



**SECOND MEETING
ARAB TASK FORCE ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES
2020 ROUND**

Cairo, 22-23 January 2017

Information Note

Introduction:

In June 2015, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution entitled "2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme" to encourage Member States to implement the population and housing censuses at least once during the period 2015-2024, emphasizing on the importance of the preparation stage for the censuses (budget, dissemination and data accessibility for different parties in order to benefit from its result in the development plans and studies). Moreover, the ECOSOC stresses on the countries' need to implement the quality standards adopted worldwide. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of the 2020 World Census Programme for monitoring the progress made by countries in the context of the 2030 development agenda¹.

At the regional level, the ESCWA Statistical Committee at its eleventh session held in Amman, during 4-5 February 2015, asked ESCWA to and its member countries to revive the Task Force on Population and Housing in the Arab countries. The Committee asked ESCWA to coordinate the Task Force activities in cooperation with international and regional related organizations to assist the Arab countries to implement their population census during the period 2015-2024.

In response to the Statistical Committee recommendations, ESCWA organized in collaboration with the Arab Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the first Task Force meeting on Population and Housing Censuses in Amman, during 8-9 November 2015.

The meeting concluded with a number of recommendations, including:

- Conduct an in-depth assessment of the transition' requirements from traditional census to census based on records;
- Focus on alternative methods to collect census data and the use of technology during the census phases;
- The importance of Population and Housing Censuses in the provision of sustainable development indicators.

Furthermore, ESCWA has published a study related to the meeting outputs on the use of administrative records in Population and Housing Censuses. In addition, ESCWA has designed a web page related to Censuses in the Arab region. It is available in both Arabic and English languages²⁻³

In order to complement regional efforts in the field of Population and Housing Censuses and in response to the recommendations of the First Task Force meeting, ESCWA is organizing in collaboration with the Arab Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics of Egypt, the Second meeting for the Arab Task Force team of Population and Housing Censuses in Cairo during 22-23 January 2017.

¹ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ecosoc_2020wp.htm

² <https://www.unescwa.org/Publications/administrative-records-population-housing-censuses>

³ <https://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/arab-population-housing-censuses>

Both Jordan and the Emirate of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates has carried out a successful census using the technology in 2015, whereas other countries such as Egypt, The Emirate of Ajman, Palestine, Sudan and Algeria are undertaking intensive activities in planning and preparing for the coming census by using new technology. Noting that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries are planning to implement a census based on administrative records in 2020 census round. While, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania are publishing and analyzing the previous census data. The implementation of censuses in other countries such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Lebanon remains subject to security and political conditions.

In this context, ESCWA and the regional office of the United Nations Population Fund are preparing studies on:

1. The possibility of conducting Population Censuses using several methods especially the administrative records data, where the study sheds light on the practices of member countries and some European countries on the use of administrative records;
2. Methods of dissemination of census data;
3. Study proposal on the provision of data from the Population and Housing Censuses for the sustainable development agenda indicators 2030.

The results of the studies mentioned above will be discussed during the meeting, which will be held in Cairo during 22-23 January 2017.

A. Objectives

The meeting aims to achieve the following goals:

- To discuss the experience of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the 2015 census and the countries' plan that is in the process of preparation and implementation of the 2017 census;
- To discuss the method of collecting census data from different sources including administrative records as a main source;
- To display multiple ways for disseminating the census data and its use in planning for development;
- To discuss the role of Population and Housing Censuses in providing data for the sustainable development agenda 2030' indicators;
- To discuss emerging issues and related topics in the 2020 census round;
- To discuss the census task force' achievements and the action plan during 2017.

Expected outcomes:

- 1- A study on census implementation using different sources mainly administrative registers: challenges and opportunities;
- 2- A study on dissemination and using Census data;
- 3- A study on the use of census data for the sustainable development indicators;
- 4- A summary report of the meeting

B. Participants

Directors of Population and Housing Census from national statistical offices or their respective delegates as well as regional experts at the regional and international level and experts from UNFPA.

C. Documents

Experts' papers and countries' presentations.

D. Language

The language of the workshop will be conducted in English and Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

E. Venue and time of the workshop

The meeting will be held during 22-23 January 2017 at the Intercontinental Semiramis Hotel in Cairo, Egypt.

F. Administrative arrangements

Participants are kindly requested to make their own arrangements to get the visa from the Egyptian embassy in their home country (if needed). Upon their arrival to Cairo airport, they will need to hire a taxi to reach the hotel.

ESCWA will make the necessary administrative and logistical arrangements. For more information regarding the logistical arrangements, kindly contact: Mrs. Zeina Sinno at the following e-mail: sinnoz@un.org

G. For further information, kindly contact:

Mr. Ismail Lubbad
Demographer / Statistician
Statistics Division
UN-ESCWA
Tel : + 961 1 978 358
Fax: + 961 1 981 510
E-mail: lubbad@un.org