

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: migration statistics

Document E/CN.3/2021/11 – Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics

Statement provided by:

Colombia

Statement:

Colombia welcomes the Report of the Secretary General on migration statistics, and highlights the advances embodied in the revised conceptual framework on international migration and mobility. The conceptual development and proposed definitions make it possible to establish a common language with a view to identifying migration policy needs in line with the 2030 Agenda, as well as much more precise and focused international comparability.

Considering that migration data are a necessary input for estimating populations and understanding demographic change, the modification of concepts and definitions, adapted to the current context, such as the conceptual divisions between resident population, international migration, temporary (non-resident) population and temporary international mobility, is an initial reference framework for the development of indicators adjusted to the needs of each of these categories.

Although we are aware of the need to strengthen migration statistical systems, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, through the institutional transformations required by the proposed measurement framework, we consider it significant to establish collaborative work dynamics between National Statistical Offices, the different institutions in charge of collecting administrative records and academia, so that there are information flows with the required quality and accuracy, especially with regard to temporary international migration.

The level of detail of the information and the desirable objectives for the production of migration data and building of a reliable evidence base for decision-making not only implies a strong inter-institutional work at the national level, but also technical support from specialized agencies and other International Organizations. This will be the first step for the generation or strengthening of the intended institutional capacity.

Moreover, we approve the revised conceptual framework on migration and international mobility and call upon the Expert Group to advance in the dissemination of differentiated methodological orientation and technical assistance according to the diagnosis of the capacities of the statistical institutions that are part of the program. In this sense, we consider it pertinent to build on the existing work to identify the limitations and possibilities of the existing institutional capacity, in order to establish an efficient and contextualized work plan.

Therefore, we value the identification of the three groups of migrants that make up international labor migration (international migrant workers, international migrants in search of work and international migrant workers returning to their country), as well as the construction of basic

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indicators and their periodic implementation. This will serve as a basis for advancing in the purpose of building recommendations and an articulated work agenda among the countries.

The agenda for the future will require an exhaustive review of the migration data collection processes, as well as complementary work within the different stakeholders to design strategies that will allow us to move towards harmonization of the measurement of migration flows and populations, and also to improve the problems of representativeness of the sample that currently limit the possibility of disaggregating to characterize the panorama of access to health, labor protection systems and education of the resident and temporary population, among others.

In conclusion, we express our commitment to advance towards the implementation of more updated information production techniques that will allow building technical capacity in the handling of macro data, with a view to incorporating new methodologies that strengthen the purposes of the working groups, and manifests its interest in joining the Expert Group.

Submitted on:

2/23/2021