Making the Invisible Visible: Developing International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics

Side-event of the 54th Session of the UN Statistical Commission
Wednesday 1st March 2023, 8:15-9:30am (New York Time, GMT-5)
Venue: UN HQ, CR-8

Side Event Summary

In recognition of the need to improve data on stateless persons and building on the previous successes of the **Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)** related to the development of the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* (IRRS) and the *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics* (IRIS), the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) requested the Expert Group to develop a set of ***International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics* (IROSS)** to address statistical and methodological challenges related to the production of statelessness data. This side event, which is connected to agenda item 4e "refugee, internally displaced persons and statelessness statistics", will draw attention to **statistics on statelessness** and the potential of the **IROSS to strengthen statistics on this vulnerable population in the spirit of Agenda 2030**.

Background

Currently, global estimates of stateless persons and those of an undetermined nationality status sits at 4.3 million. However, this figure is widely disputed due to inconsistencies in national data, of which international estimates are based. These inconsistencies are due to differing national, regional, and international methodologies, definitions and statistical frameworks used to collect data on stateless populations, limiting the ability of national authorities to successfully identify sustainable solutions to statelessness.

As the **first of its kind**, the IROSS aims to provide a **set of authoritative recommendations** for countries to **consult and use to address these statistical challenges**, **improve their statelessness data** and **strengthen their national statistical systems**. It achieves this by establishing a **comprehensive statistical framework** and **providing concrete guidance on how different data sources can be used and integrated to produce data on stateless persons**.

The IROSS was developed through a **collaborative process**, including national statistical offices, civil society members and international organizations. **Over 51 countries** have contributed to the development of the recommendations at various stages. The inclusion of different country and organizational perspectives has enabled the production of recommendations that are **relevant globally** and can be **adjusted to reflect different national data collection priorities**.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes from the event include:

- To **raise awareness** of the **International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics** and **cement support** among Member States ahead of the expected endorsement of the recommendations at the 54th UN Statistical Commission.
- To highlight country perspectives that have been **crucial to the development of the recommendations** and **showcase country experiences** of producing statelessness data.
- To **discuss the potential impact of the recommendations** to help **identify durable solutions to improve the lives of stateless persons**.
- To **learn from country examples** of producing statelessness statistics and use these examples to **inspire efforts** to implement the recommendations in **different national contexts**.

Panelists

Opening Remarks

Mr. Tarek Abou Chabake, Chief Statistician, UNHCR

Speakers

Dr. Claire Dennis Mapa, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority

Mr. Leonardo Trujillo Oyola (TBD), Deputy Director General, Department of National Statistics Colombia

Dr. William Muhwava, Chief of ACS- Demographic & Social Statistics Section, Africa Centre for Statistics, UN Economic Commission for Africa

Ms. Natalia Krynsky Baal, Head of the EGRISS Secretariat

Chair/Moderator

Mr. Björn Gillsäter, Head of World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
8:15 am	Opening remarks	Mr. Tarek Abou Chabake, Chief Statistician, UNHCR
8:20 am	Introduction to side event	Mr. Björn Gillsäter, Head of World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
8:25 am	Presentation from country representatives regarding statelessness statistics and national efforts to improve these data	- Dr. Claire Dennis Mapa, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority - Mr. Leonardo Trujillo Oyola (TBD), Deputy Director General, Department of National Statistics Colombia
8:45 am	The development of the IROSS and its role in supporting the improvement of statelessness statistics	Ms. Natalia Krynsky Baal, Head of the EGRISS Secretariat
9:00am	The IROSS and its potential impact on statelessness data in Africa and the importance of capacity development to implement the recommendations	Dr. William Muhwava, Chief of ACS- Demographic & Social Statistics Section, Africa Centre for Statistics, UN Economic Commission for Africa
9:10 am	Questions and Answers	Mr. Björn Gillsäter, Head of World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
9:25 am	Closing remarks	