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Statistics Division**

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 **2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme**

**United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Revising the Principles and
Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses**

New York
29 April – 2 May 2014

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Introduction

1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organized the second United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Revising the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, in New York, from 29 April to 2 May 2014. The main objective of the Expert Group Meeting was to review the work already accomplished by the working groups and sub-groups working on the revision and update of the principles and recommendations and to also provide further guidance with a view to ensuring that the revised publication provides relevant and practical methodological guidelines and ensures international comparability for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses (see annex 1 for the agenda). The Expert Group Meeting was attended by 53 participants, including 32 from 28 countries and 21 from regional and international organizations (see annex 2 for the list of participants).

Opening Remarks

2. Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director, UNSD, welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude for their hard work on the revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. In his remarks, Mr. Schweinfest highlighted the role of population and housing censuses as the backbone of national statistical systems and of capacity building in many countries. He briefed participants on the mandate of UNSD to set methodological guidelines while emphasizing the role of experts from around the globe in ensuring that the resulting product has international applicability. Mr. Schweinfest pointed out that in spite of regional differences and circumstances that affect census taking practices and also the on-going work to develop regional census guidelines, there was a need for harmonization and consistency between the global and regional guidelines so that all sets are complementary to one another.

3. Mr. Schweinfest informed participants that the 2010 round of population and housing censuses has been successful in terms of national participation. He went on to say that census results from the current round are important for setting the baseline for the Post-2015 Development Goals, while the upcoming 2020 round provided an opportunity for the merging of statistics and geo-spatial information and also for the harnessing information and communication technologies for the data revolution.

4. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the Expert Group, Mr. Marc Hamel of Statistics Canada provided a summary of the work already undertaken by the expert group. He informed participants that the discussions at the first expert group meeting which was held in October 2013 provided a common understanding of what needed to be done and areas that needed attention in the revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. Mr. Hamel indicated that the present expert group meeting was aimed at resolving any outstanding issues regarding the revised draft of the recommendations.

Organization of the Expert Group Meeting

5. The Expert Group Meeting was chaired by Mr. Marc Hamel. Each of the three chairs of the working groups, corresponding to the three broad parts in the Principles and

Recommendations, presented on major revisions to the text. The draft Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 3 and the presentations by the chairs of the working groups are available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/NewYork/2014/list_of_docs.htm. What follows is a summary of salient issues that were discussed during each of the broad parts of the recommendations.

Part I: Operational aspects of population and housing censuses

6. The chair of Working Group 2 - Census Planning and Methodology - Dr. C. Chandramouli, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, presented the main revisions to Part I which was assigned to the three sub-groups in his working group. Main changes that were instituted by the sub-group on Census operations relate to census cost and data quality. The sub-group on Use of technology developed a new section on the use of technology in the census with emphasis on the reasons for introduction of technology, advantages and disadvantages of use of technology in the census (efficiency and cost reduction, consistency, timeliness, public expectations, event management, data retention and utility, scalability, security, stability, safety, suitability). The changes introduced by the sub-group on Alternative censuses, include presenting in a matrix format all census methods, descriptions of each census method, necessary conditions and advantages and disadvantages for using the methods, and considerations for census taking and context related to each method. The sub-group also introduced a section on operational aspects for register based census or combined methodology with information on the legal framework, cooperation, confidentiality and public approval, administrative routines, identifiers, collection of survey information, and data processing.

7. Here are salient issues that came up during the general discussion. Under strategic objectives for the census, participants suggested to include not just cost-effectiveness, but also cost-benefits of conducting a census. Also participants requested that the matrix showing the methodological approaches be revised to provide information on actual methodologies that are currently used by countries. Experts recommended that the section on Operational aspects for register-based census or combined methodology be made part of the chapter on census methodology. Experts also advised that definitions be provided for terms used for the different administrative sources. It was also suggested that the final text of the revised census recommendations indicate that privacy concerns are a considerable driver for countries choosing their census methodology. Also experts were of the view that the draft section on mapping, under preparatory activities, is too detailed and should be shortened. Participants also suggested that in the section on contracting out, it should be indicated that the census office should have the capacity to fully understand and manage the process and also it should include information on risk management. Participants also recommended that some parts on Part one related to database for macro-data and also the section on dissemination of census results be moved to Part three on Census products and data utilization. It was also suggested that the term “Institutional population” under Units of enumeration be renamed “Collective living quarters population”.

Part II: Population and housing census topics

8. The chair of Working Group 1 - Population and Housing Topics – Mr. Ian White of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, presented the summary of work

accomplished by his group which was composed of a subgroup on population topics and another on housing topics. Under population topics, changes were made to the section on population count to introduce a new concept, the “population base”. Within the concept of usual resident population count, usual resident population count the sub-group identified population groups for which some uncertainty may arise in defining their place of usual residence within the country and recommended how these cases should be treatment. New definitions or recommendations were added regarding some migration topics (geographical and internal migration and international migration characteristics) - place of birth, country of birth, country of citizenship, and acquisition of citizenship. Other changes related to the selection of the one reference person in a household to whom all other persons in the household report, or designate, their relationship, introduction of the category “same-sex marriage/partnership” as a category of marital status, and a new ISCED field of education and training classification. There were also major changes to concepts and terminology related to economic characteristics topics due to the new ILO conceptual framework for work statistics. Main changes to housing topics relate to the number of occupants to distinguish between those occupants that are usually resident and those that are not usually resident in the living quarters, a refinement to definition of building, time interval classification to the year or period of construction of building, a proposed new topic on position of dwelling within building, new classifications on construction material of outer walls and of floor and roof, and new classification for the topic state of repair of housing unit or the building in which the housing unit is located.

9. During the general discussion on population and housing census topics, experts were of the view that more information was needed in the section on factors determining the selection of topics. There was also extensive discussion regarding the suitability of some topics (related main to international migration and to ethno-cultural characteristics) are core given either their sensitivity of lack of importance in some countries. Participants also requested that the section on disability characteristics be shortened. Experts also recommended that the classification for the field of education be presented only up to the two-digit level. There was a lot of discussion on perceived difficulties in the measurement of economic characteristics in the census based on the new ILO conceptual framework. Under the topic of water supply system, experts raised the issue of whether the safety of the tape water should be considered.

Part Three: CENSUS PRODUCTS AND DATA UTILIZATION

10. Mr. Pali Lehohla, of Statistics South Africa, Chair of Working Group 3 – Census Products and Data Utilization - made a presentation on major changes to the section that was assigned to his working group. Proposed changes include an enhanced introduction to Part Three to specify the use of statistics for transparency, accountability and results-based management and transformation, the role of census data as instrumental to inform socio-economic progress and environmental phenomena, the need for data producers to anticipate user needs and census products to be current by embedding use through consultations. Other new additions include sections on interactive web-based electronic outputs, metadata, dissemination of micro-data, and on use of social media for census data dissemination. Also, the section on development indicators is modified to refer to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

11. During the general discussion on Part Three, participants suggested to further strengthen the introduction to highlight the need for neutrality and objectivity as part of census data

dissemination. It was also pointed out that statistics offices should be cognizant of their role as producers of data (in terms of providing numbers and trends) and not to be unduly involved in policy issues (in terms of analysis of the data). Furthermore, experts suggested that the introductory section also address data quality and confidentiality. Experts also requested that the revised Principles and Recommendations should contain information encouraging countries to submit their census administrative reports to the United Nations for wider availability and utilization. Participants also would like the section on metadata to include information on related international standards. It was further suggested that the revised census recommendations should include a write-up encouraging provision of census data at no cost and to discourage charging a fee except for customized products. It was also suggested that a new section be included on guidelines on emerging tools for census data dissemination. Experts also suggested that under the chapter on census data utilization information be added on evaluating the use of census data, such as through user surveys. It was also recommended that the section on dissemination of micro-data be reviewed and modified as appropriate and that it be made a section under census data products. Within the discussion on this topic, experts pointed out the lack of an international organization that is responsible for archiving of census micro-data and suggested that UNSD could take on this important role. It was further suggested that countries should be encouraged to make available their census micro-data. Experts also suggested that the section on cross-cutting and emerging social issues include a sub-section on human settlements and another on migration.

General conclusions and the way forward

12. The expert group meeting was characterized by dynamic discussions and substantive contributions by experts towards the finalization of the 3rd revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. In addition to the suggestions for changes to the text in the draft which were made during the course of the meeting, there were a few outstanding pieces for which experts undertook to provide to UNSD written contributions within two weeks after the meeting.

13. UNSD further informed the experts that the revised Principles and Recommendations will be presented at the next session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2015 for approval. Experts were also informed of an expected addendum to the printed version which will include information of development indicators based on the outcome of the on-going debate on the United Nations Post 2015 Development Agenda which might have an impact on population and housing censuses in the 2020 round of censuses.

14. It was also suggested that countries should raise at the next session of the Statistical Commission the issue of UNSD taking on the role of collecting from countries and providing access to census micro-data.

15. There was a suggestion to restructure the revised Principles and Recommendations to correspond to the Statistical Process framework.

16. It was agreed at the meeting that after incorporating all the inputs, the final draft will be circulated to the members of the expert group towards the end of August for a final review.

Annex 1. Agenda

Time	Topic
	<u>DAY 1 — Tuesday, 29 April 2014</u>
9:30 – 10:00	Registration of participants
10:00 – 10:30	Session 1 – Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks – UNSD - Introduction of participants and administrative matters - Selection of Chair(s) and Rapporteur
10:00 – 11:00	Session 2 – Report of Chairs of Working Groups The Chairs of the three Working Groups will each present on the work accomplished thus far highlighting proposed changes—in content and structure—to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and bringing forth the issues that require further deliberation and guidance by the Expert Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations by Chairs of Working Groups - General discussion
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2 – Report of Chairs of Working Groups (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3 – Review of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Operational aspects of population and housing censuses) The Expert Group will review the draft text of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses pertaining to operational aspects of population and housing censuses and approve or offer additional elaboration and/or guidance for further revision, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring that Revision 3 of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses provides relevant and practical methodological guidelines and fosters international comparability for the 2020 round of censuses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Session 3 – Review of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
	<u>DAY 2 — Wednesday, 30 April 2014</u>
9:00 – 11:00	Session 3 – Review of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Session 3 – Review of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3 – Review of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Session 3 – Review of Part I of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion
	<u>DAY 3 — Thursday, 1 May 2014</u>
9:00 – 11:00	Session 4 – Review of Part II of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Population census topics; Housing census topics) The Expert Group will review the draft text of Part II of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and

Time	Topic
	Housing Censuses pertaining to population census topics and housing census topics and approve or offer additional elaboration and/or guidance for further revision, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring that Revision 3 of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses provides relevant and practical methodological guidelines and fosters international comparability for the 2020 round of censuses. - General discussion
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Session 4 – Review of Part II of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) - General discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Session 4 – Review of Part II of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) - General discussion
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Session 4 – Review of Part II of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) - General discussion
<u>DAY 4 — Friday, 2 May 2014</u>	
9:00 – 11:00	Session 5 – Review of Part III of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Census products and data utilization) The Expert Group will review the draft text of Part III of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses pertaining to census products and data utilization and approve or offer additional elaboration and/or guidance for further revision, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring that Revision 3 of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses provides relevant and practical methodological guidelines and fosters international comparability for the 2020 round of censuses. - General discussion
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Session 5 – Review of Part III of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) - General discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Session 5 – Review of Part III of the Principles and Recommendations (cont'd) - General discussion
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Session 13 – Closing session - Closing remarks – UNSD

Annex 2. List of participants

No.	Country/Organization Name	Contact Information
1	Australia	Mr. Duncan YOUNG Program Head, 2016 Population Census Australian Bureau of Statistics
2	Brazil	Ms. Andrea DINIZ DA SILVA Section Chief Directorate of Surveys Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE)
3	Canada	Mr. Marc HAMEL Director General of the Census Management Office Statistics Canada
4		Ms. Jane BADETS Director General of the Census Subject Matter Statistics Canada
5	China	Mr. Nailin FENG Director-General Department of Population and Employment Statistics National Bureau of Statistics of China
6	Costa Rica	Ms. Sofia MORA STEINER Sociologist Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
7	Germany	Mr. Stefan SCHWEINERT-ALBINUS Head of Section Federal Statistical Office
8	Ghana	Mr. David Yenukwa KOMBAT Chief Statistician and the Acting Census Coordinator Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
9	India	Mr. C. CHANDRAMOULI Registrar-General and Census Commissioner Ministry of Home Affairs
10	Indonesia	Mr. Sairi SAIRI Head of Statistics/BPS Jawa Timur Province BPS-Statistics Indonesia
11	Italy	Mr. Fabio CRESCENZI Head, Office for Census Methods and Organization National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)
12	Jamaica	Ms. Valerie NAM Demographer Statistical Institute of Jamaica
13	Malaysia	Ms. Rozita TALHA Division Director Department of Statistics Malaysia

No.	Country/Organization Name	Contact Information
14	Mexico	Ms. Argisofia PEREZ MORENO Sub-director, Population Conceptual Frameworks Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía (INEGI)
15	Mongolia	Mr. Amarbal AVIRMED Director, Population and Housing Census Bureau National Statistical Office
16	Namibia	Ms. Liina KAFIDI Director and Census Manager Namibia Statistics Agency
17	Oman	Mr. Yaqoob AL ZADJALI Director of Social Surveys National Center for Statistics and Information
18	Peru	Mr. Moran Flores GASPAS HUBERTO Technical Director Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI)
19	Philippines	Ms. Minerva ESQUIVIAS Chief, Census Planning and Operations Division National Statistical Office
20	Republic of Korea	Mr. Hyungseog KIM Director, Population Census Division Statistics Korea
21	Russian Federation	Ms. Svetlana NIKITINA Director, Dept of Population & Healthcare Statistics Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT)
22	South Africa	Mr. Pali LEHOHLA Statistician-General Statistics South Africa
23		Ms. Celia DE KLERK Executive Manager for Strategy Statistics South Africa
24	State of Palestine	Mr. Abdallah NAJJAR General Director, Censuses Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
25	Sweden	Mr. Sven Ake Gunnar BRUHN Head of Project Statistics Sweden
26	Turkey	Ms. Dilek GÜDER Group Leader of Vital and Gender Statistics TURKSTAT
27	Uganda	Mr. Andrew MUKULU Director, Population and Social Statistics Uganda Bureau of Statistics

No.	Country/Organization Name	Contact Information
28	United Arab Emirates	Mr. Abdulla Hassan Abdulla AL SHAER Director, Population and Social Statistics Department National Bureau of Statistics
29		Ms. Aisha AL-ALI Director, Population and Social Statistics Department Statistics Centre–Abu Dhabi
30	United Kingdom	Mr. Ian WHITE Head, International Census Liaison Office for National Statistics
31		Mr. Garnett Compton Head, Quality and Outputs, 2011 Census Office for National Statistics
32	United States	Ms. Arona PISTINER Advisor to the Associate Director for 2020 Census International Collaboration and Policy U.S. Census Bureau
33	EUROSTAT	Mr. David THOROGOOD Senior Statistician Team Leader - Population Census, Migrant Integration, Administration of Immigration and Asylum
34	FAO	Mr. Pietro GENNARI Director, Statistics Division
35	ILO	Ms. Elisa BENES Statistician
36	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)	Mr. Arman BIDARBAKHT NIA Lecturer/Statistician
37	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	Mr. Arthur JORARI Demographer
38	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	Mr. Paolo VALENTE Statistician, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, Statistical Division
39	UNESCO Institute for Statistics	Mr. Friedrich HUEBLER Programme Specialist
40	UN-HABITAT	Mr. Gora MBOUP Chief, Global Urban Observatory
41	UNFPA	Ms. Sabrina JURAN Technical Specialist for Data and Research
42	United Nations Population Division	Mr. Patrick GERLAND Population Officer
43		Ms. Clare MENOZZI Population Officer

No.	Country/Organization Name	Contact Information
44	Washington Group	Ms. Julie WEEKS Health Statistician Centre for Disease Control National Centre for Health Statistics
45	United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)	Ms. Keiko OSAKI-TOMITA Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
46		Mr. Srdjan MRKIC Chief, Demographic Statistics Section
47		Ms. Meryem DEMIRCI Interregional Advisor for Population and Housing Censuses
48		Ms. Margaret MBOGONI Senior Statistician
49		Mr. Seiffe TADESSE Statistician
50		Ms. Adriana SKENDERI Statistician
51		Ms. Linda HOOPER Statistician
52		Ms. Gisele KAMANOU-GOUNE Statistician
53		Mr. Thomas SPOORENBERG Associate Statistician