571 | 2,721 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 29 | 23 | 21 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 26 | 27 | 22 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 112 | 84 | 96 | 104 | 101 | 112 | 141 | 113 |
| Nicaragua (OHU) 1995 | Urban | 427,484 | 111,326 | 139,050 | 95,673 | 48,236 | 19,694 | 7,978 | 2,940 | 2,587 |
| | Rural | 324,153 | 116,340 | 133,866 | 51,823 | 15,027 | 4,386 | 1,534 | 554 | 623 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 26 | 33 | 22 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 36 | 41 | 16 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 73 | 79 | 140 | 243 | 340 | 394 | 402 | 315 |
| Brazil (OHU)1998 | Urban | 33,979,500 | 370,912 | 1,132,765 | 2,842,581 | 5,117,311 | 8,504,573 | 6,411,133 | 3,921,536 | 5,678,689 |
| | Rural | 7,844,303 | 83,507 | 271,292 | 715,783 | 1,365,781 | 1,779,867 | 1,702,270 | 928,533 | 997,270 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 25 | 19 | 12 | 17 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 23 | 22 | 12 | 13 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 103 | 96 | 92 | 86 | 110 | 87 | 97 | 131 |

| Country | Location | Numbers of rooms in Dwelling | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Total | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8+ |
| Republic of Korea (OHU) 1995 | Urban | 6,562,695 | 50,216 | 269,186 | 1,577,010 | 2,626,393 | 653,714 | 370,756 | 214,693 | 800,727 |
| | Rural | 2,642,234 | 36,314 | 351,786 | 881,372 | 885,630 | 305,451 | 90,702 | 36,158 | 54,821 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 1 | 4 | 24 | 40 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 12 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 1 | 13 | 33 | 34 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 56 | 31 | 72 | 119 | 86 | 165 | 239 | 588 |
| Finland (OHU) 1998 | Urban | 1,411,235 | 228,714 | 475,441 | 340,082 | 232,895 | 97,851 | 25,438 | 10,814 | .. |
| | Rural | 811,380 | 90,514 | 204,562 | 178,727 | 192,043 | 102,439 | 28,131 | 14,964 | .. |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 16 | 34 | 24 | 17 | 7 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 11 | 25 | 22 | 24 | 13 | 3 | 2 | .. |
| | Urban : Rural | | 145 | 134 | 109 | 70 | 55 | 52 | 42 | 0 |

| Country | Location | Numbers of rooms in Dwelling | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | Total | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8+ |

PPR = Persons Per Room

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mauritius (PPR) 1990 | Urban | 1.1 | 2.8 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| | Rural | 1.3 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | 85 | 90 | 90 | 88 | 92 | 91 | 90 | 80 | 80 |
| Brazil (PPR) 1998 | Urban | 0.7 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| | Rural | 0.8 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| | Urban : Rural | 88 | 100 | 100 | 92 | 90 | 88 | 86 | 100 | 83 |
| Finland (PPR) 1998 | Urban | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | .. |
| | Rural | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | .. |
| | Urban : Rural | 80 | 86 | 89 | 100 | 100 | 117 | 100 | 100 | |

Commentary

This table shows information tabulated for the counting unit ‘Occupied Housing Units’ and the derived unit ‘Persons per Room’.

For the sample of countries selected it is difficult to offer general comments to summarise the situations experienced in terms of number of occupied housing units by number of rooms. In some the proportion of many-roomed houses is higher in rural areas than in urban areas while in others the opposite is true. In Brasil most housing units have a moderate or large number of rooms while in Nicaragua few houses were reported as having more than 3 rooms. In Finland a high proportion of occupied housing units had 2 –4 rooms.

In terms of person per room the general picture is, as would be expected, a reduction as the number of rooms increases. It might thus be suggested that to some extent at least, additional rooms are a sign of affluence rather than a larger family. In most cases the number of persons per room is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Table 3 A Households in housing units by type of water supply system

| Country | Location | Total | Piped water inside housing Unit | | | Piped water outside but <200m | Other | Not stated |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------|
| | | | Total | From community source | From private source | | | |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 1995 | Urban | 498,465 | 454,079 | 389,418 | 64,661 | 0 | 41,658 | 2,728 |
| | Rural | 90,962 | 70,272 | 59,818 | 10,454 | 0 | 20,407 | 283 |
| | Urban | 100 | 91.1 | 78.1 | 13.0 | 0.0 | 8.4 | 0.5 |
| | Rural | 100 | 77.3 | 65.8 | 11.5 | 0.0 | 22.4 | 0.3 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 118 | 119 | 113 | 0 | 37 | 176 |
| Senegal 1994 | Urban | 330,828 | 264,663 | 83,039 | 181,624 | 45,323 | 20,842 | 0 |
| | Rural | 447,103 | 105,633 | 81,105 | 24,528 | 300,042 | 41,428 | 0 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 80.0 | 25.1 | 54.9 | 13.7 | 6.3 | 0.0 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 23.6 | 18.1 | 5.5 | 67.1 | 9.3 | 0.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 339 | 138 | 1,001 | 0 | 68 | |
| Guatemala 1994 | Urban | 604,029 | 530,359 | 493,072 | 37,287 | 25,686 | 47,984 | 0 |
| | Rural | 987,794 | 468,447 | 294,636 | 173,811 | 65,021 | 454,326 | 0 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 87.8 | 81.6 | 6.2 | 4.3 | 7.9 | 0.0 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 47.4 | 29.8 | 17.6 | 6.6 | 46.0 | 0.0 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 185 | 274 | 35 | 0 | 17 | |
| Argentina 1991 | Urban | 7,505,862 | 6,184,510 | 5,230,741 | 953,769 | 897,220 | 261,982 | 162,150 |
| | Rural | 1,009,579 | 403,084 | 152,970 | 250,114 | 374,098 | 186,782 | 45,615 |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 82.4 | 69.7 | 12.7 | 12.0 | 3.5 | 2.2 |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 39.9 | 15.2 | 24.8 | 37.1 | 18.5 | 4.5 |
| | Urban : Rural | | 206 | 460 | 51 | 0 | 19 | 48 |

| Country | Location | Piped water inside housing Unit | | | | | | Other | Not stated |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------|------------|
| | | Total | Total | From community source | From private source | Piped water outside but <200m | | | |
| Pakistan 1998 | Urban | 6,240,469 | 3,639,048 | 3,639,048 | 0 | 296,096 | 2,305,325 | 0 | |
| | Rural | 13,103,763 | 1,668,208 | 1,668,208 | 0 | 453,023 | 10,982,532 | 0 | |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 58.3 | 58.3 | 0.0 | 4.7 | 36.9 | 0.0 | |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 12.7 | 12.7 | 0.0 | 3.5 | 83.8 | 0.0 | |
| | Urban : Rural | | 458 | 458 | 0 | 0 | 44 | | |
| Ireland 1991 (1) | Urban | 593,481 | 592,696 | 590,773 | 1,923 | 0 | 167 | 618 | |
| | Rural | 426,242 | 412,537 | 285,275 | 127,262 | 0 | 12,491 | 1,241 | |
| | % in group: Urban | 100 | 99.9 | 99.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | |
| | % in group: Rural | 100 | 96.8 | 66.9 | 29.9 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0.3 | |
| | Urban : Rural | | 103 | 149 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 36 | |

Commentary

It is clear that Ireland has near universal provision of piped water within the housing unit but interesting to note that a relatively high proportion of rural households source this water from non-community sources.

In all cases the proportion of housing units getting water from sources other than piped supply inside, or within 200m of, the dwelling is higher for rural areas than for urban areas.

Table 3B Selected Time series for availability of water

| Country | Year | | Total HU | Piped water inside HU | Piped water outside | Other | Not stated |
|------------------------|------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 1973 | No. | 283,615 | 175,677 | 17,462 | 90,476 | |
| | | % of total | 100 | 62 | 6 | 32 | |
| | 1995 | No. | 589,427 | 524,351 | 0 | 65,076 | |
| | | % of total | 100 | 89 | 0 | 11 | |
| Guatemala | 1981 | No. | 1,102,281 | 411,420 | | 690,861 | |
| | | % of total | 100 | 37 | | 63 | |
| | 1994 | No. | 1,591,823 | 1,089,513 | | 502,310 | |
| | | % of total | 100 | 68 | | 32 | |
| Pakistan | 1981 | No. | 12,587,648 | 1,588,606 | 971,932 | 10,027,110 | 0 |
| | | % of total | 100 | 13 | 8 | 80 | 0 |
| | 1998 | No. | 19,344,232 | 5,307,256 | 749,119 | 13,287,857 | 0 |
| | | % of total | 100 | 27 | 4 | 69 | 0 |
| Ireland | 1981 | No. | 894,400 | 824,400 | 21,300 | 48,700 | |
| | | % of total | 100 | 92 | 2 | 5 | |
| | 1991 | No. | 1,019,723 | 1,005,233 | 0 | 14,517 | |
| | | % of total | 100 | 99 | 0 | 1 | |

Commentary

The selected time series are included to demonstrate aspects of change over time for this characteristic. The data available at this point in time do not permit a ready comparison of a time series for all the countries shown (let alone all countries in the world) primarily due to the restricted range of data available for the earlier time periods.

However it is clear that, for the countries shown the availability of piped water is increasing. Even, Ireland now with near universal reticulated supplies, only had water piped to 90% of dwellings in 1981.