

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Fifty-second session**

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (l) of the provisional agenda

**Items for discussion and decision: household surveys**

**Document E/CN.3/2021/16 – Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS)**

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Italy -Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat)	
<i>Statement:</i> Italy takes note of the valuable work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys and really appreciates its activities and outputs. We strongly agree on its revised Terms of Reference. Nevertheless, albeit in a context that focuses on survey methods and instruments rather than on household analysis, we would like to draw your attention to the problem of defining “household”. Today it is very complex to talk about the household, not only because it is differently defined depending on the subject matter in which it is studied (e.g. in jurisprudence, sociology, etc.), but also because in contemporary society it has assumed connotations and conformations that are also very different from each other. The light border of household must be kept in mind at all stages of research, from design to analysis of the data produced. In other words, it is important to combine issues, such as innovation and the harmonization of methods and tools, with the problems of defining the household, the new living arrangements, the perimeter of the new forms of family life, also to favor data comparability at an international level. These aspects may have an important impact on the design of surveys and, therefore, must be carefully considered. We would also like to stress the relevance of the established Task Force on "Covid-19 and household surveys" and in particular of the vision paper on the post-Covid “new normal” for household surveys, a key document that designs the future of household surveys also by learning from the tragic experience of the Covid-19 crisis. It should be at the center of the debate in the coming months.	
Submitted on:	2/18/2021