



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses

Twelfth Meeting
Geneva, 28-30 October 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 October 2009, in Room V.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Compliance with Conference of European Statisticians recommendations.
3. Enumeration of homeless people.
4. Census quality and disclosure control.
5. Census output to meet users needs.
6. On line data collection.

* Delegates are requested to complete a registration form available from the UNECE Internet Web site and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 31 July, either by fax (+41-22 917 0040) or by e-mail (mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (+4122-9174147).

7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The session is organised jointly with Eurostat following the provisions of the UNECE Statistical Programme, approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2009.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

2. The UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat organize regularly sessions for the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses. The main purpose of the sessions is to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries and increase knowledge on various issues related to the planning and conduction of the population and housing censuses of the 2010 round. This will result in increased capacity by countries to plan and conduct the next population and housing censuses in compliance with the “CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing”. The proposed provisional agenda is agreed upon by the members of the UNECE-Eurostat Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval by the participants of the session.

Item 2. Compliance with Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations

3. In this item, countries are expected to exchange their experiences with regard to the compliance with the CES Recommendations in the planning and conduct of the censuses of the 2010 round. Contributions could include reviews of different problems and issues faced in countries, or in-depth discussion of specific issues, such as: implementation of the definition of place of usual residence and treatment of students or other population groups; possible implications of the adoption of a specific census methodology (including the register-based census or other non-traditional census methods) on compliance with the CES Recommendations.

Item 3. Enumeration of homeless people

4. Homeless people are traditionally very difficult to measure in all types of population censuses. Countries usually make special efforts to ensure homeless people are counted as accurately as possible. Countries, international organisations and agencies working with the homeless are expected to share their experiences, particularly with respect to different census methodologies.

Item 4. Census quality and disclosure control

5. A key aspect of the census preparations is to assure that adequate attention is paid to the different attributes of quality (including relevance, accuracy, timeliness, cost-effectiveness) in all census phases and processes. Aspects related to the measurement of different attributes of quality will be discussed on the basis of contributions of countries and international organisations. Special attention will be paid to issues related to the accuracy of census results,

also in relation to the characteristics of the census methodology adopted. For instance, when some census variables are collected adopting sampling strategies (for instance using “long forms”) or are based on results of sample surveys, then the introduction of sampling error has an impact on the accuracy of the results that must be carefully evaluated.

6. One of the main characteristics of the census results, which makes them particularly relevant compared to the results of most of the other statistical sources, is the possibility to provide data at very fine territorial level and for very small population groups. However, in providing data at such levels of detail, measures have to be taken to guarantee the confidentiality of the results. The issue of disclosure control is particularly relevant for census variables collected adopting sampling strategies or based on results of sample surveys, given the limited number of cases that may be found in the cells for these variables. In this context, the issue of disclosure control is linked to the issue of accuracy and statistical significance of the census results.

Item 5. Census output to meet users needs

7. The main objective of the census is to produce timely and high-quality statistics that meet the needs of census users, regardless of the census methodology adopted. For this purpose, consultation with the users is a key aspect of the census preparations, to make sure that the census output will meet as much as possible the users’ needs in terms of content and formats. In this item, countries are expected to discuss the mechanisms set up to make sure that census outputs would meet the needs of different categories of census users. Representatives of different categories of users will also be invited to participate to contribute to the discussion

Item 6. On line data collection

8. The possibility to fill online the census form is offered as an option by an increasing number of countries, for different purposes, including the attempt to increase the coverage of some difficult-to-count population groups (such as very mobile young professionals) and to improve data quality, the need to respond to expectations and demand by the public or to comply with “e-government” policies. The available experiences with regard to the internet census confirm that some of these objectives can be met, at least partially, but no cost savings can be expected at least in the short-medium term. There are also important implications of the internet census in terms of technology and census organisation. Large investments have to be made and there are potentially serious risks for the overall census success in case of any real or perceived breach in the security of the internet census channel. Countries are expected to discuss about their experiences with the internet census, based on past censuses or on the preparations for the next census.

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