

**Conference of European Statisticians
Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses**

20-22 September 2023

Overview of the revision of the P&R

Seiffe Tadesse

United Nations Statistics Division



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Organization of the work of revising the P&R

❖ Expert Group

- Guides and oversees the work of the revision
- Composed of census experts from NSOs, regional and international agencies

❖ Task Teams

- 7 Task Teams
- Each member of EG assigned to one or more TTs
- Each TT has a Chair, detailed work plan, list of deliverables, timetable, and division of labor for tasks

❖ Secretariat for the revision

- UNSD

❖ Timeline

- 1st EGM (23-25 May 2023)
- First phase of TT activities (June – October 2023)
- 2nd EGM (Nov/Dec 2023)
- Second phase of TT activities (January – July 2024)
- 3rd EGM (August 2024)
- Submit 4th revision of P&R for adoption by 56th session of Statistical Commission (March 2025)



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Task Team #1 - Census planning, organizing and management

- revise part II of the P&R (planning, organization and management) taking into account **both traditional and non-traditional censuses** (combined and fully registers-based censuses)
- review and **update the strategic objectives** of PHCs and the **role of PHCs in national statistical systems**
- review and **update section on census legislation** and “legal basis”, to **strengthen "data privacy" provisions**
- provide guidance on the development of **emergency preparedness and contingency plans, and risk management**, in the light of the experiences gained during the worldwide Covid-19 outbreak, manmade or natural disasters, and other risks such as cyberattacks,
- provide guidance on **strategies for more frequent data on population and housing** (e.g., inter-censal surveys or annual surveys to complement census information)
- provide guidance on possible activities for **innovation and experimentation to modernize/optimize census processes** (e.g., use of administrative data, big data, etc.) and to make censuses more resilient to external shocks (e.g., pandemics)



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Task Team #2 - Census methodologies, use of administrative data, and population concepts and definitions

- review chapters II and IV of part I of the P&R, in light of recent experience and [considering the various approaches to conducting PHCs](#)
- review [essential features of PHCs](#), considering the characteristics of register-based censuses
- provide [guidance to countries that are planning to change census methodology from the traditional census to another method involving the use of administrative data sources](#), and describe a general approach for this transition
- review the whole P&R with a particular view of incorporating new text on the [use of administrative data in the various census processes](#), including mapping, listing, enumeration, data processing (including imputation), validation of data and adjustment of census results
- discuss [methods for enumerating people living in institutional places](#) with use of administrative data
- provide [guidance on estimation methods for areas where enumeration is not possible](#) (e.g., due to security), considering innovative approaches using information generated from satellite imageries and cell phone data, etc.



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Task Team #2 - Population concepts and definitions

- review existing concepts and definitions related to population (usual resident population, present population, enumerated population, population count, service population, etc.), and clarify the expected uses of these definitions based on current knowledge and experience
- discuss the relevance of these definitions in different national contexts and identify challenges to their application and potential solutions
- for PHCs relying on use of administrative data sources, explore additional definitions of population that could potentially be used as proxy for (usual) resident population
- discuss population concepts/definitions such as daytime, service and non-resident population
- discuss types of hard-to-count population groups and challenges in enumerating these groups in population censuses



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Task Team #3 - Geospatial information in census operations

- review and redraft relevant sections of chapters IV and X of part III to **incorporate recent developments in conducting a geospatially integrated census**
- discuss use of **geospatial information from the perspective of enterprise geospatial data management**, not from the perspective of use of desktop GIS, satellite imageries and GPS (which are no longer challenges for most NSOs)
- introduce the **GSGF framework and other relevant international initiatives** with a view to providing recommendations on how to adopt recent international guidelines into census operations
- address the relevance and use of geospatial information in the **planning and implementation of each stage of the census operation** (e.g., for monitoring enumeration, dissemination, etc.)
- address the importance of the **integration of geospatial information and census data**, with a view to improving the usefulness of census data for policy- and decision-making, and promote the dissemination of **geocoded census data**, including **grid-based census outputs**



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Task Team #4 - Quality assurance, indicators, and evaluation

- review and update chapter XIV of part II and chapter IX, XIII of part III of the P&R
- review and update [quality dimensions and components of quality management](#)
- recommend [key quality indicators](#) that can be used for assessing the quality of census operations (for all major census processes such as questionnaire design, mapping, enumeration, processing and dissemination) and census results (output quality)
- for [census compiled from administrative data sources](#), discuss possible approaches for assessing quality and possible quality indicators, making reference to existing international recommendations
- discuss potential alternative data sources that can be used for assessing the quality of [census data collected with field enumeration](#) (including administrative data sources, electricity/water consumption records, immigration/refugee records, mobile phone data, etc.)
- provide guidance on [communication of the results of quality assessments to users](#)
- cross reference, where appropriate, to United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics and other relevant quality assurance frameworks



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Task Team #5 - Data collection and processing

- review and update chapters II, III, V, VI, VII, VIII of part III of the P&R pertaining to [census questionnaire design, building and testing census infrastructure, field enumeration and data processing](#)
- provide guidance on [designing questionnaires for electronic data collection](#) (CAPI, CAWI, CATI)
- provide guidance for the design and implementation of [multi-mode data collection](#), and for ensuring coherence among different data collection modes, and for dealing with quality issues (e.g. mode effects)
- address the importance of implementing [real-time editing](#) (both soft and hard edits) at the time of data collection
- discuss the effects of electronic data collection on data processing and data quality, and provide guidance for merging data from different collection modes
- discuss the role of geospatial information and paradata for [real-time monitoring and managing field enumeration](#)
- discuss the value of [alternative data sources](#) (such as administrative data and big data) [during data collection](#) (e.g., preloading information into electronic questionnaire) and [during data processing](#) (e.g., for validation and imputation purposes)



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Task Team #6 - Communication, dissemination, and utilization

- review and update chapter VIII of part II and chapter X, XI and XII of part III
- discuss [strategies for communicating with stakeholders/users to determine census topics](#) to be collected and disseminated
- discuss [types of communication and publicity campaigns](#), and media, for informing the public about field enumeration and other issues (such as misinformation, fake news)
- provide [guidance on key messages](#), for the [general population](#) as well as targeting [special population groups](#) (such as ethnic communities, and hard-to-enumerate population groups)
- identify [dissemination products and services](#) suited for different users
- discuss dissemination of [geo-referenced outputs](#), grid-based outputs and other innovative products
- discuss approaches to dealing with [confidentiality and disclosure control](#) for dissemination of data at high levels of granularity
- discuss [uses of census data](#), including for use in disaster prevention, for management in post-disaster period, crisis reports (such as during the COVID-19 pandemic), for SDG monitoring, etc.
- discuss [disaggregation of census data](#) to provide the information needed for monitoring internationally agreed development programmes including the 2030 Agenda
- discuss [archiving/preservation](#) of census data, and related documentation for future access and utilization



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Task Team #7 - Recommended topics on population characteristics

- review chapter I of part IV on population characteristics
- [review the core and non-core topics and make proposals for their revisions](#), including to their definitions and classifications
- [recommend new core and non-core topics](#), taking into consideration the experience of countries over the last round and the indicators frameworks for regional and global development agendas (including SDG indicators, migration indicators, and other indicators proposed by global programs such as the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, EGRISS, etc.), as well as considering the need for monitoring emerging socio-economic phenomena
- while revising concepts, definitions and classifications, ensure [consistency with recent internationally agreed recommendations](#)
 - ✓ Expert Group on Migration Statistics and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2021
 - ✓ recommendations on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (UNHCR, EGRISS)
 - ✓ the System of National Accounts (SNA 2025) and the 2013 and 2018 resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) [concerning statistics of work, labour underutilization](#), status in employment, etc.
 - ✓ the DEGURBA methodology for the delineation of cities, urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes (adopted in 2020 by 51st session of SC)



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Task Team #7 - Recommended topics on housing characteristics

- review chapter II of part IV of the P&R on [housing and building characteristics, including living quarters and housing units, and characteristics of housing units and occupants](#)
- [review the core and non-core topics](#), including their definitions, concepts and classifications, and make proposals for their revisions, in light of recent country experiences and regional and international recommendations
- [recommend new core and non-core topics](#), taking into consideration the experience of countries over the last round and the indicators frameworks for regional and global development agendas (including SDG indicators and indicators from other related regional or global programs such as the UNHABITAT)
- review indicators of living circumstances of households, such as possession of consumer durables, access to Internet and ownership of mobile cellular telephone, [consulting relevant international recommendations](#) (such as those by the ITU in regard to information and communication technology)



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