

First Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

23-25 May 2023

Summary of feedback received from Expert Group members: Content of the P&R

United Nations Statistics Division



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Four questions – Content of P&R

Q1: Does the content of the P&R adequately discuss all topics relevant for the 2030 round of censuses?

If 'Yes – partly agree' or 'No', provide your suggestions for improving the content of the P&R for the 2030 round:

Q2: Which "parts" and "chapters" of the P&R require substantial revision?

Q3: Indicate which of the themes below require substantial revision or additional guidance in the next version of the P&R:

Select all that apply

Q4: Suggest new issues/topics that need to be elaborated in the next version of the P&R, in the light of good practices and experiences gained in the 2020 round of censuses?



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Q1: Does the content of the P&R adequately discuss all topics relevant for the 2030 round of censuses?

Yes – fully agree	35%
Yes – partly agree	62%
No	3%



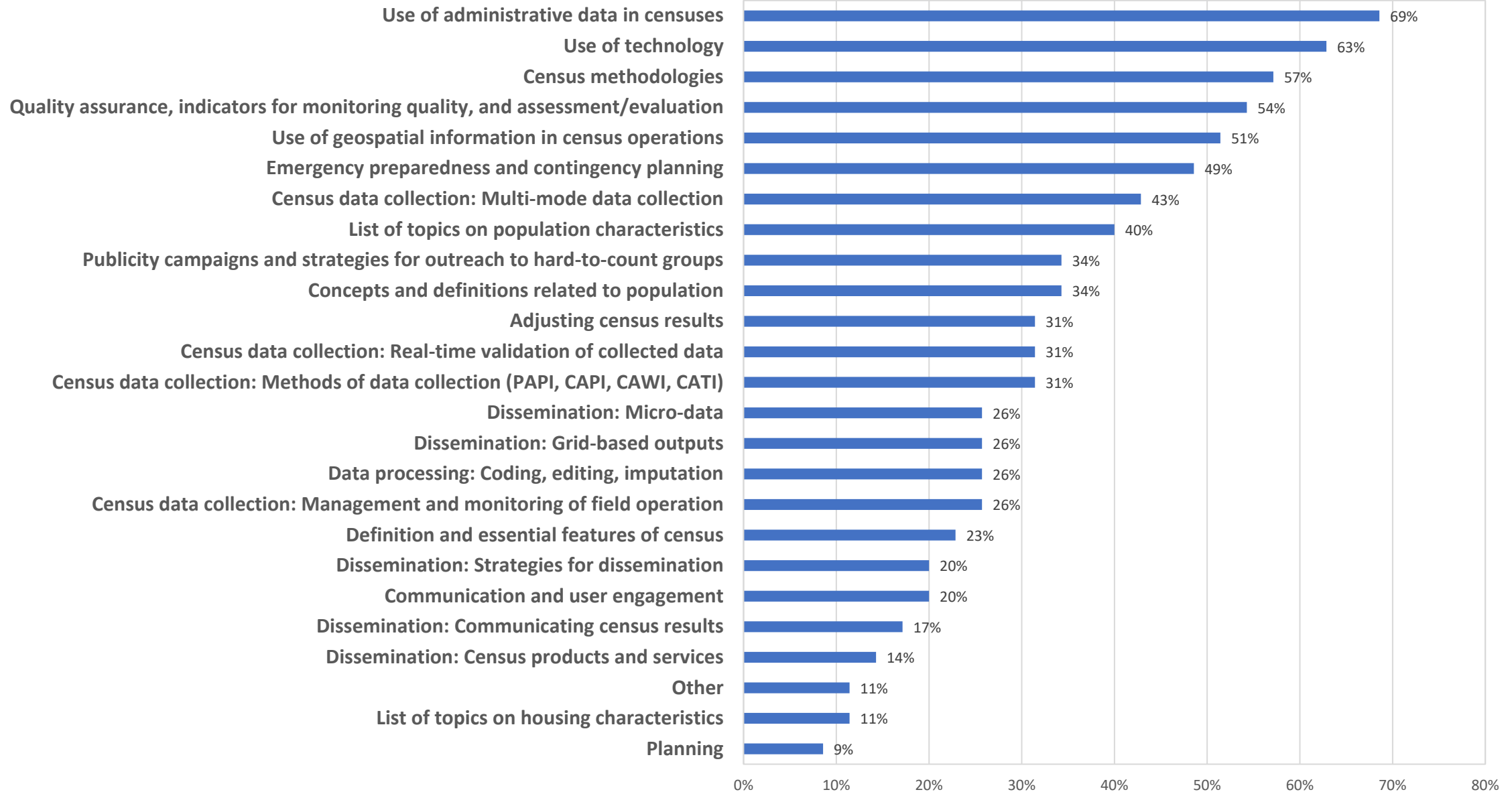
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Q3: Indicate which of the themes below require substantial revision or additional guidance in the next version of the P&R: Select all that apply



Improving the content of the P&R for the 2030 round

Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

- ❖ Planning
- ❖ Methodology
- ❖ Quality assurance
- ❖ Geospatial information
- ❖ Communication, publicity, outreach to hard-to-reach groups
- ❖ Electronic data collection (CAPI, CAWI, CATI) in field-based enumeration
- ❖ Increasing reliance on technology
- ❖ Census dissemination, products, utilization



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Improving the content of the P&R for the 2030 round

Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ Planning

- Improving the coverage of hard-to-enumerate groups: nomads, indigenous populations, the homeless
- Enhance census legislation and “legal basis”, to strengthen "data privacy" provisions
- Guidance on contingency planning for responding to emergencies and for crisis management
- Risk management and examples of risks to census enumeration
- Documenting all census operations
 - using documentations, including previous census assessment reports, in planning the next census
- Resource mobilization and development of workplans
- Planning, organizing and management of non-traditional census methods
- Contribution of PHCs to SDGs monitoring



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Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ Methodology

- Review essential features of PHCs, considering the characteristics of register-based censuses
- Guidance on the use of administrative data for PHCs, how to transition to registers-based censuses
- Guidance on combined censuses, including on all variants of register-based censuses
- Elaborate on operational aspects for register-based/combined censuses
- Recommendations on use of short/long forms, what content/topics to collect on short forms
- Use of alternative data sources (eg., administrative records such as birth and death certificates, school enrollment records, geospatial info, data on utility, big data):
 - supplement traditional census data
 - to improve the quality of census data, and
 - to validate census data
- Guidance on estimating populations in insecure areas (eg. conflict) where enumeration is not possible, including use of geospatial modelling techniques



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Improving the content of the P&R for the 2030 round

Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ Quality assurance

- More elaboration on the assessment, and adjustment, of census results
- Communicating the results of quality assessments to users
- Use of admin records/alternative sources (eg. such as birth/death registrations, school enrollment, data from utilities, privately held data) for improving the quality of census operations and data quality
- Quality assurance framework for register-based censuses/combined censuses
- Recommendations for quality assessment (other than PES) for countries using admin data
- Recommendations on unit record imputations when encountering hard non-response
- Use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) – to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of data collection and processing (e.g., to automate the classification and coding of open-ended responses to census questions, such as the economic activity question)
- Independent monitoring/Evaluation/observation during census implementation



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Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ Geospatial information

- Use of geospatial information from the perspective of enterprise geospatial data management, not from the perspective of use of desktop GIS, satellite imageries and GPS (which are no longer challenges for most NSOs)
- Recommendation for collecting infrastructure data during mapping/collection of geographic info
- Ground verification of census maps before census enumeration
- How to address displacement of GPS coordinates due to tall buildings, specifically in dense urban areas
- Guidance on geographic units in nomadic areas
- Grid based census outputs



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Improving the content of the P&R for the 2030 round

Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ Communication, publicity, outreach to hard-to-reach groups

- Strategies for addressing the politicization of censuses, fears/misinformation/fake news about the census operation and results
- Elaboration on communication of census results
- Good practices on outreach to and engagement with hard-to-reach groups approaches to improve coverage
- Guidance on the role of communications to the public during field operations
- Managing respondent questions to the NSO during field operations
- Strategies for using social media in census media plan



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Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ **Electronic data collection (CAPI, CAWI, CATI) in field-based enumeration**

- Multi-mode collections, managing data integration, resolving duplication, quality assurance checks
- Real-time monitoring and quality control, real-time analysis of data being submitted, including use of PARADATA, use of dashboards to manage field work activities
- Technology requirements for electronic data collection:
 - Hardware and software requirements/Data security and privacy/Data quality control/Training of field staff/Questionnaire design/Monitoring and supervision/Data processing and analysis/Editing rules and procedures
- Specific issues around internet-based data collection: alternative methods to distribute access/log-in codes, spreading the load on systems during peak response days/times
- Provisioning of tablets
- Use of e-recruitment and electronic payments
- Modalities of training, including virtual training guidelines
- Importance of testing and piloting digital censuses



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Improving the content of the P&R for the 2030 round

Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ Increasing reliance on technology

- Guidelines on data privacy and security, including aspects such as secure data storage and transmission, strategies to reduce the likelihood of data breaches, and methods to safeguard respondent confidentiality
- Guidelines on responsible data management practices to build trust with the public: the importance of obtaining informed consent from respondents, prevention of unauthorized use of personal information
- Guidelines on use of cloud technology and cyber security



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Based on responses to open-ended questions: Q1, Q2, Q4

❖ **Census dissemination, products, utilization**

Census data products

- Data visualizations (build a "bank of visualization scripts" for users)
- Dissemination via API
- Microdata dissemination
- Synthetic data (simulated data in lieu of microdata, for analytical insight w/o risk of confidentiality)
- Grid-based outputs
- Post-censal estimates and projections
- Creation of virtual population cohorts by linking data from multiple censuses, potentially augmented with CRVS data and/or admin data



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❖ **Census dissemination, products, utilization**

Uses of census data

- in disaster prevention, for management in post-disaster period
- crisis reports based (such as during the COVID-19 pandemic)
- in humanitarian settings and for environmental statistics, including for assessment of climate vulnerability and impact
- for SDG monitoring, not only for direct measurement, but also for enhanced disaggregation, integration with other sources, proxy indicator, auxiliary information for analysis
- use of census cartography to improve public cartographic/geographic initiatives/products (eg. OSM)



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❖ **Census dissemination, products, utilization**

Guidance on dissemination

- Tabulation shells (included in revision 2 but not 3, bring these back for revision 4)
- Recommendation for dissemination of geocoded census outputs
- Guidance on producing policy-relevant population information for population bases other than the usually resident population
- Recommendations for providing metadata for adjustment of census data, such as method of adjustment, level of adjustment, etc.
- Guidance on confidentiality and privacy



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Organization of the work of revising the P&R

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Organization of the work of revising the P&R

❖ Expert Group

- Guides and oversees the work of the revision
- Composed of census experts from NSOs, regional and international agencies

❖ Task Teams

- 9 Task Teams
- Each member of EG will be assigned to one or more TTs
- Each TT will have a Chair, detailed work plan, list of deliverables, timetable, and division of labor for tasks

❖ Secretariat for the revision

- UNSD

❖ Timeline

- 1st EGM (23-25 May 2023)
- First phase of TT activities (June – October 2023)
- 2nd EGM (November 2023)
- Second phase of TT activities (January – July 2024)
- 3rd EGM (August 2024)
- Submit 4th revision of P&R for adoption by 56th session of Statistical Commission (December 2024)



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Task Team #1 - Census planning, organizing and management

- review and update part II of the P&R
- review and update the strategic objectives of PHCs and the role of PHCs in national statistical systems
- provide guidance on the development of emergency and contingency plans, and risk management
- provide guidance on emergency preparedness in the light of the experiences gained during the worldwide Covid-19 outbreak, manmade or natural disasters, and other risks such as cyberattacks,
- provide guidance on strategies for more frequent data on population and housing (e.g., inter-censal surveys or annual surveys to complement census information)
- provide guidance on possible activities for innovation and experimentation to modernize future census processes (e.g., use of administrative data, big data, etc.) and to make future censuses more resilient to external shocks (e.g., pandemics)



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Task Team #2 - Population concepts and definitions

- review existing concepts and definitions related to population (usual resident population, present population, enumerated population, population count, service population, etc.), and clarify the expected uses of these definitions based on current knowledge and experience
- discuss the relevance of these definitions in different national contexts and identify challenges to their application and potential solutions
- for PHCs relying on use of administrative data sources, explore additional definitions of population that could potentially be used as proxy for (usual) resident population
- discuss population concepts/definitions such as daytime and non-resident population
- discuss types of hard-to-count population groups and challenges in enumerating these groups in population censuses



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Task Team #3 - Census methodologies and transition to registers-based PHCs

- review chapters II and IV of part I of the P&R, in light of recent experience and considering the various approaches to conducting PHCs
- provide guidance to countries that are planning to change census methodology from the traditional census to another method involving the use of administrative data sources, and describe a general approach for this transition
- review the whole P&R with a particular view of incorporating new text on the use of administrative data in the various census processes, including mapping, listing, enumeration, data processing (including imputation), validation of data and adjustment of census results
- discuss methods for enumerating people living in institutional places with use of administrative data
- provide guidance on estimation methods for areas with restricted access (e.g., due to security), considering innovative approaches using information generated from satellite imageries and cell phone data, etc.



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Task Team #4 - Geospatial information and integration with census data

- review and redraft relevant sections of chapters IV and X of part III to incorporate recent developments in conducting a geospatially integrated census
- introduce the GSGF framework and other relevant international initiatives with a view to providing recommendations on how to adopt recent international guidelines into census operations
- address the relevance and use of geospatial information in the planning and implementation of each stage of the census operation (e.g., for monitoring enumeration, dissemination, etc.)
- address the importance of the integration of geospatial information and census data, with a view to improving the usefulness of census data for policy- and decision-making, and promote the dissemination of geocoded census data, including grid-based census outputs
- address the integration of geospatial information with non-census datasets such as administrative records and registers



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Task Team #5 - Quality assurance, indicators, and assessment

- review and update chapter XIV of part II and chapter IX, XIII of part III of the P&R
- review and update quality dimensions and components of quality management
- recommend key quality indicators that can be used for assessing the quality of census operations (for all major census processes such as questionnaire design, mapping, enumeration, processing and dissemination) and census results (output quality)
- for census compiled from administrative data sources, incorporate stages for assessing quality (such as source, input, process and output) and quality indicators, making reference to existing international recommendations
- discuss potential alternative data sources that can be used for assessing the quality of census data (including administrative data sources, electricity/water consumption records, immigration/refugee records, mobile phone data, etc.)
- cross reference, where appropriate, to United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics and other relevant quality assurance frameworks



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Task Team #6 - Data collection and processing

- review and update chapters II, III, V, VI, VII, VIII of part III of the P&R pertaining to census questionnaire design, building and testing census infrastructure, field enumeration and data processing
- provide guidance on designing questionnaires for electronic data collection (CAPI, CAWI, CATI)
- address the importance of implementing real-time editing (both soft and hard edits) at the time of data collection
- provide guidance for the design and implementation of multi-mode data collection, and for ensuring coherence among different data collection modes, and for dealing with quality issues (e.g. mode effects)
- discuss the effects of electronic data collection on data processing and data quality, and provide guidance for merging data from different collection modes
- discuss the role of geospatial information for real-time monitoring and managing field enumeration
- discuss the value of alternative data sources (such as administrative data and big data) during data collection (e.g., preloading information into electronic questionnaire) and during data processing (e.g., for validation and imputation purposes)



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Task Team #7 - Communication, dissemination, and utilization

- review and update chapter VIII of part II and chapter X, XI and XII of part III
- discuss methods and strategies for communicating with stakeholders/users to determine census topics to be collected and disseminated
- discuss types of communication and publicity campaigns, and media, for informing the public about field enumeration and other issues (such as fake news) during the operational phases of the census
- provide guidance on key messages, for the general population as well as targeting special population groups (such as ethnic communities, and hard-to-enumerate population groups)
- identify dissemination products and services suited for different users
- discuss dissemination of geo-referenced outputs, grid-based outputs and other innovative products
- discuss approaches to dealing with confidentiality and disclosure control for dissemination of data at high levels of granularity
- discuss disaggregation of census data to provide the information needed for monitoring internationally agreed development programmes including the 2030 Agenda
- discuss archiving/preservation of census data, and related documentation for future access and utilization



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Task Team #8 - Recommended topics on population characteristics

- review chapter I of part IV on population characteristics
- review the core and non-core topics and make proposals for their revisions
- recommend new core and non-core topics, taking into consideration the experience of countries over the last round and the indicators frameworks for regional and global development agendas (including SDG indicators, migration indicators, and other indicators proposed by global programs such as the ILO, WHO, UNESCO, EGRISS, etc.), as well as considering the need for monitoring emerging socio-economic phenomena
- discuss whether any revisions are needed in the definitions and classifications of core and non-core topics
- while revising concepts, definitions and classifications, ensure consistency with recent internationally agreed recommendations



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Task Team #9 - Recommended topics on housing characteristics

- review chapter II of part IV of the P&R on housing and building characteristics, including living quarters and housing units, and characteristics of housing units and occupants
- review the core and non-core topics and make proposals for their revisions
- recommend new core and non-core topics, taking into consideration the experience of countries over the last round and the indicators frameworks for regional and global development agendas (including SDG indicators and indicators from other related regional or global programs such as the UNHABITAT)
- review definitions, concepts and classifications related to living quarters, housing units and collective living quarters, and update/revise in light of recent country experiences and regional and international recommendations
- review indicators of living circumstances of households, such as possession of consumer durables, access to Internet and ownership of mobile cellular telephone, consulting relevant international recommendations (such as those by the ITU in regard to information and communication technology)



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For Discussion and Approval

- ❖ Expected outcome of EGM: Approval of TTs
 - Are the proposed 9 TTs sufficient?
 - Should we combine some of the TTs?
 - Should we add a few more TTs?
 - Scope of work for each TT well defined?



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