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Regional Workshop on International Migration Statistics
(Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 15-17 February 2010)

Report of the Regional Workshop on
Strengthening National Capacities to Improve Migration Data

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Division (UNDESA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and in partnership with other partners of the Global Migration Group (GMG) organized a regional workshop on "Strengthening national capacities to improve migration data" in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) on 15-17 February 2010. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided administrative support. The workshop was carried out in the context of the United Nations Development Account Project "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impacts".

2. The workshop targeted countries in Central Asia and other current and former member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The main objectives of the meeting were to identify the gaps in the availability of data on international migrant stocks, flows, and characteristics and to identify the ways and means to close this gap before the 2013 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

3. To this end, the aims of the workshop were to:

     a) Identify the key migration trends and policies at the global and regional level;
     b) Review the internationally agreed standards and recommendations for international migration statistics;
     c) Assess the gaps that exist among these international norms and the data available from countries in the region;
     d) Propose practical steps to implement the key elements of these recommendations;
     e) Provide tools for follow-up activities, and
     f) Identify needs for capacity development.

4. The workshop took into consideration all possible sources of migration data, including censuses, administrative sources and surveys and discussed opportunities for data exchange at a national and international level.

5. Participants from 12 countries of the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia region took part in the meeting[1]. International organizations were represented by experts from UNECE, UNDESA, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Organization

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[1] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

for Migration (IOM). Experts from Statistical Committee of the CIS and from Moscow State Lomonosov University also took part in the meeting.

6. Mr. Bela Hovy (UNDESA) was the Chairperson of the workshop.

II ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

7. The following substantive topics were discussed at the workshop:
   - Session I. The Migration Agenda: Implications for Data Collection
   - Session II. Practical Solutions to Implement the International Recommendations
   - Session III. Using Population Censuses to Measure International Migration
   - Session IV. Enhancing the Use of Administrative Sources and Border Cards to Measure Migration
   - Session V. The Use of Household Surveys to Measure the Impact of Migration
   - Session VI. Regional Cooperation and Capacity Development
   - Session VII. Practical Steps to Strengthen National Capacities, Data Availability and Exchange

8. Most of the sessions included group work during which participants discussed specific assignments. The results of the group work were subsequently reported to the plenary.

9. The papers and presentations prepared for the meeting are available on the UNECE website at the following address: http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.02.migration.htm

III. SUMMARY OF THE SESSIONS

SESSION 1. THE MIGRATION AGENDA: IMPLICATIONS FOR DATA COLLECTION

10. The presentation by the representative of UNDESA focused on implications of the global migration policy agenda for data collection. Reliable and up-to-date data are needed in order to formulate migration policies that benefit countries of origin and destination as well as migrants themselves. Global international cooperation is needed in order to maximize benefits and minimize risks of migration, as local and regional approaches are no longer sufficient. Faced with a significant decline in the population of working age in the next few decades, the countries of CIS are already experiencing significant international migration. Some CIS economies are already heavily dependent upon remittance flows. In order to improve international migration statistics, the presenter suggested that the CIS countries should take into account the five recommendations included in the report "Migrants Count: Five Steps Toward Better Migration Data"[2]. The five steps indicated in the report constitute low-cost opportunities to fill some key gaps in migration data quickly. In particular, the report indicates how the 2010 round of population censuses can be used to improve global migration data.

11. In order to explain the priorities in data needs for evidence-based policies in the countries in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asian region, the IOM presented an overview of

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[2] This publication is available at: http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1422146/

regional trends in migration in the recent past and presently. Recent past migration trends in the region were characterized with both political and economic push and pull factors, of global character and specific to the countries of the region. Up to 80 per cent of migration flows take place within the CIS region, although migration flows outside the region are underestimated. There are sending, receiving and transit countries in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asian region that need diverse policy approaches and require collection of different data from various sources. Challenges with regards to the management of migration are stimulating policy makers across the region to start paying considerable attention to migration data, to speed up national capacity building and regional data sharing.

12. The representative from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population focused on main targets of migration policies in Kazakhstan, namely repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs, regulation of foreign labour migration, and reduction of irregular migration. Ethnic migration is well measured as new settlers are involved in the system of governmental assistance. Since 1993 Republic of Kazakhstan received over 201,300 families or 789,000 of 'oralmans'[3]. In 2008 over 60,000 foreigners were employed in the country. However, irregular migration is considerable. Some 164,000 irregular labour migrants, 71 per cent of who were from Uzbekistan, benefited from a regularization campaign undertaken in 2006. In 2009, the Government decided to create a system of migrants' registration in different governmental agencies and to develop a methodology of unified statistical reporting using electronic systems of migrant registration and data collection.

SESSION 2. PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

13. A presentation from the UNECE reminded the participants about basic concepts and definitions of the International Recommendations on statistics of migration. It was a brief review of:
   - Definitions;
   - Main types by duration (often depending on administrative rules);
   - Reasons for migration;
   - Legal status;
   - Direction and distance;
   - Crucial role of concept of place of usual residence.

14. Measurement of the basic statistical categories of migration – stocks (identified by different criteria having advantages as well as limitations) and flows, imply exploring various sources of data. Data on stocks and flows could be collected through administrative systems or via a set of special questions asked in population censuses or sample surveys. The latter could be useful for collecting information on difficult to count groups of migrants. Some approaches to measuring stocks and flows of emigrants were discussed: using data from receiving countries, collecting information on emigrants at census etc.

15. It was emphasized that compilation of data collected by different agencies in the same country, and comparison of statistics from sending and receiving countries is limited because of inconsistencies between national sources and data coming from different countries. But also due to lack of access to the information.

16. Prior to the workshop a set of nine tables to collect statistics on stocks and flows of international migrants were sent to the participating countries in order to fill the gaps in the Global Migration

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[3] Oralmans – ethnic Kazakhs living in neighboring countries that repatriated/returned to Kazakhstan.

Database. A presentation from UNDESA explained particularities of requested data and reasons for the request to motivate the countries of the region to transmit the missing data. Data on stocks (defined by place of birth or citizenship) are to be tabulated by country of origin, sex, age and educational attainment. Data on flows were requested by country of origin or destination, duration of stay (long or short-term) and type of residence permit issuance (i.e. reason for move).

SESSION 3. USING POPULATION CENSUSES TO MEASURE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

17. The UNECE presented the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses with regard to international migration data. Attention was paid in particular to time thresholds to de used for the definition of resident and non-resident population, identification of relevant migrant groups, collection of data on timing and geography of migration, and enumeration of "difficult-to-measure" migrant groups. The presentation explained the characteristics, pros and cons of core and non-core questions/variables on migration in censuses, such as citizenship and place/country of birth.

18. The Statistical Committee of the CIS presented an analysis of migration-related questions in programs of 2010-round population censuses in the region. Four States (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) have already conducted their censuses, whereas the majority (but not all) are planning to do so. Census programs in all the countries of the region include both core and non-core topics on migration taking into account national interest in data on certain categories of migrants. The first national censuses of Independent States collected information on new migration phenomena. Lessons learnt through this experience stimulated many countries to improve 'migration modules' in the 2010-Census questionnaire and include questions on place of residence at a certain date prior to the census, experience of residence abroad etc. NSOs of the CIS countries tried to develop the programs of two successive national censuses (round 2000 and 2010) in accordance with international recommendations that could be a guarantee of comparability of data at a national and international level.

19. The population census in the Kyrgyz Republic was conducted in March 2009 and included questions on place of birth, citizenship, duration of residence in the place of enumeration (since birth or not) and the last previous place of residence. As compared with census of 1999, a new question on reasons for move was added with four answer options: economic, social, environmental and other. Non-migration questions of the 2009-Census program were developed as well; educational attainment was classified in details to better correspond to the national legislation and international standards. The main discrepancy with international recommendations on migrants count was connected with enumeration of absent population. National emigrants, who have been absent for more that 12 months but intended to return to their country of origin were treated as temporary absentees and included in the resident population. Collection of data on the absent population was the most problematic part of the census and other sources were used to fill the inevitable gaps. NSO of Kyrgyz Republic is going to publish a set of tables based on the census data related to migration by age, sex, ethnicity, reasons for move and educational attainment. Data on temporary absent population will be provided by country of destination, reasons and duration of absence, age, sex, educational attainment, occupation and size of households left behind. Census results will be available as hard copies and in electronic format, online on the NSO's website, and at a request of the users, if additional information is needed.

20. The Statistical Committee of Belarus conducted the population census in October 2009. Resident, temporarily absent and temporarily present population was defined through 1-year period threshold in accordance with the CES recommendations. Migration module of the census

questionnaire has been greatly improved and developed since the previous census. Program included questions on place of birth, citizenship, respondents were asked about duration of residence in the place of enumeration, but only those who had moved in the last five years (ie since 2005) had to specify the place of previous residence and type of settlement. The questions about residence abroad for one year and over and country of origin were asked for the first time. Respondents had to specify year and month of arrival and reason for move (job, education, marriage, return to the previous place of residence, family circumstances, asylum, other reason).

SESSION 4. ENHANCING THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES AND BORDER CARDS TO MEASURE MIGRATION

21. In the Russian Federation, only a low percentage of foreigners could be identified among immigrants by obtaining administrative data from the migration service on residence permits issuance and citizenship acquisition. Analysis of international migration data from the National Statistical Office requires complementary data from numerous administrative sources which are hard to obtain. Data availability, free access and regular publication of statistics are core issues of administrative statistics usage in Russia as in many other States of the region.

22. The presentation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees focused on administrative sources of forced migration statistics. Data collection and analysis is an important part of the UNHCR 10-point plan. Statistics on forced migration could be obtained from different sources – surveys, censuses, registers and other, but administrative records are in principle the most important and reliable source because of the nature of applications for asylum or refugee status. Population and aliens registers, border statistics, data on permits, special systems of forced migration registration, and statistics of citizenship acquisition – all these sources can and should be used for production of reliable, diverse and transparent data. From the viewpoint of statistics, there is no joint approach among the asylum states whether to count forced migrants as international migrants or not. There are objective reasons to treat refugees as international migrants, but particularities of this group of migrants in terms of data collection and protection could not be ignored. Key challenges met by statistics of forced migration have much in common with all the other types of migration data and relate to application of definitions, use of certain sources, quality of data and skills of data collectors and users.

23. Country presentations were given by the representatives from the Republic of Moldova and Russia. The Republic of Moldova is the first (and the only) CIS state that has established a population register, which is used for collection of population statistics, while the Russian Federation is the main migrant-receiving country in the region. The flows of short-term migration are estimated at a level of 7-9 million and long-term immigration affects about 300,000 persons annually. Federal migration service of Russia reported on its activities to establish a new system of administrative statistics management. The NSO of the Russian Federation described the first experience of direct communication of data from aliens register to the statistical agency.

24. Effective and regular interactions of National Bureau for Statistics of Moldova and Population Register are implemented within the framework of a special contract with Population Register Office of Moldova. Since the beginning of 2000, the NBS of Moldova has started using data from the register to produce demographic statistics. A consultation with colleagues from Norway initiated a new approach to demographic data in Moldova and since 2007 NBS receives information on vital statistics in electronic format. However, there are many gaps in production of migration statistics. Data on migration, both internal and international, are not individualized and are still delivered to NBS Moldova as an aggregated statistical report.

25. The Federal Migration Service (FMS) of the Russian Federation has recently introduced an integrated form of statistical report covering activities undertaken by the agency. The form collected in electronic format from regional bodies of FMS on a monthly basis includes over 700 indicators, and over 3,000 variables. It substituted more than 60 statistical reports formerly prepared by eleven departments of FMS, often duplicating the same information. Since 2007 FMS started publishing this report online and for many users in Russia and abroad it is the only source of very important data on migration and administrative procedures related to migration. In the near future, the FMS is planning to develop a system of administrative data collection and processing and start publishing a statistical yearbook.

26. The NSO of the Russian Federation reported on the first experience of direct communication of individual data on migrants from the central data bank of foreign population in Russia. Former system of migration statistics collection was established to count internal rather than international migration. Since 2005 FMS started to run an aliens register and by 2009 it was ready to communicate individual anonymized data on residence permits, citizenship acquisition and registration in place of residence and place of stay to the NSO. A pilot project made it possible to find out main data quality issues – in most cases connected with incompleteness of information on social and demographic characteristics of migrants, unfilled positions, as well as with errors and uncertainties in data on place of birth and registration address. This work will be continued and individual data communicated from FMS to the NSO of the Russian Federation in future and will be the basis for production of official statistics on international migration in Russia.

SESSION 5. THE USE OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION

27. Armenia is the only CIS country that actively collects data on migration through sample surveys of labour force, international passenger flows etc. The sample of the recent survey on international migration covered 2500 households (1686 in urban and 814 in rural areas). Questions dealt with household members who have ever migrated, and migrants were classified by direction and distance of migration (inward or outward, internal or international). Typical problems in surveying were connected with physical access to the households (outside doors of many houses are equipped with special locks) and readiness or willingness of respondents to give truthful answers. A sample survey demonstrated that among persons reported as migrants, 67% have emigrated, 2.8% - were immigrants and over 30% were return migrants. The survey proved that households invest only about 1% of received remittances, the rest is spent on consumption (out of it 3.7% is spent on purchasing real estate).

28. The Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic annually conducts household surveys devoted to labour force issues. Five out of a total of 82 questions dealt with migration topics. In 2006 there was a one-off survey of employment in the Kyrgyz Republic. Surveys appeared to be an easy and low-cost way to collect information on almost all categories of the active population, including migrants. Basic disadvantages of the surveys were connected with underestimation of well-paid groups of population due to difficulties reaching the respondents. Information dealt with not only international migration, but also with internal migration. There were questions on absentees, specified duration of absence, country (or region/place in case of internal migration) of destination, citizenship and other characteristics. Regular surveys enable monitoring and analysis of diverse migration situations. After the 2009 Census, the panel of respondents (and their addresses) will be updated.

29. In Tajikistan, migrants' remittances comprise over a third of the GDP. Since 2005 besides statistics of labour migration produced by authorized agencies, the Republic of Tajikistan is one of a few countries in the region that have used migration cards collected at the borders to estimate flows of international labour migration from the country. The NSO of Tajikistan uses labour force and living standards sample surveys to collect information on international labour migration. Special questions ('migration modules') are included in the survey program, to collect information on the country of destination, duration of absence, and some socio-demographic and economic characteristics of migrants. In LFS-2009, an additional questionnaire was included for return labour migrants. It contained special questions that helped to clarify legality and sphere of employment in the country of destination, duration of stay and reason for returning home, knowledge of the Russian language and impact of economic crisis on decision to migrate. A special set of questions dealt with issues of exploitation and human trafficking.

30. An additional presentation from UNHCR provided the general context of collections of migration data through sample surveys. Basic advantages and challenges of surveys were mentioned from the viewpoint of methodology, sampling, costs and topics. It was emphasized that sample surveys are a convenient tool to measure both positive and negative impact of migration for sending and receiving countries and migrants themselves.

SESSION 6. REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

31. The IOM representative shared the organization's past experience in supporting the governments in countries in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia region with collecting migration data, specifically on the basis of a specially designed data sharing mechanism (DSM). The DSM became a pilot regional tool aimed at addressing well–known challenges of international migration statistics, in particular data availability and quality in the global context. On a regular basis, the participating countries provided data in an electronic format upon several agreed indicators and, in exchange, acquired access to statistics of other partner states. The DSM pilot initiative helped the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia countries to enhance their practical cooperation, both at the national level, among concerned state authorities, and across the region. Although the scope of collected data was limited, it included such key basic information as stocks and flows of international migrants, work permits, border statistics and asylum data. The DSM was a dynamically developing system that included training of staff, regular communication between main data producers and users and a technical support group. It has demonstrated a rather quick and low-cost solution to very important problems met by the countries in the sphere of statistics of international migration.

32. Problems of data collection and dissemination at the regional level were covered in the CisStat presentation. Quality of data on migration greatly depends on population censuses in the countries of the region. Sample surveys should be developed, but sampling may be an issue. Not all the countries could afford population register, although it is perhaps the best source of various data on migration. Compilation of statistics from different sources is necessary for improving understanding and distinguishing different categories of migrations and migrants. Taking into account the fact that statistics are collected, they should be available to users and the access to them (statistics) should be discussed and provided on the CisStat webpage.

SESSION 7. PRACTICAL STEPS TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CAPACITIES, DATA AVAILABILITY AND EXCHANGE

33. UNDESA presented the report of the Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research and Policy "Migrants count. Five Steps Toward Better Migration Data" (2009). Five basic recommendations on how to improve the situation quickly and at a low-cost make the essence of the report. In the report, a team of prominent experts recommends that NSOs/collection agencies should:

- Ask basic census questions, and make the tabulated answers publicly available;
- Compile and release existing administrative data;
- Centralize Labor Force surveys' individual records into a single, harmonized, annually updated database;
- Provide access to microdata, and not just tabulations;
- Include migration modules in a greater number of existing household surveys.

34. The presentation ended with a recommendation to pay more attention to data dissemination and sharing, taking into account good practices both at international, regional or bilateral level.

35. Discussion of the report on "Five Steps Toward Better Migration Data" demonstrated that national priorities, and what is more important, abilities, may vary significantly. Although all representatives agreed that recommendations are very wise in general, some of them could not be so easily implemented in the countries of the region due to financial or organizational obstacles. Censuses in all countries collect data on core topics on migration, but tabulation is not always done in a proper way. Sample surveys have been conducted in a few States of the region in different years and through different programs, but it is not possible to centralize the information obtained. Access to microdata is still rare in the region and data from administrative sources still are not available in majority of the States.

36. UNECE proposed a discussion on possible ways of establishing a clearing-house for collecting, storing and providing access to statistics of international migration – both stocks and flows in the region. International organizations like UNECE, OECD, Eurostat, World Bank etc. already have experience of such work that could be extended to new data and new countries. Some principal considerations must be taken into account while discussing the plans for the clearing-house: making sure that 1) there is no duplication of existing data collection systems; 2) there is a clear added value for final users; 3) countries are ready to participate and 4) the mechanism can be set up and maintained with resources available in UNECE and NSOs. Before promoting any new initiative it should be discussed what functions it would fulfill (data sharing only, or public dissemination), what data and from which sources would be the subject for sharing and what countries would be involved. Technical solutions of data communication should be a special topic for discussion and further elaboration.

37. The UNECE presented a proposal on the development of a toolkit, focusing on its contents. During the discussion the participants' suggested that the toolkit should be relatively short, and targeted to identified groups: statisticians, policy-makers, individuals responsible for migration management in different agencies, researchers and representatives of mass media. Each group meets the same or special problems related to data collection, processing, availability or interpretation. The toolkit is planned to be a guide that helps both users and producers to have a compact and comprehensive view on how the data should be collected, tabulated, published and understood. It was proposed that the participants reflect on what should be added or eliminated in

the draft version of the Toolkit's contents. The draft contained definitions in statistics of international migration, data sources, examples of good and not-so-good practices in data collection or publication, and a list of links to useful sources and bibliography.

38. Group work was an important part of the workshop. The participants were divided into groups and discussed various issues and problems identified in advance by the organizers. These activities were focused on:

   - Data needs and the availability of data for policy-making: current situation and plans for the near future;
   - Evaluation of the country replies to the international migration questionnaire on stocks and flows;
   - Planning the 2010-round population census;
   - Using administrative sources to produce migration statistics;
   - Discussion of the recommendations and plans to improve migration statistics in the region.

39. The discussion of data needs demonstrated asymmetry of needed and available statistics and different interests in the countries of the region. Countries of origin emphasized that information on emigration for permanent residence is considered sufficiently good, but there are no reliable methods to measure temporary emigration, especially of highly skilled migrants, and to estimate return migration. Countries with intensive frontier movement need adequate border statistics. It was mentioned that the estimation of trafficking and exploitation of migrant-minors is also a challenge.

40. The group work on countries' replies on international migration questionnaire demonstrated that in many countries data on stocks are available and are based on the most recent census results, which are in some cases out-of-date. One of the difficult areas refers to data on flows by reason for move (type of permit). National data collection systems have different classifications of reason for move (as data on flows could be obtained from different sources). This makes it difficult to adapt statistics to the questionnaire template format. However the countries motivated insufficient response with lack of time they had at their disposal, rather than lack of data. It was decided to continue data collection and complete the templates after the meeting.

41. As part of the group work on censuses, NSOs from three countries presented their plans for the next population census, including questions on migration, data tabulation, publication and access. NSO of Georgia presented plans to implement emigration module in the next census. The first experience was conducted in 2002 Census. A separate questionnaire is addressed to household members of an absentee, to collect information on diverse characteristics of the migrant, including reasons for move, marital status, educational attainment, etc. Only those migrants that have been absent from the country for 1 year and longer will be enumerated through this questionnaire, while the previous census collected information on all absentees. Although data are not flawless especially if all household members have emigrated, this approach provides an opportunity to obtain information on destination of emigration, migrants' occupation, age and gender composition.

42. The Statistical Committee of Ukraine is working on the upcoming census program. Following the CES recommendations on 2010 Population Censuses, Ukraine had included new questions to the census questionnaire. Besides place of birth and citizenship that have already been asked in the previous census, the respondent should answer a question on having resided abroad for one year and longer and then specify the country of stay and year of return.

43. The Russian Federation is going to conduct a census in October 2010 and will include questions that have been always used in the recent Russian and Soviet Union censuses: questions on place of birth and duration of residence. Only one new question was added to the 'migration module' since 2002: place of residence at a fixed moment one year prior to the census. Questions on migration in 2010 Census will be addressed to the whole population while in the previous censuses a 25% sampling was used. For budgetary considerations some core and non-core (but important for the Russian Federation) questions were excluded from the first version of census program, for instance - if a person has ever lived abroad for one year and over, and the method of citizenship acquisition. Data will be tabulated and published both in hardcopy and online. The possibility of access to microdata is still under discussion.

44. The discussion on how administrative sources are used to produce migration statistics was organized into three break-out groups:

- Group 1 discussed how administrative records are used to obtain data on labour migration and concluded that administrative systems measure labour inward migration much better than outward migration.

- Group 2 discussed whether administrative sources are really used to diversify statistics of migration in the country and found out that some administrative data are still not available for the users; for instance visa statistics, data on persons with double citizenship, statistics on residence permits and citizenship acquisition. Moreover, published administrative data are not available by age, sex and other characteristics of migrants.

- Group 3 focused on quality of administrative data on long-term migration. Data collected from the system of population registration in a place of residence are the principal and most long-standing source of flow statistics, however there are still some issues regarding coverage and data accuracy.

45. The group work on plans to improve migration statistics in the region focused on the discussion on the possible establishment of a clearing-house, the five recommendations for better migrants count and the proposal on the toolkit for guidance on statistics of migration. It was emphasized that while planning the establishment of clearing-house and data exchange it is worth taking into account what data do really exist and are available in the countries. The nine tables prepared by the UNDESA and sent to the countries of the region for data collection in connection with the workshop could be a good starting point. An authorized body with a responsible person should be chosen or established at the regional level to co-ordinate data collection, storage and dissemination.

46. In the wrap up session the main conclusions obtained during the meeting and the discussions were summarised. It was decided to continue an attempt to collect full set of data at the request of UN DESA, although some data are missing and, what is more important, some national definitions of migrants also differ. Many of the participants were inspired to publish more data on migration on the NSOs' websites, and to stimulate national administrative bodies to start publication of statistics and improve availability and diversity of administrative statistics at a national level. The participants emphasized the usefulness of the workshop to better understand the practical activities undertaken by the countries of the region, and improve the production and dissemination of statistics of international migration.

47. Most countries demonstrated keen interest in bilateral and multilateral data exchanges and some agreements were already achieved during the discussions. Some of the participants focused on the most daunting problems that limit capacity building at a national level.