

## **UNITED NATIONS**

Expert Group Meeting on ESCAP Regional Census Program  
27 – 28 November 2006, Bangkok

### **Review of and changes to Principles and Recommendations, and Strategy of 2010 World Program**

Gerald Haberkorn  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
(based on UNSD presentation prepared by Martin Butterfield)

## **What has happened?**

- United Nations Expert Group Meetings on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses
- Three thus far in New York:
  - General, 22 – 26 August 2005
  - Housing, 5 – 8 June 2006
  - General, 10 – 14 July 2006
- Also P&R related workshops involving ESCAP members:
  - Nadi (SPC March 2006)
  - Phnom Penh (UNFPA July 2006)
  - Siem Riep (ASEAN August 2006)
  - Baku (UNECE/CES November 2006)

## Review of Principles and Recommendations

- Draft text of P&R presented to EGMs in 2005 and 2006
- These included definition of a core set of tabulations etc.
- Expert Group Meetings in 2006 adopted in principle a revised version of P&R.
- Text now being finalised
  - See:  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusEGM06/docs/>
- To be Submitted to the Statistical Commission – March 2007

## Major Change

- There has been a subtle but significant change in direction;
- **From:** a focus on process driving tabulations
- **To:** user requirements driving a process

## Alternative methods

- P&R recognises emerging alternatives to traditional method and describes them with the essential attributes of a Census.
- However, in a great proportion of countries a “traditional census” will continue as the method for collecting information to meet the needs.

## Core topics

- Main variables for recommended tabulations
  - Population: 31 core topics
  - Housing: 21 core topics

## Changes in core topics: Population

### Non-core to core

- Date of birth of the last child born alive
- Births in the past twelve months
- Deaths in the past twelve months
- Infant deaths in the past twelve months
- Year or period of arrival
- “Disability” status
- Place of residence at a specified date in the past
- Time worked

## Changes in core topics – Housing

- **New core**
  - Sewage disposal
  - Main source of drinking water
  - Information technology and communication devices in the household
- **From Additional to Core**
  - Fuel used for cooking
- **From Core to additional** (ie no longer seen as ‘essential’)
  - Year or period of construction
  - Useful floor space
  - Rental and owner-occupied housing costs

## Recommended set of tables

- Approximately 45 tables in this group
- These are those that are deemed necessary to provide the data needed for evidence based decision making.
- **All core topics in at least one table.**
- Copies of final set available from UNSD and have been circulated in EGM reports.

## Strategy for World Program

- Every country does at least one census between 2005 and 2014.
- UNSD to develop a platform to exchange:
  - experiences;
  - countries' participation;
  - technical assistance;
  - Information; and
  - data dissemination.
- Encourage cooperation between countries and regions.
- Has been endorsed by ECOSOC.