

## **Thirteenth Session of the ESCWA Statistical Commission "Technology for Statistics"**

### **Questionnaire on the Experiences and Practices of Arab countries regarding the Use of Geospatial Methodologies and Technologies, and the Dissemination of Statistical Data**

In preparation for the 13th session of its Statistical Committee\*, entitled "Technology for Statistics", ESCWA is preparing an official document on "The prospects of Innovation and Technology in Official Statistics". In order for us to better assess the status and readiness of the Arab region, we have prepared this questionnaire on the experiences and practices of your country regarding the use of geospatial methodologies and technologies, and the dissemination of statistical data.

Assessing the status of Arab States to use technology in official statistics is a preliminary for identifying their needs in terms of capacity building programmes and technical assistance that ESCWA could provide in this regard. This questionnaire also complements information on the subject previously collected by ESCWA in 2017, through a short questionnaire on "Assessing the Status and Needs of Arab Countries to Produce and Utilize Geospatial Information as a Data Source for the SDGs".

The information collected by this questionnaire will have a significant impact on the formulation of future work programmes, resource allocation, and budget financing of the Statistics Division at ESCWA.

This questionnaire could be filled with reference to censuses conducted or planned to be conducted.

Please complete this questionnaire in its entirety (as much as possible) and submit it electronically with any attachments to: [escwa-sd@un.org](mailto:escwa-sd@un.org) by the end of 7 September 2018 at the latest. You can also send additional attachments by fax to + 961-1-981-510

Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution!

\* Will be held in Beirut - Lebanon, from 4-5 December 2018.

**PART A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Please provide the following information on the person filling the questionnaire:**

Name of person filling the questionnaire:
Functional title:
Institution, department or unit:
Country:
E-mail:
Persons/Institutions consulted:

**Please indicate the date of the population and housing census (dd/mm/yyyy) on which you are providing information:**

**PART B: National Statistical Geospatial Information Capability**

1. Describe the organizational structure of geospatial information capability in your country. For example, is there a single National Geospatial Information Authority (NGIA)? Do other areas of government also have geospatial information capabilities and/or responsibilities?

2. Is the primary national geospatial agency supporting/advancing the geospatial enablement of government information – statistics and/or administrative data?

- Yes
- No

If yes, can you briefly describe how?  
If not, can you briefly explain why?

a. Does your National Statistics Office (NSO) have any relationships and/or collaborative activities with the NGIA?

- Yes
- No

Describe what collaboration occurs?

b. Does your NSO take a leadership role in geospatially enabling national administrative and statistical data?

Yes

No

If yes, do you get support and assistance from the NGIA or other geospatial/mapping agency?

If no, what organization in your country undertakes this role?

c. What geospatial capability and capacity does your NSO have?

i. Do you have a specific geography or geospatial unit?

Yes

No (please proceed to (d) below)

ii. If yes, does this group produce only maps or does it undertake other geospatial activities to support the NSO?

iii. If yes, does it support organizations and activities outside the NSO?

Yes, namely

No

d. Could you describe the geospatial framework that you use in the Organization's activities?

Do you use different levels (scales) of geographies?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how does each level relate to each other?

e. Do you have geospatial attributes linked to the statistical information (unit level records and statistical outputs) in your organization's data management systems?

- Yes
- No (please proceed to (f) below)

If yes,

- Could you explain what types of geospatial attributes you attach to the unit record and statistical aggregation?

- What approach (and what systems) do you use to geo-code your unit level data?

- Do you apply any specific geographic administrative boundaries to your statistical information – such as suburb, local government or other boundaries?

- Do these geographic boundaries ever change and if they do, do you track these changes over time?

f. Do you produce any geospatial map-based outputs?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, briefly describe these:

g. Do you produce any other type of output that could be considered geospatial?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, briefly describe these:

h. Is any form of geospatial capability used in relation to creating statistics, or in their analysis?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, briefly describe these:

### **PART C: TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS**

3. What technological tools has the national statistics office/census office used for the dissemination of census results? (Check all that is applicable):

- CD-ROM/DVD
- Static web pages (html, PDF, excel)
- Census Atlas (Static)/Thematic Maps
- Interactive Census Atlas
- Query-able database(s)
- Online database(s)
- Dynamic web pages
- GIS web-based mapping tools
- Cloud Computing
- IHSN<sup>1</sup> Toolkit
- Others (please specify)

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<sup>1</sup> IHSN: International Household Survey Network

4. Does the national statistics office/census office employ interactive tools for mapping, tabulating, analyzing and presenting data in graphs or other visual formats in the dissemination of census data?

Yes  No

- If yes, provide the link (website) to the tools.

5. Does the national statistics office/census office employ mobile technology applications and the new social media (Twitter, Facebook, SMS, etc.) in reaching users?

Yes  No

- If yes, describe the technologies and social media employed.

#### **PART D: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**

6. Does the national statistics office/census office have GIS infrastructure to capture, manage, analyze and disseminate geo-referenced data?

Yes  No

- If yes, describe the geographic information system used, including the geographic database

7. Does the national statistics office/census office have a geographic/cartographic unit (with trained human resources and the requisite IT infrastructure) dedicated for managing the geographic information system?

Yes  No

8. Indicate the census activities towards which the geographic information system is used (check all that is applicable):

- Cartography/census mapping in the initial stages of census operation (pre-enumeration stage)  
 Census data collection (enumeration stage)  
 Analysis and dissemination of geo-referenced census data (post-enumeration stage)

9. Does the national statistics office/census office disseminate geo-referenced data?  
Yes  No

- If yes, what is the smallest geographical level at which geo-referenced data are disseminated?

#### **PART E: DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING STRATEGY**

10. Has the national statistics office/census office developed a written plan/strategy for the dissemination of census data?  
Yes  No

- If yes, please provide specific components of the dissemination plan/strategy

11. Did the national statistics office/census office develop a dissemination schedule (a comprehensive list of census outputs with accompanying timetable)?  
Yes  No

- If yes, please provide the schedule in a table below (or alternatively as an annex to the questionnaire)

12. Does your country have a law/regulation for archiving census micro-data?  
Yes  No

- If yes, describe the law/regulation

- If the law/regulation is available on the internet, please provide the web-link:

## **PART F: DATA CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANNONYMIZATION\***

13. Does the statistical law of your country include clause(s) to ensure confidentiality of census micro-data?  
Yes  No

- If yes, please describe the clause(s):

Describe what procedures have been implemented or plan to be implemented for anonymization of census micro-data:

## **PART G: META-DATA AND DOCUMENTATION**

14. Does the national statistics office/census office provide metadata (information about census data and census methods) with census products?  
Yes  No

- If yes, what kinds of metadata are provided? (Check all that is applicable):

- Data source (census methodology)
- Variables and definitions
- Structure and formatting of the dataset
- Coding instructions and classifications
- Data processing procedures
- Evaluation of data quality
- Confidentiality and anonymization<sup>2</sup> procedures
- Sampling methodology and weighting
- Other-Specify

## **PART H: CHALLENGES**

15. What are the main challenges faced by the national statistics office/census office in the dissemination of census data?

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<sup>2</sup> Anonymization of data refers to the procedures of removing and modifying all individual identifiers (such as the name of the person, address and so forth) from digitized census micro-data.