United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Improving Migration
Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
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Session 4. Draft questionnaire on concepts and definitions on international migration[*]

Prepared by

Task force 2 on concepts and definitions
Related to international migration

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[*] This document is being reproduced without formal editing.

Questions to the EGMS members – Group 1

- <u>On the questionnaire</u> (you should have it):
  - How to reach the 'target population'? Only NSOs, all bodies in charge of migration statistics, others?
    - Currently envisaged approach: transmission to NSOs only, but to be forwarded by the NSO to the relevant national institutions
  - Should the unit of analysis be the country, the institution or what else?
    - Currently envisaged approach: each questionnaire is a unit; only one questionnaire per institution.
  - Are there redundant and/or missing questions?
  - Should some questions be formulated differently?
  - Is the list of concepts related to migration comprehensive enough?
  - Any other improvement you may think of…

Questions to the EGMS members – Group 2

- On the alternative definitions of migration:
  - What are the features that you see relevant in the concept of migration and that should be taken into account in its definition?
    - e.g., personal characteristics, reference to geographic moves, family/social relations, purpose of migration, etc.
  - What would be your definition of migration?
    - Creative thinking is welcomed
  - How your definition would fit in the demographic balance?
    - Would additional categories (other than 'migration proper') be needed?
    - Would the definition of population change?
  - What are the pros and cons of your proposal?
  - Which data sources could/should be used?

Introductory section

The present survey aims to collect information on country practices in producing data on international migration and identify key concepts and definitions used by countries. Findings of this survey will be used as an input for revising the current UN Recommendations on International Migration.

The survey is prepared by the Task Force on the "Key Concepts and Definitions related to International Migration", which is part of the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics. For more information on the activities of this Expert Group, please visit: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/.

Section on current practice

1. Has your institution produced any statistical data on **international migration** (regardless of its definition and for any level of detail) in the last 10 years?
   a. No, my institution is not in charge (*go to question 28*)
   b. No, even though formally in charge
   c. Yes, but only once
   d. Yes, irregularly
   e. Yes, regularly but not annually
   f. Yes, annually
   g. Other (please specify):_____

2. (*If 1.b*) If not, could you please explain the main reason(s)? (*multiple answers possible*)
   a. No data source is available
   b. No interest from policy makers / not a priority
   c. No funds / human resources
   d. No technical capabilities
   e. Difficulty to meet international recommendations on migration statistics
   f. Other (please specify):_____

(*go to question 28*)

3. (*If 1.c or 1.d*) If not regularly, could you please explain the main reason(s)? (*multiple answers possible*)
   a. Depending on the available data source
   b. Limited interest from policy makers / no first priority

c. Limited funds / human resources
d. Irregular availability of skilled personnel
e. Other (please specify):_____

Section on stock of international migrants

4. How do you measure the **'stock of international migrants'**, i.e. the migrants who are part of the population of your country on a reference date? (*multiple answers possible*)
   a. Counting the foreign-born persons.
   b. Counting the foreign citizens.
   c. Counting the foreign citizens who were born abroad.
   d. Counting the persons who have been resident abroad during their life.
   e. Other (please specify):_____

5. Which data source(s) do you use for the 'stock of international migrants'? (*multiple answers possible*)
   a. Census (traditional enumeration).
   b. Administrative records or registers-based census.
   c. Probabilistic general-purpose sample survey(s) including variables related international migration (e.g., households' surveys).
   d. Probabilistic sample survey(s) dedicated on international migration.
   e. Non-probabilistic sample survey(s) (e.g. snowball sampling, quota sampling).
   f. Big data (including social media)
   g. Other (please specify):_____

6. (if 5.b) Could you please indicate the main administrative source(s)?
   a. Population register
   b. Immigration register
   c. Residence permits / visa
   d. Other (please specify):_____

7. Which is the **'statistical unit'** in your international immigration stock tables?
   a. Always the persons (i.e., immigrants resident at the reference date)
   b. Always the documents (e.g., valid residence permits / visa at the reference date)
   c. Persons for some data, documents for other data
   d. Both available (persons and documents) for all data

Section on flow of international immigration

8. How do you measure the **'flow of immigrants'**, i.e. persons who are becoming part of the population of your country in a selected period?
    a. Counting all persons who have <u>arrived</u> in the country during that period.
    b. Counting the persons who have acquired specific characteristics or granted specific rights during that period (e.g., national citizenship, recording in national registers, new residence permits or visa, etc.), <u>regardless of where they are</u>.
    c. Counting the persons who have arrived in the country and meet specific criteria.
    d. Other (please specify):_____

9. (*If 8.c*) Which specific criteria do you apply to qualify a person who has arrived in your country as 'immigrant'? (*multiple answers possible*)
    a. Born abroad
    b. Foreign citizenship
    c. Residence in the country (declared to authorities)
    d. Lived in the country for a period of time since last arrival (so-called 'actual stay')
    e. Intention to live in the country for a period of time (so-called 'intention of stay')
    f. Granted a legal permission of stay (visa, residence permit, etc.)
    g. Other (please specify):_____

10. (*if 9.d and 9.e*) Please provide the required duration of stay in the country to be considered 'immigrant':_____

11. Which data source(s) do you use for the 'flow of immigrants'? (*multiple answers possible*)
    a. Census (traditional enumeration).
    b. Administrative records or registers-based census.
    c. Probabilistic general-purpose sample survey(s) including variables related international migration (e.g., households' surveys).
    d. Probabilistic sample survey(s) dedicated on international migration.
    e. Non-probabilistic sample survey(s) (e.g. snowball sampling, quota sampling).
    f. Big data (including social media)
    g. Data on migration available from other countries (so-called 'mirror' statistics)
    h. Other (please specify):_____

12. (if 11.b) Could you please indicate the main administrative source(s)?
    a. Population register

b. Immigration register
c. Residence permits / visa
d. Crossing-border data
e. Other (please specify):_____

13. Which is the **'statistical unit'** in your international immigration flow tables?
   a. Always the persons (i.e., the migrants)
   b. Always the events (i.e., the migrations)
   c. Persons for some data, events for other data
   d. Both available (persons and events) for all data

Section on flow of international emigration

14. How do you measure the **'flow of emigrants'**, i.e. persons who are leaving the population of your country in a selected period?
   a. Counting all persons who have <u>left</u> the country during that period.
   b. Counting the persons who have lost specific characteristics or rights during that period (e.g., loss of national citizenship, deletion from national registers, expiration of residence permits or visa, etc.), <u>regardless of where they are</u>.
   c. Counting the persons who have left the country and meet specific criteria (related to duration of stay, citizenship or country of birth as explained in Q8)
   d. Other (please specify):_____

15. (*If 14.c*) Which specific criteria do you apply to qualify a person who has left your country as 'emigrant'? (*multiple answers possible*)
   a. Born in the country
   b. Born abroad
   c. National citizenship
   d. Foreign citizenship
   e. Residence abroad (informing the national authority of your country)
   f. Lived abroad for a period of time since last departure (so-called 'actual stay')
   g. Intention to live abroad for a period of time (so-called 'intention of stay')
   h. Expiration of a legal permission of stay
   i. Other (please specify):_____

16. (*if 15.f and 15.g*) Please give the required duration of stay abroad to be considered 'emigrant':_____

17. Which data source do you use for the 'flow of emigrants'? (*multiple answers possible*)
    a. Census (traditional enumeration).
    b. Administrative records or registers-based census.
    c. Probabilistic general-purpose sample survey(s) including variables related international migration (e.g., households' surveys).
    d. Probabilistic sample survey(s) dedicated on international migration.
    e. Non-probabilistic sample survey(s) (e.g. snowball sampling, quota sampling).
    f. Big data (including social media)
    g. Data on migration available from other countries (so-called 'mirror' statistics)
    h. Other (please specify):_____

18. (if 17.b) Could you please indicate the main administrative source(s)?
    a. Population register
    b. Immigration register
    c. Residence permits / visa
    d. Crossing-border data
    e. Other (please specify):_____

19. Which is the **'statistical unit'** in your international emigration flow tables?
    a. Always the persons (i.e., the migrants)
    b. Always the events (i.e., the migrations)
    c. Persons for some data, events for other data
    d. Both available (persons and events) for all data

Section on definitions

20. If you have an official definition(s) of international migrant/migration (e.g., from national law), please provide: _____

21. Besides for international migration, do you produce statistics for any of the following concepts? (*multiple answers possible*)

    a. Return migration

b. Labour migration
c. Seasonal migration
d. Circular migration
e. Temporary migration
f. Longer-term migration (longer term than national main definition)
g. Shorter-term migration (shorter term than national main definition)
h. Family-related (reunification/formation) migration
i. Education-related migration
j. Descendants of migrants (e.g., second-generation migration)
k. Irregular migration
l. Mixed migration
m. Diaspora
n. Forced migration
o. Environment-related migration
p. Cross-border workers
q. Other types of migration (please specify all types that are not included in the list)

22. (*If 21 any category*) Please provide the definition(s) applied:

a. Return migration
b. Labour migration
c. Seasonal migration
d. Circular migration
e. Temporary migration
f. Longer-term migration (longer term than national main definition)
g. Shorter-term migration (shorter term than national main definition)
h. Family-related (reunification/formation) migration
i. Education-related migration
j. Descendants of migrants (e.g., second-generation migration)
k. Irregular migration
l. Mixed migration
m. Diaspora
n. Forced migration
o. Environment-related migration
p. Cross-border workers
q. Other types of migration (please specify all types that are not included in the list)

23. (*If 22 any category*) Please specify the data source(s):

	Census (traditional enumeration).	Administrative records or registers-based census.	Probabilistic general-purpose sample survey(s) including variables related international migration (e.g., households' surveys).	Probabilistic sample survey(s) dedicated on international migration.	Non-probabilistic sample survey(s) (e.g. snowball sampling, quota sampling).	Big data (including social media))	Data on migration available from other countries (so-called 'mirror' statistics)	Other
Return migration								
Labour migration								
Seasonal migration								
Circular migration								
Temporary migration								
Longer-term migration (longer term than national main definition)								
Shorter-term migration (shorter term than national main definition)								
Family-related (reunification/formation) migration								
Education-related migration								
Descendants of migrants (e.g., second-generation migration)								
Irregular migration								
Mixed migration								
Diaspora								
Forced migration								
Environment-related migration								
Cross-border workers								
Other types of migration (please specify all types that are not included in the list)								

24. To the best of your knowledge, there are alternative definitions of international migration that would be of interest in your country?
    a. I do not know anything about
    b. No, there are not
    c. Maybe / I don't know enough

    d. Yes, there are (please specify):

    _____

25. Has your institution any formal or informal plan to review the definition(s) related to migration?
    a. No, there is no plan at all
    b. No, but it could be of interest
    c. Yes, there is the intention but without any concrete plan for now
    d. Yes, there is a plan
    e. Yes, and we are already working on the review
    f. Other (please specify):_____

26. In general, to what extent do you find it difficult to apply the current UN recommendations on international migration statistics?
    a. No difficult at all
    b. A little difficult
    c. Rather difficult
    d. Very difficult
    e. Impossible to apply in practice
    f. I do not know (enough) these recommendations

27. Could you please provide a short motivation for your reply to the previous question 26?

    _____
    _____
    _____

Section on qualification and closing

28. Do you work in:
    a. National statistical office
    b. National government authority specific to migration matters (please specify):___
    c. National government authority covering also migration matters (please specify):___
    d. Other institution (please specify):___

29. Any comment related to this survey you would like to provide:

    _____

_____
_____

Concept and definition (*box a*) covered by the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf):

> *Box a.*
> *Thus, an international migrant is defined as any person who changes his or her country of usual residence.* (paragraph 32, *1998 Recommendations*)

> *Box b.*
> ***Country of usual residence****: The country in which a person lives, that is to say, the country in which the person has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest. Temporary travel abroad for purposes of recreation, holiday, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage does not entail a change in the country of usual residence.*
>
> *Long-term migrant: A person who moves to a country other than his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure the person will be a long-term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival the person will be a long-term immigrant.*
>
> *Short-term migrant: A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months) except in cases where the movement to that country is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. For purposes of international migration statistics, the country of usual residence of short-term migrants is considered to be the country of destination during the period they spend in it.*
>
> (box 1, *1998 Recommendations*)