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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)****REPORT****REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS,  
CAIRO 30 JUNE – 3 JULY 2009****Summary**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held the Regional Workshop on International Migration Statistics in cooperation with the United Nations Population Division, the Arab Labour Organization and the second Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation Programme (MEDSTAT II) from 30 June to 3 July 2009 in Cairo, Egypt.

The workshop aimed to enhance and upgrade the knowledge on international recommendations, concepts and definitions on international migration statistics, to discuss the different sources of data, to present and discuss various methods of compilation, production of indicators and dissemination methods, to study international migration and the economic and social development in the ESCWA region, to exchange expertise among the participants and to examine good practice.

The workshop was attended by 50 representatives of national statistical offices, as well as of ministries of interior affairs in ESCWA member countries, in addition to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The meeting also gathered experts from regional and international organizations, including ESCWA, the United Nations Population Division, MEDSTAT II programme, International Organization for Migration, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Arab Labour Organization (ALO), the League of Arab States (LAS) and an international consultant in the field of international migration statistics.

The workshop issued a set of recommendations, some of which were general recommendations on international migration and others related to the meeting.

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## **Introduction**

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a Regional Workshop on International Migration Statistics in cooperation with the United Nations Population Division, the Arab Labour Organization and the MEDSTAT II programme, from 30 June to 3 July 2009, at Semiramis Hotel in Cairo, Egypt.

## **I. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. International migration is considered to be one of the main factors affecting the structure of population in the world as it has a pivotal role in global social, economic and political changes. The United Nations placed international migration as a priority on its agenda. In 2006, the main question in the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was how to enhance the positive impact of migration and to limit its negative effects. The 2006 dialogue led to the establishment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. In 2013, the General Assembly will be holding a second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The international community has to work within a tight limit, from 2009 to 2013, to improve international migration data. In this view, the meeting encouraged member countries to reconsider policies and strategies related to the collection of data on international migration in order to ensure a production of statistics that meets international standards by 2013.

3. In order to provide comparable international migration statistics for better policy formulation, and enhance the unification of concepts, definitions and classifications on both regional and national levels, the meeting stressed the necessity for member countries to implement the recommendations issued by the United Nations, namely the "Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1" (United Nations, 1998), and the "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing censuses, Revision 2" (United Nations, 2008).

4. Countries need to heed the way in which the population census is implemented taking into consideration the person being resident or temporally or permanently away during the National Implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. In this context, the United Nations recommended that countries implement the census based on the current status, including all people currently living in the country, informal emigrants, and migrant workers treated as residents.

5. Participants stressed the importance of coordinating between different sources of international migration statistics in order to provide the best estimates possible for migration indicators. Different sources generally provide different numbers for the same indicator due to the difference in ways of registration. Instead of trying to coordinate data, the meeting deemed it better to document and to explain such differences.

6. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of administrative data considered to be a growing source of information on international migration statistics, provided users realize that administrative sources generally count incidents instead of persons.

7. Participants stressed the importance of transparency to ensure the effectiveness of policy-making and to reflect the point of view of users in order to improve the quality of data. Therefore, the meeting reaffirmed that national statistical offices and concerned ministries, such as ministries of interior affairs, labour and migration, need to work tightly together to facilitate the access to administrative data and improve their quality.

8. Participants stressed the necessity to pursue working in the field of international migration measurement on the regional level, and called upon ESCWA and its partners, including the Department of

Economic and Social Affairs in the United Nations, ALO, LAS, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration and the MEDSTAT II programme, to pursue building national capacities in ESCWA member countries and other Arab countries through the organization of training workshops, exchanging expertise and useful experiences, and developing national programmes and projects.

9. Participants appreciated the request of ESCWA from a consultative expert to prepare a training file in order to help countries implement the recommendations of the United Nations on international migration statistics in the region.

#### B. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE MEETING

10. Since censuses are of the main sources of international migration data, the meeting considered the National Implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses a good opportunity to collect high-quality and comparable statistics on international migration in Arab countries.

11. The meeting stressed the importance of measuring the movement of the labour force in the ESCWA region. In this view, it encouraged member countries to improve administrative systems to collect high-quality data on borders and from working and residence permits. It noted that administrative sources often count the number of incidents instead of the number of persons; therefore, users need to take that into consideration when using administrative sources.

12. The meeting highlighted the necessity to have access to high-quality data on youth migration to help devise policies and strategies.

13. Participants reaffirmed the need to disseminate timely data; therefore a simplified and brief report on the main results of data analysis needs to be presented in order to ensure its wide dissemination on policy makers and other stakeholders.

14. The workshop pointed to the role of household surveys in the collection of data related to international migration and international migrants, as well as the impact of international migration on social and economic development. The meeting recommended implementing household surveys regularly in order to collect data related to the general policy of migration. Household surveys can be formed as surveys specialized in migration, or by adding additional questionnaires to already existing surveys, such as the multi-indicator survey, labour force survey, study of livelihoods and demographic and health surveys.

15. The workshop reviewed the general form of typical questionnaires for household surveys on international migration prepared by the MEDSTAT II programme, and recommended those typical questionnaires include mandatory questions or main parts to enable a comparison between countries, and optional questions or parts to give the countries the opportunity to choose questions according to their national needs.

16. Participants commended efforts exerted by the MEDSTAT II programme in the field of international migration statistics and its experience based on many lessons. ESCWA member countries—not members of the MEDSTAT II programme—were encouraged to make use of this experience.

17. Research conducted by ESCWA on disseminating migration statistics on the basis of the main and sub-classifications included in the United Nations “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, 1998,” revealed that member countries do not disseminate but a limited number of those classifications. Participants indicated that the United Nations classifications are plural and complicated. Therefore, the secretariat prepared simplified classifications distributed to participants for

discussion. The set of classifications suggested by the secretariat was deemed an applicable choice to inform the countries of the region of current migration statistics.\*

## **II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

18. The workshop programme was divided into six themes focusing on the following topics: (a) international migration and development: implications for data collection; (b) international recommendations and methodological considerations; (c) measuring migration using different data sources; (d) international migration data: challenges in compilation and dissemination; (e) international migration statistics and socio-economic development; and (f) future plans and national papers.

### **A. FIRST THEME: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: IMPLICATIONS FOR DATA COLLECTION**

19. During the first theme sessions, a set of papers was presented and discussed on the following topics: international migration in Arab countries and related policies; international migration and development at the United Nations and in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); youth, migration and development; and migration statistics: policy and development.

20. The paper on international migration in Arab countries covered several topics, namely the characteristics, opportunities and challenges, as well as the importance of the quality of data. The main characteristics of international migration in Arab countries are permanent and temporal migration, labour force migration, brain drain, illegal migration and transit migration. Migrants in the GCC countries represent a high proportion of the population, whereas a sharp increase is noticed in the migration of Asian women to work in Arab countries, particularly GCC countries. The rate of remittances from and to Arab countries has also increased, particularly in GCC countries—considered to be one of the most important sources of remittances in the Arab region.

21. Regarding policies related to international migration, the paper stressed the importance of cooperation between Arab countries to establish a regional consultation mechanism between sending and receiving Arab countries, receiving Arab countries and sending Asian countries, and sending Arab countries and receiving European countries, to discuss matters of common interest that may assist in setting policies beneficial to all parties. This would enable the exchange of data collected from surveys, censuses and administrative records, and the exchange of data and information related to illegal workers and smuggling persons across the border, in addition to examining the appropriate ways to make the best use of the phenomenon of migration in economic and social development of both sending and receiving countries.

22. The paper on migration and development at the United Nations examined the topic of international policies and those ensuing from data collection and international definitions of migration reserves and flows, long-term migration, “over a year”, short-term and “less than a year” migrations, voluntary migration, coercive migration, legal migration and illegal migration.

23. The paper highlighted the activities of the United Nations in the field of international migration and development, such as the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994; the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006, which resulted in establishing the Global Forum on Migration and Development; the Global Migration Group formed by 13 United Nations organizations; and the International Organization of migration. Other global activities are being planned, such as the Third Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Athens from 2 to 5 November 2009, on integrating migration policies into development strategies for the benefit of all, and the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in 2013.

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\* Annex II, list of documents.

24. The paper concluded with a set of recommendations, such as adding some basic questions on international migration to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, disseminating the census categories as soon as possible, collecting and producing related administrative data, adding some questions to the household surveys, and providing data and building capacities.

25. This theme included a paper on migration and development in the Gulf countries, which highlighted different topics, including the role of immigrant workers in developing Gulf countries rich in capitals; the gap between policies and reality and its repercussions on development in the Gulf region; and the negative and positive impacts stemming from the temporary contracts with workers, as most of the immigrant workers are unskilled, or semi-skilled, moving according to temporary renewable contracts. The presence of such labour force in host countries is linked to the demand on work, and the relation of the worker with his country of origin remains ongoing through financial remittances for consumption or investment.

26. Organizing the immigrant labour force in the Gulf region requires devising efficient policies and strategies, as well as coordination with countries of origin to make use of the incoming labour force in different fields while protecting the local labour force and to avoid the accumulation of workers unwanted in host countries and causing high rates of unemployment. Official policies and unofficial practices need to be separated; official policies focus on the benefit of countries of origin and host countries, and such policies are devised according to specific requirements; as for unofficial practice, it is governed by commercial shares of profits of unofficial partners whose aims are plural and may even contradict.

27. The topic of “international migration statistics: challenges and solutions” is of the topics included in the first theme of the workshop. Lately, demand increased on high-quality statistics in the field of migration. However, the acquaintance with clear definitions in this field, legal arrangements, data sources and implemented systems to collect data within or between countries represent a challenge to all countries of origin and host countries. The definition of international migrant according to the United Nations could vary compared with the country definition or the one adopted by a data collecting agency, in addition to the plurality of sources and different targets of data collection in every source. Targets could be administrative to meet certain political needs and not necessarily related to international migration statistics.

28. The main sources of international migration data include: censuses, administrative records, databases of residence authorizations and permits, asylum data, different surveys, customs’ data and surveys carried out on borders.

29. Some procedures that can be adopted by countries may help in finding solutions to the difficulties and challenges facing international migration statistics, such as coordination and cooperation between concerned ministries, central statistical entities and research centres, capacity building and transparency between data producers and users, timely data dissemination, periodic preparation of general reports, and use of existing computer programmes to establish databases, in addition to ensuring legal frameworks for institutional arrangements in the country.

30. As to youth migration and its relation with development, the theme comprised a paper that stressed the features and particularities of youth migration as well as the challenges facing it. Factors for youth migration include mainly the inconsistency between education orientations and the national labour market needs which results in a sharp increase in unemployment rates in some Arab countries. In this context, the League of Arab States, represented by the Arab Labour Organization, is implementing the integrated programme to support employment and reduce unemployment which helps in alleviating youth migration, whereas the period 2010-2020 was adopted as an Arab decade for employment and halving unemployment by 2020.

31. Discussions on the first theme, “international migration and development: implications for data collection,” included many topics—mainly the sources of data; concepts; definitions; how to measure international migration and youth migration; temporary contracts of employment; importance of providing

ample, timely, high-quality data; disseminating data periodically; and enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms between countries of origin and host countries.

32. In the field of data sources, participants pointed to the necessity of using all available sources related to international migration statistics, including censuses, administrative records, and specialized household surveys to prepare high-quality statistics while heeding the adoption of internationally agreed definitions and concepts in order to produce comparable statistics between countries. Discussions tackled the importance of cooperation between different national institutions working in the field of international migration, such as the ministry of interior affairs and central statistical offices, in order to improve the quality of administrative data which complete the censuses data and household surveys. Discussions concluded by stressing the importance of abundant quality statistics to assist in formulating policies and developmental plans in the field of international migration, and the necessity to establish a regional observatory of international migration, clarifying its tasks, aims and the mechanisms of launching its work.

33. Discussions tackled the importance of international migration statistics in formulating plans and taking evidence-based decisions. Therefore, carrying out and disseminating researches and analyses is crucial for formulating policies and evaluating their effectiveness.

#### B. THEME II: INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

34. Three papers were discussed in this theme, namely the United Nations recommendations on migration statistics and population censuses, key concepts and definitions; towards the implementation of the international migration recommendations at the regional level: the MEDSTAT II experience; and developing comparable, harmonized statistics on international migration: what are the challenges and what is possible.

35. The first paper presented the United Nations recommendations included in the “Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 - United Nations, 2008” and the “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 - United Nations, 1998.” The presentation comprised definitions of some terms related to international migration measurement, such as the “place of usual residence,” and “country of citizenship,” and the difference between long-term and short-term migration. Some classifications were also introduced for the collection of data according to gender and age.

36. The second paper included a comprehensive presentation of the first and second Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation Programmes (MEDSTAT I and MEDSTAT2), as it examined their publications, activities and accomplishments. The first programme focused on evaluating the position of international migration statistics, strengthening cooperation between national institutions working in the field, and enhancing the means of data collection, such as transit and residence papers, as well as different surveys.

37. The main targets of the MEDSTAT II programme focus mainly on national capacity-building through different activities, such as training and technical support, which led to achieving some activities in a number of member countries, including the improvement and updating of the system for electronically registering data, dissemination of some classifications, improving data related to residence permits, establishing working groups and national committees in some countries, and preparing for the implementation of surveys for data collection. The paper concluded with several topics, namely, the continuity of cooperation between international organizations working in the field to improve the means of statistics collection through specialized surveys for international migration.

38. During this theme, a paper on how to develop comparable harmonized statistics on international migration highlighted that the use of definitions and concepts agreed to internationally in the field of international migration statistics is of great importance in data collection and forms a true challenge to countries, as concepts and definitions frequently differ between national institutions within the country or

between different countries. The unification of concepts and definitions was deemed to be a crucial phase preceding the process of data collection. The paper resorted to the main definitions included in the “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, United Nations, 1998,” such as the definition of international migrant, migrant flows and stock, citizenship and labour migration, in addition to the definition of migrants with no identification papers or illegal immigrants. Also tackled were the definitions used in the European Union and some successful experiences in European Union countries.

39. Discussions highlighted the importance of making use of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, the adoption of international recommendations through carrying out censuses based on reality and including all residents and people in the country at the time the census is carried out, and the necessity to include migrant workers and illegal immigrants in work camps treated as residents.

40. Discussions included the United Nations database on international migration available at [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org). Member countries were encouraged to provide detailed classifications of migration according to gender, age, citizenship country and place of birth.

### C. THEME III: MEASURING MIGRATION USING DIFFERENT DATA SOURCES

41. In this theme, papers focused on the variable sources of international migration data, including the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, and the suggested module for household surveys on migration prepared by the MEDSTAT II programme, in addition to administrative records sources.

42. The paper on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses underscored the importance of the census questionnaire to include three main questions: namely, place of birth, citizenship country, and place of residence within 1 or 5 years preceding the census. The paper considered the Round of Population and Housing Censuses to be a good opportunity to improve international migration statistics. Member countries need to prepare classifications for such data and disseminate them in a timely manner to help formulate migration-related policies and strategies.

43. During this theme, six standard questionnaires suggested by the MEDSTAT II programme were presented and discussed. The different questionnaires aimed to collect variable data on international migration to achieve specific targets that help in formulating international migration-related policies, plans and strategies.

44. Administrative records were as well presented and discussed, namely data made available by transit permits and registrations made on borders, as well as international recommendations in the field, including collecting information on the duration of residence, the country of regular residence, the citizenship country and the purpose of the residence. The paper stressed the exchange of data between countries of origin and host countries to improve the quality of information.

45. The paper pointed to other data to be collected according to international recommendations, such as date of arrival and departure, gender, date of birth, country of origin, social class, address, level of education and work.

46. While examining the status of transit data in Middle East countries, it was mentioned that most countries require all travellers, citizens or non-citizens, to complete the transit card at arrival and departure. Most countries have a computerized data entry system for administrative uses and not statistical ones, except for some countries that modified the transit card in order to collect statistics on international migration. Currently, some countries are studying the possibility of using smart reading of passports in order to collect data.

47. This theme included the presentation of a paper on methods used to measure employment, namely work authorizations and reports issued by employers, including some statistics on labour immigrants and statistics of countries of origin. However, challenges to the measurement of immigrant workers remain, such as measuring unregistered workers and those working in the informal sector.



48. Participants pointed to the increasing demand on migration statistics that cannot be met by censuses carried out every ten years. Therefore, administrative data need to be improved in order to serve statistical purposes and to complement the censuses data. Participants noted that one of the main challenges hindering the production of comparable international migration is the unification of procedures and definitions between Arab countries. In this context, participants stressed the importance of close coordination in designing surveys and their guidelines, and it was suggested that a unified sample of surveys be created to be implemented in all countries to facilitate comparisons.

#### D. THEME IV: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION DATA: CHALLENGES IN COMPILATION AND DISSEMINATION

49. Discussions covered the status of international migration statistics in ESCWA member countries. Data available from primary and secondary sources were presented and compared with the classifications recommended by the United Nations.

50. The presentation highlighted gaps between the publications of member countries and international recommendations. Participants pointed out that classifications required by ESCWA are rather complicated and information is hard to collect. Therefore, the secretariat presented and discussed simplified classifications, as shown in annex III to this report. The proposed classifications were welcomed by participants who indicated that such classifications may help improve the dissemination of international migration statistics in the countries of the region.

51. In this theme, participants were divided into two working groups. The first group discussed the issues of improving the exchange of information between national statistical institutions and national ministries, whereas the second group discussed the issue of improving the quality of data and the unification of definitions.

##### *1. First group*

52. The first group discussed how to improve the exchange of information between national statistical institutions and ministries. Participating countries were: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates.

53. Several topics were discussed, including the importance of collecting and disseminating timely data, the necessity to work on developing procedures to deal with the sensitivity and confidentiality of data, and cooperation on the national and regional levels to improve the status of data.

54. Countries exchanged their national experiences in the field of cooperation and coordination between the different ministries operating in the field of international migration. Some countries developed a unified module for data collection and defining focus points to collect and provide data in every ministry, such as the ministries of interior affairs, labour and health.

55. It was pointed out that ministries of interior affairs have databases they are trying to electronically interlink with others ministries.

56. On the other hand, some countries mentioned common responsibilities between several entities. The challenge lies in finding a system that ensures cooperation and coordination between different entities. The first group concluded with some proposals, namely the importance of establishing a network to exchange international migration official information between different countries, importance of agreeing on a unified questionnaire to collect data, importance of unifying concepts and definitions, use of a unified encryption system to collect data, enhancement of cooperation, holding periodic meetings between data producers and users, and the importance of exchanging data between different countries.

## *2. Second group*

57. The second group discussed how to improve the quality of data and unify definitions. Participating countries were: Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

58. Discussions covered several topics to be taken into consideration to ensure high-quality data, including building and enhancing statistical capacities in member countries; unifying concepts and definitions; integration of data sources; providing modern technology, namely software, for the processes of verification; correction, cooperation and coordination between countries of origin and host countries; and implementing a periodic evaluation of available statistics to define gaps and difficulties to study the possibility of treatment. Discussions highlighted that cooperation and coordination between data producers and users is important to improve the quality of data, particularly for data users, such as institutions, research centres and universities. Participants pointed to the importance of formulating documents based on agreed international recommendations, concepts and definitions, as well as on successful experiences of advanced countries in this field in Arabic in view of their great impact on knowledge, in such a way to help member countries develop and improve the quality of their data.

### **E. THEME V: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

59. A set of papers was discussed focusing on the need for international migration data to enhance developmental programmes in member countries.

60. Papers included the use of household surveys to study the dynamics of international migration in the Arab region, as well as the economic and social implications of migration, and the need for information to define data and demography of forced displacement, and the implications for migration statistics.

61. The paper on the use of surveys to study the dynamics of international migration reviewed the expected change in population structures in the Arab region. The Arab region falls in second place after Sub-Saharan Africa as to population growth. Population growth varies between countries and is concentrated in a given age group of youth, which requires providing education, training and work for such a group. The paper tackled the MEDSTAT II programme on household surveys specialized in international migration aimed at improving gaps in detailed data when studying the specifications and characteristics of migration. The paper indicated that the survey will basically focus on outgoing and returning migration, as well as persons wishing to migrate, circular migration, brain drain, irregular migration and migrants' remittances.

62. The paper on household surveys aimed at studying the economic and social implications of migration referred to the study implemented in Albania, Ecuador and Morocco on the impact of migration on children who left the householder and did not accompany him. Such an impact can be summed up in two dimensions: namely, the economic one related to the use of remittances, and the second is subjective related to health, violence and frustration.

63. This theme included as well a paper on the need for data on migration policies in Gulf countries. The paper tackled challenges faced by GCC countries in the field of migration statistics, including unemployment, job localization, gradual reduction of dependence on immigrant workers, and handling demographic disturbances. In order to devise clear and efficient policies in GCC countries, data should be of good quality and available from different integrated sources; transparency should be stressed in cooperation and coordination among all entities working in the field of international migration statistics.

### **F. THEME VI: FUTURE PLANS AND NATIONAL PAPERS**

#### *1. Future plans*

64. A roundtable held the last day discussed future plans and tackled priorities in capacity-building, collection and dissemination of data, and the implementation of international standards. All member

countries participated in the roundtable discussions. Participants pointed to the importance of training and orientation in building the capacities of national cadres, as well as providing computers and appropriate software. Countries deemed the above to be the common responsibility of international organizations working in the field, as well as member countries. Future programmes of work need to include an item to build capacities and enhance them in this field.

65. Discussions covered the following issues:

- To hold training sessions at national and regional levels and define priorities in every session with specific topics;
- To hold a periodic seminar that brings together data producers and users, as well as decision makers, and regional and international experts to discuss and consult with on important and new issues in the field of international migration;
- To carry out explorative visits to advanced countries in the field of collecting, analysing and disseminating international migration statistics;
- To unify terms, classifications and methodologies;
- To find a national mechanism that would ensure cooperation and coordination between national institutions working in the field;
- To enhance cooperation between GCC and ESCWA;
- To establish a regional observatory for international migration to meet the needs of member countries;
- To develop information collection systems, and introduce questions related to international migration in the different periodic surveys;
- To analyse data, do researches and make the results available to decision makers;
- To enhance statistical awareness and promote the importance of statistics in the field;
- To provide documents and publications in Arabic.

## *2. National papers*

66. Thirteen countries presented and discussed their national experiences in the field of international migration statistics collection and dissemination: namely, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Papers focused on different topics that covered the sources of data and the relation between different national entities working mostly in migration statistics fields. National papers pointed to three main sources of data: namely, public censuses of population carried out every ten years, household surveys, and administrative records.

67. Papers highlighted the common work of several national institutions collecting international data statistics, such as central statistical entities, border administration, residence and foreigner affairs, ministries of labour, ministries of interior affairs, department of citizenship and foreign affairs, and the department of civil affairs and passports. Most presentations stressed the main difficulties faced by countries to collect data: for example, the lack of a training programme to support and orient human cadres; lack of software; absence of cooperation and coordination between national entities working in the field of collecting international migration data; discrepancy in concepts, definitions and methodologies adopted in different entities; and the absence of appropriate mechanisms to limit illegal immigration.

### **III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

#### **A. DATE AND VENUE**

68. The Regional Workshop on International Migration Statistics was held in cooperation with the United Nations Population Division and the MEDSTAT II programme from 30 June to 3 July 2009 in Cairo, Egypt.

69. The workshop was attended by 50 representatives from national statistical entities, as well as from ministries of interior affairs in ESCWA member countries, in addition to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, experts from regional and international organizations: namely ESCWA, United Nations Population Division, MEDSTAT II programme, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Arab Labour Organization (ALO), League of Arab States (LAS), and an international consultant in the field of international migration statistics.

#### **B. OPENING**

70. Mr. Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Director General of the ALO opened the workshop officially. In his statement, he pointed to the memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the ALO and ESCWA, ratified in March 2008, and to the agreed executive programme. Mr. Luqman stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between ESCWA and the ALO in the implementation of common activities.

71. The Director General commended the participation of national experts from ministries of interior affairs and civil service, as well as of experts from national statistical entities. As for international migration, he encouraged joining forces to provide correct and transparent statistical information to be used by programmers and decision makers.

72. Mr. Frederico Neto, Chief of the Social Development Division, welcomed participants and pointed to the importance of the meeting that discusses statistical needs in the field of studying and analysing international migration and related policies, as well as its impact on economic and social development. Mr. Neto indicated the challenges faced by Arab countries, namely finding efficient, fact-based national policies that would help make the best use of the positive impact of international migration.

73. Participants expressed their deep gratitude to the ALO for the organization and implementation of the workshop, and for the support and logistic assistance, as well as the continuous cooperation between the two organizations. They requested ESCWA to send a letter in which they thank Mr. Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Director General of the ALO, for holding the workshop under his auspices, as they reaffirmed the need to translate the memorandum of understanding between the two organizations through similar meetings aimed to achieve regional integration.

74. Participants were grateful as well for MEDSTAT experts' efficient and valuable participation in the workshop.

#### **C. AGENDA**

75. The workshop was organized as follows:

1. Opening.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Theme I: International migration and development: implications for data collection.
4. Theme II: International recommendations and methodological considerations.
5. Theme III: Measuring migration using different data sources.
6. Theme IV: International migration data: challenges in compilation and dissemination.
7. Theme V: International migration statistics and socio-economic development.
8. Theme VI: Future plans and national papers.

Annex I\*\*

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\*\* Issued as submitted.

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## Annex II

### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

- Features of international migration in the Arab countries and related policies, Mr. Frederico Neto (ESCWA)
- International migration and development at the United Nations, Mr. Bela Hovy (DESA)
- Migration statistics: Policy and development, Ms. Ann Singleton (consultant)
- Migration and development in GCC, Mr. Mohammad Al-A'aal Saleh (expert)
- Youth, migration and development: Opportunities and challenges–Dr. Magda Al-Imam (ALO)
- Country presentations: Bahrain, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Syrian Arab Republic
- The United Nations recommendations on migration statistics and population censuses: Key concepts and definitions, Mr. Bela Hovy (DESA)
- Towards the implementation of the international migration recommendations at the regional level: The MEDSTAT experience, MEDSTAT (Mr. Gianbattista Cantisani)
- Developing comparable, harmonized statistics on international migration. What are the challenges and what is possible, Ms. Ann Singleton (consultant)
- Country presentations: Iraq, Oman, The Sudan
- The 2010 population and housing census: Key suggestions for the Arab world, Mr. Michel Poulain (MEDSTAT)
- Using a migration module in the population census: The Algerian experience (Algeria), Mr. Omar Benbella (MEDSTAT)
- Results from the ESCWA questionnaire/censuses, Ms. Fathia AbdelFadil (ESCWA)
- Methodological aspects of measuring labour migration, Mr. Ayman Zohry (MEDSTAT)
- International migration module for household surveys, Mr. Samir Farid (MEDSTAT)
- Country presentations: Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, & Yemen
- Border crossing registration, Mr. Gianbattista Cantisani (MEDSTAT)
- Using border crossing data in Lebanon, Ms. Lara Badre (MEDSTAT)
- Using residence permit data in Morocco, Ms. Bouchra Bouziani (MEDSTAT)
- Status of international migration statistics in ESCWA region, Ms. Fathia AbdelFadil (ESCWA)
- Data needs for migration policy in GCC – Mr. Mohammad Al-A'aal Saleh (expert)
- The need for household surveys to study the dynamics of international migration in the Arab region, Mr. Samir Farid (MEDSTAT)
- Using household surveys to study the economic and social implications of migration–Prof. Jeronimo Cortina (expert)
- The demography of forced displacement: Implications for migration statistics, UNHCR

### Annex III

#### LIST OF PROPOSED TABLES

##### **Immigrant stock by country of birth, sex and age**

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (other); Date (dd/mm/yy: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)]

Sex	Country of birth	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	...	100+	N.s.	Total
Male	- Country a								
	- Country b								
	- ...								
	- Not stated								
	Total								
Female	- Country a								
	- Country b								
	- ...								
	- Not stated								
	Total								

##### **Immigrant stock by country of citizenship, sex and age**

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (other); Date (dd/mm/yy: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)]

Sex	Country of citizenship	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	...	100+	N.s.	Total
Male	- Country a								
	- Country b								
	- ...								
	- Stateless								
	- Not stated								
	Total								
Female	- Country a								
	- Country b								
	- ...								
	- Stateless								
	- Not stated								
	Total								

### Immigrant stock by country of birth, sex and year of arrival

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (other); Date (dd/mm/yy: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)]

Sex	Country of birth	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20+	N.s.	Total
Male	- Country a							
	- Country b							
	- ...							
	- Not stated							
	Total							
Female	- Country a							
	- Country b							
	- ...							
	- Not stated							
	Total							

### Immigrant stock by country of citizenship, sex and year of arrival

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (other); Date (dd/mm/yy: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)]

Sex	Country of citizenship	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20+	n.s.	Total
Male	- Country a							
	- Country b							
	- ...							
	- Stateless							
	- Not stated							
	Total							
Female	- Country a							
	- Country b							
	- ...							
	- Stateless							
	- Not stated							
	Total							

## Immigrant stock by country of birth, sex and skills

[Source (encircle one): 1 (census); 2 (register); 3 (survey); 4 (other); Date (dd/mm/yy: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)]

Sex	Country of citizenship	Low		Medium		High		Total
Male	- Country a							
	- Country b							
	- ...							
	- Stateless							
	- Not stated							
	Total							
Female	- Country a							
	- Country b							
	- ...							
	- Stateless							
	- Not stated							
	Total							

## Immigration of citizens and non-citizens by previous country of residence

[Source (encircle one): 1 (register); 2 (other); Date (dd/mm/yy: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)]

Immigration of citizens				Immigration of non-citizens			
Country of previous residence	2007	2008	2009	Country of previous residence	2007	2008	2009
- Country a				- Country a			
- Country b				- Country b			
- Country c				- Country c			
- Country d				- Country d			
- Country e				- Stateless			
- Not stated				- Not stated			
Total				Total			

**Immigration (emigration) by type of entry  
(Administrative sources – permits/visa)**

Entry category	2005	2006	2007
- Employment			
- Education and training			
- Family			
- Settlement			
- Humanitarian			
- Regularization			
- Not stated			
Total			

Exit category	2005	2006	2007
- Employment			
- Education and training			
- Family			
- Settlement			
- Humanitarian			
- Regularization			
- Not stated			
Total			