A futuristic model for database management and transmission of data for *Demographic Yearbook*

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A.   Issues

- Response pattern is poor

- Takes considerable time for its filling up

- There is considerable time lag between despatch of *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires to various countries and their reply

B.   Basic problem:

- The present questionnaire is bulky and voluminous

- Country tabulations are not synchronised with *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires

- Needs considerable time and energy for its filling up

- Compilation error can not be over ruled

C.   Electronic questionnaire

- Workloads for data supplying countries get increased since they first put the data on hard copies and transfer into electronic sheet.

- Other problems remain unchanged for member countries

- The United Nations Statistics Division saves time for data entry at their end

D.   Way out?

- The United Nations Statistics Division needs data from member countries convertible to their data structure

- Why to continue age-old system of questionnaire?

- Why not use datasets from member country's database as per structure of master database of United Nations Statistics Division?

E. Development of a system

- This can be achieved through development of uniform coding structures and uniform database structures.

- For development of tables of the *Demographic Yearbook*, unsd need datasets according to certain classificatory variables with sectoral break up, with sex break up etc.

- Is not possible to develop a classification *of integrated demographic and social* indicators (cids).

- Can it not be possible to have uniform codes for classificatory variables for cross-classifications?

- Is it possible to provide with a uniform structure of database for demographic and social statistics?

F. Advance action

Once such structure is known to NSOs of member countries, they can take advance action in maintaining database according to unified structure not only for the *Demographic Yearbook* but also for domestic requirement.

G. Advantages

- The required data for the *Demographic Yearbook* will be a subset of such database, which can be culled out and transmitted as soon as the requests for data for *Yearbook* are received by member countries/NSO.

- Data validation at the United Nations Statistics Division minimum

- The United Nations Statistics Division can take datasets through internet through ftp mode

- The United Nations Statistics Division can start using country datasets immediately for their use.

- The United Nations Statistics Division can generate tables for the *Demographic Yearbook* using their tlp programmes already developed.

- Zero time lag: the ultimate goal can be achieved.

H.   Example for unified structure

A typical example is given below:

Location fields	Time fields	Fields for classificatory variables	Fields for social indicators	Data fields	Data category

Each data record as shown above represents single or multiple fields

Location fields: will include codes for country/state/district/ block/village etc.

Time field: will include codes for year/month;

Fields for classificatory: will include codes for a large number of classificatory variables. A typical code-list for classificatory variables are given for illustration only:

Sex: women =1; men =2; total=3; non applicable=0.

Sector: rural =1; urban =2; total =3, n/a =0.

Age groups: it will be a two-digit code. As for example,

less than 1 year =01,
1 –5 years =02,
......
......

Literacy groups: it may be a two-digit coding system

Fields for social indicators: the United Nations Statistics Division follows some codes for indicators in their *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires. A comprehensive coding system of all kinds of social indicators may be developed keeping scope for future enlargement or country needs.

Data category: will includes fields for status of data (eg, provisional, revised, final), kind of data (eg, actual, estimated, mixed)' data collection system (eg, census, sample survey, mixed)

The above structure is just for illustrative purpose. It can further elongated to fulfil the country needs.

I.   Development of coding system

- Country practices may be studied
- Coding system of the United Nations Statistics Division master database will be the best guide
- The United Nations Statistics Division has to take lead role. Member country can assist, if needed.

J.   Pilot

An experimentation may be carried in a few willing countries before such system is adopted.