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## **Statement from Brazil\***

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## **I. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO TRADITIONAL CENSUS TAKING**

1. Following the world trend, in Brazil the demand for statistical information is increasingly associated with the need to draw up local government policies. In this respect, the entities that produce government statistics are expected to produce specific, detailed and opportune information. In addition, the high cost of census operations of the scale of that carried out every ten years has been the subject of intense discussions at the time of taking decisions involving budget allocation. These were among the reasons leading to the decision to seek proposals for an alternative design for the Demographic Census. The proposals are meant to satisfy the demands of users and, at the same time, entail a desirable reduction in the cost of conducting the Census.

2. Alternative approaches to Census taking currently being tested or implemented in other countries, especially the United States and France, can constitute a feasible alternative to satisfy the more pressing stakeholders' demands. The possibilities of producing data with a greater thematic diversity, for disaggregated geographic levels and with an annual frequency are really attractive. On the other hand, preliminary studies indicate that the cost of implementing a project similar to the US or French projects could be a limitation to be faced, since the initial investment to create a register of dwelling units and the investment in human and material resources could be considerable. Subsequently, the initial investment could be compensated by a reduction in the cost of maintaining the continuous census operation, which could be considerably lower than those associated with performing the Census according to the traditional Brazilian model.

3. Aware that the implementation of alternative modes of census taking requires a long study and testing phase, in Brazil we have begun studies of the most well-known cases of implementation of alternative approaches. We are also studying and discussing the applicability of these modes in Brazil, especially considering the lack of an up-to-date register of dwelling units, and the incomplete and heterogeneous coverage of Vital Statistics in our country.

4. Currently we are organizing in Rio de Janeiro an International Seminar in partnership with Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) from México to hear about and discuss these new experiences, especially the new French Census and the American Community Survey.

5. In this Seminar we are counting on the attendance of our partners from the Mercosur, Bolivia and Chile, because since the experience of the Common Census of the 2000 round, we have a collaboration commitment with them, both with respect to harmonization of content and the introduction of new methodologies.

6. Without doubt the inclusion of this theme in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses is very important to the National Statistical Institutes, especially if a section is included about the requirements necessary for implementation, the prior studies necessary, a detailed arrangement, if possible, of the implementation phases and timing, and more important, the conditions for an efficient program to appraise the quality of the results.