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Background document
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**Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics
(EGRIS):
Third Phase/Implementation of Recommendations (2020-2024)**

Prepared by Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics – Third phase/ Implementation of Recommendations (2020-2024)

I. BACKGROUND

At the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016, Statistics Norway, Eurostat, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presented a joint report on international challenges associated with the production of statistics on refugees.

The report acknowledged the urgent need to build better and more efficient systems for statistics on refugees and asylum seekers against a backdrop of a rapidly growing numbers of displaced persons. The report suggested the establishment of an international expert group to examine these issues and to develop a set of international recommendations for refugee statistics.

In its decision 11/2016, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the proposal to establish an international Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) mandated to develop a set of international recommendations on refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) statistics.

As part of the first phase of its work, the expert group submitted two documents to the UN Statistical Commission at its 49th session in 2018: The International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and the Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons. Both documents were formally adopted at the same occasion. Following this event, the second phase of EGRIS' work, has encompassed the development of the International Recommendation on IDP Statistics and an online Compilers' Manual – a hands-on guide for the implementation of the recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics.

The publication of the Compilers' Manual introduces the third phase of EGRIS' mandate, which emphasizes implementation of both sets of recommendations - on refugee and IDP statistics. This will be done through strengthening of national statistical capacity, by providing support to, and monitoring the application of the international statistical recommendations on refugees and IDPs. These activities will enable the identification of best practices, knowledge dissemination, peer-to peer learning and exchange as well as refinement of areas of the recommendations that require further work and development.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPERT GROUP

The Expert Group has as its main objective to improve national and international refugee and Internally Displaced Persons statistics through development of international recommendations on how to produce, compile and disseminate statistics on displaced

populations. Following the official endorsement of the recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics and the publication of the Compilers' Manual, EGRIS will continue to:

- Advocate for improved quality and availability of statistics on refugees and IDPs by disseminating and promoting the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) along with the associated Compilers' Manual;
- Advocate for the importance of harmonized statistical frameworks on refugees and IDPs in order to support better informed decision making and response - both among national and international actors. This includes production of disaggregated and comparable data which allow better targeting of populations in need on national and global level;
- Strengthen statistical capacity of national statistical systems, relevant regional institutions and international organizations/UN agencies and facilitate and coordinate technical support as needed to enable wider implementation of the Recommendations and the use of the Compilers' Manual to produce, analyze and disseminate quality statistics on refugees and IDPs;
- Encourage the use of all data sources including population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources in order to gather more comprehensive data on refugees and IDPs;
- Collaborate closely with and invite international and regional organizations to support Member States upon their request in the production of official statistics in accordance with the International Recommendations on refugee and IDPs statistics;
- Support monitoring, regularly evaluate and capture lessons learned from implementation processes in both refugee and IDP contexts in order to continuously refine the recommendations on statistics on refugees and IDPs, including the refinement of the statistical measurement of progress towards Durable Solutions as well as the Compilers' Manual (online collection of tools and guidance), and to enable capacity sharing across contexts;
- Facilitate and strengthen reporting on the Global Compact on Refugees and SDG progress related to forcibly displaced persons, including disaggregated data collection by forced displacement;
- Support coordination, collaboration and partnership with key stakeholders including national, regional and international entities in order to enhance knowledge dissemination, improve capacity and identify best practices;
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and exchange of experiences supported by regional institutions and international organizations in order to accelerate implementation of the IRIS and the IRRS;
- Function as a pool of technical experts which can be drawn upon in the provision of technical support and capacity building activities;
- Identify and initiate fundraising activities that will support national level capacity building activities.

III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

The main outputs will be:

- Increased availability of official statistics on forcibly displaced persons. This also includes increased availability of SDG indicators disaggregated by forced displacement;
- Coordinated efforts among the Expert Group members and beyond to implement the Recommendations;
- Strengthened capacity among members of the group and more widely around official statistics on forcibly displaced persons at national, regional and global levels;
- Better informed policy and decision making in the area of forced displacement as a result of increased availability and use of data and statistics on these population groups;
- Continuously updated Compilers' Manual with latest guidance based on experiences in implementing the Recommendations in linkage to all points above, including best practices and lessons learned.

IV. WAY OF WORKING

The Expert Group will:

- Organize meetings when needs are identified;
- Technical subgroups will be established on specific issues when necessary;
- Organize meetings on the margins of international statistical conferences;
- Conduct virtual meetings and discussions as needed;
- Seek to establish funding arrangements for participants from developing countries and countries in transition in relevant events;
- Engage and coordinate with national, regional and international partners in determining priorities going forward.

V. COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERT GROUP

The Expert Group will continue to be open and inclusive in its approach to membership. The group also welcomes the collaboration with new, relevant partners from the statistical community. The individual participants are nominated in their personal capacities as recognized experts. The daily coordination of the EGRIS will be managed by a Secretariat in collaboration with EGRIS Steering Committee and identified partners. The Secretariat will report back to the EGRIS Steering Committee and identified partners on progress. Mechanisms will be established to ensure accountability in the implementation.

VI. TIME FRAME

EGRIS will continue to work and report back to the Commission on progress made concerning the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS in countries, coordinated capacity development

support, and further development and refinement of IRRS, IRIS, and the Compilers' Manual based on best practices. A formal continuation of the Expert Group until year 2025 is envisioned to ensure effective execution of the work ahead.