

**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:***

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The OECD strongly supports the work undertaken by the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics. The Organisation acknowledges that a lot has already been done to revise concepts and definitions. The definition of a change of usual residence is aligned to the concepts adopted in the 2017 UN Recommendations on Census and Housing and therefore two options are proposed to countries to define international migration. Stocks and flows of international resident migrants (as defined in the census recommendations) are complemented by service population counts. However, flexibility and alignment to recommendations on census go with a high cost regarding international comparability of migration flows. Therefore, the OECD recommends the following:

- 1) The impact of offering two optional thresholds (6 months + 1 day and 12 months) will have to be piloted and evaluated, notably on the international comparability of migration flows. What works for stock data will not systematically work for flows.
- 2) Further work needs to be done to help clarifying the subcomponents of international temporary mobility.
  - a. We suggest to make it very clear that tourists are not included into international temporary mobility and to rather report on those flows separately.
  - b. Reporting on one single aggregate on international temporary mobility (including tourists) would not make sense from a policy perspective and would generate dramatic volumes of flows that policy makers would have difficulties to communicate on.
  - c. Apart from tourists, other groups of “mobile migrants” need to be identified, building notably on OECD, ILO and UNHCR works on labour and humanitarian migration.
- 3) Finally, the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics should offer capacity building to countries not only on the issue of international comparisons but also on how to communicate on new migration series. This is a topical issue and any change in definitions should be carefully explained and understood by all stakeholders and the general public.

Submitted on:

2/19/2021