



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
8 April 2010

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

#### Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses

##### Thirteenth Meeting

Geneva, 7-9 July 2010

### Annotated provisional agenda

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 7 July 2010 in Room XXIII Registration starting at 8 a.m.<sup>1</sup>.

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers.
2. Census communication and dissemination, including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
3. Plans for census quality evaluation.
4. Beyond the 2010 census round: Plans for the 2020 round.
5. Adoption of the report.

#### II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

The meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat following the provisions of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2010, approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2010.

---

<sup>1</sup> Delegates are requested to complete a registration form available from the UNECE Internet Web site and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 11 June, either by fax (+41-22 917 0040) or e-mail (benedicte.boudol@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. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants are strongly advised to present themselves at the office by 9 a.m. at the latest, to avoid long queues that may be possible in connection with large meetings taking place at UNOG. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (+4122-9172152).

## **1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

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.

## **2. Census communication and dissemination, including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

Census communication and dissemination are key components of the census programs, which need to be carefully planned in advance, and provided with the required resources. Census communication is particularly important for censuses that include field data collection for the whole or part of the population. The communication campaign should aim at informing the population about the census, explain its purpose, provide details on the modalities of the data collection, reinforce public trust and ensure the cooperation of the respondents. In this session countries are expected to exchange experiences and information on their plans for the census communication and publicity campaign for the current census. Countries that have already conducted their data collection exercises will also have the opportunity to present the results of the public’s reaction to the communication campaign, and/or explain how they reacted to difficult or unexpected situations.

The dissemination of census results should be given prominence in all countries regardless of the census methodology adopted, since “only used statistics are useful statistics”. Considering the huge resources normally spent conducting the census and producing the most relevant and accurate results, it is fundamental that appropriate means are identified to disseminate the census results and adequate resources are invested.

Countries are expected to share information on their plans for dissemination of census results, including different media to be used and products to be developed to satisfy the various needs of different user categories. Special attention will be paid to the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the dissemination of census results. Eurostat is also expected to report on the development of the EU census hub, to be used for disseminating the results of the 2011 censuses in member countries.

## **3. Plans for census quality evaluation**

No census is perfect and, even though all possible efforts are made to minimise the impact of different types of errors on the census results, it has to be recognised that some errors will always be present. For this reason, it is very important to plan and implement a comprehensive census quality evaluation program. The objective should be the assessment of coverage and content errors. The results of the evaluation should be disseminated together with the census data to give users the most complete information about census results. For traditional censuses, evaluation methodologies based on Post-Enumeration Surveys are normally adopted, in particular to estimate the coverage error. For other census approaches, other methodologies can be adopted, based for instance on sample surveys or

other sources used as benchmark. It is expected that countries will share information in this session on their plans for census quality evaluation.

#### **4. Beyond the 2010 census round: Plans for the 2020 round**

For the 2010 round of censuses, an increasing number of countries in the ECE region are adopting an innovative census methodology, often with the objective to use data from existing registers, or to address some of the shortcomings of traditional censuses. In several cases the 2010 census was planned as a sort of transition census, in view of a fully register-based census in 2020. For instance, in some countries where registers' coverage and accuracy is currently not fully satisfactory, their data are used in combination with other sources. In this session, countries are expected to share information on their plans for the census of the 2020 round.

---