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**United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the
Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration
24-28 September 2007, New York**

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

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I. Introduction

Background and objective of the meeting

1. The United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration was convened in New York on 24-28 September 2007. It was organized by the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
2. The meeting followed a prior Expert Group Meeting, held on 4-7 December 2006, at which experts expressed the need for a practical methodological handbook to provide guidance on the measurement of international migration from various sources of data (census, survey, administrative records)¹. At the time, recognizing that the 2010 census is already underway, experts emphasized that priority be given to the preparation of guidelines on the use of population censuses to measure international migration; some suggested that sample surveys be considered with censuses. Following this recommendation, UNSD initiated the preparation of a draft Technical Report covering censuses and surveys.
3. The main objective of the meeting was to review the draft Technical Report on the use of population censuses and sample surveys to measure international migration, and gather comments and substantive suggestions for improving the draft. A secondary objective was to define the scope and outline of a planned Handbook on Statistics on International Migration, which would encompass the Technical Report being reviewed and additional material to be developed later, addressing on the use of administrative data sources to measure international migration (for meeting announcement, see Annex 1).
4. The meeting brought together ten experts from national statistical offices, one from a national immigration office and two from academic institutions, as well as representatives from sub-regional, regional and international organizations (see Annex 2 for the list of participants).

Opening of the meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division. In his statement, Mr. Cheung underlined the global importance of migration and noted the difficulties and challenges in defining and measuring international migration. He emphasized the need to have a document that will clarify the concepts and definitions, identify core variables and provide examples of best practices. He envisaged the importance of using common definitions and measurement methods across data sources and countries in order to arrive at comparable data. He cited the need for the UN to facilitate the sharing and exchange of international migration data to expand countries' information base. Mr. Cheung invited the experts to critically review the draft Technical Report.

¹ See Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring International Migration: Concepts and Methods, in <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/migrationegm06/FINAL%20REPORT%20L3.pdf>.

6. Mr. Jeremiah Banda, Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, encouraged experts to give critical and constructive comments on the draft Technical Report, with the aim of arriving at a practical handbook that provides guidance to users at the country level and that is consistent with the current United Nations recommendations on international migration statistics and on population and housing censuses².

Organization of the meeting

7. The first four days of the meeting were dedicated to the review of the draft Technical Report, chapter by chapter. The sessions were organized along the three parts of the draft Technical Report, namely:

Part 1. Concepts and definitions (ESA/STAT/AC.132/1)

Part 2. Measuring international migration through population censuses
(ESA/STAT/AC.132/2)

Part 3. Measuring international migration through sample surveys
(ESA/STAT/AC.132/3)

8. The last day of the meeting was used to review a draft outline for the proposed Handbook on Statistics of International Migration and a survey questionnaire on the use of administrative sources for statistics of international migration (see Programme of work, attached as Annex 3).

9. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Lina Castro (Philippines), Ms. Grace Bediako (Ghana), Ms. Alicia Berkovich (Brazil), and Ms. Elizabeth Grieco (United States). The Rapporteur for the meeting was Ms. Roma Chappel (United Kingdom).

II. General comments and recommendations on the draft Technical Report

10. The experts agreed with the broad organization of the Technical Report into three parts (as shown in para. 7 above). However, they proposed some restructuring within each of the three parts.

11. The experts called for the use of consistent terminology throughout the Technical Report. An example given was to use 'resident population' and 'population present' throughout the Report, replacing references to 'de jure' and 'de facto' populations, which appeared in some instances.

12. Experts suggested that the Technical Report take a more positive outlook. In parts of the text that describe limitations or disadvantages of certain approaches or methods, the

² See United Nations, [Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1](#) (Sales No. 98.XVII.14); and United Nations, [Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2](#) (forthcoming).

text should be recast to give a more positive point of view. Experts also felt that some parts of the draft are too conservative, sticking to the status quo; new alternatives where appropriate should be mentioned.

13. Experts recommended the use of the term “undocumented” (in quotes) migrants instead of “illegal” migrants throughout the Report.

14. It was recommended that the revision of the Report ensure that the treatment of flow and stock is balanced, and that a consistency of organization and content is maintained on the different parts of the Report to the extent possible.

15. Experts would like to see all definitions appear in Part 1: Concepts and definitions. Definitions should not be repeated or reformulated in subsequent chapters; instead, a reference should be made to the relevant definition given in Part 1.

III. Specific comments and recommendations on the draft Technical Report

On the Introduction

16. In the Introduction, policy issues and interest of policy makers should be discussed. There is a need to add a short introductory paragraph to explain what migration is.

On Part 1. Concepts and definitions

Chapter 1

17. This chapter should be concise and should focus on the key concepts that will help define international migration and international migrants.

18. Clear distinction should be made of long-term and “short-term” migrants. The term “short-term migrants” is being widely used to refer to people who move for less than one year. This group of people does not fit the definition of international migrants as defined in the 1998 UN recommendations. To avoid confusion, when the term “short-term migrants” is used, it should be enclosed by quotation marks (paras. 21 and 22).

19. The relaxed definitions of international immigrants and emigrants were welcomed by the experts. However, they suggested the use of the term “operational definition” in place of “relaxed definition” (paras. 23 and 24).

20. The section on “Identifying immigrants under the legal system” (paras. 26-28) should be moved to chapter 2 where migration flow taxonomy is covered.

21. The section on “Terminology issues related to international immigrant” needs to be re-formulated to:

- Include the case in the Middle East, where foreigners working in the country for an extended period of time (one year or more) may not be considered by the country as “migrants”. Some countries need assurance that classifying someone who is a migrant by the UN definition as an “immigrant” or “international migrant” for international comparison purposes does not undermine their immigration law;
- Keep the examples of how the term “immigrant” is defined and used differently in countries but without naming the countries;
- Remove the footnotes in the section.

22. The section on “Impact of data collection mechanisms on identifying international migrants” and those following it will be shortened and/or moved to the Part on measurement in the proposed Handbook, as they deal with data sources and data collection, and not with concepts or definitions.

23. Discuss the policy-relevance of flows and stocks in the introduction when international migration flows and international migrant stocks are being defined.

24. Define “refugee” based on the 1951 Convention. Define “population with refugee background”, considering both stock and flows.

Chapter 2

25. Information on international migration flows is important for government immigration policies and this should be clearly stated in the text (para. 65).

26. The treatment of international migration flows in this chapter and international migrant stocks in chapter 3 should be more balanced.

27. Persons who are stateless should be addressed in the chapter (using one sentence or paragraph). For example, statelessness should be mentioned when defining country of citizenship.

28. The four subgroups of flows: citizens immigrating, citizens emigrating, foreigners immigrating and foreigners emigrating should be treated in a balanced way.

29. Purpose of stay should be presented as applicable to all groups of migrants. Therefore this variable will be taken out of table 4 and made into a separate table. Add a paragraph to stress that it applies to all persons.

Chapter 3

30. The discussion of the framework should start by elaborating on the components first. The framework for immigrant stock should encompass all population components that are related to international migration, considering the following three dimensions: whether ever immigrated, country of birth, country of citizenship. None of these dimensions will be highlighted in the framework (table 5). In addition, the dimension “citizenship acquisition” will be removed from table 5 to simplify the framework; that is,

the categories citizen by birth and citizen by naturalization will be collapsed into a single category, citizens.

31. Making use of the framework thus drawn, the following population stocks will be specified:

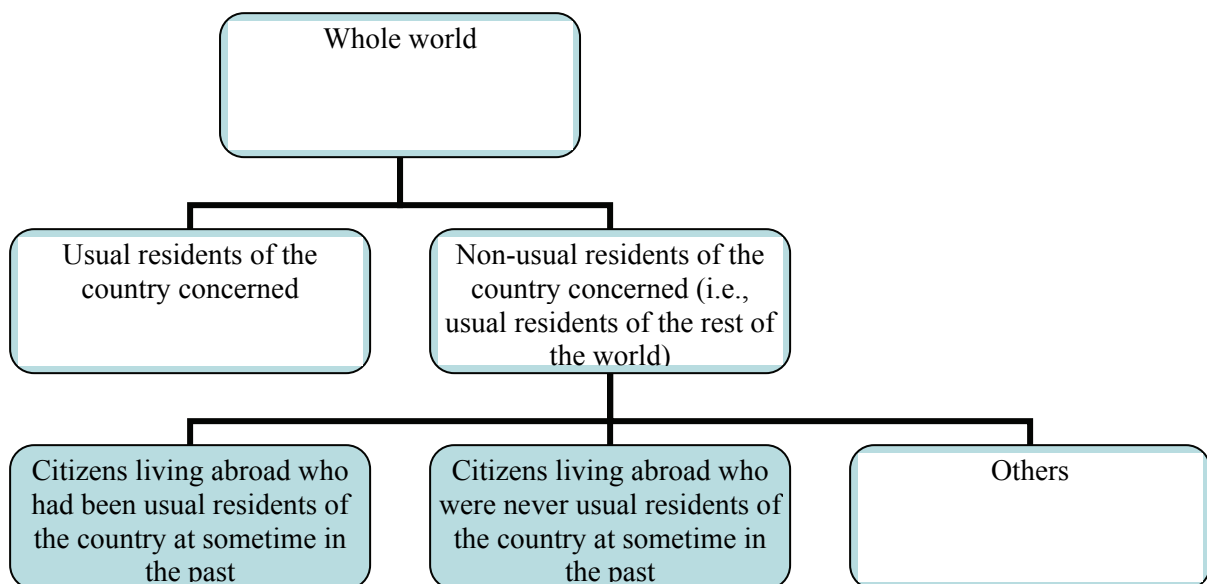
- Stock of foreign-born persons
- Stock of returned migrants
- Stock of foreigners
- Stock of persons with foreign-born parents ('persons with foreign background')
- Stock of foreign-born persons with foreign-born parents ('first generation')
- Stock of native-born persons with foreign-born parents ('second generation')

32. Some issues need to be addressed in the text, such as persons who immigrated before they were one year old and persons with one foreign-born parent and one native-born parent.

33. Experts agreed that the totality of emigrant stock is not of interest. Thus, the "stock of emigrants" will be removed from the text. Tables 10 and 11 will be deleted. Instead, only citizens living abroad will be discussed. This will be illustrated by extending Figure 1, modified as shown below.

34. Citizens living abroad who were never usual residents of the country should be distinguished from citizens living abroad who were once usual residents of the country (as shown in figure below).

Figure 1. Illustration of the stock of citizens living abroad (shaded)



On Part 2. Measuring international migration through population censuses

35. It was recommended that Part 2 be restructured and supplemented. The revised Part 2 should include a comprehensive overview on the defining, distinguishing and descriptive characteristics that are relevant to the measurement of international migration; and a new chapter on the measurement of international migration flows through censuses. Country examples on census questions currently in chapter 2 and recommended questions in chapter 4 should be placed in the same chapter to avoid confusion. The proposed new structure for a revised Part 2 is shown in Annex 4.

Chapter 1

(In the recommendations that follow, chapter and section references are tied to the current draft, not to the proposed structure.)

36. Section A detailing aspects of international migration that census can measure should be expanded, stating uses of census for measuring stock and flow, and directing users to the corresponding chapters. It should be made clear what is feasible to collect in the census.

37. In the same section the importance of place of usual residence in the census enumeration should be emphasized and elaborated.

38. In Section B. Advantages of census, para. 5, add that the census is the only source that covers all residents therefore all international migrants are covered.

39. In Section C. Planning and design of censuses, the following modifications were recommended:

- Subsection (c) enumerating people in unconventional living situations: Give guidance on counting refugees in camps and detention/closed centres. Recommend that they be counted.
- Subsection (e) selection of topics: add the importance of dialogue with key users; add that some of the other topics like ethnicity, religion, etc. may be sensitive in certain cultures. Note that duration/previous place of residence are alternative questions to the question on place of residence x years ago.
- Subsection (h) pre-coding: Needs substantial rewriting to discourage pre-coding of countries. Give pros and cons of pre-coding.
- Subsection (i) dissemination of data: include the different ways and media for dissemination, making reference to the UN *Principles and Recommendations*, but emphasize that there should be as much detail as possible in the dissemination. Add confidentiality issues related to disaggregation and that appropriate disclosure control techniques can be used to safely publish detail tables.
- Still under dissemination, state that all data should be disseminated by age and sex. Add that there needs to be better utilization of census data.
- Organize the subsections under section C, looking at the census process and identifying where attention is needed with respect to international

migration. It may be necessary to organize the subsections into logical groups.

40. In table 1, Population groups that require special attention in population censuses, add asylum seekers.

Chapter 2

41. Remove all maps and tables in the chapter that show the number of countries that had collected certain information in the last round of censuses. If deemed helpful, introduce some of the numbers into the text.

42. On Section B. Immigrant and related stocks,

- Delete subsection (a) “the immigrant stock” (paras 54-56 and 61). Move “place of residence at specified time in the past” and “Duration of residence” (paras 57-60) to the new chapter on migrant flow.
- Thus, subsection (b) becomes (a).
- Subsection (c) becomes (b). Move citizenship acquisition to after multiple citizenships.
- Subsection (e) becomes (c). Use the term “return migrants” in the title but focus only on return citizens in the text.
- Subsection (d) will be the last section. The term “second generation migrants” refers to a group not all of whom are necessarily migrants. Some names proposed for this group are “second generation” and “persons with foreign-born parents”. Once the terminology is decided, it should be used consistently throughout the Technical Report

Chapter 3

43. This chapter will be restructured (see proposed new structure of Part 2 presented in Annex 4). Content-wise in addition to what is already included in the current draft, a section will be added covering the indirect methods used for the estimation of emigration, specifically the one that uses information on residence of surviving children.

44. Specifications of data requirements for data exchange need to be elaborated.

45. Mexico and ECE will provide information on using the question on household members living abroad.

Chapter 4

46. Move the recommended questions and tabulations to the corresponding chapters where country examples are discussed.

47. There is a need to present a more balanced view between using the question on place of previous residence 1 year ago vs. 5 years ago (para. 130). The paragraph should be expanded to explain the usefulness of each type of information.

48. On the question regarding reasons for migration (para. 135), delete the last sentence and try to give a more positive outlook in the paragraph.

Chapter 5

49. All section titles should be reviewed and edited as necessary.

50. A more balanced view about data linking between census data and border statistics should be given in the text (para. 148). The last sentence should be changed to reflect the fact that even if technical capabilities are there, legal ones have to be taken into consideration.

51. In terms of data linking between censuses and surveys, the tone should be more constructive. Instead of using the sentence "... although confidentiality concerns may be a significant barrier to such data linkage", the text should instead alert the reader that confidentiality issues should always be taken into consideration. (para. 153)

52. Under Section E. Census data on international migration and refugee and asylum seeker data, tie in the related questions such as ethnicity and language as additional variables that may identify refugees.

53. The entire Section F (Census international migration data and labour migration data) needs to be reviewed and revised to bring in the ILO definitions.

54. In Section G. Census international migration data and population registers and administrative sources, the text should encourage countries to make comparisons of census data against administrative data. Where individual record linking is being considered, the issue of confidentiality should be emphasized.

Annexes

55. Delete annexes 2 and 3.

On Part 3. Measuring international migration through sample surveys

56. The draft should reflect the main purpose of this part of the Technical Report and what it is to achieve. Specifically, the part on sample surveys should:

- Build on the population census part of the document, considering how sample surveys complement population censuses to provide more comprehensive information about international migration;
- Outline the policy needs and data requirements
- Suggest additional details that sample surveys can provide, assessing the determinants and consequences of migration
- Describe the different types of sample surveys, and the strengths and limitations of each type, in the context of producing international migration statistics;

- Present aspects of sample surveys that have been successfully implemented by countries
- Review key challenges in realizing the full potential of sample surveys.

57. The draft should be reorganized giving more emphasis to providing practical guidance to countries on how sample surveys (including multi-purpose surveys) can be used to generate international migration statistics. Two of the chapters would be devoted to specific types of surveys, namely specialized household-based surveys and border surveys.

- The content of these chapters should mainly cover practical considerations relating to the design and conduct of these surveys.
- They should include examples of survey practices, described in brief. The examples should serve to illustrate specific aspects of surveys that are described.
- Where relevant, reference should be made to examples or case studies presented in the annex. Two formats of presentation of the examples were proposed for the annex – (a) summarized in tabular form (with web links where available), and (b) selective presentation on special (unique) experiences of some countries. Attention should be given, in the selection of case studies, to regional representation, informational content, and relevance of the experience.

58. The chapter on questionnaire modules should be expanded to include basic statistics and information required, and the corresponding questions to consider. The presentation of questions should be organized along policy interests, such as migrant (seasonal) workers, integration, remittances, etc.

59. Another chapter considered as crucial is on the use of the survey results for estimation and analysis. Given that there is a wide range of survey designs that can be used, the discussion of estimation and the use of weights should focus on a selected design for illustrative purposes.

60. Mexico and the United Kingdom will provide UNSD with more information on border surveys for use in the Technical Report.

61. The proposed structure of Part 3 is shown in annex 5.

IV. Comments and recommendations on the scope and outline of the Handbook on International Migration Statistics

62. A draft outline for the Handbook on Statistics of International Migration was reviewed by the expert group. During the meeting, this draft was revised, incorporating

the experts' comments and suggestions. The new structure proposed by the experts is shown as Annex 6.

63. The completion of the Handbook requires the preparation of a body of material on the potential of administrative sources for producing statistics on international migration. To obtain examples of countries' experience, a draft questionnaire was drafted with the purpose of collecting information on country practices and experience on utilizing administrative sources for international migration statistics. The draft questionnaire was reviewed by the expert group. A revised questionnaire incorporating the suggested changes is shown as Annex 7. It was recommended that the draft questionnaire as revised be tested and further improved to ensure that information gathered is clear, relevant and useful.

Annex 1. Meeting announcement

United Nations 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 to 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.

Annex 2. List of participants

	Name	Title and Affiliation
1.	Ms. Grace Bediako	Government Statistician Statistical Service Accra, Ghana
2.	Ms. Alicia Bercovich	Coordinator Population Census Committee IBGE Brasil
3.	Mr. Richard Bilsborrow	Professor Carolina Population Center University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, United States
4.	Mr. Enrico Bisogno	Statistician Statistical Division Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Geneva, Switzerland
5.	Ms. Lina Castro	Director Social Statistics Office National Statistical Coordination Board Makati City, Philippines
6.	Ms. Roma Chappell	Head of Population Statistics Development Programme Office for National Statistics United Kingdom
7.	Ms. Emira Galanxhi	Head of Demography and Personal Statistics Institute of Statistics Tirana, Albania
8.	Ms. Elizabeth M. Grieco	Chief Immigration Statistics Staff Population Division U.S. Census Bureau Washington, D.C. 20233
9.	Mr. Michael Hofer	Director Office of Immigration Statistics U.S. Department of Homeland Security Washington DC, USA
10.	Mr. Bela Hovy	Population Division UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs New York, USA
11.	Mr. Andres Montes	UN-ESCAP Statistics Division Bangkok, Thailand
12.	Ms. Kourtoum Nacro	Technical Adviser Technical Support Division United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) New York, USA
13.	Ms. Ines Nurja	Director General Institute of Statistics Tirana, Albania

14.	Mr. Michel Poulain	Professor Groupe d'étude de démographie appliqué (GéDAP) Brussels, Belgium
15.	Ms. Rofilia Ramirez	Technical Director Social and Demographic Indicators Institute of Statistics and Informatics Lima, Peru
16.	Mr. Prasantakumar Ray	Additional Director General Economic Statistics Division Central Statistical Organization Marg, New Delhi India
17.	Mr. Jason Schachter	Senior Statistician International Labour Office (ILO) Geneva, Switzerland
18.	Mr. David Thorogood	Head Migration and Asylum Statistics Section Statistical Office of the European Communities European Commission Eurostat, Luxembourg
19.	Mr. Rafael Lopez Vega	Submanager of Migration Statistics National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) Mexico

**United Nations Statistics Division
Demographic and Social Statistics Branch**

<p>Mr. Jeremiah Banda, Chief of Branch Mr. Jan Beise Ms. Elisa Benes Mr. Charles Brigham Ms. Haoyi Chen Ms. Maria Isabel Cobos-Hernandez Mr. Jean-Michel Durr Ms. Erlinda Go Mr. Amor Laaribi Ms. Margaret Mbogoni Ms. Lisa Morrison-Puckett Mr. Srdjan Mrkic Mr. Diego Rumiany Ms. Diane Stukel Ms. Sabine Warschburger</p>
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Annex 3. Organisation of work

Monday, 24 September 2007	
9:00 -10:00	Registration
10:00–10:15	<p>1. Opening Introductory remarks <i>Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division</i> <i>Jeremiah Banda, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, UNSD</i></p> <p>Selection of Chair and Rapporteur</p>
10:15–11:15	<p>2. General comments on the draft Technical Report An introduction of the draft Technical Report, with a summary of important issues for consideration <i>Erlinda Go, United Nations Statistics Division</i></p> <p>Floor discussion on the overall structure, orientation and focus of the draft Technical Report, debate on the important issues.</p>
11:15–13:00	<p>3. Part one – Concepts and definitions Chapter 1. Definitions</p>
13:00–14:30	Lunch break
14:30–17:30	<p>Part one – Concepts and definitions (continued) Chapter 2. Categorising international migration flows</p>
Tuesday, 25 September 2007	
10:00–12:30	<p>Part one - Concepts and definitions (continued) Chapter 3. Population stocks related to international migration</p>
12:30–13:00	Part one wrap up – conclusions and recommendations
13:00–14:30	Lunch break
14:30–17:30	<p>4. Part two – Measuring international migration through population censuses Chapter 1. The census as a vehicle for measuring international migration Chapter 2. Collecting data on stocks of population related to immigration</p>

Wednesday, 26 September 2007	
10:00–13:00	<p>Part two – Measuring international migration through population censuses (continued) Chapter 2. Collecting data on stocks of population related to immigration (cont.)</p>
13:00- 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30- 17:00	<p>Part two – Measuring international migration through population censuses (continued) Chapter 3. Collecting data on stocks of population related to emigration Chapter 4. Recommended questions and tabulations for censuses</p>
17:00-17:30	Part two wrap up – conclusions and recommendations
Thursday, 27 September 2007	
10:00–13:00	<p>5. Part three – Measuring international migration through sample surveys Chapter 1. Existing national data collection systems as sampling frames for surveys Chapter 2. Collecting data from household surveys Chapter 3. Design of specialized surveys on international migration</p>
13:00- 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30–17:00	<p>Part three – Measuring international migration through sample surveys (continued) Chapter 3. Design of specialized surveys on international migration(continued) Chapter 4. Questionnaire modules for surveys on international migration</p>
17:00-17:30	Part three wrap up – conclusions and recommendations
Friday, 27 September 2007	
10:00–11:30	<p>6. Review of the outline for the Handbook on statistics of international migration Scope Organization Suggestions for case studies on administrative sources, use of multiple sources, etc. Other issues related to completing the Handbook</p>

11:30- 11:45	Coffee break
11:45-13:00	7. Review draft questionnaire on the use of administrative sources for international migration statistics Questionnaire content Respondent countries
13:00- 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:30	8. Next steps and recommendations Recommendations on revision of the Technical Report Annotated outline for the Handbook

Annex 4. Proposed new structure of the Technical Report, Part 2: Measuring international migration through population censuses

Chapter 1. The census as a vehicle for measuring international migration

- A. Aspects of international migration that censuses can measure (expand)
 - a. stocks of immigrants
 - b. flows
 - c. stock of emigrantsDirect readers to corresponding chapters. Relate to internal migration.
- B. Advantages and disadvantages of using the census to measure international migration
- C. Aspects of planning and design of population censuses of relevance to the collection of data on international migration
 - a. Who is included in the national census (usual residence)/ present vs. usual, implications
 - b. The use of sampling in the census
 - c. Enumerating people in unconventional living situations
 - d. The training of interviewers
 - e. The selection of topics to be included (relate to policy concerns and user needs; advocacy)
 - f. Location and sequence of international migration items on the census form
 - g. Formulating questions on topics related to international migration
 - h. The use of pre-coded response categories
 - i. Processing of data (incl. imputation)
 - j. Dissemination of the data and meta data
 - k. Communications (for difficult to enumerate groups), publicity campaign
 - l. Questionnaire and information note in different languages
 - m. Working with members of the community (for example in a district)
 - n. Issues of confidentiality
 - o. Issues of coverage and response
 - p. Enumeration methods, their implications on data collection in migration

Chapter 2. Identifying and characterizing international migrants

Start with a table linking the information of interest (e.g., stock, flows of certain segments of migrants, etc.) with data needed to obtain such information, leading into the sections below.

- A. Types of information required (explain why we are doing it this way)
 - a. Defining characteristics (the list below is not exhaustive)
 - i. Establishing usual residence in the country
 - Duration of stay in the country
 - ii. Whether lived abroad for at least one year
 - b. Distinguishing characteristics (the list below is not exhaustive)

- i. Country of birth
 - ii. Country of citizenship (single or multiple)
 - iii. Citizenship acquisition
 - iv. Country of birth of parents
 - c. Descriptive characteristics: basic characteristics collected in the census, such as age, sex, etc. (these are relevant for better understanding of international migration, could be highlighted in the policy section)
- B. Questions related to the information listed above (for each, explain the value and importance, elaborate on the alternative types of questions giving examples of good practices, challenges and difficulties in asking the question, pros and cons of the various ways of asking, coding issues, quality concerns, etc.)
 - (1) Defining characteristics (the list below is not exhaustive)
 - a. Country of usual residence:
 - i. Date (month, year) of arrival in the country
 - 1. first arrival
 - 2. last arrival
 - ii. Duration of stay in the current residence
 - iii. Place of previous residence
 - b. Whether lived abroad for at least one year
 - iv. Where lived during a specified time period
 - v. Place of previous residence
 - (2) Distinguishing characteristics (the list below is not exhaustive)
 - a. Country of birth
 - b. Country of citizenship (single or multiple)
 - c. Citizenship acquisition
 - d. Country of birth of parents

Chapter 3. Producing international migration flow statistics

- A. Specific statistics and indicators that are relevant to international migration flows
- B. Tabulations to generate the statistics and indicators

Chapter 4. Producing international migrant stock statistics

- A. Specific statistics and indicators that are relevant to international migrant stocks
- B. Tabulations to generate the statistics and indicators

Chapter 5. The challenges of measuring emigration

- A. Issues in measuring emigration
- B. Current practices
 - a. Using the question on “household members” living abroad
 - b. Using the question on residence of surviving children
- C. Using data from receiving countries

Chapter 6. Using census international migration data with migration data from other sources

Annex 5. Proposed new structure of the Technical Report, Part 3: Measuring international migration through sample surveys

Chapter 1. Sample surveys as a vehicle for studying international migration

Information needs; how sample surveys complement other sources; what aspects have been successfully measured by sample surveys; strengths and limitations

Chapter 2. Types of sample surveys for migration statistics, relative strengths and limitations of each

- A. Specialized surveys on international migration
 - a. Household-based surveys
 - b. Non household-based surveys (collective housing)
- B. Other-purpose household surveys: labour force surveys, demographic and health surveys; living standards measurement study surveys; other general or multi-purpose household surveys etc.
- C. Post-census surveys
- D. Border surveys
- E. Other types of surveys

Chapter 3. Collecting data on international migration from specialized household-based surveys

- A. Defining the target population
- B. Survey requirements to study the determinants and consequences of international migration
- C. Using national statistical data collection systems as sampling frames
 - a. Censuses of population
 - b. Population registers
- D. Sample design considerations
 - a. General issues
 - b. Selecting a probability sample
 - c. Sample size
 - d. Stratification
 - e. Multi-stage and cluster sampling
 - f. Finding "rare elements"
(the use of stratification, disproportionate, and two-phase sampling)
 - g. Use of multiplicity sampling, snowball sampling and other unorthodox method
 - h. Dealing with non-response
 - i. Mode of data collection
- E. Practical considerations

Chapter 4. Collecting data on international migration from other household surveys

- A. Defining the target population
- B. Sample frame concerns

- C. Sample design considerations (mere considerations)
- D. Practical considerations

Chapter 5. Collecting data on international migration from border surveys

- A. Defining the target population
- B. Sample frame concerns
- C. Sample design considerations
- D. Practical considerations (e.g., intended vs. actual duration of stay, follow-up, conditions for success)

Chapter 6. Questionnaire modules for surveys on international migration (incrementally, more specific to certain policy concerns)

- A. Household-based surveys (e.g., labour force surveys, LSMS)
- B. Border surveys

Chapter 7. Deriving estimates from sample surveys: some considerations

- A. Impact of sample size and prevalence of migrants
- B. Use of weights for estimates and analysis
- C. The use of sample surveys to estimate the number of international migrants

Annex. Country examples

Annex 6. Proposed new structure of the Handbook on Statistics of International Migration

INTRODUCTION

PART 1. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Chapter 1. Definitions

- A. International migrant
- B. International migration flows
- C. International migrant stock

Chapter 2. Categorising international migration flows

Chapter 3. Categorising immigrant and emigrant stocks

Box. Related concepts (migrant workers, labour migration, asylum seekers, long-term international migrant, “short-term international migrant”, border workers, refugees, return migrants, seasonal migrant workers, circular migrant)

PART 2. THE MEASUREMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Chapter 1. Key information required to measure international migration

Chapter 2. Types of data sources

Chapter 3. Collecting data on key information

Box. Summary table on information needs, data requirements and sources

PART 3. MEASURING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION THROUGH POPULATION CENSUSES

Chapter 1. The census as a vehicle for measuring international migration

- A. Aspects of international migration that censuses can measure
- B. Advantages and disadvantages of using the census to measure international migration
- C. Aspects of planning and design of population censuses of relevance to the collection of data on international migration

Chapter 2. Measuring international migration: questions related to the key information

Chapter 3. Producing international migration flow statistics

- A. Specific statistics and indicators that are relevant to international migration flows
- B. Tabulations to generate the statistics and indicators
- C. Using two successive censuses to measure net migration

Chapter 4. Producing international migrant stock statistics

- A. Specific statistics and indicators that are relevant to international migrant stocks
- B. Tabulations to generate the statistics and indicators

Chapter 5. The challenges of measuring emigration

- A. Issues in measuring emigration
- B. Current practices
 - a. Using the question on “household members” living abroad
 - b. Using the question on residence of survival children
- C. Using data from receiving countries

PART 4. MEASURING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION THROUGH SAMPLE SURVEYS

Chapter 1. Sample surveys as a vehicle for studying international migration

- A. Aspects of international migration that sample surveys can measure
- B. Advantages and disadvantages of using sample surveys to measure international migration

Chapter 2. Types of sample surveys for migration statistics

- A. Specialized surveys on international migration
 - a. Household-based surveys
 - b. Non household-based surveys
- B. Other household surveys
- C. Post-census surveys
- D. Border surveys
- E. Other types of surveys

Chapter 3. Collecting data on international migration from specialized household-based surveys

- A. Defining the target population
- B. Survey requirements to study the determinants and consequences of international migration
- C. Using national statistical data collection systems as sampling frames
- D. Sample design considerations
- E. Practical considerations

Chapter 4. Collecting data on international migration from other household surveys

- A. Defining the target population
- B. Sample frame concerns
- C. Sample design considerations (mere considerations)
- D. Practical considerations

Chapter 5. Collecting data on international migration from border surveys

- A. Defining the target population
- B. Sample frame concerns
- C. Sample design considerations
- D. Practical considerations

Chapter 6. Questionnaire modules for surveys on international migration (incrementally, more specific to certain policy concerns)

- A. Household-based surveys
- B. Border surveys

Chapter 7. Deriving estimates from sample surveys: some considerations

- A. Impact of sample size and prevalence of migrants
- B. Use of weights for estimates and analysis
- C. Using sample survey results to estimate the number of international migrants

PART 5. MEASURING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES

Chapter 1. Administrative records as a potential source for international migration statistics

Chapter 2. Types of administrative sources

- A. Population registers, including national population registration system and sub-national population registers.
- B. Register of foreigners, resident permit and work permit database
- C. Asylum/refugee registers
- D. Specific registers dealing with the undocumented population (apprehension, deportation)
- E. Visa database
- F. Citizenship database
- G. Consular registers or registers of citizens living abroad
- H. Other administrative sources such as taxation record, housing registers, social security registers, health system etc.

Chapter 3. Producing migration statistics through administrative sources

- A. Immigration flows
- B. Emigration flows
- C. Immigrant stock
- D. Emigrant stock

PART 6. USE OF MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES IN COMPILING MIGRATION STATISTICS

Chapter 1. Using census data with data from other sources.

Chapter 2. Linking of data sources (microdata)

Chapter 3. Combining different sources (aggregated data)

Chapter 4. Aligning national data to UN Recommendations

Chapter 5. Institutional arrangements

Chapter 6. Data exchange

Annex 7. Draft questionnaire for a Survey on the (potential) use of administrative sources for producing statistics on international migration flows and migrant stocks

Administrative sources have the potential to be important data sources for collecting data on international migration flows and migrant stocks. This survey aims to identify the existence of such administrative sources, and to assess the concepts and definitions that are used in these administrative sources.

The main categories of administrative sources that may be used to produce statistics on migration flow and on migrant stock are described briefly below.

1. **Population registration systems** are databases including administrative and demographic information on the population of the country, this information is being updated on a continuous base by registering births, deaths, marriages, divorces, change of citizenship and all declarations of changes of residence including those corresponding to international migration. The population registration system in a country may vary from national (centralised) to sub-national (local), where a national registration system refers a system that is operated at ... and a sub-national system ... Comparing with sub-national system, national registration system is more likely to be linked with other databases dealing with taxation, employment, social security, properties, securities and etc). Population registration systems vary among countries, in terms of the concept of usual residence that is used (rules for register and de-register, whether updates of addresses are done systematically), coverage of different groups of people (all persons living in the country, citizens only, or others), and the way data are transferred from local register to national offices.
2. **Civil registers** are databases including basic information on births and deaths occurred in a country, essentially the date and place of birth as well as death. The civil registers can also be registers operated at national level or sub-national level. In general only citizens of the country are included. The place of residence information is either not included in the system or not systematically updated even if such information is recorded.
3. **Register of foreigners** are databases including administrative and demographic information on foreigners. The broadest database, the so-called Migration Information System, includes a visa database, a border crossing database, a residence permit database, a work permit database, an asylum database and sometimes a specific database including foreigners found as living illegally in the country as well as expelled foreigners. In most countries these different databases exist separately and the links between them may vary a lot.

4. **Specific registers on citizens living abroad** also exist in some countries and may be known as consular registers. These are database developed by consulate abroad to register all citizens living in these countries. These registers may be kept independently in each consulate or centralised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A link may also exist with the centralised population registration system. Similar database may also be held by the Labour Ministry in order to support citizens emigrating to find work abroad or held by specific recruitment and placement agencies that facilitate citizens working abroad.
5. **Other administrative databases or registries** may also be helpful for collecting data on international migration flows and stocks of population with foreign background. This is the case for databases on identity card, social security, health, taxation, insurance and so on.

Table 1. Official name of potential administrative data sources allowing data collection on international migration flows and/or migrant stocks in the country (regardless if the source is currently used or not for producing statistics)

Type of administrative data source	Does this data source exist in your country? (Yes or no)	Name of the data source in the official language of the country	Name of the data source, translated in English	Responsible authority
National (centralised) population register				
Sub-national (local) population registers (not electronically linked)				
Civil register where births and deaths are registered				
Migration Information System (with complete information on foreigners living in country, including border crossings, visas and asylum applications)				
National (centralised) registers of foreigners including data on foreigners living legally in country but excluding information about asylum applications, visas and border crossings.				
Sub-national (local) registers of foreigners (similar to the previous one but held at local/regional level without linking to other similar registers)				

<p>Visa database (usually built up as a database of documents but including personal data of concerned people)</p>						
<p>Database on border crossings</p>						
<p>Residence permits database (usually built up as a database of documents but including personal data of concerned people)</p>						
<p>Work permits database</p>						
<p>Asylum database</p>						
<p>Databases for undocumented or deported immigrants</p>						
<p>Register for citizens living abroad (as population register, consular register or register for citizens working abroad)</p>						
<p>Other types of population data files, specify (e.g. for social security, health, taxation, insurance etc.)</p>						
<p>Other, specify</p>						

Table 2. Categories of population covered by each administrative data source mentioned in Table 1
(Write the name of the administrative data source in the column headings. Add more pages/ columns if needed.)

Type of administrative data source (as indicated in Table 1): Specify in the column heading→	Is category covered? (Yes or No)	Is category covered? (Yes or No)	Is category covered? (Yes or No)	Is category covered? (Yes or No)	Is category covered? (Yes or No)	COMMENTS
Nationals living in the country						
National diplomats (incl. family members)						
National army members living abroad (incl. family members)						
National skilled workers abroad						
National unskilled workers abroad						
Other nationals emigrated and living abroad on permanent (indefinite) basis						
Other nationals emigrated and living abroad on temporary (fixed term) basis						
All other nationals defined as having the citizenship of the country but never lived in the country						
Foreign diplomats living in the country (incl. family members)						
Foreign army members living in the country (incl. family members)						
Foreign skilled workers living in the country						
Foreign unskilled workers living in the country						
Foreigners living in the country with permanent stay permit						
Foreigners living in the country with temporary stay permit						
Refugees recognised under the Geneva convention and living in the country						
Asylum seekers living in the country						

Table 3. The definition of place of residence and international migration or international migrant as registered for administrative data source mentioned in Table 1
 (Write the name of the administrative data source in the column headings. Add more pages/ columns if needed.)

Type of administrative data source (as indicated in Table 1): Specify in the column heading →					
Do you record the following information in the source? Usual residence Temporary residence Permanent residence					
What are the rules/criteria to					
- register a citizen					
- de-register a citizen					
- register a foreigner					
- de-register a foreigner					

