

CONCEPT NOTE

Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

I. Background

1. Since 1958, the United Nations has issued a series of international principles and recommendations on population and housing censuses to assist national statistical offices and census officials, throughout the world, in planning and carrying out improved and cost-effective censuses. Although the scope of these recommendations has evolved over time in response to lessons learned, current practices and national needs, they usually provide guidance on the main characteristics of population and housing censuses, elaboration on census methods and processes, and detailed guidance on the content of censuses. This guidance has been invaluable for the production of internationally comparable census statistics.

2. The 46th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the current version of the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses in 2015. The recommendations provide comprehensive guidelines to national statistical authorities for planning, organizing, conducting and exploiting population and housing censuses in the 2020 round. As was the case with previous census rounds, these guidelines are necessary to provide a contemporary framework for conducting population and housing censuses, ensuring compliance with the best methodological solutions as well as regional and international comparability of results. The principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, thus, are indispensable in terms of setting an international standard.

3. As the 2020 round of censuses comes to an end, the preparations for the next round of censuses need to be initiated, based on experiences collected thus far. A multitude of changes have been documented in the current round and these were not only limited to the use of contemporary technologies, such as the GIS or tablet computers. Many countries adopted a multi-modal approach to data collection, combining face-to-face interviews with tablets or paper questionnaires with internet-based filling of the questionnaires. An increasing number of countries utilized alternative data sources such as administrative registers to conduct their censuses. Many countries had to innovate and overcome the challenges of conducting censuses under the pressure of the global COVID-19 pandemic. It was clear from the pandemic experience that guidance is needed for the development of emergency and contingency plans.

4. In preparation for the forthcoming 2030 round of population and housing censuses, the existing version of the principles and recommendations will need to be thoroughly reviewed and revised in terms of updating the statements and guidelines in line with good practices and contemporary approaches to conducting censuses. It is critical to identify the major issues that would need to be focused upon so that the revised set of principles and recommendations provide comprehensive guidelines for the 2030 round of censuses. It

would be important to review the recommended concepts, definitions and classifications related to population and housing in light of current experience and challenges in their application, for example in the context of censuses conducted with the use of administrative data. While revising concepts, definitions and classifications, it would be important to ensure consistency with recent internationally agreed recommendations, such as those pertaining to international migration, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, the System of National Accounts (SNA), and resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.

5. With regard to census methodology, there is an essential need to 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. It would be critical to address the importance of the integration of geospatial information with census data and promote the dissemination of geocoded census data, including grid-based census outputs. In terms of disaggregation, dissemination and utilization of census data, including for assessing progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and other international and regional commitments, it would be important to integrate the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to provide unambiguous guidance regarding confidentiality and privacy. Assessing the performance of the different phases of the census operation is essential to obtaining high-quality statistics. Hence, practical guidelines are required on how to set and monitor quality targets at specific points of the census process. These are just a few of the issues that appear suited for more scrutiny in the process of revising the principles and recommendations for the 2030 round.

6. This concept note contains the work plan and associated activities and timelines for revising the principles and recommendations for the 2030 round. The next revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses will be submitted for approval/endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its 56th session in March 2025. Effort will be made to ensure that the global guidance provided in the next version of the principles and recommendations are harmonized with regional recommendations for the 2030 round developed by the various UN Regional Commissions.

II. Organization of work

a) Expert Group

7. The work of revising the principles and recommendations for the 2030 round will be overseen by an Expert Group which will be established for this purpose. The Expert Group will consist of census experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), regional organizations (such as CARICOM, SPC) and United Nations and other international agencies that provide support to countries for the planning and conduct of censuses or that produce international recommendations on topics collected in censuses (such as the ILO, UNFPA, UNESCO, FAO, UNHABITAT). UN Regional Commissions and members of the International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC) will be members of the Expert Group. In order to ensure regional balance and to take into account the diversity in census approaches,

countries that join the Expert Group will be selected to be representatives of all regions of the world and various stages of statistical capacity.

b) Task Teams

8. Members of the Expert Group will be assigned to one or more of the seven Task Teams (TTs) proposed to be established for revising components of the P&R (see the next section of this note for the scope of work to be performed by each TT). The Task Teams will review parts of the text of the principles and recommendations and make changes and updates based on discussions and conclusions reached among members of the TTs. Revisions proposed by TTs will be submitted to the overall Expert Group for review, discussion, and approval.

9. The list of TTs proposed to be established for conducting the review and revision of the principles and recommendations is provided below (see the next section of this note for the scope of work of each TT):

- (i) TT1 - Census planning, organizing and management
- (ii) TT2 - Census methodologies, use of administrative registers, and population concepts and definitions
- (iii) TT3 - Geospatial information in census operations
- (iv) TT4 - Quality assurance, indicators, and assessment
- (v) TT5 - Data collection and processing
- (vi) TT6 - Communication, dissemination, and utilization
- (vii) TT7 - Recommended topics on population and housing characteristics

10. Each TT will select a Chair and develop a detailed work plan consisting of a list of deliverables, timetable and division of labor for the various tasks. Chairs of TTs are charged with the responsibility of coordinating activities among members of their respective TT to ensure timely delivery of outputs in the review and revision process.

11. Assignments will be allocated through discussion and consultation with the Chair of each TT. Discussions among members of TTs should cover in detail how the tasks will be carried out, including agreeing on responsibilities, setting of deadlines and setting the means of communication. Chairs are responsible for maintaining communication with members of the TTs to check on progress of work and to ensure timely completion of assignment. Chairs are also responsible for coordination with other TTs where some of the revision work needs to occur in tandem.

c) Expert Group meetings

12. To facilitate the work of the revision, UNSD will convene three Expert Group meetings at various stages of the revision process. The first Expert Group meeting will be carried out virtually, while the latter two meetings will be in-person meetings (online participation might be available if needed). For the proposed dates of the meetings, see the section of this note on timetable. The objectives of the three meetings will consist of:

- (i) EGM #1: Discuss what revisions to structure and content are needed to make the P&R relevant for the 2030 round; recommend revision to existing sections/parts

- of the P&R; recommend incorporation of new developments, approaches and technologies in census-taking in the P&R; review the scope of work for each task team (TT); assignment of Expert Group members to TTs.
- (ii) EGM #2: Review and discuss the revised content and structure of the P&R; recommendations for further revisions/additions based on discussions and feedback.
 - (iii) EGM #3: Conduct the final review of the P&R.

d) Secretariat for the revision

13. The work of revising the principles and recommendations will be coordinated by UNSD, which will serve as the secretariat for the revision process. UNSD will provide full and continuous support to the Expert Group and TTs, both in secretarial and substantive terms.

III. Task Teams (TTs) scope of work

(i) TT1 - Census planning, organizing and management

14. The current version of the P&R has a dedicated section (part II) on planning, organization and management of population and housing censuses which discusses a number of activities that are usually implemented in the early stages of census operations. However, this section does not contain discussion and guidance on risk management and emergency planning (e.g., for censuses conducted during pandemics such as the recent global COVID-19 pandemic or natural disasters) as well as potential threats and possible consequences related to, for example, use of online questionnaire and the adoption of new technology. Furthermore, the content of this section needs to be revised to ensure it discusses and provides guidance on the planning and management of censuses that will be conducted with the use of administrative data sources. It is expected that this task team will also address issues related to planning innovations for future censuses including the potential use of big data to support census operations.

15. The scope of the work of this task team will include (but not limited to):
- review and update part II of the P&R.
 - review and update the strategic objectives of population and housing censuses and the role of the census in the national statistical system.
 - provide guidance on assessment of alternative methodological approaches and potential uses of administrative data sources.
 - provide guidance on enhancing census legislation based on lessons learned from previous censuses, including strengthening data privacy provisions.
 - provide guidance on the development of workplans, and collaboration with stakeholders including for resource mobilization.
 - provide guidance on the development of emergency and contingency plans and risk management to be used in the planning and implementation of the traditional census and other census methods relying on the use of administrative data.
 - 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, unexpected additional costs or price increases (e.g., due to inflation, exchange rate fluctuations, or due to other causes of economic instabilities).

- provide guidance on planning, organization, and management of non-traditional census methods.
- provide guidance on change management (including pre-requisites) when there is a plan to adopt new technology or methodology, such as the implementation of online questionnaires or the use of administrative data sources.
- provide guidance on monitoring the entire census processes to ensure cost-effectiveness and the quality of overall census operations.
- 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).

(ii) TT2 - Census methodologies and use of administrative data (including population concepts and definitions)

16. The current version of the P&R (in Chapter IV of Part I) identifies and discusses three census methodologies, including the traditional census, the combined census and the fully register-based census. While the publication presents detailed information on the various operational phases of the traditional census, it provides very little discussion or guidance on the other two census methodologies. Therefore, there is an essential need to draft new text to address operational issues related to the combined census and the fully register-based census. Particular attention should be given to providing guidance to countries on the process of changing methodology from the traditional census to alternative methodologies involving the use of administrative data sources.

17. Furthermore, guidance is also needed on how administrative data can support the planning and conduct of the traditional census. The current version of the P&R should be revised to provide advice on how to utilize administrative data sources: i) to assess the quality of census data collected through the traditional census, in terms of both coverage error as well as content error; ii) to adjust the population count; iii) to validate/impute missing individual/household records and item non-response, thus improving the accuracy of population counts; iv) to reduce the burden on respondents by preloading electronic questionnaires with information from trusted administrative sources; and, vi) to reduce census costs and to facilitate field operations, for example, through the use of address registers; etc. For this purpose, TT2 will need to review relevant parts of the P&R to address the use of administrative data sources in the various census operational phases (such as Chapters VII, VIII and IX of Part III).

18. TT2 will also review the recommended concepts and definitions related to the population in light of current knowledge/experience and challenges in their application. The current version of the P&R provides population definitions in different chapters, for example, in Part I Chapter II on “Definitions and essential features”, Part II Chapter IV on “Units, place and time of enumeration”, and Part IV Chapter I on “Population census topics”. TT2 will discuss whether or not there is a need to revise existing concepts and definitions

in order to collect better data and improve international comparability. It is expected that TT2 will review the existing concepts and definitions (and propose new ones, where necessary), taking into consideration future data needs and recent changes in other international recommendations, such as those pertaining to international migration. TT2 is also expected to carefully review concepts and definitions related to population groups deemed hard-to-reach such as the homeless, refugees, etc.

19. The work of this task team will include (but not be limited to):
- review and redraft Part I of the P&R—specifically, chapters II (definitions and essential features of population and housing censuses), IV (census methodologies), V (operational aspects of register-based census or combined methodology) and VI (use of sampling in population and housing censuses)—taking into account recent experience and the various approaches to conducting population and housing censuses
 - 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 relevance and use of administrative data sources in the various census processes, including mapping, listing, questionnaire design, enumeration, data processing (including imputation), validation of data and adjustment of census results
 - discuss methods that use administrative data sources for the purpose of enumerating people living in institutional places, particularly the elderly, students living in dormitories and population groups living in camps (such as refugees and workers)
 - discuss types of hard-to-count population groups and challenges in enumerating these groups in population censuses conducted with the traditional, combined or fully register-based census methodologies
 - discuss alternative approaches that could be used for producing more frequent population statistics (for example, intercensal or annual surveys for countries conducting census with the traditional method)
 - discuss estimation methods for areas of a country where enumeration of the population is not possible during the census, taking into account innovative approaches such as information generated from satellite imageries and cell phone data
20. This TT will also discuss and, if needed, revise the following topics:
- review existing concepts and definitions related to the census (population census, housing census and essential features) and 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
 - discuss the link of these definitions to the new international migration conceptual framework
 - for each definition, make a proposal to keep it as is or to revise or remove it (if a definition is to be revised or removed, provide a rationale for the decision)

- discuss the feasibility of these definitions in countries which conduct the census with administrative data sources and examine:
 - methodological approaches (and potential assumptions) to estimate (usual) resident population,
 - additional definitions of the population that can be generated from administrative data sources (that could potentially be used as proxy for (usual) resident population)
 - discuss additional population concepts/definitions such as daytime and non-resident population

(iii) TT3 - Use of geospatial information in census operations

21. The current version of the P&R describes the use of maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the various stages of the census operation, with chapters dedicated to mapping and geospatial data (Chapter IV of Part III) and interactive digital outputs and dissemination geography (Chapter X of Part III). TT3 will update/revise these chapters in order to address recent advances in technology and international policy that can be implemented and operationalized by countries to geospatially enable the census. A key advancement in this area has been the adoption of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the implementation of this framework in censuses (see SC decision 51/123 on the adoption of the GSGF). These chapters also need to be expanded in order to satisfy the growing interest for the integration of geospatial information with census data and to promote the production of geospatially enabled statistical data for data-driven and evidence-based decision-making.

22. The scope of the work of the TT will include (but not limited to):
- 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 importance of the national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) in providing a common base map (ground-verified, field-corrected and continuously updated) to avoid the cost of duplicative efforts
 - address the use of geospatial information from the perspective of enterprise geospatial data management, and not from the perspective of use of desktop GIS, satellite imageries and GPS, which are no longer challenges for most NSOs
 - address the relevance and use of geospatial information in the planning and implementation of each stage of the census operation (e.g., planning, organization and management of census operations, for logistics management, optimizing workloads and routes of enumerators, monitoring enumeration, analysis, 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 as well as global comparisons, and promote the dissemination of geocoded census data, including grid-based census outputs
 - address the concerns of disclosure of confidential information in the context of dissemination of census data integrated with geospatial information

- address the integration of geospatial information with administrative records and registers, including address registers and/or registers of buildings/dwellings
- discuss what factors to take into consideration when evaluating the quality of geospatial information used in the census, including some of the dimensions of quality (such as relevance, accuracy, timeliness, etc.) that can be used to assess the quality of geospatial information used in census operations

(iv) TT4 - Quality assurance, indicators, and assessment

23. This task team will be responsible for revising three chapters of the P&R (chapter XIV of part II and chapter IX and XIII of part III) focusing on quality assurance dimensions, quality assurance for operational activities and methods of assessing the quality of census data. Technological advances in the collection of census data have significantly improved the methods for checking and monitoring process quality in traditional censuses, especially for such census operations as mapping, data collection and data processing. TT4 will propose quality assessment indicators that can be used for assessing process quality in various phases of the census, taking into account variations in quality assessment for field-based data collection and data production from administrative data sources. TT4 will also discuss methods for assessing the quality of census outputs, and alternative data sources for measuring coverage and content errors (e.g., administrative records, PES, household surveys, big data, etc.). TT4 will recommend key indicators that can be used by countries in assessing the quality of census coverage and content errors.

24. The scope of work of this task team will include (but not limited to):
- 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.)
 - discuss and provide guidance on adjusting census results (at the record level or at the aggregate level) on the basis of quality assessment of census results
 - cross reference, where appropriate, to United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics and other relevant quality assurance frameworks
 - Discuss methods and common approaches to adjusting to census microdata to account for coverage issues identified during census evaluation. Some countries adjust census microdata, while others only note the results of the quality evaluations but do not make adjustments to the underlying data. Include a discussion of country practices.

(v) TT5 - Data collection and processing

25. TT5 will review and update the parts of the P&R that elaborate on census questionnaire design, building and testing census infrastructure, field enumeration and data processing. The planning and implementation of field-based census operations entail complex technical and administrative tasks. Reviews of 2020 round censuses show that many countries utilized electronic data collection and GIS technologies in their field-based census operations, bringing about improvements to census operations, particularly in real-time monitoring and management of field operations. The reviews also show that countries faced various operational challenges in designing, building and implementing their data collection infrastructure. Taking into account contemporary developments in census-taking, TT5 is expected to identify areas in designing and implementing census data collection and processing operations that require guidance and further elaboration in the P&R.

26. The scope of work of TT5 will include (but not limited to):

- 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), as well as considerations for the use of mobile devices, and data capture
- address the importance of implementing real-time, automated/inbuilt skip patterns, editing (both soft and hard edits), consistency and non-response checks, at the time of data collection when using electronic data collection technologies
- provide guidance for the implementation of short and long questionnaires, potential operational challenges and recommendations on how to deal with challenges, such as integration of data collected from different questionnaires and ensuring consistency in data processing
- provide guidance for the design and implementation of a multi-mode data collection, and for ensuring coherence among different data collection modes, and for dealing with 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 possible use of AI and ML technologies in data collection and processing, particularly for automating the classification and coding of open-ended responses to census questions, such as those pertaining to economic activity (eg. occupation, etc.)
- discuss the role of geospatial information in monitoring and managing field-based enumeration (eg. optimizing field-based enumeration, providing routing to field interviewers to control their "path")
- discuss the role of alternative data sources (such as administrative data and big data) during data collection (e.g., using alternative source in lieu of direct enumeration or preloading information into electronic questionnaire) and during data processing (e.g., for validation and imputation purposes)

(vi) TT6 - Communication, dissemination, and utilization

27. TT6 is expected to review and update the parts of the P&R that elaborate on user and stakeholder consultations, methods and strategies of communication with stakeholders, and communication and publicity campaigns during the operational phases of the census. TT6 is also expected to review and update the parts of the current version of the P&R that elaborate on census products and uses of census data. With the rapid development of technology, census data users have an increasing interest in a broad range of products and services, including geo-referenced census outputs. Increasing interest in micro-data brings to the fore issues of privacy, data archiving and security. TT6 is expected to identify areas in the dissemination and utilization of census data requiring international guidance, taking into account recent developments and advances in the use of technology. One area that should be further elaborated in the P&R is the use of census data in crisis response, and more generally in humanitarian settings, to provide guidance to crisis prone countries to position the census as an important data source to identify crisis affected populations and specifically vulnerable groups.

28. The scope of work of TT6 will include (but not limited to):

- review and update chapter III of part one, chapter VIII of part two, and chapters X, XI and XII of part three

Communication:

- discuss methods and strategies for user and stakeholder consultations to determine census topics to be collected and disseminated
- discuss methods of communication with key groups of stakeholders, in light of developments in technology and social media
- discuss types of communication and publicity campaigns and media that can be used for informing the public about field enumeration and other issues (such as the emerging challenge of responding to misinformation, disinformation campaigns and 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)
- Discuss ongoing engagement with key population groups and harder to enumerate population groups both in the lead-up to the census and maintaining this engagement during the intercensal period.
- Provide an elaboration around the communication activities related to the recruitment of field staff

Dissemination:

- identify dissemination products and services and their corresponding target users, considering advances in technology since the previous edition of the P&R
- discuss dissemination of geo-referenced outputs, grid data dissemination and other innovative products
- discuss approaches to disseminating microdata and 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 internationally agreed development programmes including the 2030 Agenda and indicators recommended for international migration
- discuss archiving and preservation of census data, and related documentation for future access and utilization

Census data utilization:

- Expand on the analytical use of results, and how to deal with the use of unadjusted and/or adjusted results (based on PES and/or demographic analysis) for different purposes and based on the national and legal context.
- Elaborate further about use of census data in crisis response, and more generally in humanitarian settings, to provide guidance to crisis prone countries to position the census as an important data source to identify crisis affected populations and specifically vulnerable groups.
- Discuss the increasing role of administrative data in improving the utilization of census data.

(vii) TT7 - Recommended topics on population and housing characteristics

29. TT7 will review the implementation of population and housing census topics as recommended in the current version of the P&R and identify challenges faced by countries in the implementation of concepts and classifications as contained in the current P&R. Where it finds it necessary, TT7 will revise the list of core and non-core population and housing topics along with their corresponding definitions and classifications on the basis of experience gained during the 2020 round. TT7 will also propose additional/emerging topics (presently not included in the P&R) that could potentially be recommended for countries to include in their 2030 round censuses. Ultimately, TT7 is tasked with coming up with the list of population and housing topics that countries are recommended to collect in their 2030 round censuses on the basis of common concepts, definitions and classifications, and thus contribute towards international harmonization and comparability of census statistics.

30. With regard to population topics, the scope of work of TT7 will include (but not limited to):

- review chapter I of part IV on population characteristics, including population to be enumerated; geographical, internal and international migration characteristics; demographic, ethno-cultural, household and family characteristics; fertility and mortality; educational characteristics; economic characteristics; and, disability 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, EGRIS, etc.)
- discuss whether any revisions are needed in the definitions and classifications of core and non-core topics in light of the evolution in definitions and classifications of population characteristics (including demographic characteristics, fertility and mortality, disability, household and family characteristics, ethnocultural characteristics, education characteristics, economic characteristics and international and internal migration characteristics)
- while revising concepts, definitions and classifications, ensure consistency with recent internationally agreed recommendations, in particular:

- recommendations for defining and measuring migration, based on the revised overarching conceptual framework and concepts and definitions on international migration produced by the Expert Group on Migration Statistics and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2021
 - recommendations on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons developed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), EGRISS, etc.
 - the System of National Accounts (SNA 2025) and the 2013 and 2018 resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) *concerning statistics of work, labour underutilization, status in employment, etc.*
 - *the DEGURBA methodology for the delineation of cities, urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes (adopted in 2020 by 51st session of SC)*
 - suggest potential new census topics to be included, considering the need for monitoring emerging socio-economic phenomena
31. With regard to housing topics, the scope of work will include (but not limited to):
- 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) and examining current best country practices

IV. Timetable

32. The timetable below summarizes the planned timing of some of the major proposed activities. The detailed timetable for all proposed activities is presented in Annex I.

Major activities and outputs	Date
Draft concept note and Task Team Scope of Work	February – April 2023
Review national practices and recommendations from other UN and International agencies (design, format, structure)	March – April 2023

Conduct 1 st EGM (virtual)	May 2023
TTs activities (first phase)	June – October 2023
TTs submit proposed revisions/additions to Secretariat	October 2023
Conduct 2 nd EGM (in-person meeting)	November 2023
Report to 2024 Statistical Commission on progress of revision	November 2023
TTs activities (second phase)	January – July 2024
TTs submit second draft to Secretariat	July 2024
Conduct 3 rd EGM (in-person meeting)	August 2024
Global consultations	August – Sept 2024
Final review of the 4 th revision of P&R	Oct – November 2024
Submit 4 th revision of P&R for adoption/approval by Statistical Commission (56 th session, March 2025)	December 2024

Annex I: Detailed timetable

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS	2023												2024											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Draft concept note and consultaion with partners																								
Draft concept note & SoWs for Task Teams (TTs)		X																						
Prepare list of members of EG and Task Teams			X																					
Meet with UN Regional Commissions			X																					
Meet with ICC members (+UNFPA Reg Offices)			X																					
Revise draft SoWs based on feedback from partners				X																				
Review national practices & recommendations																								
Review recommednations from other UN/Int'l agencies (design, format, structure)			X	X																				
Analysis of the results of 2022 UNSD survey on impact of COVID-19 and quality assessment			X	X																				
Draft background document for 1st EGM				X	X																			
1st EGM (virtual)																								
Prepare work programme			X																					
Send invitation to EG members (countries + agencies)				X																				
Share background report with EG members				X																				
Prepare presentations for EGM				X																				
Conduct 1st EGM (virtual)					X																			
(i) Discuss what revisions to structure & content are needed to make P&R relevant for 2030 round					X																			
(ii) Recommendations for revision of existing sections/parts of P&R, and for inclusion of new approaches and technologies in census-taking					X																			
(iii) Review scope of work (SoWs) of TTs					X																			
(iv) Assignment of EG members to TTs					X																			
TTs activities (first phase)																								
Review and finalize SoW for TT (including work plan and deliverables)						X																		
Review national census questionnaires (for TTs on census topics)						X	X																	
Revise sections of the P&R identified for revision/ updating; draft text for topics/items proposed as new additions							X	X	X	X														
Submit proposed revisions/additions to Secretariat										X														
2nd EGM (in-person meeting)																								
Prepare work programme and presentations										X	X													
Send invitation to EG members										X	X													
Conduct the second EGM											X													
- Discuss the revised content & structure of P&R											X													
- Recommendations for further revisions/additions based on discussions and feedback											X													
Report to 2024 SC on progress of revision:											X													
Draft SG's report (for discussion) including:											X													
(i) SoWs for TTs											X													
(ii) The proposed structure for next issue of P&R											X													
(iii) New topics/areas to be included in next revision of P&R											X													
TTs activities (second phase)																								
Incorporate comments/suggestions from 2nd EGM													X	X	X	X	X							
Finalize draft text of assigned parts of P&R													X	X	X	X	X							
Review whole draft P&R to ensure assigned topics are properly referenced/reflected throuout publication																X	X							
Submit second draft to Secretariat																	X							
3rd EGM (in-person meeting)																								
Prepare work programme and presentations																	X	X						
Conduct 3rd EGM																	X	X						
Global consultations																	X	X						
Final review of the 4th revision of P&R																	X	X	X	X				
Report to 2025 SC for approval and adoption of:																								
(i) Draft SG's report containing resolution on World Programme for 2030 round of PHCs																							X	
(ii) Submit 4th revision of P&R for adoption																								X