

# 20th ICLS

## Guidelines concerning Statistics on International Labour Migration

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# Background

- International Conference of Labour Statisticians
- The 19th ICLS adopted a Resolution concerning further work on labour migration statistics recommending the ILO to:
  - set up a working group with the aim of sharing good practices, discussing and developing a work plan for defining international standards on labour migration statistics that can inform labour market and migration policies,
  - prepare a progress report for discussion at the next ICLS.
- In order to implement the Resolution, the ILO established a Tripartite Working Group on Labour Migration Statistics to:
  - provide guidance regarding agreed upon international standards, concepts and definitions, and
  - foster the exchange of experiences among data collection institutions and across countries.



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# Rationale



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## Protection of migrant workers:

- Manage labour migration taking into consideration the interests of different stakeholders and the origin and destination countries;
- Better protect international migrant workers;

## Limitations of the existing conceptual framework:

- Lack of international standards regarding concepts, definitions and methodologies for the measurement and harmonization of labour migration statistics.
- Data comparability issues exist within countries.

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# Scope

1. **International labour migration** is used as a generic term to refer, in general, to concepts related to the process and outcome of international labour migration, especially to:
  - a. International migrant workers
  - b. For-work international migrants
  - c. Return international migrant workers
2. **International labour migration** may take the form of international labour mobility, as temporary or short-term movement of persons across countries for employment-related purposes in the context of the free movements of workers in regional economic communities.



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# Concepts and Definitions

## Guiding international instruments, frameworks, standards concerning international migrant workers

- ILO Constitution, ILO Conventions No 97 and No 143, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (especially Article 1, 2, and 3) - in terms of migrant workers' coverage;
- UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998) – in terms of demographic definitions;
- The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses - in terms of census related definitions;
- Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization – in terms of measuring labour.

# Concepts and Definitions

- ‘Labour migration’ or ‘migrant worker’ is a marriage between two concepts:
  1. demographic one – ‘migration’ or ‘migrant’ and
  2. socio-economic one ‘labour’ or ‘worker’;
- ILO’s concern is the labour dimension, and in this context the protection of migrant workers;
- The importance of short-term (less than 3 months) migration is growing globally, and not currently covered by existing statistical definitions. Therefore, these groups remain invisible for policy-makers;
- The proposed definition of international migrant workers in the guidelines does not change the UN definition of international migrants, and does not have impact on its application.

# Concepts and Definitions



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## *Resident population of a country*

- ... comprises all persons who are *usual residents* of the country, regardless of sex, national origin, citizenship or geographic location of their place of work.
- ... includes stateless persons and non-citizens who are usual residents but have no documentation of residence.
- ... also includes usual residents who work outside the country (e.g. frontier workers, seasonal workers, other short-term migrant workers, volunteer workers and nomads).

## *Resident producer units*

- ... is an economic unit whose principal function is the production of goods and services and whose centre of economic interest is within the economic territory of a given country.

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# Concepts and Definitions

## *International Migrant workers*

- The concept intends to measure the current labour attachment of international migrants. *In this context, the terms “**international migrant workers**” and “**international migrant and non-resident foreign workers**” are equivalent, and;*
- ... includes all persons of working age present in the country of measurement who are in one of the following categories:

### *a. Usual residents :*

...international migrants who, during a specified reference period, were either in the labour force of the country of their usual residence, either in employment or in unemployment;

### *b. Not usual residents (non-resident foreign workers):*

... persons who, during a specified reference period, were not usual residents of the country but were present in the country and had labour attachment to the country (i.e. were either in employment supplying labour to resident producer units of that country or were seeking employment in that country).



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# Concepts and Definitions

## *International Migrant workers*

- The concepts of “*working age population*”, “*labour force*”, “*employment*” and “*unemployment*” are defined in line with 19th ICLS Resolution I.
- Depending on policy objectives, countries may wish to also include among international migrant workers persons who, during the specified reference period, were in the potential labour force or were engaged in unpaid forms of work, as defined in 19th ICLS Resolution I.
- The specified reference period should, in principle, be short, such as seven days or one week.

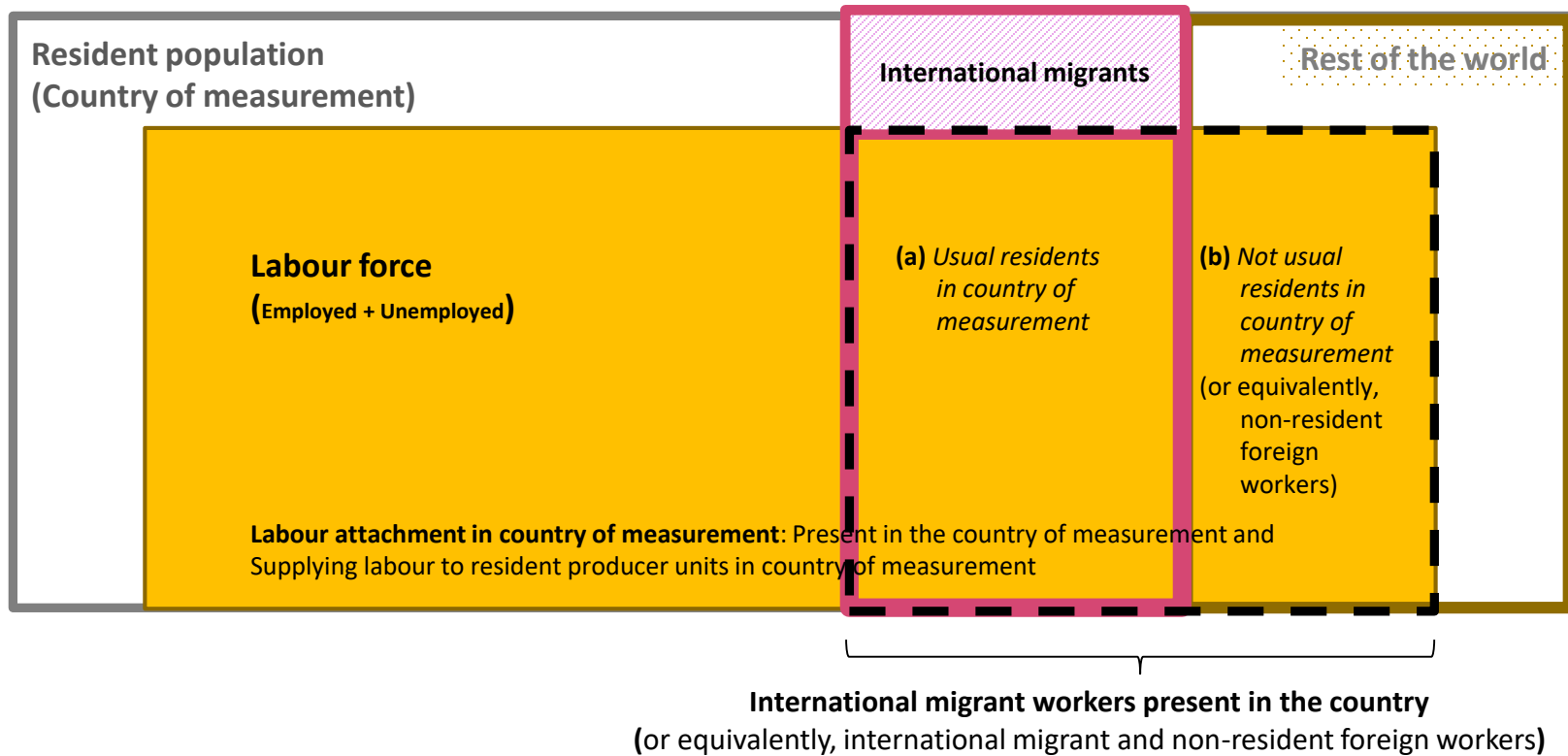


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## 1. Schematic representation of the measurement framework of international migrant workers



# Concepts and Definitions

## *For-work international migrants:*

- ... aims to measure the movements of persons from one country to another for the purpose of undertaking or seeking work.
- **For-work international migrants** are all international migrants as defined in paragraph 14, including both categories 14(a) (usual residents) and 14(b) (not usual residents), who entered the country of measurement during a specific reference period for the purpose of undertaking or seeking employment and whose intention was documented or declared at the time of entry to the country.
  - a) The specified reference period for the measurement of for-work international migrants should be long such as 12 months;
  - b) They are distinguished from other international migrants who enter the country primarily for reasons not related to undertaking or seeking employment;
  - c) The term “undertaking or seeking employment” is understood to mean engaging in employment or seeking and being available for employment;
  - d) The term “documented or declared” is understood to mean documented in official immigration registers or declared to relevant immigration authorities at the time of entry.

# Concepts and Definitions

## *Return international migrant workers:*

- Intends to provide a basis for measuring the work experiences of international migrant workers.
- Defined as all current residents of the country who were previously international migrant workers in another country or countries (for the country of measurement).
  - a) The measurement of return international migrant workers does not depend on the current labour force status of persons in the country of current residence.
  - b) They also include those current residents of the country of measurement who were working abroad without being usual residents of the country in which they worked.
  - c) Recommended to have a relatively short duration of labour attachment (6 months -cumulative) in the country of destination.
  - d) It is recommended that the reference period for the date of return should be relatively long, such as last 12 months or last 5 years, or it may be left open and then classified by date of return.

# Classifications



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International labour migration is characterized by:

1. **Directionality** – distinguishes between entry and exit on international migrant workers in the country of measurement.
2. **Duration** – refers to the duration of stay in country of labour attachment.
3. **Nature** – refers to permanent or temporary stay in the country of labour attachment.

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# Future Actions

- There is a need to continue the methodological work related to these guidelines, **in particular, on appropriate methodologies for capturing and collecting data on the main categories and subcategories of international migrant workers, for-work international migrants, and return international migrant worker.**
- Expand ILO's technical assistance on labour migration statistics to support the implementation of these guidelines by member countries.
- Report to future sessions of the ICLS as appropriate.
- [www.ilo.org/20thicls](http://www.ilo.org/20thicls)



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# Thank you for your attention!



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