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**Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division**

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 **2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme**

**United Nations Regional Seminar on Regional Seminar on Promotion and
Utilization of Census Results and on the revision of the Principles and
Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses**

Pretoria, South Africa
24-26 March 2014

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Introduction

1. UNSD in collaboration with Statistics South Africa, the African Development Bank, UNFPA and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa African Centre for Statistics, organized the Regional Seminar on Promotion and Utilization of Census Results and on the revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. The Regional Seminar took place in Pretoria, South Africa from 24 to 26 March 2014 and was attended by 48 participants from 30 African countries, most of whom are census managers or experts and representatives of international and regional organizations (see annex 1 for the list of participants).

2. The objectives of the Regional Seminar was to discuss lessons learnt and share national experience from the 2010 round of population and housing censuses with regard to effective strategies for promoting the dissemination and utilization of census data. The regional seminar also provided an opportunity to gather the input of African countries towards the revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (see annex 2 for the agenda). It is anticipated that knowledge shared during the Regional Seminar will enable participating countries to promote utilization of their census data from the 2010 round and to better plan and develop strategies for utilization of data from censuses conducted during the 2020 round.

Opening Remarks

3. Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician General of Statistics South Africa in his opening remarks welcomed the participants to the Regional Seminar and noted that it is a historic moment for the continent given that, save for a few, the majority of countries in Africa will conduct a census for the 2010 round. He went on to say that given the importance of census, countries never again not participate in census rounds. Mr. Lehohla stressed the need for national statistical offices to anticipate and respond to demand for census products. In this context, he called on statistical offices to put into place systems and infrastructure in order to ensure that statistical census products are accessible to the public and understood by the majority. Mr. Lehohla pointed out that in order to remain relevant, statistical office need to have real evidence that their statistical products are being used in decision-making.

4. Mr. Lehohla emphasized the timeliness of the Regional Seminar in terms of providing an opportunity to the African region to effectively contribute to the revision of the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* which will provide international census methodological guidelines for use by countries during censuses of the 2020 round.

5. In his opening statement, Mr. Srdjan Mrkic, UNSD representative, emphasised the significance of the Regional Seminar in terms of taking stock of national experiences in dissemination of census data in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa. Mr. Mrkic pointed out that these experiences opened a new page in the understanding of the value of census data and the application of contemporary methods for data dissemination. He mentioned that a number of countries in Africa applied different tools and approaches for dissemination purposes and the seminar would take full advantage of such knowledge and

exchange. Mr. Mrkic went on to say that another goal of the seminar was to provide input into the process of revising the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, especially for the part on dissemination of census statistics. He informed participants that the process of revision already included a number of African countries, and there that there would be an opportunity to be briefed by them and by UNSD in terms of progress and expectations.

6. Mr. Mrkic stated that particularly significant was also the fact that this seminar was a truly joint effort between UNSD, the African Development Bank, UNFPA, the Economic Commission, and Statistics South Africa. He stated that it was expected that collaboration would continue in the future with the ultimate goal of establishing long lasting and functioning inter-African census networks. Mr. Mrkic concluded by again expressing appreciation to Statistics South Africa for hosting this seminar and wished all participants a fruitful and comprehensive exchange of experiences.

7. In his opening remarks, Mr. Maurice Mubila, a representative of the African Development Bank reminded participants that a census still remains the backbone of statistical development in many African countries. He went on to say that a census is complete only when all activities are fully and successfully undertaken including sufficient and in-depth analysis of census results. In this context, he highlighted the importance of promoting census results given that censuses provide very key information on demographic, human settlement, social and economic issues which can be used for local, regional, national, and international purposes. Mr. Mubila pointed out that the census is the only census exercise that generates data at smallest geographical domain, thereby making it prudent to fully analyze and promote census findings by disseminating to all relevant stakeholders or users.

8. Mr. Mubila went on to say that promotion of the census results, has to start by planning and implementing a quality and credible census. This implies that all the three phases of the census, namely planning, enumeration (field count) and post enumeration phases (data capture, processing, analysis and dissemination) should be professionally and objectively undertaken. This will entail obtaining reliable data that will instil confidence into users of census data resulting into its promotion and adding value to the results. Mr. Mubila stated that one of the most important tasks in a census operation is the analysis of census data and pointed out that for most countries in Africa, the voluminous information collected is only partially analyzed and disseminated and often in an untimely manner, in turn leads to undervaluing the census and underutilization of the results. He stressed that there is a need for in-depth analysis of census data instead of just basic numbers relating to population size or counts.

9. Mr. Mubila emphasized that timely release of data is a quality measure that cultivates confidence in the census data by informed users and that dissemination of census results can add value by adopting an aggressive approach that would satisfy an assortment of different users. In order to make value visible the dissemination strategy should entail using different media to cater for different stakeholders. Mr. Mubila concluded by stating that the African Development Bank supported the 2010 round of census, in some African countries through providing technical assistance and is poised to continue during the 2020 round of censuses.

10. Mr. Raj Mitra, a representative of the African Centre for Statistics at the Economic Commission for Africa pointed out that with less than a year to go in the 2010 Round of population and housing censuses, 41 countries in Africa have conducted their censuses and 6 more are expected to conduct one by the end of 2014 thus taking the total tally to 47, which will be an unprecedented feat. Mr. Mitra informed participants that the ECA and African Development Bank recently undertook a detailed assessment of the 2010 round of census in eight selected countries. He pointed out that one of the recommendations from the assessment is to create a few centres of excellence in Africa for more sustainable capacity on census that will not limit it to management aspects but also promote research based on census data and create repository of census data and metadata. Mr. Maitra anticipated that inputs from the seminar would help further strengthen the recommendation made out of the assessment. Mr. Mitra stated that he was sure that the assessment will bring out a number of challenges on population and housing censuses which are typical to African countries and it would be extremely important for us as African countries to ensure that these are reflected in the principles and recommendations on which the UNSD is now working.

11. Mr. Mitra pointed out that population and housing censuses are not merely a statistical exercise and that challenges can range from political to technical. He surmised that in many countries in Africa, convincing governments on the need to conduct census is a new challenge in every round and raised some questions: How do you advocate for census? How do we support countries in doing advocacy and communication? How can you do political advocacy if you do not have anything to demonstrate use of census data in the past? Mr. Mitra stressed that the regional seminar was an opportunity to learn from each other about the achievements of the African countries in census undertakings, the innovations that they made and lessons that they learned from such a massive undertaking. He concluded by stating that the ECA in collaboration with other partners will continue to provide to the Africa Programme on 2020 Census and called for a more coordinated approach at the regional level where all agencies supporting the population and housing censuses programme come together and unify their efforts in supporting the countries.

12. Mr. Mady Biaye, a UNFPA representative stated that effective governance demands good statistics to monitor progress, and to hold leaders accountable for their activities and achievements. He informed participants that the planning, and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes need therefore to be grounded in comprehensive, reliable, accessible, transparent, and periodic quality information. Mr. Biaye pointed out, however, that with incomplete civil registration and vital statistics systems in most of sub-Saharan African countries, only the census can provide the necessary sub-national and local data Mr. Biaye reminded participants that their effective participation in this Regional Seminar was of the utmost importance in order to share national experiences and discuss lessons learnt from the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, and to update the international censuses recommendations which will provide guidelines to countries for the successful conduct of the censuses within the framework of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

13. While acknowledging the success of the African region in terms of censuses conducted during the 2010 round data generated, Mr. Biaye pointed out that much of the existing data remain underutilized and are not adequately analyzed and brought to bear on development

planning, budgeting or evaluation. He emphasized that the full completion of the census process means undertaking the enumeration, processing and analyzing the data, and disseminating and using the products and results for evidenced-based programming and decision-making. It also means the provision of proactive and user-tailored response to the increased demand of data through the availability of, access to, and utilization of accurate and timely quality census data and information for development planning, monitoring and evaluation, including for preparedness and response to humanitarian and emergency situations.

Presentations

14. Presentations made at the Regional Seminar are available on the UNSD website - http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/South_Africa/2014/list_of_docs.htm

15. The following countries acted as chairs of sessions during the national seminar: Benin, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zambia.

Summary of main conclusions

16. At the end of the first two days of the Regional Seminar, the participants came up with some conclusions (posted separately).

Evaluation of the International Seminar

17. In general, the Regional Seminar was favourably evaluated by the participants. For example, the overall value of the Regional Seminar was rated 4.1 out of 5 while the extent to which it achieved its objectives was rated 4. Participants rated the quality of the materials 4, quality of presentations 4.1, and clarity of conclusions reached after each session 4. The substantive sessions were also highly rated receiving ratings ranging from 4 to 4.3. The overall planning and organization of the Regional Seminar was rated 4.1 while the quality of the meeting facilities was rated 4.2.

18. Participants found the session on the use of technology for dissemination the most useful element of the regional seminar. Countries also found very useful the exchange of experiences among countries and also appreciated that the contributed to the revision of the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. In terms of suggestions to improve the content and conduct of the Regional Seminar, some participants indicated that given that the Regional Seminar was for both English and French speaking countries, participants would have wanted the documents/presentations to be available in both languages before the start of the event and to make the presentations available to all participants a head of the regional seminar. In terms of suggestions to improve the organization of the Regional Seminar, participants requested that similar future regional events for the regional should have interpretation for Arabic speaking countries.

Annex 1: List of participants

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
1.	ALGERIA	1.	Mr. Mohammed KHLEDJ Engineer in Statistics Office National des Statistiques
2.	ANGOLA	2.	Ms. Ana Paula MACHADO Deputy Director General
3.	BENIN	3.	Ms. Akossiba Elise Chantale Ahovery epe HOUEGOUNOU Directrice des Etudes Démographiques/INSAE
4.	BURKINA FASO	4.	Mr. Hamissou KANO Directeur de la Demographie
5.	BURUNDI	5.	Mr. Terénce MBONABUCA Directeur National du Bureau Central de Recensement
6.	CAMEROON	6.	Mr. Samuel KELODJOUÉ Chef de Division de la Cartographie, des Statistique Socio-Démographiques et Environnementales Institute National de la statistique
7.	CAPE VERDE	7.	Mr. René Charles SYLVA Institut National de la Statistique du CAP-VERT
8.	CHAD	8.	Mr. Madnodji RIRADJIM Chef du Département de la Coordination et de la Diffusion (DCD)
9.	COMOROS	9.	Mr. Bastoine MSOMA Demographe à l'INSEED
10.	EGYPT	10.	Mr. Hussein ABOUELHASSAN Researcher of Population and Economic Studies
11.	GAMBIA	11.	Mr. Samba BARROW Senior Statistician Gambia Bureau of Statistics
12.	GHANA	12.	Mr. David Yenukwa KOMBAT Acting Census Coordinator
13.	KENYA	13.	Mr. Samwel ALOO Senior Manager, Population and Social Statistics Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
14.	LIBERIA	14.	Mr. Joseph A. FARKOLLIE Regional Coordinator Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
15.	MALAWI	15.	Ms. Maggie KALINO Statistician
16.	MALI	16.	Ms. Assa Gakou eps DOUMBIA Chef de Département des Statistiques Démographiques et Sociales
17.	MOROCCO	17.	Mr. Oussama MARSELI Chief of Census of Population and Housing Implementation and processing Direction de la Statistique
18.	MOZAMBIQUE	18.	Mr. Xadreque MAUNZE Head of Department of Demographic Studies National Institute of Statistic
		19.	Mr. Abdulai DADE Instituto National de Estatiska
19.	NIGER	20.	Mr. Argoze MOUSSA KOURA Chef de Division Institut National de la Statistique
20.	SENEGAL	21.	Mr. Cheikh Amadou Tidiane NDIAYE Directeur des statistiques démographiques et sociales Agence Nationale de la statistique et de la démographie
21.	SOUTH AFRICA	22.	Mr. Omar LUQMAAN Executive Manager : Corporate data processing
		23.	Ms. Kefiloe MASITENG
		24.	Mr. Calvin MOLONGOANA Executive Manager :Census Operations Statistics South Africa
		25.	Ms. Yandiswa MPETSHENI
		26.	Ms. Celia De KLERK Executive Manager: Strategy Statistics South Africa
		27.	Mr. Risenga MALULEKE Deputy Director General Statistics South Africa
		28.	Dr. Arul NAIDOO
		29.	Ms. Nwabisa MAYA Manager: Special Projects Statistics South Africa

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
		30.	Ms. Themba MOHOTO Manager: Special Projects Statistics South Africa
22.	SOUTH SUDAN	31.	Mr. Adwok Chol Awur DHONYAL Director for Censuses and Surveys National Bureau of Statistics
23.	SUDAN	32.	Mr. Mohamed KAMALELDIN Director of Population Social studies and census Central Bureau of Statistics
24.	SWAZILAND	33.	Ms. Phumlile DLAMINI Assistant Statistician I Central Statistical Office
25.	TANZANIA	34.	Mr. Irenius RUYOBYA Census Project Manager The National Bureau of Statistics
		35.	Hajjat Amina Mrisho SAID Commissioner for Population Census National Bureau of Statistics
26.	TUNISIA	36.	Mr. Yamen HELEL Deputy Director National Institute of Statistics
27.	TOGO	37.	Mr. Totomba Bassanté BOUKPESSI DGSCN Directeur de la démographie et des statistiques sociale, chef du Bureau Central du Recensement du Togo (RGPH4-2010)
28.	UGANDA	38.	Mr. Wilson NYEGENYE Principal Statistician Uganda Bureau Of Statistics (UBOS)
29.	ZAMBIA	39.	Ms. Nchimunya NKOMBO Census Manager Central Statistical office
30.	AfDB	40.	Mr. Maurice MUBILA Chief Statistician African Development Bank
		41.	Ms. Dorotheé OUISSIKA Principal Statistician
31.	UNECA	42.	Mr. Raj Gautam MITRA Chief Demographic and Social Statistics Section African Centre for Statistics

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
		43.	Mr. Oumar SARR Statistician African Centre for Statistics
33.	UNFPA	44.	Mr. Mady BIAYE Regional Technical Advisor, Population Data Policy United Nations Population Fund
		45.	Ms Rachel MASUKU UNFPA, Program Analyst
34.	UNSD	46.	Mr. Srdjan MRKIC Chief of Demographic Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
		47.	Ms. Margaret MBOGONI Statistician, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
35.	USA	48.	Mr. Yacob Zewoldi

Annex 2. Agenda

Time	Topic
<u>24 March 2014</u>	
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Registration of participants</i>
9:30 – 10:00	Session 1 – Opening remarks
10:00 – 11:00	<p>Session 2 – Why conduct a population and housing census? The session covers: Identifying objectives for a population and housing census and main uses of census data (value of census to society); Assessing past utilization of census results; Linking census data utilization to potential funding for future censuses (advocacy for the census)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD - Tunisia - South Sudan - Discussion
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 3 – Identifying uses and users of population and housing census data The session covers: Identifying main user groups of census data; Identifying users' needs; From user consultation to developing a census data utilization strategy; Program for continuous communication with users including for feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liberia - Zambia - Benin - Discussion
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 4 – Strategies for dissemination of census results The session covers: Determining census products/services, formats of outputs and media of dissemination; Lowest level of geography for which census data are disseminated; Making census data accessible to users; Strategies for long term storage, accessibility and use of census data; Maintaining data confidentiality; Strategies for continuous publicity for census data dissemination and utilization (methods, messages and aims)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chad - Niger - Togo - Discussion
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 5 – National approaches for encouraging utilization of census data The session covers: Approaches taken to communicate the value of and the results of the census to the non-traditional users, including politicians and the general public; Strategies for utilization by sub-national local administrative divisions; Promotion of Census in schools; Utilization by the general public; Role of statistical literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Africa - Burundi - Discussion
<u>25 March 2014</u>	
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 6 – Analysis of census results for evidence-based decision making Session covers: Analytical thematic reports; Production of indicators for monitoring of development goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghana

Time	Topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kenya - Tanzania - Uganda - Discussion
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 7 – Building partnerships for enhanced analysis and utilization of census data Session covers: Role of the research community; Role of specialized/topical agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD - Angola - Discussion
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 –15:00	<p>Session 8 – Role of technology in census data dissemination and utilization Session covers: Tools for enhanced census data dissemination; Tools for publicity of census results; Challenges in use of technology for census data dissemination (including, barriers to adoption, maintaining data confidentiality, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD - Morocco - Egypt - Burkina Faso - Gambia - Cape Verde - Discussion
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 9 – Evaluation of quality of census results Session covers: Type(s) of evaluation; Adjustment of census results (if any); Publication of evaluation and adjustment of results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD - Senegal - Algeria - Mali - Sudan - Discussion <p>Session 10 – Summary of main conclusions of previous two days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD
<u>26 March 2014</u>	
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 11 – Revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations (P&R) Session covers: Information on on-going work to revise the P&R; Suggested changes to the P&R regarding population census topics and housing census topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD - Uganda - Discussion
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 11 – Revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations (contd.) Session covers: Suggested changes to the P&R regarding census planning and methodology in the areas of census operations; use of technology in census operations; and alternative approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghana - Discussion

Time	Topic
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Session 11 – Revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations (contd.) Session covers: Suggested changes to the P&R regarding census products and data utilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Africa - Discussion
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Session 11 – Revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations (contd.) Session covers: Suggested changes to the P&R regarding census products and data utilization (contd.) Session 12 – Closing