

Statement by

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Mr Chair,

Malta welcomes the report of the Secretary-General and takes note of the contribution of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division to the negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Also, Malta notes the work carried out by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics on the improvement of migration statistics.

Mr Chair,

With regards to the terms of reference for the Expert Group, the Group should take into consideration the different situations and needs of different States. For example, for small states, implementing methods using surveys and samples would not be recommended due to small counts which can only provide unreliable estimates, and confidentiality issues that might arise. Furthermore, coordination between agencies on the development of methods to avoid duplication of efforts and in particular to ensure that any activity is consistent and aligned with national needs is of utmost importance.

Moreover, to address data gaps and users' needs, the expert group should assist in building stronger partnerships between the stakeholders in the areas of migration, population and census, in order to contribute to more coherence between definitions and methods practiced and thus ensuring better quality and more comparable statistics.

Mr. Chair,

In general, Malta strongly supports the development of strategies which explicitly "elaborate on or stipulate the responsibilities of different institutions and private sector entities in

collecting and producing migration statistics”. The ever-increasing demands of policy makers with respect to migration statistics will only be met if all stakeholders in the data collection process acknowledge their role and responsibilities to ensure that data is of high quality, consistent and timely.

Finally, with regards to programme of work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group, the finalisation of the guidance note on standard questions regarding international migration for population censuses and surveys will be greatly informative and will be welcomed especially for the next census. To this end, such guidance notes should be published giving enough time to be integrated in the next census cycle.

I thank you.