

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

Statement provided by:

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Statistics Authority

Statement:

The Philippines supports the call of the Commission to continue the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. While we recognize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of national statistical offices, we cannot discount the importance of delivering our mandate, especially at this critical time. Thus, despite the numerous challenges encountered due to restrictions enforced in line with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines found an opportunity to fully explore and implement strategies that enabled it to continue its statistical operations, particularly of the census enumeration.

The Philippines also recognizes the benefits of having a population register as a potential source of vital statistics and demographic indicators. Hence, we welcome the guidance for countries that will implement or will explore feasibility of establishing a national statistical population register.

The establishment of a population register will entail the development of institutional capacities and may require intensive coordination, but it is an undertaking that is worth exploring. Further, the need to strengthen the national legal framework to provide national statistical offices the legal basis for using administrative data or administrative registers for statistical purposes vis-à-vis data privacy. Meanwhile, the importance of establishing quality assurance mechanism over administrative data/ registers needs to be emphasized to promote and ensure high quality data and adoption of harmonized concepts and definitions.

The Philippines, likewise, expresses its appreciation to the Statistics Division for its work in monitoring the implementation of the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses; in developing the components of the methodological framework for population and housing censuses; and for its efforts in facilitating platforms for exchanging national experiences. Truly, initiatives that promote the exchange of ideas and best practices are imperative in ensuring that we remain resilient in the face of uncertainties.

Submitted on:

25 February 2022