

The United Nations Inquiry among Governments on population and development: Opportunities and challenges

Population Division
Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Improving Migration Data
in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
New York, 20-22 June 2017



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ESA/P/WP/233/E

**UNITED NATIONS
ELEVENTH INQUIRY AMONG GOVERNMENTS
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**



United Nations
New York, 2014



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The Inquiry

- Mandated by the General Assembly in 1962
- First Inquiry conducted in 1963
- Conducted on behalf of the Secretary-General, through the UN Permanent Missions of countries
- The scope of the inquiries has changed over time, with changing policy priorities in the world
- Eleventh Inquiry (May 2014) is divided into three modules:
 - I. Population Size, Growth and Distribution
 - II. Fertility, Family Planning and Reproductive Health
 - III. International Migration
- Greater emphasis on programme measures
- The Inquiry responses on policy variables are codified into the World Population Policies Database



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Migration Module

Key topics included:

- Policies on immigration
- Policies on emigration
- Measures on integration of immigrants
- Policies on naturalization and citizenship
- Measures on irregular immigration
- Measures on diaspora's investments including remittances



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The Inquiry: Challenges

- Response rates have been declining
- Eleventh Inquiry response rate is better than for the Tenth Inquiry, but far from satisfactory
- Possible reasons:
 - The scope of population issues has widened
 - No ministry or programme can answer all questions: need for local coordination
 - Population Division does not have country presence
 - Governments are over-burdened with such requests from numerous agencies
- Incomplete and inaccurate responses: all responses need careful scrutiny and validation



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Review of the migration module : Opportunities

- Greater involvement and ownership by Member States in the design and implementation of the Inquiry
- Improved coordination with partner agencies
- Possibility of more in-depth inquiries on specific topics, including migration

Going forward: IOM and DESA are working on developing the methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 and are in the process of initiating the validation and testing.



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