

**United Nations Expert Group Meeting to
Review Critical Issues Relevant to the Planning of
the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses
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Statement from Peru^{*}

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A. Alternative approaches to traditional census taking:

1. Conventionally censuses have been characterized by individual enumeration, universality within a defined territory, simultaneity and defined periodicity. The Principles and Recommendations should be updated to the extent that it should take into account alternative approaches. The key features of alternative approaches to census taking, which should be included in a census metadata system are, from Peru's perspective, those offered by the so-called "rolling" or "continuous" census. The data collected each year could be used to model more accurate intercensal estimates than those using a traditional approach. The great advantage of the rolling census is the frequency with which information traditionally provided by a census are available, and thus improved population statistics in general.

2. As has been stated by some National Statistics Institutes, a rolling census creates an on-going operation, giving rise to benefits that are difficult to achieve or sustain within a decennial census environment such as a permanent or semi-permanent field force. It may be possible to use a semi-permanent field force if the fieldwork were more evenly spread across time (such as every quarter). A permanent regional management structure would allow expertise in running a rolling census to be retained and built up over time, creating a centre of excellence for the whole process. National Statistics Institutes will assess the possibility of, and issues related to, a permanent workforce based on experience of large continuing household surveys. Similarly, the constant production of data would allow much more relevant and responsive relationships with users. These gains would allow continual methodological improvement.