

**UN TASK FORCE ON
A GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON MIGRATION STATISTICS**

Terms of Reference

Background

For many years, the UN General Assembly has called for accurate, timely and disaggregated statistics on international migration. Global initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/70/1), the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/71/1), the Global Compact on Refugees (A/73/12) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/73/195) all point to the need to strengthen national capacities to collect and use migration statistics and data to develop evidence-based migration policies and to integrate migration into national development planning.

In particular, objective 1 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration outlines key actions, for countries, regional organizations and the international community, to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies. Objective 1 calls on the United Nations Statistical Commission to (a) continue its work on developing and harmonizing methodologies for data collection, for strengthening analysis and dissemination of migration-related data and indicators, and (b) to review regularly a global programme to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination. The global programme shall encourage collaboration between relevant stakeholders at all levels, provide training, financial support and technical assistance, and leverage new data sources.

Furthermore, the UN Statistical Commission at the 50th session in its decision 50/117 on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2019/34) requests the development by the Statistics Division and the Expert Group of a global programme to support national capacity-building efforts, including estimates of resources needed for its implementation, and encouraged Member States and the donor community to provide adequate resources for its funding.

Objectives

The objective of the Task Force 5 is to facilitate the development of a Global Programme on Migration Statistics which will strengthen the systems of collecting, managing, compiling and using migration statistics in a holistic manner. In this context, the Task Force will design and propose a Global Programme, addressing: a) rationale for key elements of the Global Programme, including the activities to be conducted in the short, medium, and long term; b) institutional frameworks in which collaborative arrangements with key stakeholders could be set up at national, regional and global levels; c) supports required for effective implementation of the Global Programme, including technical cooperation and resource mobilization; and d) a training component strategically designed to integrate wide disciplines, including demography, sociology, economics, environmental studies, political science, behavioral research, IT and data science.

The Global Programme will build on international standards on migration statistics endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Task Force Membership

The Task Force will be led by co-Chairs with a reasonable balance of representatives from both receiving and sending countries, experts, relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as representatives from other communities including the private sector, academia and the donor community. Task Force members are asked to contribute actively to the work of the Task Force.

Main Duties

For achieving the above mentioned objectives, the Task Force will concentrate on the following key areas of actions:

1. Mapping of institutional frameworks for producing and sharing migration statistics at a national level and development of model sharing mechanism

Given interdisciplinary nature of the field of population movements, migration statistics are collected by not only statistical offices, but also multiple institutions, including government agencies, private sector organizations as well as academics. The Task Force will begin by conducting a mapping of existing data-sharing mechanisms among different data producers in a country. The Task Force aims to develop a model data flow and sharing mechanism at a national level, including legal arrangements.

2. Mapping of capacity development programmes on migration statistics and identification of main elements of training programme

It is imperative for countries to strengthen their technical capacities, so that the data produced meet the international standards set forth by the Statistical Commission, and allow comparison among population groups, across different levels of geographic areas, countries, and over time. Hence, support for national capacity building will be one of the core elements of the Global Programme. The Task force will examine if existing training and capacity building programmes on migration statistics offered from various international, regional as well as national institutions are strategically designed and implemented, how they can be improved and whether they can be supported within the framework of the Global Programme.

3. Calculation of cost Estimates of a Global Programme on Migration Statistics and suggestion of fundraising strategies

Effective implementation of the Global Programme requires resource mobilization to support the activities set forth under the Programme. The Task Force will review the existing financial support mechanisms for statistical activities, and estimate the cost that will be necessary to implement the proposed Global Programme. The Task Force will also discuss strategies to fundraise and explore from where financial support might be sought.

4. Designing a Global Programme on Migration Statistics

Drawing from the above mentioned reviews and analyses, the Task Force will design a Global Programme on Migration Statistics, proposing a structure and memberships, with activities to be implemented in a short, medium, and long terms. The proposed Global Programme will include cost estimates necessary for its implementation.

Work Programme

Time	Tasks to be carried out
August- October 2020	1. Review of other existing global statistics programmes, as references to draw the Global Programme on Migration Statistics
September-November 2020	2. Mapping of existing assessments of statistical systems, and review of institutional frameworks for producing and reporting migration statistics in selected countries
November 2020- March 2021	3. Assessment of existing capacity building activities for migration statistics offered from various international and regional organizations. (including In-depth analysis of survey data that UNSD has collected in 2018)
January-June 2021	4. Study on existing financial support mechanisms for statistical activities, listing donor agencies and organizations. Cost estimates of the Global Programme on Migration Statistics
July-December 2021	5. Drafting the Global Programme on Migration Statistics, including the cost estimates
January 2022	6. Presentation of draft Global Programme for review and comments
March-May 2022	7. Revision and finalization of Global Programme