



## **Workshop on Revision 3 of the U.N Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and Evaluation of Census Data**

Amman, Jordan, 19 – 23 October 2014

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

1. The workshop expressed its appreciation to the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for organizing and conducting this workshop for census technicians from fourteen Arab countries.
2. In discussing the expiring 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the accompanying World Programme that called for all countries to conduct at least one population and housing census in the period 2005-2014, the workshop noted partial compliance in the region, as a number of countries did not conduct a census in this period, or postponed it for the next round, for a number of different reasons. The participants expressed their hopes for a more successful 2020 round.
3. The participants noted with appreciation that this was the first workshop for discussing and promoting the recently finalized *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3 - the 2020 Round*, covering the period 2015-2024.
4. The workshop discussed at length the four major components of the *Principles and Recommendations* and acknowledged the evolvement of new and innovative census methodologies presented in this revised version, while at the same time expressing the opinion that the countries in the region will rely on a traditional method for conducting population and housing censuses in the 2020 round, i.e. by contacting each household in the country and soliciting relevant information directly from them. At the same time, it was outlined that, under this general census methodology, countries in the region will use advanced technology, such as internet-based data collection and use of tablet computers.
5. The workshop noted the guidelines for planning and conducting the traditional population and housing census as elaborated in the Revision 3 and acknowledged their relevance for their national purposes as well as the presentation of contemporary solutions for different segments and components of the census. At the same time, the participants discussed the various obstacles peculiar for the region, such as the enumeration in remote areas and of the nomadic populations.

6. In discussing in detail the recommended topics for population and housing censuses as presented in the Revision 3, the workshop reached several conclusions:

First, it noted the changes in the concepts of “economic activity” and in the concept of “work”, based on the revised definitions by the International Conference of Labor Statisticians, held in 2013. It expressed concerns regarding the ability of countries in the region to apply the new concepts in time for the 2020 round. In that context, the workshop called on ESCWA to work with ILO for assisting countries in the region in adapting the new concepts.

Second, the workshop noted that the core topics as presented in the Revision 3 are relevant to the countries in the region in the context of the 2020 round of censuses, albeit that there is a need for developing regional interpretation of the topics, especially those related to the housing census, and introducing flexibility due to regional circumstances. In that regard, the workshop called on ESCWA to explore the possibility of spearheading such an effort that would result in harmonization of regional and global concepts. In particular, the workshop noted that the definitions of “urban” and “rural” areas differ significantly in the region and urged ESCWA, with support from UNSD, to explore the possibility of organizing a meeting dedicated to the issue of harmonization and homogenization of these definitions in Arab countries.

7. Focusing on the second theme of the workshop, the demographic methods for evaluation of census data and the quality of the census, the workshop acknowledged the importance of the presented techniques for their national practices.
8. The workshop also noted that, as was presented during the proceedings, a number of countries in the region apply these techniques in evaluating the quality of their census data. The workshop recommends the countries to publicize their evaluation results. At the same time, it was noted that not all statistical offices in the region have the capacity to independently make use of these techniques, especially emerging ones, such as advanced data analysis and data mining.
9. Finally, the workshop expressed its expectation that similar workshops focusing on different aspects of population and housing censuses will be organized throughout the 2020 round and called on all the partner organizations to ensure such a development.

*Adopted by the participants on 23 October 2014 in Amman, Jordan.*