

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:

Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) State of Qatar

Statement:

Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission. 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;

- Despite the exceptional circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic until the date of implementation of the census, the State of Qatar was able to overcome the difficulties and obstacles imposed by the pandemic and to implement the census in its scheduled year, using all means that contributed to successful and safe implementation of the census for the community.

(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;

- The 2020 Census was implemented comprehensively and in accordance with the preset plan, as the methodology of work on the implementation of the census relied mainly on the administrative records of the various government agencies in the country, which are the census data sources. The PSA provided missing data through field operations and developed mechanisms to update data continuously through administrative records.

(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;

- The administrative records were used extensively to implement the census. In the first preparatory stages for the census, 14 agreements were signed with the census data source agencies, for online linkage and data exchange with those agencies. Joint committees were also formed to provide statistical methodologies that were tested to enable data linkage and processing of missing and inconsistent data. After extracting results from the online linking operations that were conducted in the preparatory stages, three stages of data collection operations were implemented in the field with the aim of updating and completing the data of administrative records of the data sources, and ensuring their comprehensiveness and consistency with international standards.

(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.

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- The State of Qatar views its experience in implementing Census 2020 under the conditions of the pandemic as a unique and successful experience. Qatar is fully prepared to exchange experiences, practices and lessons learned with countries and international organizations for mutual benefit.

Submitted on:

2/17/2022