



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Technical Meeting on Indicators and Operationalization of the Conceptual
Framework of International Migration Statistics

Rabat, Morocco – 20-22 June 2022

Indicators and their topics for disaggregation

There was overall agreement that **indicators** should be **policy relevant and feasible at country level**, if not now at least in a “foreseeable” future. The agreed list of indicators and associated topics for disaggregation needs to be **in line with the conceptual framework** and accompanying definitions endorsed by the Statistical Commission and respond to key policy areas.



POLICY AREA 1: Improve the measurement of international migration and temporary mobility stocks and flows

- **Indicators for Policy Area 1**, both core and additional were discussed at length. Following the conceptual framework, the core indicators proposed are thought as **building blocks** with the view that over time countries will be able to produce them incrementally.
- The Expert Group agreed to **keep indicators on temporary mobility as additional**, given that this topic is new and was first introduced by the revised conceptual framework. The majority of experts emphasized the **difficulties** faced in producing most of the proposed indicators on temporary mobility. Some experts also mentioned that they need time to introduce this new concept in their national statistical system and study how to produce data for this group.



POLICY AREA 2: Address irregular cross border movements and visa overstays

- The Expert Group agreed to have all **indicators for Policy Area 2 as additional**. Discussions revealed that, although this policy area is extremely relevant, the topic is highly controversial and contested.
- Countries with capacity to produce these indicators should continue to do so and should share their experience for other countries to follow

Indicators and their topics for disaggregation

- **Core indicators for Policy Areas 3 to 6**, were also discussed, highlighting that out of 21 proposed core indicators, 19 are SDG indicators and the other 2 are traditionally produced by countries.
- Additional indicators presented in the report under policy areas 3 to 6 were not discussed at the meeting. They will remain as is and the secretariat will implement minor changes, if needed, to ensure consistency with decisions taken at the meeting on other indicators.

The UN Expert Group further agreed to

- Clarify at the beginning of the report, and in footnotes attached to tables, that dissemination of indicators by single country of birth or citizenship may not be possible due to **data protection and privacy concerns**.
- Be more explicit on terminology used in the report, and to indicate, as needed, in footnotes **the link to the conceptual framework**.

The UN Expert Group also agreed that the secretariat will implement all agreed changes and finalize the report to be presented for discussion at the UN Statistical Commission.

Data sources, data collection and production strategies

Country practices indicate that there are mainly **three different approaches** for measuring stocks and flows, as follows:

1. **Many** countries use a combination of field-based data collection and administrative registers.
2. A group of countries relies on field-based data collection, namely population censuses and household surveys.
3. A number of countries relies on administrative data sources for producing both stocks and flow data; these are mainly countries that have a well-established register-based statistical system.

The Expert Group found that countries using field-based data collection, be it solely or in combination with administrative data, face challenges in the production of annual data for immigration and emigration flows. Countries that generate statistics based on registers face challenges related to the rigidity of the system

Data sources, data collection and production strategies

- The meeting underlined the importance of **producing periodical and reliable data for migration statistics**. It was emphasized that countries should have a vision to move towards an **ecosystem that relies heavily on the use of administrative registers for migration statistics**, and at the same time, it takes full advantage of sample surveys relevant to migration, alternative data sources and innovative methods.
- The Expert Group stressed that the production of international migration statistics is an integral part of the national statistical systems (NSS), and as such, should be included in national strategies for the development and modernization of statistics (NSDS).
- **Modernization of NSS with the use of administrative data** sources requires certain conditions that should be met in advance, though these conditions might change from one country to another, depending on the current status of the existing NSS.
- A **long-term strategy** for gradually moving to a register-based statistical system is a necessary element for modernizing the production of international migration statistics, addressing issues like the need for a legal framework that enables the use of individual data for statistical purposes, proper financial and human resources, maintaining effective and continuous collaboration with stakeholders, and strong leadership that entices trust among stakeholders.
- It was also pointed out that an **initial diagnostic of availability** of administrative data sources for migration statistics is crucial before going forward

Data sources, data collection and production strategies

- **Quality assessment** of data and metadata contained in these various data sources also needs to be a key element in the overall strategy for moving towards effective use of administrative data sources for the production of migration statistics.
- Experts also noted that, in the long run, a more effective use of administrative data, will result in **cost savings** in the production of international migration statistics and may **address the issue of observed decreasing response rates** in censuses and household surveys. This fact needs to be highlighted and utilized as a strong argument when making the case for using administrative registers for migration statistics.

Further agreements

- The Expert Group decided that, considering that there is a wide variation among countries in measuring stocks and flows, the **technical report to be prepared by Task Force 4** on operationalization of the revised conceptual framework, should provide **country case studies** to illustrate different approaches that aim to produce or estimate annual flow data for immigration and emigration.
- It was underlined that, in order to meet data requirements for the implementation of the revised conceptual framework, **related statistical programs** such as civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) and population and housing census (PHC) should promote the collection of information on foreign-born, foreign-citizens (country of birth and country of citizenship) and states people.
- To this end, **the Expert Group agreed to actively contribute to the upcoming revision of the *Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 census round***. In addition, the experts recommended that the upcoming revision should make a special effort to address data needs for Policy Area 1.
- It was decided that, given that countries are at different stages and use different approaches, the **revised *Recommendations on International Migration Statistics* need to be operational enough** to provide practical guidelines for countries at all levels of statistical capacity to make use of available data, in line with the conceptual framework, to produce core indicators in Policy Area 1. The recommendations will highlight the key guiding principles and will be accompanied by the final Technical reports of task forces and additional background and hands-on material, including country studies, for access by the broad user community.

Further agreements

- The Expert Group welcomed the draft technical report of Task Force 3 on data integration for statistics on international migration and provided extensive feedback and agreed to **contribute additional country cases or other technical materials**. It was further agreed to have the key findings of this report integrated in the revised *Recommendations*.
- As next steps, the secretariat committed to integrate the rich feedback provided by the Group into the report of Task Force 1. Task Force 3 will finalize their technical report by end of 2022, and Task Force 4 will continue their activities, focusing on data quality issues and formulation of practical guidelines.
- By December 2023, the Group agreed to have a final version of the revised Recommendations to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its 55th session in 2024, for endorsement.