



2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

(2005 - 2014)

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The 43rd session of the Statistical Commission conducted a review of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

The 43rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission—which was convened from 28 February to 2 March 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York—conducted a review of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The programme review commenced with a report prepared in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session. The report was prepared by the United States Census Bureau. The report, which encompassed the years 2005 to 2014, presented a mid-decade review of the 2010 census programme based on the information provided by member countries in response to a survey.

The primary objectives of the review were to: document the early lessons learned from the 2010 round of worldwide population and housing censuses; and, identify preliminary recommendations for the Statistical Commission to consider as planning begins on the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The United States Census Bureau based its approach and findings on a questionnaire sent to Member States, literature reviews and consultations with members of the international statistical community. The review finds that cen-



43rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, 28 February–2 March 2012

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sus-taking is at a crossroads. It points to the prospect that with rapidly changing technology, evolving census methodologies, privacy concerns and increasing needs for more timely data, in many countries of the world the approach to census-taking will likely be fundamentally different in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses from the current 2010 round. The report contained recommendations for discussion and consideration for future work by the Commission.

The Commission adopted a number of decisions in connection with the programme review on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the programme review on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and expressed its warm appreciation to the United States Census Bureau for its efforts. The Commission also noted with appreciation the contribution of the 122 countries to the conduct of the review. The Commission fully endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the programme review;
- (b) Noted the successful implementation of the 2010 round of censuses so far and that only a handful of countries or areas show no indication to conduct a census as compared to the previous 2000 round. It urged all countries, particularly those that have not yet had a census in the current round, to make every effort to complete census-related activities by 2014;
- (c) Noted the support of UNSD, UNFPA and other international agencies for countries in census taking. It also noted the activities of regional institutions, especially the regional commissions in support of census taking and expressed its appreciation to their efforts;
- (d) Noted the importance of country to country assistance, particularly South-South cooperation, in the conduct of censuses and urged UNSD and the regional commissions to continue to promote the exchange of country experience through regional and international workshops;
- (e) Noted that at this stage in the 2010 round the majority of countries have moved from data collection to data analysis and dissemination. In this regard, the Commission requested countries to significantly enhance data exchange among countries, especially with respect to the stock of international migrants and other cross-border issues;
- (f) Took note of the need at this stage in the current census round to analyse the data as well as to understand and assess the degree of undercount and overcount. It requested UNSD and relevant agencies to undertake a programme to enhance the conduct of post enumeration surveys (PESs) and related activities by countries, provide



The 43rd session of the Statistical Commission conducted a review of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses *(continued from page 2)*

- PES manuals and enhance dissemination of PES information in order to assist them assess the coverage of their censuses;
- (g) Requested UNSD and international and regional organizations to work towards viable methods for estimating both direct and indirect cost of censuses and conduct cost-benefit analyses across countries and regions, taking into account the factors of quality, duration and coverage and also providing a unit of measurement for country comparison;
 - (h) Welcomed the suggestion to initiate early enough a programme of work for the third revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, including the core census topics and the list of recommended tabulations;
 - (i) Requested UNSD to establish an Expert Group to begin work to assess the challenges faced in the 2010 round, discuss emerging trends, compile lessons learned and address a number of issues, including the desirable data release timelines, the use of information technology, legal provisions for privacy, confidentiality and contracting for outsourced census operations; and the use of administrative records and registers, where possible, to complement census information and reduce costs;
 - (j) Requested UNSD to prepare a comprehensive report by the end of the 2010 census round on the implementation of the 2010 World Population and Housing Programme and to prepare a timetable for the development of the 2020 World Population and Housing Programme including the revision of the Recommendation and Principles of Population and Housing Census;
 - (k) Requested that the 2020 round of census should have three reviews: at the beginning, at the midpoint and at the end, to be able to give appropriate and timely attention to census challenges;
 - (l) Requested countries to do their census reviews after their census;
 - (m) Requested UNSD to prepare by 2015 a draft resolution on the 2020 World Population and Housing Programme for approval by the Statistical Commission and endorsement by the Economic and Social Council.

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc12/2012-Report-E.pdf>

The report of the United States Census Bureau on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc12/2012-2-Censuses-E.pdf>

Side events on population and housing censuses held during the 43rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

In connection with the convening of the 43rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission two side events were organized on topics related to population and housing censuses.

“Counting the 7 Billion: The Future of Population and Housing Censuses” was the theme of the Friday Seminar. Held on 24 February 2012, the seminar was a part of a series of one-day high level seminars dedicated to topics of great relevance for the global statistical community, which UNSD has been organizing on the Friday before the Statistical Commission session. The theme of the Friday Seminar highlighted the fact that the 2010 round of population and housing censuses had witnessed the highest level of participation of countries in conducting a census. With the overwhelming majority of countries having completed a census by the end of 2011, it was found to be timely to review the experiences of census taking by countries and identify the new developments observed during the round.

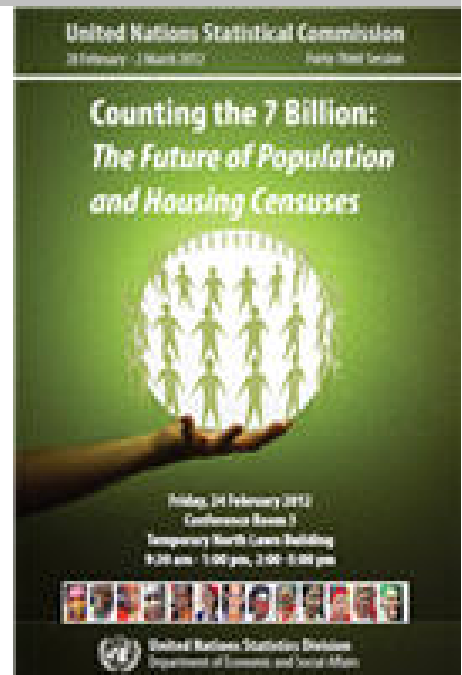
The Friday Seminar provided a discussion forum for statistical managers to share lessons learned from the 2010 round of population and housing censuses and reflect on the likely future of census-taking. The seminar was opened with a keynote speech on the “Future of Population and Housing Censuses in Developing Countries” by Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General of Statistics South Africa. The Seminar had three panel discussions focusing on: 1) Emerging Issues in Data Collection; 2) Challenges and Benefits of Using Modern Technologies; and, 3) Challenges Confronting Censuses.

Side events on population and housing censuses held during the 43rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission *(continued from page 3)*

The morning session of the Friday Seminar was chaired by Ms. Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, United States of America. The panelists—consisting of Pieter Everaers, Director, EUROSTAT; Dudy S. Sulaiman, Deputy Chief Statistician, Statistics Indonesia; Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics; and C. Chandramouli, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India—made presentations and discussed on the emerging issues in official data collection.

The afternoon session—chaired by Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki, Former Director-General, Japan Statistical Bureau President-elect, International Association for Official Statistics—dealt with two panel discussions. The first panel discussed on the challenges and benefits of using modern technologies in the collection of official statistics. The panelists were composed of: Ki-Jong Woo, Commissioner, Statistics Korea; Lei Celestino, Head of Computer System Administration Sector, Statistics and Census Service, Macao SAR, China; Geert Bruinooge, Deputy Director General, Statistics Netherlands; and, Marcia Maria Melo Quintslr, Director of Surveys, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, Brazil. During the second panel discussion on the theme of challenges confronting censuses, presentations were made by: Nailin Feng, Director-General, Department of Population and Employment Statistics, National Bureau of Statistics of China; and, Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape, President, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, Mexico.

During the lunch break of the Friday Seminar two documentary films underscoring the challenges and opportunities of population and housing censuses in the present time were screened. The first film, produced by UNFPA, was entitled “Counting the World”. The documentary film highlights the process of census taking in five very different countries and explains the importance of population and housing censuses for policymakers. The screening of the UNFPA film was organized by the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations and UNFPA. The second documentary film, focusing on India’s experience with its 2011 population and housing census, was organized by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.



Seminar on “Counting the 7 Billion: The Future of Population and Housing Censuses”, 24 February 2012

Side events on population and housing censuses held during the 43rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission *(continued from page 4)*

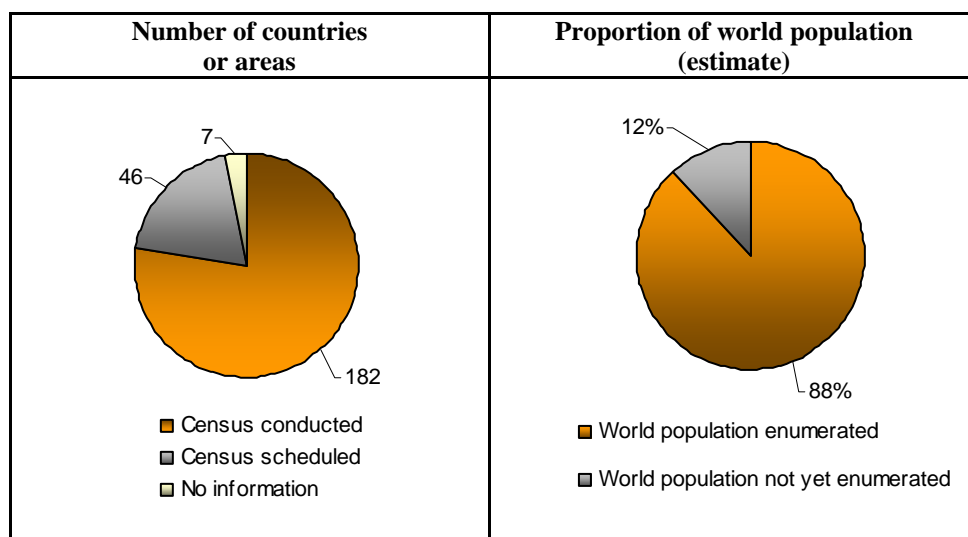
The second side event took place on 29 February 2012. The topic was “CensusInfo: Country Experience”. The side event provided an opportunity for sharing national practice and experience in the adaptation of CensusInfo as a platform for the dissemination of census results. The side event on CensusInfo was chaired by Mr. Srdjan Mrkic, Chief, Demographic Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The presenters who shared their experience in implementing CensusInfo included: Mr. Jan Beise, Demographic Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD); Dr. C. Chandramouli, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Office of the Registrar General, India; Mr. Charles Machinjili, Commissioner for Census and Statistics, National Statistical Office, Malawi; and, Mr. José Antonio Mejía, Vice President, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Mexico. A short film by UNFPA highlighting the challenges of data collection, analysis and dissemination in five countries was screened at the end of the side event.

CensusInfo—a free and interactive software application co-developed by UNSD, UNFPA and UNICEF—is designed to enable countries to disseminate census data on the web or on CD-ROM, allowing a fast and user-defined production of tables, graphs, maps and reports at any geographical level. CensusInfo comes with a standard—but customizable—set of census indicators with accompanying metadata based on the recommended topics of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2.

More information on the side events, including the presentations delivered, is available at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/SideEvents_2012.htm

Update on implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses

According to information available to UNSD as at the end of March 2012, 182 countries or areas have conducted a population census in the 2010 round. These censuses have enumerated an estimated 88 per cent of the world’s population. By the end of 2012, another 27 countries or areas are expected to conduct a census, bringing the percentage of the world’s population counted to about 95 per cent. In 2013, about 10 countries or areas have scheduled to conduct a census. By the end of the census round in 2014, it is estimated that close to 99 per cent of the world’s population would have been counted. A census has not been scheduled in 7 countries or areas for the 2010 round.



Under the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, UNSD monitors and publishes information on the progress being made by countries in conducting population and housing censuses in the 2010 round.

For more information on progress in implementation of the 2010 round of censuses see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/census2010.htm>

National training workshop on CensusInfo held for Uganda

UNSD in collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBS) organized the national workshop on CensusInfo in Kampala from 5 to 9 December 2011. The workshop's major objective was to develop the capacity of the staff of UBS to adapt CensusInfo for disseminating census data. The workshop provided conceptual and technical knowledge on how to implement a CensusInfo adaptation. Participants learned the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo. The workshop's sessions included hands-on training on using the CensusInfo User Interface and Database Administration applications. Topics of the Administrator application covered during the workshop included the following areas: steps for creating a CensusInfo template and database, integrating maps into the database using shape files, different methods of data entry, entry and management of metadata, import and export tools, the language translation tool, customization of the database for country specific context, and other administrative functions.



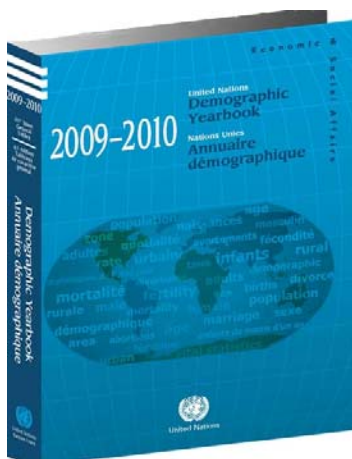
CensusInfo is a software package developed by the United Nations Statistics Division, in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, to help countries disseminate their census data on CD-ROM and on the web. It was officially launched at the United Nations Statistical Commission on 23 February 2009 and is distributed royalty-free. More information on CensusInfo is available at the website dedicated to its promotion: <http://www.censusinfo.net>

National seminars on census data analysis conducted for Liberia and Kenya

Under the project entitled "Regional Project to Strengthen National Capacity to Analyse, Present and Disseminate Census Data" and supported by the Government of Italy, UNSD is supporting Liberia and Kenya in conducting in-depth analyses of their recent population and housing censuses. In this regard, the national seminar for Liberia was organized in Monrovia in the period 12-14 December 2011 while that for Kenya was held from 19 to 22 March 2012 in Nairobi.

The main objective of the national seminars was to provide an opportunity for the staff members of the national statistical offices of Liberia and Kenya and other relevant organizations to further analyze data from their most recent population and housing census on selected topics. The national seminar for Kenya provided training on the topics: analysis of data on gender issues; analysis of data on international migration; and population projections at sub-national and sectoral level. On the other hand, the training for Liberia focused on the topics of youth and migration, employment and education, and poverty analysis using census data. The participants enhanced their knowledge and acquired advanced techniques necessary for conducting in-depth data analysis. Following the training the staffs of the national statistical offices are expected to prepare analytical reports on the selected topics.

United Nations Demographic Yearbook 2009-2010 issued



The Demographic Yearbook 2009-2010 is the sixty-first in a series published by the United Nations since 1948. It contains tables including a world summary of selected demographic statistics, statistics on the size, distribution and trends in national populations, fertility, foetal mortality, infant and maternal mortality, general mortality, nuptiality and divorce. Data are shown by urban/rural residence, as available. In addition, the volume provides Technical Notes, a synoptic table, a historical index and a listing of the issues of the Demographic Yearbook published to date.

The Demographic Yearbook 2009-2010 presents demographic statistics for two reference years: 2009 and 2010 in an effort to make it as up to date as possible. Consequently, for this issue the annual questionnaires were modified and extra worksheets were added, so that data for the latest two available reference years could be reported by the National Statistical Offices.

To accommodate the presentation of the statistics for two reference years in population and vital statistics tables presenting time series, the available data for reference years 2009 and 2010 are presented side by side. As for the detailed population and vital statistics, two sets of tables, one referring to 2009 and the other referring to 2010, are displayed one after the other.

The Demographic Yearbook 2009-2010 is available online at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm>



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The 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses Newsletter is published thrice a year by the Demographic Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations. Contact: Demographic Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division, 2 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA, E-mail address: globalcensus2010@un.org, or visit our website at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/census2010.htm>