

**World Population and Housing Census Programme:  
The United Nation's Role**

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Utilization and Analysis of the 2000 Round of Censuses**

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## **Introduction**

Population and housing censuses have been, and will continue to be, a major source of data for formulating policies and programmes in the foreseeable future by governments and other organizations of many countries. They are, for most countries, the main source for reliable and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of population. Censuses also provide data for the smallest geographical areas or locality within a country, and potentially, for special population groups and phenomena that change slowly over time.

The scientific recording of the population, i.e., census taking as is currently known, dates back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in some countries, and in others, the first census was taken only in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The evolution of census methodologies and their adoption have varied widely across countries worldwide. The scope and content of the census has also varied among countries and in some cases from one census to another in the same country. It was not until the 1950s that global and regional recommendations<sup>1</sup> for more standardized census design, concepts, definitions and procedures, were agreed to by many countries. This was also the time when a worldwide consensus developed on the essential features of a census: individual enumeration, universality within a defined territory, simultaneity and defined periodicity.

### **Current status of population censuses**

Almost all countries have now conducted at least one census. Considering the current round of censuses, covering the period 1995 to 2004, one hundred sixty seven countries and areas<sup>2</sup> - accounting for about 85 per cent of the world's population - have conducted one or more censuses as of May 2002: Africa, 31 out of 56; North America, 33 out of 37; South America, 9 out of 14; Asia, 38 out of 50; Europe, 35 out of 47; Oceania, 21 out of 25.<sup>3</sup> The list of countries that conducted censuses in the 1990 and 2000 census decades, which is given in **Annex 1** can also be accessed at the United Nations Statistics Division web site (<http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/demog/cendate/index.html>). Another 37 countries expect to conduct their censuses by the end of 2004. The attached map depicts the distribution of countries that conducted censuses during the 2000 census decade.

### **The role of United Nations in supporting census activities**

Over the past five census decades, the major role of the United Nations in support of the World Population and Housing Census Programme has been in the development and setting of guidelines and international standards to facilitate the collection and production of population and housing statistics and also to promote international comparability of such statistics. To this end, the census programme of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is designed with the primary goal of assisting countries in planning and carrying out improved and cost efficient censuses so as to become more effective in the conduct of censuses and to disseminate reliable results in the shortest possible time. This goal has been addressed through the preparation of reference and training materials and the provision of

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<sup>1</sup> The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, M67, 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Countries that conducted two censuses during 2000 rounds were counted only once.

<sup>3</sup> Regional groupings of countries follows that of the United Nations Demographic Yearbook

technical assistance services. The programme has encompassed the following set of activities, among others:

- establishing principles and recommendations in collaboration with member countries;
- building national capacity in the production and dissemination of census data;
- international data compilation and dissemination.

A brief description of these activities is given below.

#### **A. *Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses***

The most important methodological publication of the United Nations on censuses is the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, which is revised as needed based on the experiences of countries and expert opinions in the field. UNSD has been and continues to be instrumental in updating concepts and definitions and elaborating new ones as necessary. It has reviewed and adopted international standards on classifications. It has accomplished these tasks through the Statistical Commission, and in collaboration with member Countries. It has also convened several meetings to solicit views of experts in the field, and exchanged experience at international meetings such as the Population Census Conference organized by the Association of National Census and Statistics Directors of America, Asia and the Pacific and the Census Coordinating Committee of the Caribbean Community.

The *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* have been supplemented by manuals and handbooks either to elaborate on issues dealt with in the *Principles and Recommendations* or as updates. The manuals and handbooks were deemed important because census offices in many countries are temporarily created for the duration of the census taking and are therefore unable to maintain institutional memory of the census experiences.

Several methodological publications, which cover good practices among others issues, have been produced. The publications have contributed to major innovations in the field (see list of publications in **Annex 2**).

#### **B. *Capacity building***

Considerable effort was done by UNSD, over the years, to contribute to the success of the World Census Programme through the provision of country level technical assistance and by organizing sub regional and regional seminars and workshops. The seminars were important in identifying region-specific issues and problems and setting guidelines on the development of concepts and methodologies based on shared experiences.

##### **(1) *Seminars and training workshops:***

UNSD has provided technical assistance to many countries on various issues related to population and housing censuses in the form of international, regional and sub-regional training workshops. The objective was to develop critical mass of expertise in the different phases of the census operation to create self-reliance as country-level technical advisory service were becoming fewer due to dwindling flow of resources from funding agencies.

The seminars have reinforced existing networks and created opportunities for census managers to share information among peers and thus diminishing isolation of national census offices. The workshops have facilitated the networking of experts and created opportunities to sharing of information among them in the sub-regions and regions for mutual support in their tasks and increased the dialogue among stakeholders.

The workshops covered topics related to the different phases of a census operation such as management, mapping, questionnaire design, computer data editing and processing, dissemination, etc. Newly agreed international recommendations and standards are also introduced to large numbers of countries in such workshops. The United Nations workshops were organized by UNSD in collaboration with the hosting countries, UN regional offices, as well as by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and sub-regional organizations such as South Pacific Commission (SPC), CARICOM Secretariat and South African Development Community (SADC). It has also partnered with national statistical offices such as the US Census Bureau and Australian Bureau of Statistics, in some of the workshops, to draw on their strengths and achievements in certain areas of the census operation. It has also enjoyed the collaboration of institutions such as Population Studies Programme of the University of the South Pacific in the past few years. The list of workshops conducted in the last five years is given in **Annex 3**.

The above mentioned support has helped many national statistical/census offices in their efforts to provide stakeholders with comprehensive, timely and reliable social, economic and demographic data by taking into account international and regional recommendations relating to population and housing censuses. UNSD will continue to support countries build capabilities in implementing successful census programmes.

### ***(2) Technical advisory service:***

Advisory services have been undertaken by UNSD for many years upon the request of countries to provide technical support in conducting censuses. However, The technical advisory service activities have been reduced during the last ten years partly due to limited flow of resources from the United Nations System to UNSD and partly because a number of countries have developed a critical mass of census professionals. Notwithstanding the resource constraints, UNSD has worked closely with the Country Support Teams of UNFPA. Although UNSD continues to provide technical advisory services when funds are made available from other sources, it continues to focus on capacity building through regional and international trainings and the production of manuals and handbooks on new developments and on good practices based on the experiences of the countries.

### ***C. International data compilation and dissemination***

The United Nations Demographic Yearbook (DYB) is one of the widely circulated publications of the United Nations since 1948. The DYB is designed to provide demographic and social data to a wide array of users such as demographers, sociologists, economists, the media, and the general public. It provides users with data to measure changes in individual countries over time and make comparisons among countries. It also provides essential information on the national capacity to conduct censuses and disseminate their results. The DYB presents official data for each country covering such aspects as population size, age and sex distributions, urban and rural residence, fertility, mortality, marriages and divorces. The

data are collected from national statistics offices through questionnaires sent by the UNSD on an annual basis. Other sources of data are publications by national statistical offices based on population and housing censuses, demographic surveys and vital registrations. The DYB also provides metadata, as technical notes and footnotes, on issues such as the scope of censuses, quality of vital statistics and on methodology used in preparing estimates and projections, among others, for each reporting country to assist the reader in using the tables. The metadata gives some indication on the capability of countries to generate timely and quality data. The DYB presents data according to internationally agreed upon concepts and definitions as set out in the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* and other publications of the UN specialized agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The success of the DYB is mainly due to the contribution by the countries in providing data through the regular questionnaires sent by the United Nations. The Data cells for some countries are however blank particularly with respect to vital statistics. In addition, for some countries there is a long lag between the census enumeration date and the release of detailed population and housing data with a further delay by the time they reach UNSD. In some cases, lack of consistency and poor quality of data hamper international comparability and monitoring of regional and international demographic trends.

### **An assessment of the past**

Census planners face increasing demands from stakeholders for detailed data and more rapid feedback while they seek ways to increase citizen participation in censuses. In order to assess past activities and identify issues and emerging problems from the current round of censuses (1995-2004), in light of many new developments in census operations in recent years and to seek solutions that would serve to guide census planning during the next round (2005-2014), UNSD organized the United Nations Symposium, *Global Review of 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: Mid-Decade Assessment and Future Prospects* which was held in New York from 7-10 August 2001. The Symposium addressed the question: "When and under what circumstances do censuses succeed?" It considered problems that have arisen in the current round of censuses (1995-2004) and solutions to overcome these problems. It also discussed how these experiences might guide countries in the planning of the next round of censuses (2005-2014).

A number of issues of particular significance to the successful implementation of census programmes were identified and highlighted during the Symposium. Discussions of the Symposium focused on several main issues, among them:

- strategies for involving stakeholders in census activities including implementing dissemination programmes that maximize the use of census results by concerned stakeholders;
- strategies for choosing among data-collection methods;
- funding for censuses;
- adapting new technologies to census operations;
- identifying and resolving problems of census mapping;
- maintaining census-related activities during the intercensal years; and
- methods of evaluating censuses.

The summary of the report of the Symposium is given in Annex 4. The full report of the Symposium and all other documents can be accessed at the UNSD web site <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/demog/census/index.htm>.

### **A look to the future**

The Statistical Commission, at its thirty-third session in March 2002, reviewed a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division entitled *Review of the 2000 Population and Housing Census Programme and proposed plans of the United Nations Statistics Division for the next census decade (2005-2014)* (E/CN.3/2002/2)<sup>4</sup>. After having considered the report and recognizing that censuses will continue to be the main source of social, economic, demographic and housing data, particularly for data on small areas and for special groups in the foreseeable future, the Commission requested UNSD to plan and undertake a wide range of activities in the form of publications, training workshops and technical advisory services. The actions taken by the Commission is given in **Annex 5**.

UNSD recognizes the demand to conduct targeted workshops, resources permitting, dealing with the issues raised at the Symposium. It anticipates a continuation of the training programmes and workshops in collaboration with UNFPA and other UN agencies, to strengthen national capabilities to undertake census activities. These undertakings will continue to assist in building regional and sub-regional understanding of new developments in census methods, and sharing of experiences through exchange of expertise.

In light of the Commission's recommendations UNSD is developing its work programme and strategies to achieve the task set by the Commission. The inputs of the 2002 Population Census Conference in crystallizing the UNSD's response to the actions taken by the Commission, given in **Annex 5**, into workable outputs will be valuable and will help UNSD in developing a realistic work programme based on countries' needs. UNSD looks forward to collaboration with population and housing censuses managers and experts, who specialize in various aspects of censuses, in improving census methodologies and ensuring wider coverage in terms of country participations in the coming census decade. UNSD believes that this Conference is important for sharing experiences and hopes to pass the lessons learnt to countries in other regions.

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<sup>4</sup> The report "Review of the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme and proposed plans of the United Nations Statistics Division for the next census decade (2005-2014)" is available in the six official UN languages at <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/statcom/sc2002.htm>.

## References

- United Nations (1958). *Handbook of Population Census Methods*, Volume I, *General Aspects of a Population Census*, Series F, No. 5, Rev. 1, Sales No. 58.XVII.6 (Vol. I), New York.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (1998). *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 1*, Series M, No. 67/Rev.1, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8, New York.
- \_\_\_\_\_, (2001). *Demographic Yearbook 1999*, Sales No. E/F.01.XVIII.1, New York.

**Annex 1. The list of countries which conducted censuses in the 1990 and 2000 census decades based on data available as of May 5, 2002**

Source: UNSD, <http://www.un.org/depts/unsd/demog/cendate/index.html>

Note: Where census dates are underlined, it indicates that the UNSD web page is linked to the national population and housing census web page.

<b>Symbols</b>			
[ ]	A census was planned for that year but there is no information available to the United Nations Statistics Division that it was carried out.		
(...)	It is expected that a census will be held during the decade.		
-	No census taken or planned in the period indicated.		
Countries or areas	1990 Round of censuses (1985-1994)	2000 Round of censuses	
		1995-1999	2000-2004
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Algeria	20 March 1987	25 Jun-9 Jul 1998	-
Angola	-	-	2004
Benin	15 February 1992	-	February 2002
Botswana	21 August 1991	-	August 2001
Burkina Faso	10-20 Dec. 1985 <a href="#">(P)</a>	10-20 Dec. 1996	-
Burundi	16-30 August 1990	-	2002
Cameroon	10 April 1987	-	April 2002
Cape Verde	23 June 1990	-	<a href="#">16-30 June 2000</a>
Central African Republic	8 December 1988	1998	March 2002
Chad	8 April 1993	-	2003
Comoros	15 September 1991	-	September 2002
Congo	20 Nov-5 Dec 1994 <a href="#">(U)</a>	6 Jun-30 Jul 1996	(...)
Côte d'Ivoire	1 March 1988	21 Nov-20 Dec 1998	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	-	2003
Djibouti	-	-	2003
Egypt	17-18 Nov. 1986	19 Nov. 1996	-
Equatorial Guinea	4 July 1994 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	2004
Eritrea	-	-	December 2002
Ethiopia	11 October 1994	-	July 2004
Gabon	3 July 1993 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	2003
Gambia	15 April 1993 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	15 April 2003
Ghana	-	-	26 March 2000

Guinea	-	1-15 Dec. 1996	-
Guinea Bissau	1 December 1991	-	(...)
Kenya	24 August 1989 <a href="#">(P)</a>	<a href="#">24 August 1999</a>	-
Lesotho	12 April 1986 <a href="#">(P)</a>	14 April 1996	8 April 2001
Liberia	-	-	-
Libya Arab Jamahiriya		August 1995	-
Madagascar	1 August 1993	-	2003
Malawi	1-21 Sep. 1987	<a href="#">12 Sep. 1998</a>	-
Mali	1-30 April 1987	1-15 April 1998	-
Mauritania	5-20 April 1988		<a href="#">November 2000</a>
Mauritius	1 July 1990 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	2 July 2000 <a href="#">(P)</a>
Mauritius	5 Feb.-17 June 1990 <a href="#">(H)</a>		2000 <a href="#">(H)</a>
Morocco	2 September 1994	-	2002
Mozambique	-	1-15 Aug. 1997 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-
Namibia	21 October 1991	-	September 2001
Niger	20 May-3 June 1988	-	20 May 2001
Nigeria	26 November 1991 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	November 2002
Réunion	15 March 1990	-	-
Rwanda	15 August 1991	-	2002
Saint Helena	22 February 1987	8 March 1998	-
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	4 August 1991	-	August 2001
Senegal	27 May 1988	-	November 2001
Seychelles	17 August 1987 <a href="#">(P)</a>	29 August 1997	2002
Seychelles	26-28 August 1994		
Sierra Leone	15 December 1985	-	January 2003
Somalia	15 February 1987 <a href="#">(2)</a>	-	-
South Africa	5 March 1985	<a href="#">9-31 Oct. 1996</a>	October 2001
South Africa	7 March 1991		
Sudan	15 April 1993 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	2003
Swaziland	25 August 1986	11-12 May 1997	-
Togo	November 1993	-	(...)
Tunisia	20 April 1994	-	2004
Uganda	12-19 January 1991	-	August 2002
United Republic of Tanzania	28 August 1988	-	August 2002
Western Sahara <a href="#">(3)</a>	-	-	-
Zambia	20 August 1990	-	25 October 2000

Zimbabwe	18 August 1992	-	18 August 2002
<b>AMERICA, NORTH</b>			
Anguilla	13 April 1992	-	9 May 2001
Antigua and Barbuda	28 May 1991 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	28 May 2001
Aruba	6 October 1991	-	October 2000
Bahamas	1 May 1990	-	1 May 2000
Barbados	2 May 1990	-	<a href="#">1 May 2000</a>
Belize	12 May 1991	-	<a href="#">13 May 2000</a>
Bermuda	20 May 1991	-	May 2000
British Virgin Is.	12 May 1991	-	21 May 2001
Canada	3 June 1986	<a href="#">14 May 1996</a>	<a href="#">15 May 2001</a>
Canada	4 June 1991		
Cayman Islands	15 October 1989	[1999]	-
Costa Rica	-	-	<a href="#">26 June 2000</a>
Cuba	-	-	-
Dominica	12 May 1991	-	12 May 2001
Dominican Republic	24-25 Sep. 1993	-	November 2001
El Salvador	27 Sep.-6 Oct. 1992	-	2002
Greenland <a href="#">(4)</a>	-	-	-
Grenada	12 May 1991	-	25 May 2001
Guadeloupe	15 March 1990	[1997]	-
Guatemala	17-30 April 1994	-	2003
Haiti	-	-	September 2001
Honduras	29 May 1988	-	July 2000
Jamaica	7 April 1991	-	10 September 2001
Martinique	15 March 1990	[1997]	-
Mexico	12-16 March 1990	-	<a href="#">14 February 2000</a>
Montserrat	12 May 1991	-	12 May 2001
Netherlands Antilles	27 January 1992	-	1 January 2001
Nicaragua	-	25 April 1995	-
Panama	13 May 1990	-	<a href="#">14 May 2000</a>
Puerto Rico	1 April 1990	-	April 2000
St. Kitts and Nevis	12 May 1991	-	13 May 2001
Saint Lucia	12 May 1991	-	<a href="#">22 May 2001</a>
St. Pierre and Miquelon	5 March 1990	[1997]	-
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	12 May 1991	-	14 May 2001
Trinidad and Tobago	2 May 1990	-	15 May 2000
Turke and Caicos Islands	31 May 1990	-	20 August 2001

United States of America	1 April 1990	-	<a href="#">1 April 2000</a>
United States Virgin Islands	1 April 1990	-	1 April 2000
<b>AMERICA, SOUTH</b>			
Argentina	15 May 1991	-	<a href="#">17-18 Nov. 2001</a>
Bolivia	3 June 1992	-	<a href="#">5 September 2001</a>
Brazil	1 September 1991	August 1996	<a href="#">1 August 2000</a>
Chile	22 April 1992	-	<a href="#">24 April 2002</a>
Colombia	15 October 1985	-	October 2003
Colombia	24 October 1993		
Ecuador	25 November 1990	-	<a href="#">25 November 2001</a>
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	16 November 1986	24 April 1996	8 April 2001
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	5 March 1991		
French Guiana	15 March 1990	<a href="#">8 March 1999</a>	-
Guyana	12 May 1991	-	May 2002
Paraguay	<a href="#">26 August 1992</a>	-	<a href="#">2002</a>
Peru	11 July 1993	-	2003
Suriname	-	-	January 2003
Uruguay	23 October 1985	<a href="#">22 May 1996</a>	-
Venezuela	21 October 1990	-	<a href="#">21 October 2001</a>
<b>ASIA</b>			
Afghanistan	-	-	-
Armenia	12 January 1989	-	10-19 October 2001
Azerbaijan	12 January 1989	27 January 1999	-
Bahrain	16 November 1991	-	2001
Bangladesh	11 March 1991	-	27 January 2001
Bhutan	-	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	7 August 1991	-	May 2001
Cambodia	-	3 March 1998 (P)	-
China	1 July 1990	-	<a href="#">1 November 2000 (P)</a>
China, Hong Kong SAR	11 March 1986 (S)	16 March 1996 (S)	<a href="#">March 2001</a>
China, Hong Kong SAR	15 March 1991		
China, Macao SAR	30 August 1991	-	2001
Cyprus	1 October 1992	-	2002
East Timor	31 October 1990 (P)	-	2000
Georgia	12 January 1989	-	17 January 2002

India	1 March 1991	-	<a href="#">1 March 2001</a>
Indonesia	31 October 1990	-	<a href="#">30 June 2000</a>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	22 September 1986	Sep. - Oct. 1996	2001
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	11 December 1991		
Iraq	17 October 1987	16 October 1997	-
Israel	-	<a href="#">4 November 1995</a>	-
Japan	1 October 1985 <a href="#">(P)</a>	1 October 1995 <a href="#">(P)</a>	<a href="#">1 October 2000 (P)</a>
Japan	1 October 1988 <a href="#">(H)</a>	October 1998 <a href="#">(H)</a>	March 2003 <a href="#">(H)</a>
Jordan	<a href="#">10 December 1994</a>	-	2004
Kazakhstan	12 January 1989	26 February 1999	-
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	31 December 1993 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	(...)
Korea, Republic of	1 November 1985	1 November 1995	1 November 2000
Korea, Republic of	1 November 1990		
Kuwait	20 April 1985	20 April 1995	-
Kyrgyzstan	12 January 1989	<a href="#">25 March 1999</a>	-
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	1 March 1985 <a href="#">(P)</a>	1 March 1995	-
Lebanon	-	-	(...)
Malaysia	<a href="#">14 August 1991</a>	-	<a href="#">5 July 2000</a>
Maldives	25-28 March 1985	25 March 1995	<a href="#">31 Mar.-7 Apr. 2000</a>
Maldives	8 March 1990		
Mongolia	5 January 1989	-	<a href="#">5-11 January 2000</a>
Myanmar	-	-	2004
Nepal	22 June 1991	-	22 June 2001
Occupied Palestinian Territory	-	<a href="#">9 December 1997</a>	-
Oman	1 December 1993	-	December 2003 <a href="#">(P)</a>
Pakistan	-	2-18 March 1998	-
Philippines	1 May 1990	1 September 1995	<a href="#">1 May 2000</a>
Qatar	16 March 1986	March 1997	-
Saudi Arabia	27 September 1992	-	2002
Singapore	30 June 1990	-	<a href="#">30 June 2000</a>
Sri Lanka	-	-	<a href="#">17 July 2001</a>
Syrian Arab Rep.	3-9 September 1994	-	2004
Tajikistan	12 January 1989	-	January 2000
Thailand	1 April 1990	-	<a href="#">1 April 2000</a>
Turkey	20 October 1985	October 1997 <a href="#">(H)</a>	October 2000 <a href="#">(P)</a>
Turkey	21 October 1990		
Turkmenistan	12 January 1989	10 January 1995	January 2004

United Arab Emirates	17-23 Dec. 1985	17 December 1995	2005
Uzbekistan	12 January 1989	-	2001
Viet Nam	1 April 1989	1 April 1999	-
Yemen	1-18 Feb. 1986 <a href="#">(6)</a>	-	2004
Yemen	29-30 March 1988 <a href="#">(7)</a>		
Yemen	16-17 December 1994		
<b>EUROPE</b>			
Albania	12 April 1989	-	April 2001
Andorra <a href="#">(4)</a>	-	-	-
Austria	15 May 1991	-	May 2001
Belarus	12 January 1989	14 February 1999	-
Belgium	1 March 1991	-	1 March 2001
Bosnia Herzegovina	31 March 1991	-	March 2001
Bulgaria	4 December 1985	4 December 1992	1 March 2001
Channel Islands	23 March 1986 <a href="#">(P)</a>	10 March 1996	<a href="#">29 April 2001</a>
Channel Islands	10 March 1991		
Croatia	31 March 1991	-	<a href="#">March 2001</a>
Czech Republic	3 March 1991	-	<a href="#">1 March 2001</a>
Denmark <a href="#">(4)</a>	1 January 1991	-	January 2001
Estonia	12 January 1989	-	<a href="#">31 Mar.-9 Apr. 2000</a>
Faeroe Islands <a href="#">(4)</a>	-	-	-
Finland	17 November 1985	31 December 1995	December 2000
Finland	31 December 1990		
France	5 March 1990	<a href="#">8 March 1999</a>	-
Germany <a href="#">(8)</a>	25 May 1987 <a href="#">(9)</a>	30 September 1995 <a href="#">(H)</a>	(...)
Gibraltar	14 October 1991	-	(...)
Greece	17 March 1991	-	April 2001
Hungary	1 January 1990	-	<a href="#">1 February 2001</a>
Iceland <a href="#">(4)</a>	-	-	March 2001
Ireland	13 April 1986 <a href="#">(P)</a>	28 April 1996	<a href="#">28 April 2002</a>
Ireland	21 April 1991		
Isle of Man	6-7 April 1986	14 April 1996	2001
Isle of Man	14 April 1991	-	
Italy	20 October 1991	-	<a href="#">21 October 2001</a>
Latvia	12 January 1989		<a href="#">31 March 2000</a>
Liechtenstein	4 December 1990	-	(...)
Lithuania	12 January 1989	-	<a href="#">6 April 2001</a>

Luxembourg	1 March 1991	-	<a href="#">15 February 2001</a>
Malta	16 November 1985	November 1995	-
Monaco <a href="#">(4)</a>	23 July 1990	-	2000
Netherlands	1 January 1991	-	January 2001
Norway	3 November 1990	-	3 November 2001
Poland	6 December 1988	-	<a href="#">21 May 2002</a>
Portugal	15 April 1991	-	<a href="#">March 2001</a>
Republic of Moldova	12 January 1989	-	2002
Romania	7 January 1992	-	March 2002
Russian Federation	12 January 1989	-	October 2002
San Marino <a href="#">(4)</a>	-	-	-
Slovakia	3 March 1991	-	26 May 2001
Slovenia	31 March 1991	-	31 March 2002
Spain	1 March 1991	-	<a href="#">October 2001</a>
Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	-	-	-
Sweden	1 November 1985	-	-
Sweden	1 November 1990	-	-
Switzerland	4 December 1990	-	<a href="#">5 December 2000</a>
For. Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	31 March 1991	-	1-15 October 2001
For. Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	20 June 1994		
Ukraine	12 January 1989	-	5 December 2001
United Kingdom	21 April 1991	-	<a href="#">29 April 2001</a>
Yugoslavia	31 March 1991	-	March 2001
<b>OCEANIA</b>			
American Samoa	1 April 1990	-	April 2000
Australia	30 June 1986	9 August 1996	<a href="#">7 August 2001</a>
Australia	30 June 1991		
Cook Islands	1 December 1986	1 December 1996	2001
Cook Islands	1 December 1991		
Fiji	31 August 1986	25 August 1996	-
French Polynesia	6 September 1988	3 September 1996	(...)
Guam	1 April 1990	-	<a href="#">1 April 2000</a>
Kiribati	10 May 1985	7 November 1995	November 2000
Kiribati	7 November 1990		
Marshall Islands	13 November 1988	1999	-

Micronesia, Federated States of	1985 -1989	-	2004
Micronesia, Federated States of	<a href="#">18 September 1994</a>		
Nauru	17 April 1992	-	2001
New Caledonia	4 April 1989	16 April 1996	2002
New Zealand	4 March 1986	5 March 1996	<a href="#">6 March 2001</a>
New Zealand	5 March 1991		
Niue	29 September 1986	17 August 1997 <a href="#">(10)</a>	(...)
Niue	3 November 1991		
Norfolk Island	30 June 1986	30 June 1996	2001
Norfolk Island	2 August 1991		
Northern Marianas Islands	1 April 1990	9 September 1995	April 2000
Palau	Jan. - Mar. 1986	9 September 1995	2000
Palau	1 April 1990		
Papua New Guinea	11 July 1990	-	<a href="#">9 July 2000</a>
Pitcairn <a href="#">(11)</a>	1991 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	-
Samoa	3-4 November 1986	-	November 2001
Samoa	5 November 1991		
Solomon Islands	23 November 1986	November 1999	-
Tokelau	1986	-	(...)
Tokelau	11 December 1991		
Tonga	28 November 1986	[1996]	-
Tuvalu	June 1985 <a href="#">(P)</a>	-	November 2001
Tuvalu	17 November 1991		
Vanuatu	20 January 1986 <a href="#">(P)</a>	16-30 Nov. 1999	-
Vanuatu	16 May 1989		
Wallis and Futuna Islands	11 December 1990 <a href="#">(P)</a>	3 October 1996	2002

**Foot notes**

(P)	Population census only.
(H)	Housing census only.
(1)	Urban census only.
(2)	Enumeration of settled population was in November 1986 and of nomads in February 1987.
(3)	Based on administrative records.
(4)	Population figures were compiled from population registers.
(5)	The population Ry-Census was based on one-in-seven sample of the population

(6)	Enumeration of former Yemen Arab Republic.
(7)	Enumeration of former Democratic Yemen.
(8)	Through accession of the German Democratic Republic with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the United Nations under the designation 'Germany'.
(9)	Enumeration of former Federal Republic of Germany.
(10)	Combined with agricultural census.
(11)	No formal census conducted. A count of numbers of each family group by name, sex, age and whether permanent or expatriate resident is made on 30 or 31 December each year.

## **Annex 2: List of census related publications produced by UNSD**

### **A. Principles and Recommendations:**

- 1) United Nations (1958). *Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses*, Series M, no. 27, Sales No. 58.XVII.5
- 2) United Nations (1958). *General Principles for Housing Censuses*, Series M, no. 28, Sales No. 58.XVII.8
- 3) United Nations (1964). *Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses*, Series M, no. 27, Sales No. 58.XVII.5
- 4) United Nations (1969). *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Census*, Series M, no. 44, Sales No. E.67.XVII.3
- 5) United Nations (1980). *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, Series M, no. 67, Sales No. E.80.XVII.8
- 6) United Nations (1990). *Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, Series M, no. 67/Add.1, Sales No. E.90.XVII.9
- 7) United Nations (1998). *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 1*, Series M, no. 67/Rev.1, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8

### **B. Handbooks and Manuals:**

- 1) United Nations (1958). *Handbook of Population Census Methods*, Volume I, *General Aspects of a Population Census*, Series F, no. 5, Rev. 1, Sales No. 58.XVII.6 (VOL. I)
- 2) United Nations (1969). *Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part III, Topics and Tabulations for Housing Censuses*, Series F, no. 16, Sales No. E.70.XVII.6
- 3) United Nations (1971). *Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part VI, Sampling in Connexion with Population and Housing Censuses*, Series F, no. 16, Sales No. E.70.XVII.9
- 4) United Nations (1972). *Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part IV, Survey of Population and Housing Census Experience, 1955-1964, Section I*, Series F, no. 16, Sales No. E.70.XVII.7
- 5) United Nations (1974). *Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part IV, Survey of Population and Housing Census Experience, 1955-1964, Section II*, Series F, no. 16/Add.4, Sales No. E.70.XVII.7/Add.
- 6) United Nations (1990). *Manual on Population Census Data Processing Using Microcomputers*, Series F, no. 53, Sales No. E.90.XVII.19
- 7) United Nations (1991). *Emerging Trends and Issues in Population Censuses*, Series F, no. 52, Sales No. E.91.XVII.4
- 8) United Nations (1992). *Handbook of Population and Housing Censuses, Part I, Planning, Organization and Administration of Population and Housing Censuses*, Series F, no. 54, Sales No. E.92.XVII.8
- 9) United Nations (1992). *Handbook of Population and Housing Censuses, Part II, Demographic and Social Characteristics*, Series F, no. 54, Sales No. E.91.XVII.9
- 10) United Nations (1996). *Handbook of Population and Housing Censuses, Part IV, Economic Activity Status*, Series F, no. 54, Sales No. E.96.XVII.13
- 11) United Nations (2000). *Handbook on Geographic Information Systems and Digital Mapping*, Series F, no. 79, Sales No. E.00.XVII.12
- 12) United Nations (2001). *Handbook on Census Management for Population and Housing Censuses*, Series F, no. 83/Rev.1, Sales No. E.00.XVII.15 Rev.1
- 13) United Nations (2001). *Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing*, Series F, no. 82, Sales No. E.00.XVII.9

### **Annex 3. Seminars and training workshops related to population and housing censuses conducted by UNSD since 1997**

1. *Workshop on Analysis, Promotion and Dissemination of Census Data for South African Development Community (SADC) Member Countries*, Mbabane, Swaziland, 5 to 23 August 2002 (Forthcoming).
2. *Workshop on Dissemination of Census Statistics in ASEAN Countries*, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 24 – 28 June 2002 (Forthcoming).
3. *Workshop on Census Data Editing for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member Countries*, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 5 - 9 November 2001.
4. *Workshop on Cartography for Statistical Output Applications: Post Census Mapping for SADC Countries*, Pretoria, South Africa, 18 - 22 June 2001.
5. *Workshop on Census Data Processing for Western Commonwealth of Independent States Countries (CIS)*, Kiev, 11 - 22 June 2001.
6. *Workshop on Census Management for Western CIS Countries*, Yerevan, 28 May - 8 June 2001.
7. *Workshop on Census Data Captures for ESCWA Member Countries*, Amman, Jordan, 18 - 23 May 2002.
8. *Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing for French Speaking Countries*, Jointly with UNFPA and US Bureau of the Census, Dakar, Senegal, 14 March - 6 April 2002.
9. *Meeting of the Census Managers of the SADC Countries*, Pretoria, South Africa, 19 - 23 March 2001.
10. *Workshop on Census Mapping and Cartography (phase II) for SADC Countries*, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 15 - 26 May 2000.
11. *Workshop on Census Data Processing for SADC Countries*, Gaborone, Botswana, 19 June - 7 July 2000.
12. *Workshop on Sample Survey Design for SADC Countries*, Lusaka, Zambia, 27 February - 4 March 2000.
13. *Census Management Workshop for SADC Countries*, Pretoria, South Africa, 23 November - 3 December 1999.
14. *Seminar on Census Data Evaluation and Dissemination for CIS Countries*, Almaty, 25 - 29 October 1999.
15. *Training Workshop on Census Management for CIS Countries*, Bishkek, 24 May - 9 June 1999.
16. *Census Questionnaire Design Workshop for SADC Countries*, Gaborone, Botswana, 4 - 8 October 1999.
17. *Census Mapping and Cartography for SADC Countries*, Pretoria, South Africa, 10 - 22 May 1999.
18. *Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing for South American Countries*, La Paz, Bolivia, 8 – 21 April 1999.
19. *Census Management Workshop for SADC Countries*, Pretoria, South Africa, 8 -12 February 1999.
20. *A Strategy Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses for SADC Countries*, Pretoria, South Africa, 3 - 5 February 1999.
21. *Workshop on Census Data Processing for Central Asian Countries*, Almaty, 19 October - 6 November 1998.
22. *Workshop on Data Processing for South Pacific Islands*, Suva, Fiji from 29 June - 17 July 1998.
23. *Seminar on Strategies for the 2000 Round of Censuses in the Pacific*, Nadi, Fiji, December 1997.
24. *Symposium on Strengthening Population Information Systems in Central Asia and Azerbaijan*, Bishkek, 17 - 22 March 1997.

## **Annex 4. A summary of the report of the Symposium on Global Review of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses**

**Source: UNSD; <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/statcom/sc2002.htm>.**

The Symposium on Global Review of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses addressed the question: “When and under what circumstances do censuses succeed?” It considered problems that have arisen in the current round of censuses (1995-2004) and solutions to overcome these problems, and it discussed how these experiences might guide countries in the planning of the next round of censuses (2005-2014). Discussions focused on several main issues: strategies for involving stakeholders in census activities; strategies for choosing among data-collection methods; funding for censuses; adapting new technologies to census operations; identifying and resolving problems of census mapping; maintaining census-related activities during the intercensal years; and methods of evaluating censuses.

Census stakeholders are a large and diverse group of data users who may be involved in all aspects of census activity. The key stakeholder groups are government ministries and agencies; provincial, municipal and local governments; private-sector companies and secondary distributors of census data; academic researchers; libraries; non-governmental organizations; media and the general public. Stakeholders help to ensure that relevant data are collected and produced; that the census is understood and supported by the public; that census products are useful and accessible; and that data are of high quality. At the same time, stakeholders have different needs and priorities, which should be balanced against available resources and the suitability of the census to meet specific data needs.

Participants stressed the importance of identifying key stakeholders and prioritizing their needs. Client requests must be consistent with census procedures in terms of such items as concepts and definitions, transparency, maintaining confidentiality and so forth. Ongoing discussions between stakeholders and the census organization are essential, but, according to a Canadian participant, it is important to keep attention focused on areas where feedback is critical. Stakeholders may contribute to the cost of collecting data for their specific requirements, as is the case in Zambia, as long as the census organization maintains control over census activities. The role of the media is important in creating positive attitudes towards the census, although some countries found that the national media tended to focus on controversial issues. Some topics—for example, HIV/AIDS, illegal activities and disabilities—are sensitive and may not yield satisfactory results when the question is first introduced. In Brazil, a question on disability was asked in the 1991 census. To improve results, data users were consulted early in the process to help frame a more suitable question in 2000.

The three main sources of demographic and social data are censuses, household surveys and administrative records. In some ways, the census is the primary source because it provides a sampling frame for sample surveys and supplies the population figures that serve as a denominator when calculating vital rates from a civil registration system. Because censuses are expensive and complicated to conduct, there is pressure to limit the basic questionnaire to a few items and collect more information from a sample of the population. Asking questions on additional topics from a sample of households during a census is a cost-effective way to widen the scope of the census and improve data quality.

Participants noted the importance of each country’s assessing its particular sources of data and identifying the best method for meeting data needs. When the possibility of linking data from different sources is explored, the use of the same concepts and definitions in different data-collection activities was emphasized to ensure reliability and compatibility of data. Countries with small populations have particular problems in maintaining confidentiality. Alternatives to the census, such as rolling samples and population registers, could also be examined. Development of a population register is a major undertaking and requires reasonably complete registration of births, deaths and

other vital events. It also requires a large investment, enabling legislation and the support of the population.

Technical expertise and financial assistance from international organizations have played an important part in census taking for many developing countries in the past and will continue to be needed in the future. However, as censuses become more expensive and donor funding declines, some countries have been unable to hold censuses on schedule. The discussion centered on identifying new sources of funding, such as public and private national agencies, and conducting more research on ways to reduce the cost of censuses. At the sub-regional level, participants noted the possibility of coordinating and sharing census activities among groups of neighbouring countries with similar data needs. For example, census organizations could work together to develop core census questionnaires; prepare training manuals; share appropriate data-processing technology; and coordinate dissemination strategies.

Census technology changes rapidly. When new technology is adopted, an important consideration is ensuring the integrity and continuity of existing census systems. Census managers could avoid choosing the newest or “immature” products, especially if they require extensive pre-testing or if the requisite documentation is unavailable. A good starting point is to examine the most recent census and consider what procedures were successful and which ones could be improved. Census managers agreed on the need for caution about replacing an approach that has worked well in the past. Making decisions about adopting new technologies means having technical awareness, a sense of what can realistically be accomplished, a methodical approach and ample preparation time. Census managers may also learn a great deal from the experiences of other census organizations. Some participants questioned whether census organizations are really adapting new technologies to census taking or whether the new technologies are changing the nature of the census operation.

Technology can improve the management of census tasks in many areas, from the use of mobile telephones for better communication in the field to bar codes on census materials to facilitate and track their movement. Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology has seen widespread use during the current census round, but some countries have reported problems with scanning hand-written characters. Participants noted that even with extensive training, sufficient supplies and appropriate printers and scanners, ICR technology could sometimes be difficult to implement. Online dissemination of census data via the Internet is also becoming popular, although demand for printed publications is still strong. The Internet may be increasing awareness of and demand for census data. Another area of census operations that has benefited from new information technology is data archiving and storage.

Census mapping has also seen rapid advances in technology, including Geographic Information System (GIS), digital remote sensing and Global Positioning System (GPS). But many countries still lack up-to-date base maps, which are crucial for a census-mapping programme. Some cartographic units underestimated the time and resources required to produce enumeration maps. GIS technology has widened the scope of census work, and census managers need to consider what standards of accuracy to apply in the maps they produce for census operations.

Census organizations in most countries have established permanent, self-contained cartographic units, but in a few cases, the unit virtually ceases to exist after enumeration is complete. Maintaining and updating maps is vital to the success of a census and is necessary to produce a national master sampling frame for sample surveys. New technology can enhance the versatility and usefulness of census data; census information can be combined with underlying base maps, which permit users to generate thematic maps to meet their own requirements. Participants expressed interest in continuing to share experience and information on developments in mapping technology through web linking and other means.

Census-related activities during the intercensal years provide a smooth transition from one census to another and maintain an institutional memory. Intercensal activities include providing services to data

users; updating administrative boundary changes; carrying out methodological studies; maintaining a census library; preserving maps and records; documenting census activities and keeping copies of all essential census information; promoting a continuing dialogue with stakeholders; updating the census frame for sampling and conducting intercensal demographic household surveys. Such activities also retain and improve the capacity of the census organization to conduct the census, and they help to create awareness of the availability and usefulness of census data. Census organizations can use the intercensal period to produce popular versions of official census reports to make census information more readily understood by the general public. The intercensal period is also an ideal time to investigate and test new technologies for interviewing, data capture, storage and dissemination. Unfortunately, financial constraints often limit the size and scope of intercensal activities.

Evaluation of census results was the final topic addressed at the Census Symposium. Participants noted that evaluation and quality management should be an integral part of the census programme. They agreed that some kind of evaluation is necessary to identify problem areas and strengths in the census and that the credibility of the census is improved when evaluation results are shared with users. A number of evaluation methods have been developed, including comparing census results with administrative records, demographic analysis and the post-enumeration survey (PES). The PES is a valuable tool, but its results can be compromised if maps are inadequate; if the PES is not independent of the census operations; if probability sampling is not adhered to; and if the survey is poorly managed or executed. Many techniques for demographic analysis are also available, such as comparing data from successive censuses; examining census data for internal consistency; and using simple indexes of regularity in the age-sex distribution.

Both a PES and demographic analysis may be usefully employed if resources permit. In some countries, the PES is important because no other sources of data exist for comparison with the census. If a PES is to be conducted, and if it is to be successful, it is best conducted as soon as possible after census enumeration. It is important to maintain operational independence between the census and the PES, and the scope of the PES should be modest and manageable. Some participants felt that a country should not undertake a PES unless it could meet the methodological prerequisites.

## **Annex 5: Actions taken by the Statistical Commission on population and housing censuses at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session**

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

**9 April 2002**

**Thirty-third session  
5 - 8 March 2002**

### **DRAFT REPORT<sup>5</sup>**

#### **Item 3 (a): Population and housing censuses**

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 5 March 2002. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division entitled *Review of the 2000 Population and Housing Census Programme and proposed plans of the United Nations Statistics Division for the next census decade (2005-2014)* (E/CN.3/2002/2).

#### **Actions taken by the Commission**

2. The Commission:

- (a) welcomed the report presented in document E/CN.3/2002/2 and endorsed the proposed activities in paras. 15 to 18 of that document.
- (b) expressed the need to carry out the following additional activities:
  - (i) organize a follow-up symposium on the experiences of the 2000 round of censuses in 2004, (the end of the current census decade), that focuses on plans for the 2010 census decade (2005-2014);
  - (ii) review the current Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses – Revision 1 and prepare a supplementary annex, based on lessons learnt from national experiences, on the subjects of elaborating and updating the organization of census publicity, developing census laws, and undertaking census related activities during the intercensal period, among others;
  - (iii) explore the possibility of producing reports on combining the use of administrative records and census data; the use of censuses for monitoring small areas, human settlements, and slums in particular; and the use of censuses to measure migration;
  - (iv) organize discussion groups on the future role of censuses (recognizing the important role that censuses have in the preparation of development strategies); review approaches to and the underlying philosophy of censuses and how they have changed overtime;
  - (v) organize workshops to consider census approaches under the changing environments of technology, civil participation and public concerns for confidentiality and privacy, and challenges from those who use census data for non-statistical purposes;
  - (vi) support countries in the use of digitized mapping techniques for enumeration and dissemination, and linking them with other sources of data while striking a realistic balance between available resources and use of new and emerging technologies;
  - (vii) continue technical cooperation, especially in the areas of adopting new technologies to effectively conduct censuses;
  - (viii) explore the use of the Internet in future census enumeration and dissemination, where feasible; use of technological developments; policies on making available micro data to users; and providing metadata on quality of census information;
  - (ix) address the concerns regarding census costs while also assuring the quality and value of census information;
  - (x) review a minimum and essential list of census topics, based on uniform concepts, for which data can be produced and supplied by national census offices in the shortest possible time, taking into account international comparability and recommendations;
- (c) Recognized that with existing resources it will not be possible for UNSD to address all these issues and requested UNSD to report back to the next session of the Statistical Commission on the extent to which it is able to incorporate these actions into its work programme.

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<sup>5</sup> As approved by the Rapporteur but subject to reformatting, rearranging, paragraph numbering and editing by the UN editors. The Summary was prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division and has not been reviewed by the Rapporteur.