

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration

Date: 24-28 September 2007

Place: New York

Host: United Nations Statistics Division

Contact: Erlinda Go, Social and Housing Statistics Section (go@un.org and migstat@un.org)

Website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/migrationegmsep07>

While the demand for policy-relevant statistics on international migration is increasing, national governments and international bodies are unable to provide the comprehensive assessment needed, mainly because the sources of these data are not sufficiently developed. A recent expert group meeting on measuring international migration convened by the United Nations Statistics Division in New York in December 2006 identified priority areas for improving international migration statistics. The current expert group will address two of them: (a) providing guidance and technical support on the use of censuses and sample surveys, taking into account the preparations already ongoing for the 2010 round of population censuses, to measure aspects of international migration, and (b) developing a handbook focusing on core variables and using case studies to clarify how various sources can be used and/or combined to measure international migration.

Objectives of the meeting:

The United Nations Statistics Division seeks through this expert group to: (1) review the draft of a technical report on the use of population censuses and sample surveys to measure international migration; and (2) define the scope and outline of the proposed handbook, which will be completed in 2008.

Expected outputs:

I. Review of the technical report

The technical report comprises three parts: (1) concepts and definitions; (2) use of population census to measure international migration; and (3) use of sample surveys for migration statistics. Case studies from countries on the use of censuses and surveys to measure international migration will be included in the report. The expert group meeting will:

- (1) Review the various parts for relevance, effectiveness and ease of implementation.
- (2) Identify gaps in the draft technical report that need to be filled.
- (3) Assess the clarity and adequacy of the concepts and definitions presented, and suggest ways to enhance the material.
- (4) Review the following new ideas introduced:
 - a. **Additional concepts.** Concepts (terminologies) not previously defined, such as temporary, circular and irregular migration or migrants.
 - b. **The framework or taxonomy for international migrant stock.** A new taxonomy showing the different components of international migrant stock, arrayed along various dimensions. (This taxonomy of international migrant stock and the taxonomy of international inflows and outflows from the 1998

Recommendations will together form the basis for identifying international migrants and migration flows.)

- c. **Core variables in population censuses.** Proposed list of core variables to be collected in a population census to capture the different migrant groups and characteristics of international migrants.

(5) Propose additional case studies (good practices) for inclusion in the technical report.

II. Scope and outline of the handbook

The meeting will develop the outline of the handbook and review a questionnaire that will be sent to selected countries to gather information about their use of administrative sources for international migration statistics. More specifically, the meeting will:

- a. Identify gaps in the outline of Handbook.
- b. Propose case studies that could be included in the Handbook to illustrate:
 - The use of administrative source(s) for international migration statistics
 - The use of data from multiple sources to estimate international migration
 - How national data may be adjusted to conform with the UN recommendations.
- c. Review a questionnaire that will collect information on administrative sources used in compiling statistics on international migration, and identify countries for which this information may be obtained.