



Kuwait
Central Statistical Bureau

**MEMORANDUM
ABOUT :**

REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA ON THE 2010 WORLD
PROGRAM ON POPULATION AND
HOUSING CENSUSES

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Memorandum about Report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

Introduction:

Upon the request of the statistical committee in its 42nd round concerning the World Program for Population and Housing 2010 Census- the results of which are to be presented in its next meeting- the U.S. Bureau agreed and presented this report. The report covers the period 2005-2014.

The Central Statistical Bureau in Kuwait Studied the aforesaid report, with the aim of putting forward a brief memorandum about its comments and amendments regarding the report's main issues. Underneath are the main points:

1. The report represents the World Program for Population and Housing 2010 Census, covering the period 2005-2014.
2. The report covers a mid-decade program for 2010 population censuses, analyzing data presented by the member states based on a survey sent to them.
3. The report summarizes the lessons learned so far, and sheds light on the expected World Program's view for the 2020 censuses.
4. The report represents recommendations to be discussed by the U.N. Statistical Committee in its 43rd Round during Feb. 28th – March 2nd 2012.
5. The report's main themes are:
 - a. Introduction and general information.
 - b. The presentation's objective.
 - c. The methodology.
 - d. 2010 experience and lessons learned:
 - i. Data sources and enumeration methods.
 - ii. Challenges and achievements.
 - iii. Other methodologies.
 - iv. New Information technologies.
 - v. Data publication/dissemination.
 - e. How & what we do.
 - i. Traditional census.
 - ii. Administrative registers & records.
 - iii. Multi-mode census.
 - f. 2020 Censuses Round – Future prospects.
 - i. Methodologies.
 - ii. Technologies.
 - iii. New issues (contents).
 - iv. International cooperation.
 - v. U.N. assistance support.
 - g. Inferences.
 - h. Recommendations & Discussion points.

The Main Suggestions about the Report's Themes

The following are the most important suggested additions in the report's themes:

First, The Methodology:

1. The U.S. Census Bureau relied on a questionnaire sent to all the U.N. member states for the purpose of collecting data for the report.
2. Only 109 countries responded (57% of the U.N. member states).
3. On the regional basis, the response ratios varied widely: Africa: 49%, Asia: 56%, Europe: 80%, North America: 61%, Oceania: 46%, South America: 58%.

Suggested Additions:

1. Prompt and follow up the countries which did not respond to the questionnaire to complete the date. Hence, preparation of a comprehensive report about the program after the time horizon (2005-2014).
2. Addition of detailed statistical tables and charts to the suggested report.

Second: The 2010 Experience & Lessons learned

A) Data Sources and Enumeration Methods:

1. The traditional census comprehensive field enumeration are the main sources of the census data for the 95 out of 109 countries (83%).
2. There are other countries which follow the field enumeration approach and other sources of data for their own censuses.
3. Almost 26 countries (24%) apply the administrative records and registers.
4. About 72% of the countries resort to direct interviews in counting (i.e. paper questionnaire). 32% depend on self enumeration by using paper questionnaire, while 29% use internet for partial collection of data, and 12% use phone interviews.
5. Multi-purposed census is increasingly used, i.e. data are collected using a mix of sources and methods of collection.

Suggested Additions:

1. Presentation of data sources used in a detailed way according to the following table (1):

Table (1): Distribution of Countries According to Sources & Data Collection

Country	Field Enumeration	E-Census	Phone	Admin. Registers	Admin. Registers Survey and for Completion Date	Sample Method	Multi-purpose census	Others

2. Summary of the experiences of the countries which use different source to assess the merits and demerits of each source to benefit from these experiences.
3. Identifying the different sources for privacy and accuracy purposes for the non-traditional ways of data collection, especially E-Census.

B) Challenges and Achievements:

1. The survey included a question about the challenges faced and the achievements in the 2010 census. As for the challenges, the result were as follows: Costs: 67% ; quality of data: 39% ; decreased response rates: 39% ; shortage in response: 39% ; public conception: 37% ; privacy: 32%.
2. Achievements varied widely, and the most repeated achievements are: application of the new technology, abiding within the budget, timeliness and quality of data.

Suggested Additions:

1. To agree on an approach in assessing the challenges faced, e.g. assessment to the subjected differences in geographical conditions and the peculiarities of the Third World, such as living conditions and cultural rights.

C) Other Methodologies:

As regards the methodologies other than the traditional counting, the survey questioned use of administrative records and administrative constraints as well as the mixed methodologies. The results were as follows:

1. 9 countries use pre-existing administrative records to supplement the other data sources.
2. One country carries out rotating census.
3. 37 countries use administrative restrictions as the major source or an additional.
4. 18 countries use annual sample surveys or done regularly to supplement their data.
5. 16 countries conducted (other methods) in the questionnaire.

17 of the responding countries used a new methodology for the first time. The benefits of using new methodologies were reflected in: low costs, timeliness, and improving data quality.

The key risks were reflected in: decrease in number of the census topics (i.e. the contents), and using definitions other than those of the census.

Suggested Additions:

It is preferable to include in the report a list of the countries which used other methodologies for comparison purposes, and derivation of benefits from their experiences, especially the developing countries.

D) Data Dissemination:

The report revealed that the main ways adopted in providing and disseminating data are: paper publication, CD-ROM / DVD, static web pages, interactive online databases, and web-based mapping tools.

Suggested Additions:

Shedding the light on non-traditional dissemination tools, and how to choose the appropriate way which fits every category and data users.

Third: the 2020 Census Round

A. The Methodologies:

The multi-mode census is one of the main trends for the 2020 world census program, reflected in using a package of data collection techniques to make response to the census more tolerable with the minimum burden.

Suggested Additions:

We agree with this trend, and second the suggestions of adding some ideas as follows:

1. Comparing between field census, E-census, and administrative registers (as regards cost, accuracy, comprehensiveness, speed.)
2. Comparing between the field census and the census using the records to determine response rates and treatment lack of response of the field census.
3. Referencing to the use of certain methodologies to ensure data quality, for example, post counting.
4. Undertaking an in-depth survey of E-census as regards privacy, transparency, combating interference and e-piracy.
5. Drawing up an charter to protect the census conductor who undertakes field surveys and data collection.
6. Setting the optional size of the information included in the 2020 Population and Housing Census Round questionnaire response burden.
7. Emphasizing (ESCWA member countries) on the importance of clarifying pros and cons of the techniques used to capture data, both ICR or OCR surveyor or electronic census or other techniques.
8. Ways and means of upgrading the individual's statistical awareness and culture to encourage them to respond positively and provide the required information, and emphasizing on adding a strategy to raise awareness and the media about the importance of participating in the census and stresses the committee of ESCWA that there will be projects to raise awareness even of State and Government adopted as part of the budget of the census.

B. International Cooperation:

The Central Statistical Bureau in Kuwait supports exchange of expertise between countries, especially regional wise, due to the similarities in the natural and population conditions. This leads to conducting successful censuses with minimum cost, timely dissemination of more improved data.

Suggested Additions:

Seeking the support and expertise of the European Union and the other regional organizations, and maximize their role in census activities, exchange of expertise and information and call for further cooperation.

C. U.N. Support and Aid:

Suggested Addition:

- More U.N. support and aid, especially to the developing countries in choosing the most appropriate means used in 2020 Round, in the light of their Census goals and data.
- the committee of ESCWA countries assure on recommendations should include on the best way to benefit from the outputs of the census, by identifying the type of research and studies to be conducted to gain access to scientific analysis concerned with the demographic reality and elements of economic and social.

Fourth: Recommendations:

Following are the comments on the report's recommendations:

Recommendation 1: The present programme review provides an initial evaluation of the censuses conducted and lessons learned but it is early in the decade to get a good assessment of the programme from most countries, as the bulk of census-taking occurs in the years ending in 10 and 11. The Statistical Commission should consider conducting another lessons learned evaluation as the 2010 census round closes out in 2014.

The Central Statistics Bureau in Kuwait (CSB) supports the recommendation, and suggests the following:

1. Preparation of a comprehensive and final assessment of the World Program of the 2010 Census. The assessment should include both the experiences of the countries that successfully conducted the census, and those of the ones that faced constraints in conducting the census.
2. In spite of the fact that there is an intention to prepare another report, we suggest rescheduling the preparation of the report according to a time-table.

Recommendation 2: Establish an international working group to develop and test an instrument to look at census challenges, lessons learned and directions for the future. This survey would be used in the beginning of a census cycle, at the mid-point and at the end to assess the trends of the decade. Repeated use of the same instrument will enable comparison of data throughout the decade. Create a companion document explaining the purpose of each survey question.

CSB agrees with the recommendations, and suggest the following:

1. Addition of a member to the international working group from the ESCWA member countries.

2. Formation of an expert group to prepare the census questionnaire. The questionnaire shall be discussed by the statistical committee member to endorse the questions and the way of their fulfillment.

3. The task of the group should be completed as early as possible, and submitted to the U.N. member countries before planning for the 2020 censuses, so as to coincide with the agreed upon time (3-5 years).

Recommendation 3: Work should be done to develop an accurate, viable method for estimating the costs of conducting a census that can be used to compare census cost across regions and/or countries.

- The CSB in Kuwait supports the recommendation, and suggest that, in the course of estimating the census costs, to take into account the following cost items:
 1. The accompanying media campaign.
 2. The census staff training.
 3. The infrastructure needed.
 4. The technical infrastructure for data storage.
 5. The pre-census experience, if any.
 6. Census implementation operations.
 7. Quality assurance and missing data completion.
 8. Census data dissemination.
 9. Census and learned lessons assessment.
 10. Risks and contingencies.

- On the other hand on the item to reduce the financial cost can suggest ways to reduce the public cost, for example, the optimal use of administrative records.

Recommendation 4: The United Nations should create a task force or committee to rethink, update and synchronize definitions of census terminology for data sources and enumeration methods based on current practices. Make sure terminology and acronyms are defined and consistently used.

The CSB in Kuwait supports the recommendation, and suggests the updating of the related definitions, concepts and terminologies, e.g:

1. Data sources:
 - a. The field (full sample survey).
 - b. Administrative records.
 - c. Administrative registers.

2. Mode of Enumeration
 - a. Traditional (Interviews).
 - b. Self (tilling the questionnaire: either hand-to-hand or by mail).
 - c. E-Census.
 - d. Phone interview.
 - e. Administrative registers records.

3. Data entry methods:

- a. Paper questionnaire.
 - b. E-form using laptops or hand-held devices.
 - c. E-form using computers.
4. Data processing technologies:
- a. Manual data entry.
 - b. Coding by using the computers.
 - c. Optical recognition.
 - d. Optical character recognition.
 - e. Intelligent character recognition.
5. Data Dissemination:
- a. Paper Publications / Atlas.
 - b. CDs.
 - c. DVD.
 - d. HTML, PDF...etc.
 - e. Database, OLAP, interactive.
6. Enumeration Region Fixing Technologies:
- a. Geographical Information System (GIS).
 - b. Municipal Register Maps.
 - c. Global Positioning System.

Recommendation 5: The United Nations should monitor changes in technology carefully. With such rapid changes in technology, a country's decisions regarding the use of a particular technology need to be fluid, not rigid.

The CSB in Kuwait stresses the importance of this recommendation. Attached is working paper which sheds light – on Kuwait's experience in implanting the 2010-2011 Population and Housing Census.

Recommendation 6: Consideration should be given to preparing a technical manual on contracting for census technologies or expanding the existing contracting information in the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.

CSB in Kuwait strongly supports this recommendation and suggests addition of a list of general conditions for outsourcing for each technology, including the legal, technical and administrative conditions.

Recommendation 7: The United Nations should play a more active role in calling for continued and increased collaboration and cooperation in respect of census activities among countries.

In support of this recommendation, CSB in Kuwait suggests further reinforcement of cooperation – in the field of census activities – at the level of regional and international organizations; e.g. ESCWA, E.U., the African and Asian countries.

Recommendation 8: Due to the anticipated increased use of new technologies and emerging trends in census-taking, a third revision to the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* should be developed. This also includes the need to review and update the United Nations “core census topics” and the list of recommended tabulations. Harmonization of census data within (and across) regions can be achieved by ensuring census outputs comply with the recommended tabulations and the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* data-collection requests.

CSB in Kuwait supports the recommendation, and suggests provision of an updated copy of the "Core Census Issues" manual, besides a copy of the principles and recommendations manual of the population and housing census (the Arabic version and the other foreign languages).

Recommendation 9: Countries should consider many factors and select the most appropriate method(s) and technology(ies) for their own unique situation and data needs. What is appropriate for one country may be inappropriate for another country’s census-taking.

- The CSB in Kuwait support the recommendation.

Recommendation 10: The United Nations should provide training, workshops and guidance on determining which census methodologies to use to meet the needs and unique situation of each country.

- The CSB backs the recommendation and suggests that the U.N. should offer the necessary assistance to all countries to guarantee the implementation of the 2020 census.

Recommendation 11: Plans should be made for expert meetings to discuss detailed 2010 census round lessons learned, emerging trends for the 2020 census round and the role of the Statistics Division in providing assistance.

- The CSB in Kuwait supports the recommendation and adds the following:
 - Plans should be put hold experts meeting in order to discuss the lessons learned from 2010 Census Round in details, and the originating trends of the 2020 Round. We encourage the U.N. to provide assistance though the U.N. Statistics Department.

Recommendation 12: Propose a United Nations resolution to kick-off the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses.

- The CSB in Kuwait backs the recommendation and adds the following:

"U.N. resolution declaring the surge of the World Program for the 2020 Population and Housing Census."