

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the
Principles and Recommendations for Housing Censuses
5 – 8 June 2006
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Expert Group Meeting on the Principles and Recommendations for Housing Censuses

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Web site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/HousingCensusEGM06/default.htm>

The *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing censuses* is reviewed and updated at the beginning of each census decade in order to incorporate new developments and revise the list of topics to be covered. Against this background, the United Nations Statistics Division is organizing an Expert Group Meeting to review draft recommendations pertaining to housing censuses. Based on the outcome of this expert review, the revised draft on housing censuses will then be submitted for final consideration, together with those related to population censuses, to the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses scheduled for 10-14 July 2006.

Purpose of the meeting

The Expert Group Meeting on *Principles and Recommendations for Housing Censuses* will: (a) discuss, in detail, proposed changes to the text of the current *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* pertaining to housing censuses, (b) identify and elaborate on issues that are not adequately covered in the current version of the *Principles and Recommendations*, and finally (c) adopt the draft text of the housing census recommendations for submission to the Expert Group Meeting to be held in July 2006.

Over the past ten months, since August 2005, there have been consultations with and comments and contributions from various experts on issues related housing censuses, through the Internet Forum of the 2010 World Programme, via e-mails and in meetings organized in different regions. All these were taken into consideration by United Nations Statistics Division in preparing the draft text being submitted to the meeting.

Key issues

The Expert Group will, apart from holding general discussions, specifically review and recommend actions on:

1. *Classification of living quarters*

- The draft text presents a revised classification of housing units, introducing two main classes: (a) conventional dwellings and (b) other housing units. Conventional dwellings are further categorized into (a) fully equipped and (b) partly equipped, while “other housing units” are categorized into temporary, mobile, improvised, etc. For collective living quarters, eight subcategories under the category “institutions” are introduced.

2. *Core and additional topics*

- There are proposals to include, in the *Principles and Recommendations*, a number of topics as core topics in housing censuses, such as fuel used for cooking, and to change the designation of some current core topics, such as available floor space, to additional topics.

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3. ***Recommended tabulations***

- For the 2010 round of censuses, the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* is introducing a new international standard: recommended tabulations. The draft text proposes 16 tabulations that each country or area is expected to generate from the results censuses and other national data sources.