

## **Expert Group Meeting on the United Nations Demographic Yearbook System**

Statistics Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations

New York

9 – 12 November 2020

### **Concept Note**

#### **Introduction and Purpose of the meeting**

The United Nations Statistics Division, collects, compiles and disseminates official demographic and social statistics on a wide range of topics. Since 1948, demographic data collected annually from national statistical offices of all countries and areas have been published in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook Collection. The Demographic Yearbook was mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its 1947 session; its first issue, *Demographic Yearbook 1948*, appeared in 1949, and subsequently annually thereafter, with its 70<sup>th</sup> Edition to be published this year. The content of the Demographic Yearbook Collection is very rich, and over time it has undergone developments driven by subject matter and technology, including in recent years developments in online data dissemination with most of the currently collected data and the majority of historical and current vital statistics published online. It is in the context of further improving and developing the Demographic Yearbook system, that UNSD is organizing this Expert Group Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit experts' input and guidance in making the Demographic Yearbook system up to date with contemporary approaches in terms of data collection, processing, validation and dissemination.

#### **Discussion topics**

- 1) Data collection and processing best practices;
- 2) Population concepts and definitions used in the Demographic Yearbook System: Improvement of related metadata;
- 3) Vital statistics concepts used in the Demographic Yearbook System: Improvement of related metadata;
- 4) Creation of a contemporary dissemination portal for UNSD Demographic Statistics, incorporating data and metadata dissemination;
- 5) SDMX as a data and metadata reporting instrument;
- 6) Integration of statistical and geo-spatial information, more specifically exploring the possibility of collecting and disseminating geo-referenced demographic data.

#### **Expected outcome:**

- Receive guidance and recommendations on best practices for data collection and for future work on dissemination of demographic data and metadata.
- Receive guidance for concrete improvements to population estimates and vital statistics metadata questionnaires that are collected from National Statistical Offices, as part of the

annual demographic data collection. The current versions of the Demographic Yearbook data and metadata questionnaires are available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/index.cshtml#questionnaires>

- Have a constructive discussion and recommendations on future pathways for a gradual introduction of SDMX in the data collection processes for the Demographic Yearbook system.

### **Date and time, logistics**

The meeting will be hosted virtually from New York City, by the Demographic Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division. It will take place from 9 –12 November 2020, for a duration of three hours on each day, from 7 AM – 10 AM EDT (New York time). The meeting will be conducted in English.