

The First Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the  
Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses  
23-25 May 2023

Conclusions

1. The Expert Group meeting recognized the importance of revising the P&R for the 2030 round based on the diverse experience in census-taking documented thus far in the 2020 round of censuses, including the major challenges observed and lessons learned as well as the innovations and good practices attained.
2. The Expert Group identified the following themes as areas that require the provision of guidance or substantial revision/elaboration in the revised P&R for the 2030 round:
  - Contingency planning for responding to, and managing, emergencies and crisis
  - Effective risk management, through early identification and ongoing evaluation of risks, including through the establishment of a project risk register
  - The use of administrative data in population and housing censuses, and approaches for gradually transitioning to registers-based census
  - Methods for estimating populations in areas where enumeration is not possible
  - Strategies for improving the coverage of hard-to-enumerate groups such as nomads, indigenous populations, the homeless, etc.
  - Methods for assessing the quality of census data, including for census data produced from administrative registers, and for adjusting census data
  - Use of innovative technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of data collection and processing
  - Use of geospatial information in the planning and implementation of each stage of the census operation
  - Communication strategies for conveying census results, and for communicating results of quality assessments
  - Communication strategies for combating misinformation and negative messaging about the census, and for improving the coverage of hard-to-reach groups
  - Multi-mode data collection approaches
  - Real-time monitoring and management of field-based data collection, including through the use of paradata and dashboards
  - Methods for safeguarding data privacy and security
  - Dissemination of census data through innovative products and services, including grid-based outputs
  - Use of census data in disaster prevention and humanitarian settings, for environmental statistics, and for monitoring the SDGs
3. The Expert Group meeting agreed that for any new population and housing topic considered for inclusion in the list of recommended topics, there should be sufficient documentation that the topic is feasible for collection in a census (in terms of operations and training) and that it meets regional and/or international priorities.
4. The Expert Group meeting agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> revision of the P&R will focus on global and high-level recommendations, considering the diverse regional contexts as well as the diversity in the level of statistical capacity across nations. Elaborations on specific aspects of census-taking

deemed to be too detailed or too technical to fit in the P&R will be made available in other UNSD handbooks, guidelines, and technical reports.

5. The Expert Group meeting encouraged UNSD to offer a digital version of the 4<sup>th</sup> revision of the P&R, considering design principles that allow interactivity (including hyperlinks for ease of navigation through the document and referenced materials) and that facilitate accessibility.
6. The Expert Group approved the following seven Task Teams to carry out the work of revising the P&R:
  - TT1 - Census planning, organizing and management
  - TT2 - Census methodologies and use of administrative data (*including population concepts and definitions*)
  - TT3 - Use of geospatial information in census operations
  - TT4 - Quality assurance, indicators, and assessments
  - TT5 - Data collection and processing
  - TT6 - Communication, dissemination, and utilization
  - TT7 - Recommended topics on population and housing characteristics
7. UNSD will ensure coordination among the various Task Teams through its role as the secretariat for the revision. UNSD will convene meetings of Chairs of Task Teams as needed and when there are overlapping interests.
8. Effort will also be made to ensure there is consistency between the global recommendations and regional recommendations being developed/to be developed by UN Regional Commissions (including the ECE, ECA and ECLAC).