

Suriname

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS (3b)

THANK YOU CHAIR,

Suriname will make an intervention that also reflects the position of the Inter American Statistical Institute (IASI) and the Statistics Programme of CARICOM

Chair,

To establish the parameters for the 2020 Population and Housing Programme it was expected that a thorough methodological, and financial assessment of the experience of the 2010 Census Round would be available to assess the relative merits of each of the procedures used, the compliance with the new suggestions for census items to be included, and the use of the proposed standard tabulation programme.

It was expected that such an assessment would be an extension and completion of the valuable but nevertheless, partial assessments carried out by UNSD in 2009/2010 and 2011/2012. The report should have provided information on the number of countries using each method and the world population covered by each, the quality of the information obtained in terms of the methods used to assess the completeness of the enumeration, the validity and reliability of the data; reduction in the duration of the period between completion of field enumeration (or equivalent) and publication of results; cost effectiveness, in terms of households and individuals, and publication of each of the recommended standard tables.

The draft report submitted by UNSD does not contain this information and moreover there is a contradiction in terms of the reduction of costs in paragraph 6 (Reduction of costs) and paragraph 11 (increase of costs). Also, the report does not produce any evidence for the statement ON PAGE 5

“... the demand for data that is more accurate, of higher quality and more rapidly produced”

With regard to draft Principles & Recommendations, Rev. 3, we had expected that it would be more focused and based on the experience of the 2010 Census round and have concrete proposals to assess the methodological requirements for quality assessment of each of the alternative methods considered as well as indications of operational requirements of adequately field testing and suggested modifications.

CHAIR: Although lack of skilled personnel has been identified in the partial assessment of the experience of the 2010 Programme no additional remedial activities are proposed in the P&R revision 3.

We also suggest that a thorough review of the use of the standard tabulations is made, before a decision is taken to include them or alternative versions in the Principles & Recommendations Rev 3.

Chair, when it comes to CARICOM countries. There is a regionally coordinated approach led by the CARICOM Secretariat to support the efforts of CARICOM countries in conducting

their census exercise. However despite our best efforts there are concrete issues/challenges faced by most countries.

These include:

- Mediocrity in staff available to work reflected in potential enumerators not being at the required levels of competency; unavailability of enumerators to work during the day resulting in part-time night enumerators;
- Budgetary issues- budget cuts which affect in the required number of enumerators not being in place and inability to have continuous quality checks which affected eventually the speed by which the processing of the questionnaires could have been accomplished;
- Lack of cooperation of sections of the population such as difficulties in enumerating affluent communities and specifically gated communities;
- Presence of hard-to-reach populations such as in areas of high crime;
- Mapping of informal settlements in remote areas or volatile (crime-prone) areas.
- The length of the questionnaire was also an issue which might have impacted non-response.

Fundamentally for some countries given the above problems and issues which impacted data processing there was a lack of timeliness in the availability of the Census Results.

In addition needs with respect to the analysis of the census data remained unfulfilled or slow in some cases.

Directions and guidance to offset some of these challenges need to be addressed to make the most recent version of the principles and recommendations more useful in aiding countries in conducting their census.

Also it can be anticipated that the forthcoming proclamation of the Sustainable Development Goals will place additional data requirements on members states and that some of these could only be obtained through large scale operations such as the population census and that due consideration should be **given to provide the member states that need this with the required technical advice and financial resources. This is particularly critical for smaller countries such as those of CARICOM.**

Chair, It is therefore suggested that the Commission considers the introduction of a number of modifications in the draft resolution to make it more compatible with modifications introduced in revision 2, and with anticipated requirements due to changes in international developments:

In paragraph 6, (the first paragraph on page 13) change "... and migrants and changes therein." to "... migrants, and stateless persons and changes therein"

Add a paragraph after 6, saying:

"Stressing also that population and household censuses could be used to measure rare events whose occurrence is of vital importance of understanding the population dynamics (for example: maternal mortality & HIV rates) and to verify treaty obligations of the member states (such as 1989 Convention on the rights of the Child, especially child labour and birth

certificates, and the 2006 Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, equality of opportunity) and special programmes of Agencies to eradicate social injustices, (such as UNHCR Global 2014 - 2024 Action Plan to reduce statelessness) .”

Modify “4 Emphasizes...etc” into “4. Emphasizing the crucial contribution of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme for the provision of valid and reliable data for the development and monitoring of the sustainable development activities as envisaged under the Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the Member States to fully endorse, support and implement the Programme.”

As regards the matter of the “Micro data Repository”, in the CARICOM Region we have the Statistics Programme of CARICOM already fulfilling that role. Some submit 100% sets and some submit 10% sets, but all sets are anonymized.

Finally, Chair we support the efforts of the Commission and UNSD to provide the best available advice and support to the member states to make the 2020 Population and Housing Program a success.

Thank you Chair.