

Briefing Notes and Talking Points for TD Director

United Nations Statistical Commission

High Level Panel: Towards a Global Programme for Migration Data

March 4th, 10am-1pm, UNHQ, Conference Room 4

Talking Points for the UNFPA Technical Division Director (786 words)

- Thank you Mr. Chair.
- Let me start by sharing with you two important milestones: this year, UNFPA celebrates its fiftieth anniversary; and also celebrates twenty-five years of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. This is a special year for us and for the international community, as we recommit to ensuring that everyone gets counted and accounted for in the pursuit of sustainable development.
- In order to achieve this, we had to work since our establishment in 1969 in building national capacities for population data and statistics, not only through support to population and housing censuses, but also through enhancing the capacities of persons, systems and institutions and fostering inter-country/sub-regional collaboration in capacity building. We have also helped to train generations of demographers and population specialists worldwide.
- Over the years, this work has enabled greater availability of demographic data and statistics across the globe, and improved the dissemination and utilization of census data with greater awareness and understanding of population issues.
- Now we celebrate the achievement of the Global Compact on Migration, and in order to bring it to life, we need to rely on quality and timely data.
- UNFPA understands that numbers matter because people matter; and systematic demographic data on migrant population is hard to come by.

- So, we have started the work in-house, by establishing an internal hub of migration experts in UNFPA to enhance the critical mass of staff able to support these efforts, and are engaging with the UN system and the newly formed UN Network on Migration in supporting the implementation of the Compact at the regional and national levels.
- As we have done in the past, we are now collaborating with entities of the UN system, other relevant international organizations and academia to assist NSOs in their efforts to improve the collection and use of migration data and indicators.
- We are committed to assist Member States to collect and utilize accurate, nationally relevant and internationally comparable data on issues related to migration.
- Our work on strengthening national population data systems speaks to the objective 1 of the Compact. In doing so, we promote the role of the population and housing census as the backbone of national statistical systems.
- With the census being the primary data source for international migration stock, we are committed to ensuring that all countries will conduct high quality censuses in the current round. Our Chief Technical Advisors on Census, of which many are here this week, work tirelessly with National Statistical Offices to make that a reality.
- Our goal is to ensure that all census of the 2020 census round include questions on 1) country of birth, 2) country of citizenship, 3) country of residence five years prior to the census, 4) most recent arrival date, 5) reason for migration and potentially 6) country of birth of parents. We published this commitment in our strategy for the 2020 census round and in our UNFPA strategic plan.
- In addition we work with NSOs to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of census data, disaggregated and tabulated in accordance with international standards. UNFPA works with NSOs in innovative ways to

ensure that migration-related data are disseminated in a manner that fosters data use in policymaking and advocacy. We explore combining census data with other sources, including surveys, administrative sources and other sources of data in order to foster full use of census data in the framework of national statistical systems.

- In 2018, we rolled out regional training workshops for NSO officials on census and SDGs, with focused sessions on census data for migration analysis and related SDG monitoring. Within the course of the last year we trained more than 100 officials from National Statistical Offices from 42 countries in West and Central Africa as well as Asia Pacific.
- In addition, our census team conducted specific technical missions to support the census in Chad, Comoros, DRC, Haiti, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zambia.
- Virtual support has been lend to Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Namibia, Malawi, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.
- We further support regional centers of reference for data support; map and pool expertise in all aspects of population data, and advocate for data expertise to be mainstreamed into demographic curricula.
- Our concerted efforts to enhance the utilization of population data reach out to key governments stakeholders, parastatals, academia, civil society organizations and the public.
- The aspiration to 'leave no one behind' cannot be met without identifying those who often go uncounted and understanding who face the greatest inequalities.
- Therefore supporting countries in collecting data on who is most likely to be systematically disadvantaged at the various stages of mobility is of greatest importance to UNFPA and should be of this commisson.
- Thank you