

# Regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Draft concept note

## Introduction

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Division and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, is organising a regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data for the achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development for selected countries in Asia.<sup>1</sup> The meeting is organized under the 11<sup>th</sup> tranche of the development account capacity building project.

The workshop will take place at United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5 to 8 February 2019.

The workshop will bring together experts from a range of ministries and departments within national governments concerned with the collection of migration statistics including national statistical offices, ministries of labour, interior, immigration, human resource development and ministries dealing with human displacement. Experts from international organizations will be invited to participate as resource persons.

## Objectives

The workshop aims to increase the capacity of participating countries to produce and analyze comprehensive national migration data that meets international standards, and to enhance understanding of the uses and limitations of migration data for policy purposes and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Specific objectives of the workshop are to

1. Strengthen the technical capacity of government officials working in national statistical offices and relevant ministries to:
  - a. understand data needs on migration for national policy making and for monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;
  - b. produce, compile and analyse migration data from relevant sources including population censuses, sample surveys, administrative sources and integration of multiple sources; and
  - c. use such data on migration and its impact to inform comprehensive national migration policies and development planning to achieve the 2030 agenda,

including through the completion of a toolkit that assesses the national migration data capacity and identifies needs for capacity building.

2. Assess national needs for capacity building to improve migration statistics
3. Solicit input from countries on the revision of the 1998 United Nations *Recommendations for Statistics on International Migration*

#### Topics to be covered in the workshop

- Migration data needs and gaps for policy making at national level and for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
- International standards on concepts and definitions related to migration and refugee statistics
- Sources of migration data, including population censuses, sample surveys, administrative sources and innovative data sources including the integration of multiple data sources and the potential of using big data for migration measurement
- Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Migration: the role of migration-related indicators
- Revision of the 1998 Recommendations for Statistics for International Migration
- Regional cooperation, capacity building and data exchange on migration data

#### The workshop is expected to yield the following outputs

- Identification of country priority needs and actions to improve the availability and quality of data and statistics on international migration in support of national and global development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
- Feedbacks from countries on the revision of the 1998 United Nations *Recommendations for Statistics on International Migration*
- Sharing of good practices among countries in the region
- Recommendations to strengthening regional cooperation and capacity building, including data exchanges and sharing

#### Workshop Modality

The workshop will be held using an interactive format facilitating exchange of information, good practice and challenges faced by countries with a range of experiences. There will also be a presence of experts from a range of organizations to assist in generating a comprehensive picture of the situation with regards to migration data gaps, needs and availability and how to improve in these areas.

A pre-workshop questionnaire on national migration data system will be provided to participating countries to assess the current stage of the development and use of these data and structure the workshop to effectively meet the needs of the target countries.