

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–3 and 5 March 2022

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 Population and Housing Censuses

Statement provided by:

StatsNZ

Overview:

The present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices, is a follow-up to the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, as reported to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session, and to the results of the surveys and the census dashboard launched by the Statistics Division, in which the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on census-taking worldwide are documented. The report also provides an elaboration on the interpretation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in respect of establishing national statistical population registers on the basis of population and housing census records. The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the status of implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, urge Member States to conduct population and housing censuses or otherwise generate small area census statistics, and endorse the establishment of national statistical population registers based on census records exclusively for statistical purposes and within the legislative framework disallowing its use for any other purposes.

The Commission is invited:

- (a) To express concern about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, resulting in postponements in the conduct of censuses and difficulties in ensuring the quality of census planning and operations and the overall quality of the resulting census statistics;
- (b) To urge Member States to implement the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and to conduct the national population and housing census, or to otherwise produce census-like small area statistics, as soon as circumstances allow and to continue to secure financial and human resources to that end;
- (c) To encourage 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;
- (d) To request the Statistics Division, in its role as the secretariat of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to continue to monitor the implementation of the Programme; to continue to develop platforms for exchanging national experiences, practices and lessons learned in conducting population and housing censuses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and to continue to develop the components of the methodological framework for population and housing censuses.

Statement:

StatsNZ commends the work that has been done by Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The results of the

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surveys and the census dashboard launched by the Statistics Division, in which the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on census-taking worldwide are documented. This has been a struggle in the New Zealand context as well. With the upcoming New Zealand 2023 Census, the Census team has used global examples and connections to create our implementation plan.

StatsNZ has a representative on the UN Population and Housing Census working group, so we are quite involved in this work and will continue to be through the year.

StatsNZ acknowledges the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic have had on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, resulting in postponements in the conduct of censuses and difficulties in ensuring the quality of census planning and operations and the overall quality of the resulting census statistics;

StatsNZ will continue to work with the Statistics Division, in its role as the secretariat of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to continue to monitor the implementation of the Programme and continue to develop the components of the methodological framework for population and housing censuses.

Submitted on:

2/25/2022