
**Expert Group Meeting to
Review the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* System
10-14 November 2003
New York**

**Organization of work
(Provisional)**

Monday, 10 November 2003

Registration of participants (9:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Opening

Introductory remarks

Purpose of the meeting

I. Overview of the *Demographic Yearbook* system

This session is comprised of two presentations. The first one provides a historical overview of the *Demographic Yearbook* system for collecting, processing and presenting data, and presents general information on the content of the six *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires, dissemination activities, and main reasons for the current review. The second presentation is on future work in social statistics and its possible implications for the *Demographic Yearbook* system. The session gives a perspective on the expected contribution of the meeting to the future of the *Demographic Yearbook* system.

UNSD presentation: The United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*: In need of improvement (ESA/STAT/AC.91/1)

UNSD presentation on: Setting the scope of social statistics and the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* (ESA/STAT/AC.91/5)

Discussion and recommendations:

- The degree of involvement of the national offices in the *Demographic Yearbook* system both as provider of official statistics and as user of the *Demographic Yearbook* data
- How national offices, international agencies, academic/research institutions currently use the *Demographic Yearbook* and how it might better serve their needs
- The role of the *Demographic Yearbook* in the national statistical system

II. *Demographic Yearbook* data collection process

Following an introductory statement, the meeting will break into the following three groups – Group 1: Population estimates and international migration, Group 2: Fertility, mortality and nuptiality, and Group 3: Population census topics. In each group, experts will review the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection process with respect to the content of the questionnaires, concepts, definitions and classifications used, and relevance of statistical tables requested. The groups will consider whether there is a need for modification of tables/statistical series covered in the questionnaires.

UNSD presentation: An overview of the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection process (ESA/STAT/AC.91/2)

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

Working Groups on the review of the questionnaires. In each group, the following format will apply:

- 1) Introduction by UNSD on the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires and proposed revisions
- 2) Discussion on specific tables with regard to relevance and adjustments

Tuesday, 11 November 2003

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

II. *Demographic Yearbook* data collection process (continued)

Plenary, reports from the working group sessions
Expanding the scope of the *Demographic Yearbook* system

This part of the meeting will consider different ways to expand the scope of the *Demographic Yearbook* by incorporating the collection of data on topics that are not currently covered. The experts will review the scope of the *Demographic Yearbook* as proposed by UNSD with regard to the topics being suggested, the content of the draft questionnaires and the periodicity for the collection of data on the new topics.

UNSD presentation on : Need for international collection and dissemination of data on disability (ESA/STAT/AC.91/6)

UNSD presentation on: Reconsideration of housing statistics in the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection and dissemination system (ESA/STAT/AC.91/7)

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

II. *Demographic Yearbook* data collection process (continued)

Discussant's comments

Discussion and recommendations:

- Key considerations incorporating disability and housing to the *Demographic Yearbook* system
- How the collection and dissemination on data on new and existing topics might be rationalized within the *Demographic Yearbook* system
- Adequacy and relevance of the data being proposed to users' needs and requirements

Wednesday, 12 November 2003

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

III. Improving coverage and completeness of country responses to the *Demographic Yearbook* data requests

The session focuses on ways to improve responses from national statistical authorities to the *Demographic Yearbook* data requests for official statistics and identify data requirements and gaps. The discussion will include a review of how factors such as the modalities of data collection, including the design of the questionnaires; medium of data collection; timing; and the disposition of countries to provide the requisite data, affect the rate and completeness of country responses. The session will also present examples of coordination mechanisms at national and international levels and consider activities needed to improve reporting of national data to international data collection programmes.

Level of responses and data gaps

UNSD Presentation on: Coverage and completeness of the *Demographic Yearbook* data (ESA/STAT/AC.91/3)

Presentations on: Meeting users' needs: Data requirements and gaps (ESA/STAT/AC.91/xx)

Discussants' comments

Discussion and recommendations:

- Balancing the need to meet users' needs with practical considerations and national realities

Factors affecting the transfer of data from countries

Presentations on: Factors affecting countries' ability to respond to the *Demographic Yearbook* data requests (ESA/STAT/AC.91/xx)

Discussants' comments

Discussion and recommendations:

- Steps to improve the cooperation and communication between countries and the *Demographic Yearbook* system

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

III. Improving coverage and completeness of country responses (continued)

The role of coordination

Presentations on: Country response to international data requests: The role of statistical coordination at the national level (ESA/STAT/AC.91/xx)

Discussant's comments

Presentations on: Efforts towards improved coordination of data collection at the international level (ESA/STAT/AC.91/xx)

Discussants' comments

Discussion and recommendations:

- Essential characteristics of an effective coordination mechanism at the national and international levels
- Making arrangements at the international level more efficient and effective

Thursday, 13 November 2003

Morning session (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

IV. Data dissemination

The session will present the current *Demographic Yearbook* data dissemination plan and explore ways of enhancing the dissemination programme for wider outreach and optimum use of the data that the *Demographic Yearbook* system generates. It will also discuss the most effective ways to meet the needs of data users. The discussions will take into account the fact that users vary with respect to their topics of interest, level of technical knowledge and expertise in the use of data, and that a variety of products are required to meet these different needs. Presentations of country experiences will include examples of effective products.

Improving the dissemination programme

UNSD presentation on: The *Demographic Yearbook*: Disseminating data (ESA/STAT/AC.91/4)

Presentations on: The *Demographic Yearbook* dissemination programme: Meeting the needs of users (ESA/STAT/AC.91/xx)

Presentations on: National approaches to the dissemination of demographic statistics and their implications for the *Demographic Yearbook* (ESA/STAT/AC.91/xx)

Discussants' comments

Lunch break (12:30–2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00–5:30 p.m.)

IV. Data dissemination (continued)

Discussion and recommendations:

- Elements of a successful data dissemination processes and products
- Enhancing the efficacy of Demographic Yearbook data dissemination process and relevance of products to the wide range of data users

Statistical products

Presentation of statistical products for data dissemination at national, regional and international levels

Friday, 14 November 2003

Morning session (10.00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

V. Adopting recommendations for improving the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system

Presentation and review of draft recommendations

Lunch break (1:00–2:30 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:30–3:30 p.m.)

Conclusion

Adoption of final recommendations