

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON CENSUS COORDINATION (ICCC)
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Different multilateral and bilateral donors are providing support for the successful implementation of population and housing censuses in developing countries. In the past, there has been little global, regional or country-specific communication and coordination among the organizations involved. This recurring problem has resulted in incoherent support, major funding gaps or duplicative funding of specific tasks, and has indirectly encouraged countries to postpone critical census decisions and activities, while waiting for a more suitable assistance package. Another consequence is the over scheduling of scarce host-country resources to service multiple near-simultaneous data collection efforts, resulting in ill-sequenced activities, lost institutionalization opportunities and collection of data of compromised quality. These issues have become more severe with the increasing scarcity of financial resources in support of population and housing census activities.

In response to the UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2015/10 on 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, and its call for "coordination of activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States", and "the importance of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme for sustainable development planning, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda," the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the U.S. Census Bureau seek to establish the International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC).

The objectives of the International Committee on Census Coordination include:

- To proactively review the population and housing census activities anticipated in the 2020 census round and identify countries in need of support;
- To identify and resolve critical census implementation challenges in specific countries through rapid coordination, support and deployment of appropriate resources;
- To communicate and coordinate anticipated, planned and ongoing support to national census authorities by type of support available (e.g. financial, equipment and technical backstopping), and by provider;
- To collaborate on support for census planning, implementation and analysis, as well as utilization and dissemination of census results;
- To promote the implementation of the latest international recommendations, guidelines, classifications and innovations in conducting a census;
- To share ideas and perceptions regarding the successes and failures of the past round of censuses and derive common technical/methodological strategies for avoiding future problems and increasing success;
- To promote regional cooperation and exchange, including the fostering of South-to-South cooperation among countries;
- To foster exchange of information with other donors, and relevant national and regional institutions.

As the governing body of the International Committee on Census Coordination, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) agree to the following mode of operation:

- Meet at a minimum of twice annually, once annually during the period of the United Nations Statistics Commission, with additional meetings when required or being timed back to back with other global or regional gatherings;
- Explore and plan scheduling opportunities for the coming month and year at each meeting;
- Jointly decide the agenda of forthcoming meetings, topics to be addressed and the participating organizations to be invited;
- Develop and maintain a list of NSOs and census authorities for wide distribution of the ICCC meeting minutes,;
- Rotate chairing arrangements annually, which will include corresponding responsibilities for organizing and preparing for the respective meetings.

Expected duration:

The work of ICCC is on-going. These ToR will be reviewed and revised, when necessary.