

## Annex I

### United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics

#### Terms of Reference (December 2018)

##### A. Background

1. The United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics is a group of subject matter experts from national statistical offices, international, regional and subregional organizations, migration-relevant line ministries of countries, and other experts in the area. The Group first met in June 2017 in New York and discussed data needs and methodological issues relating to statistics on international migration, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>1</sup>

2. In its decision 49/101, the Statistical Commission welcomed the work of the Expert Group (see [E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37](#)). The Commission also recommended that the Expert Group continue its work on improving statistics on international migration through advancing methodologies to measure the phenomenon, including by revising the 1998 *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*.<sup>2</sup> The Commission also requested the Expert Group to undertake additional activities, including assessing data gaps and national needs for capacity development and ensuring proper coordination among international initiatives and programmes that support national statistical systems, with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality and fit-for-purpose statistics on international migration.

##### B. Objectives and tasks

3. The overall objective of the Expert Group is to improve statistics on international migration for effective policymaking through: (a) advancing methodologies on collecting, compiling and using statistics relevant to migration; (b) implementing activities that address data gaps and national needs for capacity development; and (c) enhancing the coordination of international and regional initiatives among countries and within countries.

4. The work of the Expert Group should respond to and be aligned with relevant international development and protection frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and a global compact on refugees.

5. More specifically, the Expert Group will:

(a) Advance methodologies to measure the migration phenomenon for data-driven policymaking and for monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda, including through the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*;

(b) Develop a global programme, and provide estimates of the resources needed in that regard, to strengthen national capacity on migration statistics that includes: (i) developing technical materials such as needs-assessment tools;

<sup>1</sup> The main focus of the meeting was to discuss and agree on the definition of migratory status and to identify a list of relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status for global monitoring. For further information, please see the documents of the 2017 meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, which are available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data>.

<sup>2</sup> Available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm\\_58rev1e.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf).

(ii) providing guidance and technical support to countries in identifying and addressing data gaps and national needs; and (iii) making recommendations to be considered by the Statistical Commission;

(c) Facilitate coordination among regional and international agencies on the development of methods, as well as capacity-building activities, to avoid the duplication of efforts, optimize the use of resources and ensure that activities are consistent and aligned with national needs. The Expert Group will also collaborate with other relevant United Nations mechanisms, such as the International Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, the United Nations Network on Migration and other regional migration statistics groups, on issues related to statistics on international migration.

## C. Membership

6. Members should be senior representatives from countries, regional agencies and academic institutions. Countries should be represented by both national statistical offices and relevant line ministries. Initial agencies, countries and other members have been selected on the basis of their mandates and commitment to the advancement of statistics on international migration. Additional member countries were added following recommendations from regional commissions to also include major migrant-sending countries.

7. Members will be part of the Expert Group for an initial period of two years, after which a rotation will be proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Group, with a view to ensuring equitable regional representation, including members of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The rotation will be implemented in a way that ensures institutional knowledge is preserved and that the work of the Group can continue smoothly. Members are expected to be active in the deliberations and activities of the Group.

8. The Expert Group may invite other agencies, countries or individuals as resource persons or observers, if needed. The membership may be increased or decreased as the exigencies of the work require and on the basis of available resources.

9. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat serves as the secretariat of the Expert Group. The Division, in close consultation with the Co-Chairs, proposes the programme of work for the Group, coordinates the overall work of the Group, organizes regular meetings, prepares and maintains records of discussions and agreements and reports to the Statistical Commission. In addition, the Division will lead and contribute to various areas of work on methodological development and capacity-building.

10. The Co-Chair positions will rotate on a 2-year cycle. One Co-Chair is selected from international entities and the other from representatives of national statistical offices. The Expert Group will elect the Co-Chairs by majority vote from among the volunteers expressing an interest in the positions. The two Co-Chairs will work closely with the Statistics Division on strategic planning in relation to the programme of work of the Expert Group and oversee the work of the task forces. They will also report to the Group on work progress, problems identified, solutions recommended and decisions to be made.

**D. Organization of work**

11. The Expert Group will meet face-to-face at least once a year, supplemented with additional virtual meetings as necessary. Participation in the face-to-face meetings is self-funded. A limited number of developing countries that are members of the Expert Group may receive funding, when available, to support their participation in the meetings.

12. The Expert Group will establish task forces on specific topics, when needed. The task forces will have clear terms of reference, with clear time frames for the completion of their work, and will report back to the Expert Group.

**E. Expected duration**

13. The work of the Expert Group will be ongoing. The terms of reference will be reviewed when needed and as requested by the Statistical Commission.

## Current members of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics (December 2018)

<b>Countries (20)</b>	Financing for Sustainable Development Office
Canada	Global Pulse
Ecuador	ILO
Egypt	IOM
Georgia	OECD
Ghana	Population Division
Indonesia	UNESCO (Institute for Statistics)
Italy	UNFPA
Jamaica	UNHCR
Jordan	UNICEF
Mexico	UNODC
Morocco	<b>Regional commissions (5)</b>
Norway	ECA
Republic of Moldova	ECE
Russian Federation	ECLAC
South Africa	ESCAP
Sri Lanka	ESCWA
Switzerland	<b>Independent experts (4)</b>
Thailand	Giambattista Cantisani, Expert
Uganda	Olga Chudinovskikh, Moscow State University
United States of America	Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
<b>Organizations, offices and initiatives (13)</b>	Ann Singleton, Bristol University
ECOWAS	<b>Secretariat</b>
Eurostat	Statistics Division

*Abbreviations:* ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ECOWAS, Economic Community of West African States; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; ILO, International Labour Organization; IOM, International Organization for Migration; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.