

## Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics

### I. BACKGROUND

At the forty-seventh session of the UN Statistical Commission, 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 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 Statistical Commission endorsed the proposal to establish an expert group, and mandated the group to develop a set of international recommendations on refugee statistics and to consider the inclusion of inclusion of Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons.

The expert group submitted the recommendations to the UN Statistical Commission at its 49<sup>th</sup> session in 2018 for review and adoption. The Statistical Commission commended the work undertaken by the group to develop international recommendations on refugee statistics and the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics. The commission appreciated that the expert group conducted the global consultation involving national statistical offices before the finalization of the documents and endorsed the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and the Technical Report on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons, taking full account of comments received during the discussion. The commission also supported the proposal of upgrading the Technical Report on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons to a set of recommendations.

### II. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPERT GROUP

The expert group has as its main objective to improve international refugee and Internally Displaced Persons statistics through development of international recommendations on how to collect, compile and disseminate statistics on displaced populations.

As requested by the UN Statistical Commission in its decisions 11/2016 and 115/2018 the group will:

- Upgrade the Technical Report on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons to a set of Recommendations;
- Develop hands on guidance for statistics on forced displacement;
- Take user perspectives into account;
- Build on existing work such as the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and the CES Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing;

- Acknowledged the importance of a harmonized statistical framework on refugees and Internally Displaced Persons statistics for comparable data within the country and between countries and international agencies;
- Emphasize that all data sources including population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources should be used;
- Advocate for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons and
- Collaborate closely with and invite international and regional organizations to support Member States in this regard, upon their request.

### **III. OUTPUTS**

The main outputs will be:

- Recommendations on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons
- Compiler's manual on displaced populations, to provide hands-on guidance and refined methodology in collecting statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, building on Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons

### **IV. MEETINGS**

The expert group will:

- Meet annually, at members' own expense, to share new knowledge, discuss issues and review progress. Technical subgroups will be established on specific issues when needed;
- Organize meetings on the margins of international statistical conferences. Electronic discussions would continue throughout the year;
- Organize a global technical meeting on refugee and Internally Displaced Persons statistics bringing together experts in the field and
- Seek to establish funding arrangements for participants from developing countries and countries in transition.

### **V. COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERT GROUP**

The expert group will include approximately 50 working experts from national statistical offices, migration authorities, and international organizations. The individual participants are nominated in their personal capacities as recognized experts.

There will be a Steering Committee composed of experts from within the group, as well as a Chair and Secretariat.

### **VI. TIME FRAME**

The commission requested that the recommendations on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons and the Compilers Manual to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session in 2020. A global consultation will be carried out for the recommendations on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons and Compilers Manual on Displaced Populations. The group will review its mandate following the completion of the main outputs.