

2006 Expert Group Meeting on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

Date: 10-14 July 2006

Venue: New York

Host: United Nations Statistics Division

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Web site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusEGM06/default.htm>

As mandated by the Statistical Commission at its 36th Session in 2005, the United Nations Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, through an international consultative process, has produced the draft *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*. These principles and recommendations are intended to provide guidance to countries in the planning and conducting of their population and housing censuses in the 2010 round.

Purpose of meeting

The purpose of the expert group meeting is to review and finalize the draft *Principles and Recommendations, Revision 2* before it is submitted to the Statistical Commission in 2007 for approval. The review will focus on all the three parts of the draft census recommendations, namely: Operational Aspects of Population and Housing Censuses; Topics for Population and Housing Censuses; and Census Products and Data Utilization, including recommended tabulations.

Key issues for discussion

The draft *Principles and Recommendations, Revision 2* differs substantially from the *Principles and Recommendations, Revision 1*, used during the 2000 round of censuses, with regard to:

1) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Principles and Recommendations for Housing Censuses (5-8 June 2006)

The Expert Group Meeting on the Principles and Recommendations for Housing Censuses discussed and proposed, for consideration by the Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, (a) changes to the text of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1 pertaining to housing censuses, and (b) a set of recommended tabulations on housing.

2) Recommended tabulations

The draft for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses presents a recommended set of tabulations that are expected to be produced by each country, at least once, in the period 2005 to 2014. The tabulations are designed to encompass, as much as possible, the essential data needs of countries for evidence-based decision making, while also enabling regional and international comparability of data.

3) Core topics

Among the list of population and housing topics in the *Principles and Recommendations, Revision 2*, some are designated as “core topics”. Core topics represent the key variables in the draft recommended tabulations and as such portray important issues on which statistics should be produced by every country at least once during the census decade.

4) Alternative designs

Recent experience in census taking shows that some countries are shifting from the traditional census approach towards the use of alternative methods. Some of these have been under development for many years while others are relatively new and are not yet fully implemented. The draft *Principles and Recommendations, Revision 2* contains a section on “Types of approaches to the census” which provides a description of the different approaches including: (a) Traditional, (b) Register-based, (c) Rolling census, and (d) Traditional enumeration with yearly updates of characteristics.

5) Usual place of residence

In the *Principles and Recommendations, Revision 1*, the place of usual residence is the geographical place where the enumerated person usually resides. The draft for revision 2 recommends a time element and defines usual residence, for census purposes, as the place at which the person has lived for most of the past 12 months.