

# 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:*

Stats NZ

*Statement:*

- Statistics NZ supports the guidance provided by the proposed revised overarching conceptual framework and accompanying definitions on international migration and mobility.
- New Zealand aligns with a lot of the requirements in the framework but not all. We have specific feedback on the document below.
- Figure I, given it is presented as an "Overarching conceptual framework on international mobility", we think should include "resident arrivals" and "resident departures" for completeness and consistency with Figure II ("residents temporarily abroad"). Figure I includes non-resident arrivals and departures which affect the temporary (non-resident) population of a country, but ignores resident arrivals and departures – while these do not affect the (usually) resident population, they do affect the physically present population. Both additions and subtractions from the physically present population are important for social, economic and environmental reasons, especially as the duration of stay/absence can, by definition, range up to periods of many months.
- These resident arrivals and departures are also part of the temporary (non-resident) population of other countries, and therefore should be included for completeness. While it may be argued that these flows will be captured by the country of destination, there is no guarantee without complete international harmonisation. It is therefore statistically prudent to identify and measure flows from both the source country and destination country perspectives, reconciling different statistics where necessary.
- Their inclusion would also recognise that travellers shift between statuses. For example, residents who have departed a country are only captured currently in Figure I if they become emigrants, even though they may be out of the source country for up to a year.
- We support the identification and measurement of all international border crossings, including temporary population mobility (Paragraph 24 and Annex II). The important influence on "economic and social settings" should be expanded to include environmental settings to reflect the environmental impact of migration and mobility. This is over and above "environment and climate related mobility" which is rightly included already. Another example of economic and social settings which are influenced by international migration and mobility, is that of housing markets, which we think is worth explicit mention.

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