

Virtual Side Event: Shaping the future of international migration and temporary mobility statistics: revised recommendations in focus

13 February 2025, 9:00-10:30 AM (New York time)

56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Concept Note

Venue

Online event in MS Teams. Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Organizers

- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO)

Background

The landscape of international migration has evolved significantly since the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1. Modern communication technologies and increased travel convenience have reduced obstacles to migration, while regional agreements allowing free movement have created new measurement challenges. The demand for accurate and timely migration statistics has intensified, driven by the need to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and inform evidence-based migration policies.

The increasing demand for data, together with the growing complexity of migration patterns, and, in parallel, technological advances in data collection and processing, have highlighted the need for updated international statistical standards that can better capture contemporary mobility patterns while promoting harmonization and comparability of migration statistics across countries.

Following the mandate given by the Statistical Commission in 2018 through its decision 49/101, the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, in collaboration with the Statistics Division, undertook a comprehensive revision of the 1998 Recommendations to

better meet current and emerging data needs. The revised Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility are the culmination of several years of collaborative work. The revised Recommendations are based on a new conceptual framework on international migration and temporary mobility (endorsed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 52/109), which makes a clear distinction between these two types of international mobility. It emphasizes alignment between migration and population measurement, between stocks and flows, disaggregation of population and migration statistics by citizenship status and birthplace (native-born/foreign-born), and strengthened use of administrative data sources, particularly for measuring migration flows.

The revised Recommendations emphasize the importance of developing legal frameworks for data sharing, establishing international cooperation mechanisms, and implementing effective communication strategies for migration statistics. They provide practical guidance on establishing and improving migration data systems and on data integration techniques for countries at different stages of statistical development, from those relying primarily on field-based collections to those with fully register-based systems. The Recommendations also address emerging challenges in measuring migration, as well as alternative data sources.

Objectives

The objectives of the webinar include:

- **Present the key features of the revised Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility:** Highlight the new conceptual framework, core statistics and the main recommendations for improving national migration data systems.
- **Facilitate dialogue on practical implementation:** Share views and discuss strategies for implementing the recommendations, with particular focus on the use of administrative data sources and data integration.
- **Promote international collaboration:** Discuss opportunities for cooperation between countries and with international organizations to support the implementation of the recommendations.

Programme

Welcome and opening remarks

- Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNSD
- Ms. Elisa Benes, ILO, Co-chair of the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics
- Mr. Ferenc Urbán, Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Co-chair of the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics

Presentations

- Overview of the revised recommendations and key innovations
 - UNSD – Ms. Maria Isabel Cobos, Chief of Social and Gender Statistics Section
- Alignment of the production of international migration statistics and relevant global statistical standards
 - ILO – Ms. Elisa Benes, Head, Rights, Migration and Skills Statistics Unit
 - EGRISS – Ms. Natalia Krynsky Baal, Head of Secretariat

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Ms. Francesca Grum, Assistant Director, UNSD

- Country views and strategies for implementing the Recommendations
 - Mexico INEGI – Ms. Eloina Meneses, Deputy Director General of Statistical Infrastructure
 - Indonesia BPS – Mr. Hamim Tsalis Soblia, Lead of One Data on International Migration Programme
 - Hungary Central Statistics Office – Mr. Ferenc Urbán, Head of Section Migration Statistics
 - Italy IStat – Ms. Francesca Licari, Researcher at the Division for Population Register, Demographic and Living Conditions Statistics and Ms Cinzia Conti, Senior Researcher at the Division for Migration Statistics and Conditions of Foreign Citizens

Open Q&A

Closing remarks

- Ms. Marina Manke, GMDAC, IOM