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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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Fifty-third plenary session  
(Geneva, 13-16 June 2005)

**REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER 2004  
JOINT ECE-EUROSTAT WORK SESSION ON POPULATION CENSUSES**

Prepared by the ECE Secretariat

**Introduction**

1. The Joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Population Censuses was held in Geneva from 23 to 25 November 2004. The work session was organized in cooperation with UNFPA that facilitated the participation of census experts in the meeting.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Uzbekistan.
3. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat. The Council of Europe, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, the Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), and the United Nations Statistics Division were also present.
4. Ms. Rosemary Bender (Canada) was elected as Chairperson of the meeting.

## **Organisation of the meeting**

5. The following substantive topics were considered in separate sessions at the meeting on the basis of 22 invited and supporting papers:

**Session 2: Census methodology**

**Session 3: Census technology**

**Session 4: Place of usual residence and other geographic characteristics**

**Session 5: International migration and related characteristics**

**Session 6: Families and households**

**Session 7: Employment**

**Session 8: Education**

6. All papers for the work session were posted on the UNECE website at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.11.census1.htm>

7. The main conclusions reached by the participants during the discussion of the substantive items of the agenda are presented in the annex to the report that was prepared after the meeting (see Annex I).

## **Recommendations for future work**

### Structure and content of the new Recommendations

8. The meeting proposed that the new recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses in the ECE region would include an expanded section on census methodology and technology. The purpose of this section would be not to prescribe specific approaches, but rather to inform about possible options.

9. For each approach to census taking described in this section, the following aspects should be discussed: i) brief description, ii) necessary conditions, iii) implications on various phases of census, iv) advantages and disadvantages, and v) implications for the collection of data on specific topics.

10. The following structure for the section on census methodology and technology was proposed by the meeting:

#### **I. CENSUS METHODOLOGY, PLANNING AND ORGANISATION**

##### **a) Methodology**

- Definitions and essential features of a census
- Description of traditional and register-based censuses
- Use of registers, administrative sources and survey data (including sample surveys) in ECE region
- Emerging collection methods used in the ECE region
  - Mapping (Use of GIS)
  - Examples of emerging collection methods
- Methods to assure confidentiality during collection and dissemination
- Metadata systems and classifications

- b) Quality Assurance framework
  - Criteria
  - Evaluation
  - Quality assurance in subcontracting
- c) Consultation with data users
  - Content of census
  - Dissemination
- d) Publicity and information campaign
  - Before data collection
  - During data collection

## II. CENSUS TECHNOLOGY

- a) Non-traditional technologies for data capture used in the ECE region
  - Scanning
  - OCR/ICR...
  - Imaging
  - Internet
  - Hand held devices
- b) Non-traditional technologies for data processing used in the ECE region
  - Data coding
  - Data editing and imputation
  - Track system
  - Data storage
- c) Non-traditional technologies for dissemination used in the ECE region
  - Data Protection
  - Techniques to assure confidentiality
  - Census products and data utilization
  - Use of Internet

11. The meeting agreed that the Steering Group would decide which sections among those listed above will be presented in the first part of the new recommendations (in the introduction or in the chapter on methodology) and which sections will be presented in an annex.

12. With regard to the population topics for which data are to be collected, the meeting proposed the following draft structure for the 2010 recommendations:

1. GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS
2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
3. MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS
4. ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS
5. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS
6. EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS
7. HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES:
  - Household and family characteristics of persons
  - Characteristics of family nuclei
  - Characteristics of private households

13. In addition, the following new topics will be taken in consideration for possible inclusion in the new recommendations: disability, volunteer work and agriculture. The meeting agreed that the Steering Group would decide whether these topics should be included in new sections or in existing sections of the recommendations.

14. For the section on geographical characteristics, the meeting proposed to review the definition of place of usual residence (possibly taking into consideration the concept of “intended” stay - past and future length of stay) and the treatment of specific population groups with regard to this topic. The meeting also noted the importance of a common definition of total population and suggested to consider remoteness and a possible new topic.

15. With regard to the sections on demographic characteristics, migration characteristics, and ethno-cultural characteristics, the following draft structure was proposed:

## 2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- 2.1 Sex (core topic)
- 2.2 Age (core topic)
- 2.3 Legal marital status (core topic)
- 2.4 De facto marital status
- 2.5 Total number of children born alive
- 2.6 Date of first marriage
- 2.7 Date of current marriage of ever-married women

## 3. MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS

(new heading regrouping topics that previously were under different sections)

- 3.1 Country/place of birth (core topic)
- 3.2 Place of birth of parents
- 3.3 Country of citizenship (core topic)
- 3.4 Citizenship acquisition/Citizenship at birth
- 3.5 Place of usual residence one year prior to the census (core topic)
- 3.6 Duration of residence
- 3.7 Previous place of usual residence
- 3.8 Year (or period) of immigration into the country
- 3.9 Reasons for migration (possible new topic)

## 4. ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

(new heading regrouping topics that previously were under different sections)

- 4.1 Ethnic group
- 4.2 Language
- 4.3 Religion

16. For the sections on economic characteristics, educational characteristics and household and families, it was agreed that the essence of the structure used in the 2000 Recommendations should be retained for the 2010 Recommendations.

17. For the section on economic characteristics, it was proposed to add an introduction on the purpose of collecting data in this area in a census, and on the use of other sources. The discussion at the work session focussed on the following topics, that need to be reviewed in the new recommendations: economic activity status; underemployment (in the framework of the

topic “time usually worked”); status in employment (including the definition of family workers); main source of livelihood.

18. The meeting proposed to remove the topic “providers of non-paid social and personal services” from the section on economic characteristics. The Steering Group will decide whether this topic should be considered in another section of the recommendations or as a separate section, possibly including the new topic “volunteer work”.

19. For the section on educational characteristics, the main issues to be considered in the revision of the recommendations include: the use of the highest grade completed to measure educational attainment; the need to stress the difference between levels of education and qualifications; the need to stress the separation between literacy and educational attainment; the consideration of computer literacy as new topic; the introduction of the concept of functional literacy.

20. From the discussion on families and households, it emerged that the work on the revision of the new recommendations should focus on the following areas: distinction between private and institutional households; homeless; same sex couples; reconstituted families. For the section on characteristics of private households, the meeting proposed to take into consideration the following topics: mobile phone, existence of computers and internet connection, and car parking (possible new topic).

21. The meeting decided that the census output programme (including possibly a tabulation programme and microdata sets) would be discussed by the Steering Group in consultation with Eurostat and UNSD.

22. The meeting agreed that the material presented in the current version of the “Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1” (United Nations Statistics Division, 1998) should be considered in the preparation of the new census recommendations for the ECE region, taking into account that also this document is currently under revision.

#### Process for the preparation of the new Recommendations

23. The meeting proposed that the work on the new ECE census recommendations would be coordinated by the following task forces:

- A. Task Force on Census Methodology. Participating countries: United States (Leading country), Finland, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom and other countries to be identified.
- B. Task Force on Census Technology. Participating countries: Australia, (Leading country), Italy and other countries to be identified.
- C. Task Force on Geographical Characteristics. Participating countries: Ireland (Leading country) and other countries to be identified.
- D. Task Force on Demographic Characteristics. Participating countries: Hungary (Leading country) and other countries to be identified.

- E. Task Force on Migration Characteristics. Participating countries: Switzerland (Leading country), the current member countries of the ECE-Eurostat Steering Group on Migration Statistics, Italy, and possibly other countries to be identified.
- F. Task Force on Ethno-Cultural Characteristics. Participating countries to be identified.
- G. Task Force on Economic Characteristics. Leading organisation: ILO. Participating countries to be identified.
- H. Task Force on Educational Characteristics. Leading organisation: UNESCO. Participating countries to be identified.
- I. Task Force on Families and Households (existing task force). Leading country: Norway.
- J. Task Force on Disability (in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics). Participating countries: Australia and other countries to be identified.
- K. Task Force on Agriculture. Leading organisation: FAO. Participating countries to be identified.

24. The UNECE Secretariat informed the meeting that member countries would be contacted to verify their interest in joining any of the task forces listed above.

25. The meeting recommended that the work on the new census recommendations for the ECE region should fit into the overall preparatory process for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses at the world level, which also includes the revision of the “Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses”.

### **Adoption of the report**

26. The participants adopted the report of the meeting at its closing session.

## ANNEX I

### SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS

#### Session 2: Census methodology

1. The plans by ECE countries for the 2010 round of censuses show that an increasing number of countries is planning to move away from traditional censuses and to use register data, either as a unique source or in combination with fieldwork or sample surveys. Moreover, it was noted that some countries developed innovative approaches to population census based on the adoption of sampling techniques, with the objective to reduce census costs, make a more efficient use of existing sources and provide data at a higher frequency than every ten years.
2. The majority of countries in the ECE region still plans to take a traditional census in the 2010 round, however, given the adoption by some countries of innovative approaches the meeting recommended that the 2010 census recommendations include an expanded section on census methodology to describe the different methodologies and help countries to evaluate the different alternatives taking into account the national context. It was stressed the need to have this session not to set regional standards but rather to inform countries about different methodologies stressing their advantages and disadvantages.
3. The meeting also discussed the use of Internet for data collection since several countries are considering this option for the 2010 census round as a secondary data collection method. It was noted that, in addition to data security issues, an effective form tracking system should be developed in order to avoid the risk of double-counting.
4. Participants recommended that the topic of evaluation of census quality and coverage be covered in the new census recommendations. Some countries reported on the findings of their coverage studies, and it was noted that in some cases these studies were not successful and were not able to find many duplicates. Some countries even questioned the opportunity to invest significant resources on this type of studies. It was observed that the attention should not focus only on the evaluation of census coverage, since this is only one aspect of the quality of census data. An approach for census evaluation should follow an overall quality assurance strategy where coverage evaluation is only one aspect. The meeting also discussed the use of coverage error estimates to adjust census data or intercensal population estimates.
5. The meeting noted that the census publicity and information campaign assumes an increasing importance given the trend observed in most countries towards a decreasing cooperation of the respondents, resulting in an increasing refusals to provide information or in providing unreliable information. An effective publicity and information campaign should be aimed at informing the population about the census, explaining the importance of the census for the society, and creating a positive attitude among the population. Different target groups should be identified which could be subject to negative attitudes toward the census, and different strategies should be adopted to address these attitudes. It was emphasized that a timely and targeted dissemination of census results could also play an important role in improving the cooperation of respondents.

### **Session 3: Census technology**

6. The continuing development of information technology provides countries with more and more technological tools to carry out census tasks, with gains in terms of time and data quality. In some cases these new technologies may also reduce census costs. However, the impact on costs needs to be studied carefully when considering introducing new technologies, as they can lead to cost increases in certain circumstances.

7. Some technologies, like scanning, OMR and OCR/ICR, have been available for many years, but the increasing reliability of the systems and the decreasing costs make these options accessible and appealing to an increasing number of countries.

8. A technology that has been applied to censuses only recently is the use of handheld devices for census data collection. The experience of the adoption of this technology in the 2003 census of the Sultanate of Oman (in the Muscat Governorate) was presented at the meeting, and the advantages and disadvantages of this technology were discussed.

9. The meeting agreed that the new census recommendations should include a section on census technology, presenting the available tools for data capturing, data processing and dissemination. This section should build on material already available in existing UN manuals and it should not provide standards but rather to present the different options available in order to help the countries to make informative choices. It was stressed that countries should carefully consider the adoption of emerging technologies since they may not fit the best interest of all countries. The new section in the recommendations should help countries looking at the advantages and disadvantages of different technological solutions.

10. With regard to data dissemination, the meeting agreed that attention should be paid to data protection and to techniques to assure confidentiality.

### **Session 4: Place of usual residence and other geographic characteristics**

11. The experience of the 2000 round of censuses showed that most countries complied with the general recommended definition of place of usual residence. However, it was suggested to review the definition for the new census recommendations to make it more specific particularly in relation to the concept of “intended” stay (past and future length of stay).

12. Significant inconsistencies were recorded for the treatment of “difficult groups”, including for instance students living in a residence for part of the year and elsewhere during vacations or persons who live away from home during the working week and return at weekends. Problems and inconsistencies were also reported for the treatment of persons who left temporarily their place/country of residence. These problems lead to significant double-counting or under-counting and the meeting agreed that the treatment of these groups should be better defined in the new census recommendations.



13. Some countries reported their efforts to improve the understanding of the respondents of the residence rules in order to reduce counting errors, but it was also discussed the reluctance of the respondents to treat family members in accordance to residence rules rather than to criteria related to their family situation.

14. The meeting noted the importance of defining a common definition of total population considering that the Council of the European Union will adopt this definition to determine the parliamentary seats of EU member countries. In the 2000 round of censuses most countries adopted the recommended concept of total usually resident population, and there was a general agreement that this concept should be maintained in the new recommendations. Some countries took a “de facto” census (each person was enumerated at the place where it was found, and information was collected on the place of usual residence), and noted that this choice simplifies the counting process.

15. The meeting noted that in the 2000 census round there were significant inconsistencies in the treatment of specific groups (including foreign students, migrants, nomads, refugees and asylum seekers) and their inclusion in the total population. It was agreed that this problem should be addressed in the new recommendations, and that the treatment of undocumented migrants should also be discussed.

16. The meeting also agreed that for the new census recommendations the introduction of remoteness as a new non-core topic should be considered, to allow the comparisons between the categories of urban and rural areas on the basis of physical remoteness from goods and services.

#### **Session 5: International migration and related characteristics**

17. The report on the experience of the 2000 round of censuses showed that two different aspects have to be considered when examining the measurement of immigrants' stocks:

- the treatment of some population groups relevant to international migration have important implications on both the resident and immigrant population;
- the differences in the criteria used by countries to identify the stock of immigrants have heavy implications on data comparability.

18. Among the population groups whose treatment can have important consequences, participants underlined that special attention should be devoted to foreigners without a legal status: in principle, the place of usual residence and thus the inclusion in the resident population should be exclusively determined on the basis of statistical considerations, irrespective of the legal situation. In practice this can be a very controversial issue given its political sensitivity.

19. On the criteria to identify the stock of immigrants a proposal was discussed to use a broad concept of ‘persons with foreign background’, to include the foreign-born and the II generation so that all foreign citizens can be part of this population group. This concept would be broad enough to incorporate national needs and specificities but also able to reflect the complexity of immigration within and across the countries.

20. The definition of place of birth used in the 2000 Census Recommendations should be examined and discussed taking into account the problems experienced in the last census round.

21. On the measurement of flows, the most appropriate and informative questions to capture the migration moves and their timing were discussed, also taking into account the information needs on internal migrations. The need to include the reason of migration as a topic of the next recommendations was raised.

22. Participants discussed the issue of ethnic group and the possible ways to identify ethnic affiliation. It was agreed that it is probably not possible to give a precise definition of an ethnic group: given the complexity and sensitivity of this issue, every country should decide whether to include or not this topic in the Census and what definition to adopt. However, a reference definition and some good practices should be included in the next Recommendations. The following points should be included:

- the importance to determine ethnic affiliation on the basis of self-declaration
- the need to provide documentation on the classification used
- some guidance on the treatment of children from mixed marriages and multiple identities

23. Religion is also a very sensitive topic and in some countries there are legal constraints to collecting it. Different typologies of religious affiliation can be asked but, given the general nature of the Census, the main focus should be on the identification of a certain community or denomination rather than on religious beliefs. The possibility to use a common classification of religious denominations should be investigated.

24. Among the different criteria used to identify language, the knowledge of languages is probably the less relevant to collect information on migration and priority should be given to the mother tongue. Also in the case of language, the possibility to adopt a common classification should be carefully examined.

#### **Session 6: Families and households**

25. The meeting reviewed the report presented by the Task Force on Families and Households and acknowledged the increasing number of households with complex family relationships. Discussions focused on the difficulties experienced in the last census round in the identification of reconstituted families, same-sex couple, consensual unions, children living alone, and homeless. In some countries, step-children were not included in the relationship with the reference person and it was not possible to distinguish between cohabitants and consensual union. Problems related to the treatment of households with one-parent working outside the household and the definition of “child” were also reported.

26. Some countries presented methods that improved the question on relationship to the reference person. These included i) the use of a matrix to report the relationship to all members of the households or to a limited number of household members, ii) the use of three columns to identify: the family each member belongs to, the relationship to the reference person and the

relationship within the family, iii) the inclusion of categories about step-children, and iv) the use of two reference persons.

27. To identify same-sex couples the meeting discussed indirect and explicit methods where one specific category is included to clearly refer to the concepts of partnership and “same sex”.

28. As for the classification of homeless, it was noted that homeless people can be identified as a relative or absolute category. A relative category of homeless would refer to the homeless counted in specialized shelters.

29. The meeting agreed to review the current section of the recommendations on families and households to include improved methods to identify reconstituted families and same-sex partnerships (through the improvement of relationship to reference person) and to add additional recommendations on the identification of homeless as a relative and absolute categories. In addition, the meeting advised to review the current section on the definition of private and institutional households to clearly specify how to classify the living arrangements that are not clearly private households or institutions where for example people live independently but linked to an institutionalized center for the provision of services.

30. Looking at characteristics of private households, it was felt that the inclusion of durable consumer goods possessed by the households has become obsolete for many of the countries in the region. The possession of computers (currently included as durable goods) and the presence of internet connection in the households (new topic) should be included in the recommendations. On the number of cars available for the use of the household, countries had different views on its usefulness and purposes. It was, however, decided to keep it as non-core topic and in addition to consider the inclusion of the availability of parking space as a new topic.

### **Session 7: Employment**

31. In reviewing the section on employment characteristics, participants discussed the role of the census in collecting information on employment when labour force surveys and other sources are available on a regular and more detailed basis. The main purposes highlighted for using the census were:

- the provision of data on industry and occupation. Given the large number of categories included in these classifications, sample surveys can not give reliable data
- the development of sample frames for labour force surveys
- the provision of data for small areas.

32. In countries where the census is used primarily to provide information on economic characteristics for small areas, the problem of reconciling different figures from different sources was discussed. It was decided that an introduction section be included in the new recommendations to discuss the purposes of collecting employment data in a census and the use of other sources.

33. Participants discussed the use of the ILO definition for employment and agreed that it should be kept as core-topic although one country reported it will not be included in the next census. The meeting stressed the importance of collecting data on previous work for the unemployed persons as approved by the Conference of Labour Statisticians although this information is less useful for people who change jobs very often. The need to also clarify the definition of unemployment was highlighted. It was felt that more guides were needed in defining a time limit for people with previous employment but currently unemployed.

34. Concern was expressed about the quality of the data on status in employment given that respondents find it difficult to understand the concepts included in the classification. Countries that have a register-based census lamented the difficulty to distinguish different jobs and to identify the main job to be used to collect information on status in employment. It was also stressed that there is confusion on the use of the term self-employment. If ILO defines it as the category that includes employers, unpaid family workers, own-account workers, and members of cooperatives, countries in Europe and Eurostat often use it to define own-account workers. The meeting agreed that the ILO terminology should be kept in the recommendations clarifying the correspondence between the ILO and the Eurostat terminology. In the definition of status in employment it was also stressed the need to clarify the concept of unpaid family workers specifically in relation to the treatment of children.

35. In reviewing the practices used in the last census round in collecting economic characteristics, it was noted that some countries defined employment, unemployment, and status in employment on the basis of source of livelihood. The meeting stressed the importance of keeping separated the concept of employment and source of livelihood and decided to review the section on source of livelihood to emphasize this point and if necessary to give guides on how countries can move from an employment concept based on source of livelihood to the standard ILO employment concept.

36. The meeting also decided to consider the inclusion in the Recommendations of underemployment (in the context of time usually worked) and extended time of leave. It also stressed the importance of using social-professional classifications and possibly expanding the existing section on these classifications.

37. In restructuring the current section on economic characteristics, proposals were made to move the topic of place of work to the section on geographical characteristics and to extend the topic of length and frequency of journey to work to the journey to place of study. It was also suggested to move the topic of providers of non-paid social and personal services outside the section on economic characteristics.

#### **Session 8: Education**

38. In relation to the topic of educational attainment, the meeting agreed that the Recommendations be reviewed to consider the highest grade completed with some advice on how to relate the highest grade completed with all levels completed. The need to collect information on qualifications was stressed for obtaining information on accessibility to the labour market. However, some countries reported problems with the quality of the data obtained

from the previous census. The need to clearly distinguish highest grade completed and qualifications was stressed. Although it was noted that in the last census round countries did not use common practices in setting the age threshold for asking educational attainment it was decided to stress again the need to collect this topic for all people above the age of compulsory education.

39. The meeting noted the difficulties experienced by countries to measure school attendance as a different concept of enrolment and agreed to review the Recommendations to improve the definition of attendance and give clear guidelines on what should be measured in a census in relation to attendance and enrolment.

40. The meeting stressed the need to collect literacy as a separate topic from educational attainment. It discussed the possibility of including in the Recommendations elements related to functional literacy but it also realized the difficulty of measuring functional literacy with a limited number of questions. A proposal was made to consider computer literacy as a new topic.

#### **Structure of the new recommendations**

41. The meeting agreed on the draft structure of the 2010 census recommendations presented in Annex II, which reflects the outcome of the discussion in the various substantive sessions.

42. The main changes compared to the 2000 recommendations consist in the new expanded sections on census methodology and technology and in the creation of two new sections on "Migration Characteristics" and "Ethno-Cultural Characteristics" containing topics that previously were under different sections.

43. In the draft structure of the 2010 recommendations the meeting proposed to include three new topics: disability, volunteer work and agriculture.

#### **Future work**

44. The meeting agreed that the work on the new census recommendations would be coordinated by the Task Forces listed in para. 22 of the main report, on pages 5 and 6. In early January 2005 the membership of the Task Forces will be finalised and the Terms of Reference will be prepared and sent out by the ECE Secretariat to the respective Leaders.

45. The Task Forces will be expected to submit the first draft of the new census recommendations by the end of May 2005. The first draft will be reviewed by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses and a second draft will be prepared by the Task Forces by the end of August 2005, so that it could be translated on time for the discussion at the ECE-Eurostat meeting on Population and Housing Censuses tentatively planned in December 2005.

## ANNEX II

### Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region

#### Detailed Table of Contents

Draft version discussed at the Work Session on Population Censuses (23-25 November 2004)

NOTE: Yellow highlights are comments; green highlights are new sections or topics.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Aims and objectives of the Recommendations (including reference to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1 and the 2010 UN World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses)
2. Methodology
  - 2.1 Definitions and essential features of a census (possible new section)
  - 2.2 Description of traditional and register-based censuses (including reference to the Principles and Recommendations...)
  - 2.3 Use of registers, administrative sources and survey data (including sample surveys) in ECE region
  - 2.4 Emerging collection methods used in the ECE region
    - 2.4.1 Mapping (Use of GIS)
    - 2.4.2 Examples of emerging collection methods (Review of the approaches presented at the Seminar, including for each approach:
      - i) brief description, ii) necessary conditions, iii) implications on various phases of census taking, iv) advantages and disadvantages, v) implications for the collection of topics)
  - 2.5 Methods to assure confidentiality during collection and dissemination
  - 2.6 Metadata systems and classifications
3. Quality Assurance framework
  - 3.1 Criteria
  - 3.2 Evaluation
  - 3.3 Quality assurance in subcontracting
4. Consultation with data users
  - 4.1 Content of census (objectives of consultations, factors considered and trade-offs when determining content in the ECE region, identification of stakeholders, again in the ECE region, methods of consultation)
  - 4.2 Dissemination
5. Publicity and information campaign
  - 5.1 Before data collection
  - 5.2 During data collection

6. Technology
  - 6.1 Non-traditional technologies for data capture used in the ECE region
    - 6.1.1 Scanning
    - 6.1.2 OCR/ICR...
    - 6.1.3 Imaging
    - 6.1.4 Internet
    - 6.1.5 Hand held devices
  - 6.2 Non-traditional technologies for data processing used in the ECE region
    - 6.2.1 Data coding
    - 6.2.2 Data editing and imputation
    - 6.2.3 Track system
    - 6.2.4 Data storage
  - 6.3 Non-traditional technologies for dissemination used in the ECE region
    - 6.3.1 Data Protection
    - 6.3.2 Techniques to assure confidentiality
    - 6.3.3 Census products and data utilization
    - 6.3.4 Use of Internet

NOTE: The Steering Group will decide which sections among those listed above will be presented in the first part of the new recommendations and which sections will be presented in an annex to the recommendations.

## II. TOPICS FOR WHICH DATA ARE TO BE COLLECTED

1. Criteria for selection of topics
2. Listing of core and non-core topics, including derived topics

## III. POPULATION TOPICS

1. GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS
  - 1.1 Place of usual residence (core topic)
    - Definition (length of stay past and future – intended stay)
    - For difficult groups (students, persons with multiple residences, etc):
      - Revise list of groups
      - Define clearer rules for each group
      - Discuss the priority to family place
    - Treatment of temporarily absent members
  - 1.2 Place where found at time of census (non-core topic)
  - 1.3 Farm or non-farm residence (non-core topic)
  - 1.4 Total population (derived core topic)
    - Maintain the concept of total usually resident population
    - Try to harmonize the treatment of various special groups: refugees, nomads, asylum seekers, students studying abroad, etc.
    - How to treat undocumented immigrants?
  - 1.5 Locality (derived core topic)
  - 1.6 Urban and rural areas (derived non-core topic)
  - 1.7 Remoteness (possibly new topic)

## 2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- 2.1 Sex (core topic)
- 2.2 Age (core topic)
- 2.3 Legal marital status (core topic)
- 2.4 De facto marital status (non-core topic)
- 2.5 Total number of children born alive (non-core topic)
- 2.6 Date of first marriage and current marriage of ever-married women (non-core topic)

## 3 MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS (new heading regrouping topics that previously were under different sections)

- 3.1 Country/place of birth (core topic)
- 3.2 Place of birth of parents (non-core topic)
- 3.3 Country of citizenship (core topic)
- 3.4 Citizenship acquisition/Citizenship at birth (non-core topic)
- 3.5 Place of usual residence one year prior to the census (core topic)
- 3.6 Duration of residence (non-core topic)
- 3.7 Place of previous residence (non-core topic)
- 3.8 Year (or period) of immigration into the country (non-core topic)
- 3.9 Reasons for migration (possibly new topic)

## 4 ETHNO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS (new heading regrouping topics that previously were under different sections. In alternative, this section could be called "SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS" and include disability and providers of un-paid services. In this case, it should be placed before migration)

- 4.1 Ethnic group (non-core topic)
  - More explicit definition, address children in mixed marriages and multiple identities, self declaration, drop national group?
- 4.2 Language (non-core topic)
- 4.3 Religion (non-core topic)

## 5 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Introduction on the purpose of collecting data in a census and the use of other sources (new section)

- 5.1 Current economic activity status (core topic)
  - Clarify the definition of unemployment
  - Include extended time of leave
  - Collect information on previous work with caution
- 5.2 Usual activity status (non-core topic)



- 5.3 Time usually worked (non-core topic)
  - Include underemployment
- 5.4 Duration of unemployment (non-core topic)
- 5.5 Occupation (core topic)
- 5.6 Secondary occupation (non-core topic)
- 5.7 Industry (branch of economic activity) (core topic)
- 5.8 Type of sector (institutional unit) (non-core topic)
- 5.9 Status in employment (core topic)
  - Improve definition of family workers
  - Use ILO terminology explaining the Eurostat terminology
- 5.10 Number of persons working in the local unit of the establishment (non-core topic)
- 5.11 Main source of livelihood (non-core topic)
  - To be stressed as an additional topic from activity status and employment status
- 5.12 Dependency relationship (non-core topic)
- 5.13 Income (non-core topic)
- 5.14 Socio-economic groups (derived non-core topic)
- 5.15 Place of work (core topic)
  - Proposal to move topics 5.15 to 5.18 to Geographical characteristics
- 5.16 Location of school, university, etc (non-core topic)
- 5.17 Mode of transport to work (non-core topic)
- 5.18 Length and frequency of journey to work (non-core topic)
  - Proposal to extend 5.17 and 5.18 to the journey to place of study

## 6 EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- 6.1 Educational attainment (core topic)
  - Recommend use of highest grade completed
- 6.2 Educational qualifications (non-core topic)
  - Stress the difference between levels of education and qualifications
- 6.3 Field of study (non-core topic)
- 6.4 School attendance (non-core topic)
- 6.5 Literacy (non-core topic)
  - Stress the separation of literacy and attainment
  - Possible introduction of the concept of functional literacy
- 6.6 Computer literacy (possible new topic)

## 7 PROVIDERS OF NON-PAID SERVICES (possible new section)

- 7.1 Providers of non-paid social and personal services (non-core topic)  
(This topic in the 2000 recommendations was in the section on economic characteristics)
- 7.2 Volunteer services (possibly new topic)

8 **DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS (possible new section, to be discussed by the Steering Group in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics)**

9 **HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS**

- **Revise the distinction between private and institutional households in the existing introduction to this section**

- 9.1 Relationship to reference person of private household (core topic)
  - **Add more on alternatives to one-reference person; same-sex partnership**
- 9.2 Type of institutional household or other communal establishment in which a person lives (non-core topic)
- 9.3 Whether living as inmate of an institutional household or other communal establishment or not (non-core topic)
- 9.4 Household status (derived core topic)
  - **Add more on homeless (absolute and relative)**
- 9.5 Family status (derived core topic)
- 9.6 Extended family status (derived non-core topic)

10 **CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY NUCLEI**

- 10.1 Type of family nucleus (derived core topic)
  - **Text on reconstituted families to be reviewed**
- 10.2 Type of extended family (derived non-core topic)
- 10.3 Size of family nucleus (derived core topic)
- 10.4 Number of children under a specified age (derived core topic)
- 10.5 Specified age groups of children (derived non-core topic)
- 10.6 Number of economically active members (derived core topic)
- 10.7 Number of members whose main source of livelihood is economic activity (derived non-core topic)
- 10.8 Number of dependent members (derived non-core topic)

11 **CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS**

- 11.1 Type of private household (derived core topic)
- 11.2 Generational composition of private households (derived non-core topic)
- 11.3 Size of private household (derived core topic)
- 11.4 Number of economically active members (derived core topic)
- 11.5 Number of members whose main source of livelihood is economic activity (derived non-core topic)
- 11.6 Number of children under a specified age (derived core topic)
- 11.7 Number of dependent members (derived non-core topic)
- 11.8 Number of members of retirement age (derived core topic)
- 11.9 Tenure status of households (core topic)
- 11.10 Single or shared occupancy (non-core topic)
- 11.11 Rent (non-core topic)
- 11.12 Durable consumer goods possessed by the household (non-core topic)

- 11.13 Possession of computer and internet connection (possible new non-core topic), (in the 2000 rec., the possession of a personal computer was considered under the topic “Durable consumer goods possessed by the household”)
- 11.14 Number of cars available for the use of the household (non core topic)
- 11.15 Car parking (possible new non-core topic)
- 11.16 Telephone (non-core topic) (fixed and mobile)

**12 AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS (possible new section, to be discussed by the Steering Group in cooperation with FAO)**

#### IV. HOUSING TOPICS

##### 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSING UNITS AND OTHER LIVING QUARTERS

- 1.1 Type of living quarters (core topic)
- 1.2 Type of ownership (core topic)
- 1.3 Location of living quarters (core topic)
- 1.4 Occupancy status (core topic)
- Distinction between occupied and vacant dwellings to be explored further, bearing in mind main and secondary residences
- 1.5 Type of vacancy (non-core topic)
- 1.6 Occupancy by one or more households (non-core topic)
- 1.7 Number of occupants (core topic)
- 1.8 Number of rooms (core topic)
- Definition of room to be reviewed in the context of dimension, use and presence or not of window(s)
  - Should kitchen be counted as a room?
- 1.9 Useful and/or living floor space (non-core topic) Should this be a core topic?
- Topic to be reviewed (see above comment)
  - As the number of rooms, to be considered as an indicator of overcrowding.
- 1.10 Kitchen (core topic)
- 1.11 Cooking facilities (non-core topic)
- 1.12 Water supply system (core topic)
- 1.13 Hot water (non-core topic)
- 1.14 Toilet facilities (core topic)
- 1.15 Type of sewage disposal system (non-core topic)
- 1.16 Bathing facilities (core topic)
- 1.17 Type of heating (core topic)
- Methods of cooling to be added to the existing categories of heating?
  - The existing indicators of equipment and amenity standards to be reviewed.
- 1.18 Main type of energy used for heating (non-core topic)
- 1.19 Electricity (non-core topic)
- 1.20 Piped gas (non-core topic)

1.21 Position of dwelling in the building (non-core topic)

1.22 Access to housing area (building, dwelling, via for example number of floors and presence of working lifts) (possible new topic)

- This is an emerging area in the context of an ageing population and persons with disabilities.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF BUILDINGS CONTAINING DWELLINGS

2.1 Type of building (core topic)

- Revise classification, to better distinguish detached, semi-detached, row (terraced) houses, apartment buildings and others

2.2 Number of floors (storeys) (non-core topic)

2.3 Number of dwellings in the building (non-core topic)

2.4 Whether building is a farm building or not (non-core topic)

2.5 Lift (non-core topic)

- To change it to working lift

2.6 Period of construction (core topic)

2.7 Materials of which specific parts of the building are constructed (non-core topic)

2.8 State of repair (non-core topic)

## V. OUTPUT PROGRAMME FOR THE ECE REGION

The census output programme (including possibly a tabulation programme and microdata sets) should be discussed by the Steering Group in consultation with Eurostat and UNSD.

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