

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: population and housing censuses

Document E/CN.3/2022/8 – Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Australia	
<i>Statement:</i> Thank you Chair, Distinguished delegates, Australia thanks the Statistics Division for this report on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Programme. The material does an excellent job of highlighting the key challenges that many of us faced in the 2020 Census round. Australia conducted its 18th Census in August 2021, 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. Several measures were introduced to mitigate risks associated with the pandemic including a strong online enumeration campaign and the ability to complete the Census form ahead of Census night if people knew where they would be on Census night. Australia expects to achieve a response rate in excess of 95% and an online response rate of 80%. Australia recognises the challenges that member states have in undertaking Censuses as part of the 2020 Programme due to COVID-19 and acknowledge the work of the UNSD in providing support for members states, particularly the exchange of best practice and experience. Australia supports the encouragement of national statistical authorities to consider the establishment of national statistical population registers on the basis of the census master file produced in the 2020 round of censuses in full compliance with the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. However, we do not support the unilateral endorsement of the establishment of national statistical population registers based on Census records as presented in the Summary section of the Report. We request the Secretariat to reissue the paper to align the proposed action in the Summary with the proposed Action in paragraph 26(c). We support 26(c) but not the Summary. The decision to establish national statistical population registers and methods to produce one should be a matter for each Member State.	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/25/2022

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