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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Items for decision: refugee, internally displaced persons
and statelessness statistics

Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2025/315 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics, which is submitted to the Commission for decision.

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* E/CN.3/2026/1.

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Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics

I. Introduction

1. The present report presents progress achieved by the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics against its terms of reference for 2020–2025.[1] Emphasis is given to the triennium 2023–2025, following the previous report to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fourth session, in 2023 (E/CN.3/2023/22). The Commission is requested to review the collective achievements detailed in the present report and to consider endorsement of proposed terms of reference for the Expert Group's continuation.

2. The 2020–2025 period has witnessed significant advancement in operationalizing the Expert Group's international statistical standards. The endorsement of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics in Commission decision 54/121 (see E/2023/24) completed the Group's three normative frameworks spanning statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless populations; since then, the Group has systematically pursued their integration within broader policy architectures, related statistical standards, regional platforms and capacity-development initiatives across geographical and institutional contexts.

3. In the present report, the Expert Group's collective achievements are structured across four strategic pillars: (a) promoting accessibility and adoption of the International Recommendations; (b) developing complementary practical guidance mechanisms; (c) strengthening statistical capacity to facilitate implementation; and (d) monitoring progress and capturing lessons learned. These workstreams together contribute to the overall aim in the 2020–2025 terms of reference to improve national and international refugee, internally displaced persons and statelessness statistics that can inform the development of policies and response at the national, regional and global levels.

II. Background of the Expert Group

4. At the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission, Eurostat, Statistics Norway, the Turkish Statistical Institute and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presented a report highlighting the need for improved statistics on refugees and asylum-seekers amid escalating global displacement (E/CN.3/2016/14). Welcoming the analysis, the Commission endorsed the establishment of the Expert Group in its decision 47/111 (see E/2016/24). In its initial terms of reference (2016–2018), the Group was mandated to develop the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics[2] and to include internally displaced persons in its scope of work. It also produced the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons*.[3] Both were endorsed by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, in decision 49/115 (see E/2018/24). The second terms of reference (2018–2020) culminated in the development of the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, endorsed at the fifty-first session in decision 51/116 (see E/2020/24), alongside the publication of the

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comprehensive *Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics*.[4] On the same occasion, the third terms of reference (2020–2025)[5] were approved, encompassing promotional activities, capacity development, monitoring, coordination, partnership-building and technical support. In 2021, these terms of reference were revised to incorporate the development of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics, endorsed at the fifty-fourth session; as a result, these International Recommendations were added into other objectives in the terms of reference to promote and support their implementation. With the incorporation of statelessness, the Expert Group's name was adjusted to the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics.

5.   As the Expert Group approaches its tenth anniversary, its scope of work remains critically connected to evolving policy landscapes and changing global realities of forced displacement and statelessness. The statistical standards developed by the Group have catalysed increased availability and quality of national statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless populations. These advances provide essential contributions towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact on Refugees, the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

6.   As of November 2025, the Expert Group's membership has expanded to 62 countries and 40 regional and international organizations.[6] Its organizational structure is designed to foster collaboration: complementing oversight from the Commission, its Steering Committee[7] provides strategic and technical guidance, including through an annual high-level Steering Committee meeting. Work proceeds through thematic technical subgroups[8] composed of interested members. Two cross-cutting technical subgroups currently function: regional engagement and capacity development (technical subgroup 1) and methodological research and guidance development (technical subgroup 2). A dedicated secretariat, hosted by UNHCR, coordinates, supports and enables all Expert Group efforts.

7.   Funding has diversified, incorporating contributions from the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (2021–2027), UNHCR (2020–2025), the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (2024–2025) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2025–2026). They are complemented by various in-kind financial contributions from members, including the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), Eurostat, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and Statistics Sweden, and generous hosting arrangements for meetings of all Expert Group members ("all members meetings") from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Statistics Poland.

III.   Progress vis-à-vis current terms of reference

8.   The 2020–2025 terms of reference of the Expert Group encompass 12 interconnected objectives that collectively advance the dissemination and implementation of the three sets of International Recommendations. They reflect the Group's focus on normative development and advocacy for harmonized statistical frameworks, strengthening of national statistical systems' capacity, and

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[4] See https://egrisstats.org/activities/compilers-manual/.
[5] See https://egrisstats.org/about/terms-of-reference/.
[6] For the full list, see https://egrisstats.org/about/membership.
[7] See https://egrisstats.org/about/governance/.
[8] See https://egrisstats.org/about/subgroups/.

encouragement of inclusive statistical production utilizing various data sources. Fostering collaboration, monitoring implementation to capture lessons learned and refine methodological guidance, and enhancing connections to key policy frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, have also been critical.

9.   In the present report, the 12 objectives have been organized under four thematic pillars that structure the Expert Group's operational approach and framework.

A.   Promoting use, raising awareness and ensuring accessibility of the International Recommendations

10.   Realizing the transformative potential of the International Recommendations and the objectives of its mandate, the Expert Group has worked to ensure accessibility, promote adoption and integrate the International Recommendations within broader statistical, policy and operational architectures.

Ensuring accessibility of the International Recommendations and advocacy publications

11.   The finalization of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics, endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, in 2023, completed the three sets of International Recommendations produced by the Expert Group. Consistent with publication agreements established for the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, a co-publication agreement between the United Nations and Eurostat is in place, with the publication forthcoming (expected at the end of 2025).

12.   To enhance access to the International Recommendations across different regions, official translations of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics have been completed by Eurostat. As with all of the Expert Group's work, collaboration was key; both translations were completed through a validation process involving the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office, IOM, the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service and UNHCR. By early 2024, both sets of International Recommendations had been published in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish. Separately, informal translations have proceeded into Ukrainian and Kurdish to meet demand in specific countries and regions.

13.   In addition, in 2024 the Expert Group released the Recommendations at a Glance series,[9] offering concise overviews of the content of each set of International Recommendations to help raise awareness and promote their use, targeting senior management and prospective users. At the same time, the Group maintains ongoing communication through various publications, most notably its annual report, which highlights progress and priorities. The regularly updated website (https://egrisstats.org/), with strong user engagement, also disseminates key resources and products to Expert Group members and the wider stakeholder community.

Mainstreaming into other international statistical standards and frameworks

14.   The Expert Group has successfully worked to integrate the three sets of International Recommendations into related statistical standards to promote their application and improve the coherence of global frameworks. As a result of

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[9] See https://egrisstats.org/resources/?_sf_s=recommendations%20at%20a%20glance&_sft_category=egriss-publications.

engagement with the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, the revised Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility, presented to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, incorporated key elements of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics alongside references to the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics and the *Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics*. Similarly, the revised Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, endorsed at the same session (see decision 56/102), includes references to the three sets of International Recommendations and the *Compilers' Manual*, guiding countries on how to ensure inclusion of displaced and stateless populations in national population and housing censuses.

15. In the revision of the United Nations handbooks on household surveys,[10] issues relevant to refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons are being incorporated, building on content from the International Recommendations and the *Compilers' Manual*, as well as Expert Group members' experience. The Expert Group facilitated a membership consultation in August and September 2024, on behalf of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, and engagement in subsequent steps of the process continues. Similarly, the Expert Group is supporting the revision by the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the *International Conference of Labour Statisticians Guidelines concerning Statistics of International Labour Migration*,[11] joining online consultations during 2024 and 2025, to ensure that the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Statelessness Statistics are accurately reflected and to provide further guidance based on the *Compilers' Manual*.

16. The Expert Group's involvement in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators enabled the identification of priority Sustainable Development Goal indicators for disaggregation by displacement status (approved by the Commission in 2019) and contributed to the 2021 compilation of tools and resources for data disaggregation. Engagement in the regular meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators has helped to maintain visibility on forced displacement and statelessness in dialogue around the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, such as when the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova gave a presentation on the inclusion of refugees in its 2024 census,[12] which will be important as discussions unfold on the post-2030 development monitoring framework.

Enhancing visibility across statistical and policy platforms

17. Investments to ensure the visibility of the Expert Group's resources and collective experience in relevant global policy forums concerning data and statistics have helped to advance the agenda. This includes the (co-)organization of events in connection with the Commission itself, such as in 2023 on the inclusion of forcibly

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[10] Mandated by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session (see decision 55/117) and overseen by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys.

[11] Following the revision of the International Recommendations on Migration Statistics and endorsement of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Statelessness Statistics, ILO proposed updates at the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians, in 2023, to formalize frameworks, introduce flexibility on priority groups to be measured, and improve consistency with closely related domains.

[12] See https://egrisstats.org/event/15th-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/.

displaced persons in national surveys [13] and statelessness statistics, [14] in 2024 on inclusion in national censuses, [15] and in 2025 on efforts to align statistical frameworks on international migration with the three sets of International Recommendations. [16]

18.	The International Forum on Migration Statistics emerged as another critical platform for awareness-raising. At the third Forum, held in Chile in 2023, forced displacement featured prominently, with the Director General of IOM highlighting the Expert Group and the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics in the opening plenary. Expert Group members co-organized sessions to promote inclusive official statistics and investments in capacity strengthening. [17] At the fourth Forum, held in Sweden in 2025, the Group's participation expanded significantly through multiple sessions on the alignment of migration and displacement frameworks, identification methodologies in household surveys, strengthening internally displaced persons data, and measuring progress towards durable solutions for internally displaced persons, substantially elevating the visibility of forced displacement statistics within international migration discourse. [18]

19.	Similarly, the United Nations World Data Forum has been a strategic space for the Expert Group. At the 2023 Forum, held in Hangzhou, China, the Group organized several engagements, including awareness-raising of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics and improved statelessness statistics, and the principle of statistical inclusion. [19] At the fifth Forum, held in Medellín, Colombia, in 2024, the Group partnered with the Collaborative on Administrative Data to highlight the value of administrative data systems to improve statistics on forced displacement and statelessness. [20]

20.	Beyond the data and statistics landscape, the Expert Group actively engages in policy processes to ensure greater impact of its outputs and mutual reinforcement. A prominent example is the Group's joint leadership of the multi-stakeholder pledge on inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistical systems

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[13] With speakers from Chad, Uganda, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Demographic and Health Surveys Programme. See more at https://egrisstats.org/event/statistical-inclusion-at-the-54th-unsc/.

[14] Speakers included representatives from UNHCR, the Philippine Statistics Authority, the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, ECA, the Expert Group secretariat and the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement. See more at https://egrisstats.org/event/statelessness-at-the-54th-unsc/.

[15] Panellists included representatives from the national statistical offices of the Republic of Moldova and Rwanda, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Expert Group secretariat and the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement. See more at https://egrisstats.org/event/egriss-side-event-for-the-55th-un-statistical-commission/.

[16] Organized by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization and the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, the webinar also included presentations from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) and BPS-Statistics Indonesia. See more at https://egrisstats.org/event/aligning-international-migration-statistics-with-statistics-on-egriss-at-unsc-side-event/.

[17] The Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and UNHCR, featuring contributions from Colombia, Morocco and the African Union Institute for Statistics.

[18] See https://egrisstats.org/event/4th-international-forum-on-migration-statistics/.

[19] The Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR and the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement participated.

[20] Representatives from the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, the national statistical offices of Honduras and Somalia, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service joined as panellists.

and surveys, [21] together with the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and Djibouti. Launched at the Global Refugee Forum in 2023, this initiative positioned statistical inclusion and use of the International Recommendations as a key feature of the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, securing over 100 distinct commitments from national Governments, international organizations and development partners. Through this platform, statistical inclusion is recognized as an indispensable enabler of comprehensive, rights-based responses to forced displacement and statelessness across economic inclusion, social protection, education, statelessness eradication, and the humanitarian-development nexus.

21. Concerning internal displacement specifically, where dedicated efforts in the context of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement have witnessed momentum in recent years, the availability of the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics and the critical need to support States in improving national statistics have been clearly recognized. This is demonstrated by the 2025 *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement* from the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee[22] and the report of the High-level Committee on Programmes from its forty-eighth session, which acknowledge the work of the Expert Group in advancing the data infrastructure needed to support solutions to internal displacement and highlight the value added of national statistics. The incorporation of the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics as the foundational reference for the revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Initiative, [23] which aims to support more robust government-led data systems for solutions in internally displaced persons contexts, presents a second example.

B. Developing and maintaining practical guidance and tools that complement the International Recommendations

22. To support implementation of the International Recommendations across contexts, the Expert Group has developed and maintained a range of practical guidance and tools to address the capacity constraints confronting national statistical offices and partner organizations.

Revision of the *Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics*

23. The Expert Group's flagship *Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics* systematizes instructions from the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics on collecting and disseminating official statistics on refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and related populations. From 2021 to 2023, a comprehensive revision of the original version, presented as a "living document" and formally welcomed by the Commission in 2020 (see decision 51/116), was undertaken with leadership from technical subgroup 2. Validated through an Expert Group-wide review process, the revised *Compilers' Manual* was published in August 2023. Targeted at professionals working in national statistical systems, it complements the content of the International Recommendations and provides guidance through the following seven use cases or scenarios:

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[21] See more at https://egrisstats.org/implementation/statistical-inclusion-pledge/ and https://globalcompactrefugees.org/multi-stakeholder-pledge-inclusion-forcibly-displaced-and-stateless-persons-national-statistical.

[22] See https://unsdg.un.org/resources/unsdg-iasc-guidance-solutions-internal-displacement.

[23] See https://www.sparkblue.org/resource/Data-Solutions-Internal-Displacement-DSID-Initiative.

(a)   Including refugees or internally displaced persons in a population census;

(b)   Including refugees in a sample survey of the national population, or running a stand-alone survey of refugees;

(c)   Including internally displaced persons in a sample survey of the national population, or running a stand-alone survey of internally displaced persons;

(d)   Using Governments' administrative data;

(e)   Using sources of operational data from humanitarian organizations;

(f)   Using non-traditional data sources;

(g)   Coordinating and planning refugee and internally displaced persons statistics in national statistical systems.

24.   Each use case is available as a separate publication, and the *Compilers' Manual* can also be downloaded as a complete publication. The next revision is planned to mainstream the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics and statelessness statistics production into the *Compilers' Manual*.

Development and expansion of the e-learning platform

25.   In 2023, the Expert Group launched its e-learning course entitled "Introduction to the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics". Developed in partnership with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific under the leadership of technical subgroup 1, the course was first facilitated in March–April 2023, combining webinars,[24] five online modules and a final assessment. The course attracted 421 enrollees, with 72 per cent of those who passed the final assessment acquiring certificates of completion. In May 2023, a self-paced version was made available on the learning management system of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

26.   Following the endorsement of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics, the course was updated to include statelessness and renamed "Introduction to the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics". The course was delivered in April and May 2024, encompassing 490 enrollees, six webinars and a final assessment.[25] Among 270 assessment takers, 254 passed, with geographical representation spanning Africa (47 per cent), Asia (19 per cent), Europe (20 per cent), South America (10 per cent) and North America and Oceania (2 per cent each). Participant feedback demonstrated course relevance (87 per cent) and effectiveness (99 per cent), affirming knowledge and skill enhancement. The updated self-paced version became available in June 2024; translation of the e-learning course to respond to demand is under way.

Targeted methodological research

27.   The Expert Group's technical subgroup 2 actively works to enhance methodological rigour and address gaps and challenges identified by practitioners, through research, piloting and expert collaboration. Research topics are identified by Expert Group members, and results are published through the Methodological Paper series, intended as the Group's input to ongoing methodological debates. They do not

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[24] Experts from Kenya, Norway, Somalia and South Africa, as well as ESCAP, UNHCR, IOM, the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, led webinar discussions.

[25] Facilitated by experts from the same institutions from the first iteration plus the national statistical offices of Armenia and Italy.

constitute consensus or represent the official views of the Expert Group. To date, four such papers have been released:

- Methodological Paper No. 1 (August 2023)[26] contains a proposal for a standardized approach to identifying internally displaced persons, refugees and related populations through household surveys by introducing specific questions and metadata designed to identify different statistical categories from the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics and International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics frameworks. Since then, Expert Group members have been collecting lessons learned from the practical application, and in 2025 the workstream was revitalized to produce a second paper on the same topic.

- Methodological Paper No. 2 (August 2023)[27] explored the remaining methodological challenges associated with measuring exits (or outflows) from the internally displaced persons stock, building on recommendations included in the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics. With renewed momentum in 2025, the Expert Group has revitalized this workstream to produce a second paper on the same topic that will contain a proposed methodological approach for vulnerability-based exits from the internally displaced persons stock.

- Methodological Paper No. 3 (September 2024)[28] examined data-collection practices for 14 priority Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with a focus on how to improve data on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless populations. It concludes that existing Sustainable Development Goal methodologies require no fundamental modification for displaced and stateless population disaggregation, confirming methodological compatibility with national statistical systems.

- Methodological Paper No. 4 (August 2025)[29] evaluated five main approaches to defining the "comparator population" for forcibly displaced groups and assessed them based on standardization potential, benchmark bias and volatility risks. For official statistics, national population or affected administrative area populations are recommended in the paper as comparators, both practical and standardized approaches.

28.   In addition to the two new papers following up on Methodological Papers Nos. 1 and 2 listed above, new research has been initiated, including a mapping of statistical efforts to measure progress towards durable solutions for internally displaced persons, and a review of alignment between the international statistical frameworks on international migration and temporary mobility, forced displacement and statelessness and their application.

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[26] See https://egrisstats.org/resource/methodological-paper-towards-a-standardized-approach-to-identify-idps-refugees-and-related-populations-in-household-surveys/.

[27] See https://egrisstats.org/resource/methodological-paper-on-a-harmonized-statistical-measure-for-exits-from-the-stock-of-internally-displaced-persons/.

[28] See https://egrisstats.org/resource/egriss-methodological-paper-3-on-capturing-priority-sdg-indicators-in-refugee-internal-displacement-and-statelessness-contexts/.

[29] See https://egrisstats.org/resource/egriss-methodological-paper-4-on-defining-the-comparator-population-for-refugee-and-idp-statistics/.

C. Strengthening statistical capacity to facilitate implementation of the International Recommendations

29. Recognizing that global frameworks achieve impact through systematic adoption within national statistical systems, the Expert Group has prioritized capacity-strengthening initiatives to address gaps in many national and institutional contexts.

Regional engagement

30. During 2020–2025, engagement at the regional level with national, international and regional stakeholders became a central mechanism to build regional ownership, enable meaningful peer-to-peer learning and enhance statistical capacity. Technical subgroup 1, co-led by UNHCR, IOM and the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, established regional task teams for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and Western Asia. These teams facilitated workshops and collaborative initiatives tailored to contextualize the International Recommendations to the unique challenges and opportunities presented in each region.

31. In Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific hosted in March 2024 a workshop on implementing guidance on inclusive civil registration and vital statistics systems with a focus on forced displacement, statelessness and children on the move. Convening participants from 11 countries,[30] the workshop was organized collaboratively by Expert Group members[31] alongside the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move. The event underscored the critical role of civil registration and vital statistics systems in ensuring the comprehensive inclusion of displaced and stateless populations.

32. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Expert Group task team for Latin America and the Caribbean[32] consolidated a strategic partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023. Following webinars showcasing good practices to enhance statistics on displaced and stateless populations, a dedicated working group was formalized in 2023, at the twelfth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, for the 2024–2025 period to contribute to policy development and monitor international commitments such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Honduras with 11 other national statistical offices[33] and partners,[34] the working group developed a practical guide for the production of harmonized statistics on forced displacement and migration, which will be presented at the Conference in November 2025,[35] to support implementation of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics in complementarity with the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility.

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[30] Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam.

[31] ESCAP, UNHCR and UNICEF.

[32] Led by UNHCR, the Central American Statistical Commission, the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service and IOM.

[33] Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

[34] The Central American Statistical Commission, the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, IOM and UNHCR.

[35] See https://cea.cepal.org/13/en/programme.

33.   In Europe, the Expert Group co-organized in Geneva a workshop on statistics related to refugees, internally displaced persons and statelessness in May 2024.[36] Convened alongside the Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Migration Statistics, the event gathered representatives from 28 national statistical offices[37] to discuss enhanced statistical cooperation, the use of administrative data, and opportunities for collective action.

34.   In November 2024, Western Asia witnessed its first ever workshop on the International Recommendations,[38] welcoming representatives from 14 countries.[39] The event was hosted by the League of Arab States and co-organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and various Expert Group members.[40] A key outcome was the identified need for stronger contextualization of the three sets of International Recommendations, given the complex and often overlapping nature of displacement situations in the region.

35.   In Africa, the Expert Group's engagement has built on existing regional mechanisms established through the African Union and several regional economic commissions where dedicated migration and displacement working groups have been established within the framework of the updated Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. In this context, the Expert Group was invited to co-organize the fourth iteration of the African School on Migration Statistics,[41] convened in Abidjan in May 2025, alongside the African Union Institute for Statistics, Statistics Sweden, IOM and UNHCR. The school brought together representatives from 23 countries[42] and regional bodies,[43] and the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics within different national contexts. Following up on this collaboration, the Expert Group was able to contribute to the development of the Guidelines on Migration and Displacement Statistics of the African Union Institute for Statistics, which will be presented to the African Union Committee of Directors General of National Statistical Offices in December 2025.

Institution/theme-specific capacity-development initiatives

36.   In addition to its core capacity-development activities, diverse Expert Group members and the Group's secretariat have remained available for ad hoc, institution- and theme-specific training sessions. For instance, webinars with a focus on the identification of refugees and internally displaced persons in household surveys and

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[36] See https://egrisstats.org/workshop/unece-egriss-regional-workshop-expert-meeting-on-migration-statistics/.

[37] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Tajikistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

[38] See https://egrisstats.org/workshop/egriss-unescwa-regional-workshop-on-irrs-iris-and-iross/.

[39] Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen and State of Palestine.

[40] With operational support from UNHCR, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Population Fund and the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service.

[41] See https://egrisstats.org/workshop/4th-african-school-of-migration-statistics/.

[42] Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

[43] African Development Bank, African Migration Observatory, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, West African Economic and Monetary Union.

on census approaches[44] were co-organized with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. The Group also co-facilitated a session on the inclusion of refugees in labour statistics as part of the ILO online course on measuring and analysing labour migration, presenting the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and exploring challenges in integrating refugees into national labour force surveys. Furthermore, the Expert Group modules have also been incorporated into the UNHCR Data Academy, the Agency's corporate learning platform for enhancing data quality and literacy, through a dedicated module introducing the International Recommendations.

Technical support

37.   Responding to demand, the Expert Group has served as a platform for providing technical support to countries that seek to operationalize the International Recommendations, building on the operational and technical capacity of its members. Through this mechanism, under technical subgroup 1, technical reviews of census and survey instruments in Djibouti and Iraq, for example, were facilitated.

38.   In addition, a growing number of bilateral partnerships encompassing technical support for the implementation of the International Recommendations have materialized between Expert Group members, presenting an opportunity for further engagement for the collaborative platform. While these achievements cannot be directly attributable to the Expert Group per se, the platform provides a space for their enhancement and the exchange of experience. Some examples include the work of Statistics Norway with the Ethiopian Statistical Service to use administrative data to improve statistics on displaced persons and help to monitor the livelihood options of refugees and internally displaced persons; the multi-year partnership of Statistics Sweden with the African Union and regional economic commissions to strengthen migration and displacement statistics in Africa; World Bank support to the National Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSTAD) for its inclusive 2024 national census; cooperation between the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service and the Somali National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen national statistics on internally displaced persons; and UNHCR and Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics of Honduras for the inclusion of internally displaced persons in national household surveys. Many more examples exist.

39.   Taken together, the Expert Group's efforts to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders to implement the three sets of International Recommendations – through the provision of guidance and training materials, regional engagement and the facilitation of technical support – have generated significant momentum and been positively received. Around 80 per cent of participants indicated that the Expert Group's regional workshops significantly enhanced their knowledge and skills, and a comparable proportion anticipated that learning outcomes would contribute to supporting their professional work. With a focus on promoting peer-to-peer learning, regional platforms have been particularly fruitful, often leading to or informing wider processes that enhance ownership in applying international statistical standards.

D.   Monitoring implementation of the International Recommendations and capturing lessons learned

40.   Noting tangible progress and uptake of the three sets of International Recommendations, the Expert Group recognized that ad hoc tracking mechanisms

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[44] National statistical offices from Armenia and Mali, UNHCR and the United Nations Population Fund contributed.

quickly became inadequate. To more systematically monitor progress and capture lessons learned, the Group has taken steps to improve its own monitoring systems through both quantitative and qualitative data.

Global Annual Inclusion Survey[45]

41.   The Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey serves as the Expert Group's main mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the three sets of International Recommendations. The Survey aims to systematically track how countries and institutions are integrating the International Recommendations into national statistical systems, identifying innovations and challenges while providing evidence for global reporting.

42.   Launched in 2021, the Global Annual Inclusion Survey is conducted each year, with results published in the first quarter of the following year. Initially focused on the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics and on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, with data collection limited to Expert Group members, in 2023 it expanded to include the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics, broadened its respondent base with support from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and introduced French and Spanish language versions. In 2024, additional modules were introduced based on feedback from national and regional stakeholders, designed to capture future planned activities in addition to implementation achievements from the previous year and to help track progress against statistical inclusion commitments made in the context of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. In 2025, the Survey included Arabic and Russian language versions and steps were taken to further broaden the pool of respondents. In 2024 (2025 data collection was ongoing at the time of writing), the Survey achieved its highest number of responses, with 128 examples reported, demonstrating that it has become an established mechanism for tracking the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations in official data systems.

43.   Across the four survey rounds (2021–2024), 304 examples were reported through the Survey, with the majority of these (203) recorded as country-led initiatives. Out of that total, the three sets of International Recommendations were applied individually or in combination with each other in 254 examples.

44.   While the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics stand out as the most widely used framework of the three (with 97 implementation examples reported), the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, which became available two years later, in 2020 at the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, follow behind with 63 examples. First captured in 2023 following their endorsement by the Commission, 12 examples of implementation of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics have been captured. However, examples showing use of a combination of the International Recommendations ("mixed-use" examples) have grown steadily, from 10 in 2021 to 37 in 2024, amounting to 78 examples that highlight the salience of ensuring clear alignment of the statistical frameworks.

45.   Taking a closer look at the 203 country-led examples, 164 report using at least one set of International Recommendations to inform the process. According to these results, Africa leads the way in terms of implementation with 72 country-led examples of the International Recommendations being applied in population and housing censuses, national household surveys and administrative data systems. This is

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[45] See https://egrisstats.org/implementation/gain-survey/.

followed by Europe and the Americas with 33 and 30 examples reported, respectively, during 2021–2024.

46. Concerning data sources used in country-led examples, where multiple sources or tools can be reported for each example, surveys were the most frequently reported (97), followed by administrative data (87), censuses (51) and data integration efforts (29). Under each of these totals, reported use of at least one set of the International Recommendations presents a clear majority.

47. In addition to these core results, the Global Annual Inclusion Survey also provides insights connected to the Expert Group's broader objectives and workstreams. Partnerships with national and international stakeholders are regularly listed in country-led implementation examples, demonstrating the value of collaboration and statistical coordination to improve national statistics on forced displacement and statelessness, as well as the need to maintain a diverse membership base of the Group. Mentions of UNHCR, IOM, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Bank stand out in technical support provision. Challenges reported by countries have shaped and validated Expert Group priorities over the reporting period, including on methodological questions (such as standardizing the identification of population groups in survey instruments) and capacity-development approaches. Survey results are disseminated through three main products:

- Annual report: each issue includes a dedicated section containing a summary of the main findings from the Survey, embedding analysis within the broader narrative of the Expert Group's annual progress.

- Global Annual Inclusion Survey dashboard: an interactive platform presenting disaggregated data by year, country, data source and recommendation type, it provides an accessible resource for partners and national statistical systems.

- Global Annual Inclusion Survey tables: a new publication containing detailed cross-tabulations and maps across six thematic sections will be produced annually in response to increasing demand for Survey results from partners.

Country/area case studies

48. To complement the quantitative overview provided by the Global Annual Inclusion Survey, the Expert Group publishes case studies showcasing country- and area-specific experiences using at least one set of International Recommendations. Each case study is co-authored by statistical office staff and the Expert Group secretariat and examines how the International Recommendations shaped project design, facilitated stakeholder coordination, informed development and enhanced analytical frameworks. The case studies also capture policy influence alongside lessons learned. Twenty-two examples from Armenia, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa and Uganda, as well as Kosovo,[46] have so far been produced, representing diverse data sources and geographical and displacement contexts, and are available online.[47] The documentation enables transferability of evidence-based practices, enabling other statistical offices to learn from peer experiences and adapt successful strategies to their contexts.

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[46] References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

[47] See https://egrisstats.org/implementation/country-case-studies/.

E. Cross-cutting work

49.   The Expert Group's achievements are underpinned by deliberate institutional investments in governance and coordination mechanisms (see sect. I above). The Steering Committee provides strategic guidance and ensures alignment of the diverse workstreams with evolving international priorities and member capacity. Central to the Group's effectiveness as a collaborative platform is its dedicated secretariat, which functions as an institutional catalyst and operational backbone, providing essential coordination and day-to-day support across all activities, in addition to representational responsibilities and resource mobilization.

50.   Midway through the Expert Group's current mandate, an all members meeting was organized in December 2022 in Addis Ababa, hosted by ECA.[48] The event provided a platform for stocktaking on progress, sharing of experiences, and discussions on the future of the Group. Given the timing of the event, conversations also contributed to the finalization of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics, regrouping after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the launch of a regional engagement strategy. Among the outcomes, the demand for a continuation of the Expert Group has been clearly articulated with strong support from members, including Governments, regional bodies and international organizations.

51.   Based on the positive impact of this global face-to-face meeting, another all members meeting took place in October 2025, hosted by Statistics Poland in Warsaw. The event provided an opportunity to comprehensively review progress against the current terms of reference, highlighting the successful operationalization of the International Recommendations in national and institutional contexts and lessons learned. Notably, feedback shaping the terms of reference for the Expert Group's fourth mandate was consolidated, and actionable inputs were provided to the present report.

IV. The way forward

52.   Through a broad consultation process across various platforms, members have explicitly and consistently articulated their support for a fourth mandate and provided concrete direction for its scope, priorities and programme of work. Discussions at the all members meetings in 2022 and 2025, the annual high-level Steering Committee meetings in 2024 and 2025, and regular Steering Committee meetings throughout 2024 and 2025 created multiple opportunities for members to shape the future direction of the Group. The outcome of these consultations was unequivocal: stakeholders consistently expressed strong support for the continuation of the collaborative platform that the Expert Group had become, highlighting its unique role in facilitating peer exchange within and across regions on the practical application of the International Recommendations within national statistical systems and different institutional realities. They also emphasized the need to build on achievements and lessons learned, update normative frameworks when necessary, and continue investments in capacity strengthening for national statistical systems while building on existing regional cooperation mechanisms and priorities.

53.   Guidance received from Expert Group members is summarized in the following points:

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[48] See https://egrisstats.org/event/2022-meeting-of-the-expert-group-on-refugee-idp-and-statelessness-statistics-egriss-delivering-on-our-mandate-and-looking-to-the-future/.

- The Expert Group should continue, ideally until 2030 to align with the 2030 Agenda. New terms of reference should outline fewer, consolidated objectives to provide clearer focus and support prioritization.

- The Expert Group should continue to champion the three sets of International Recommendations and plan to update them based on lessons learned.

- The Expert Group should continue to invest in capacity strengthening of national systems and other relevant stakeholders to implement the three sets of International Recommendations, capitalizing on its strong network of members to do so, including through the facilitation of peer-to-peer learning and regional engagement.

- The Expert Group should build on its existing achievements to enhance the accessibility, awareness and application of the International Recommendations, including the *Compilers' Manual* and e-learning course, among others, ensuring that they remain fit for purpose.

- The Expert Group should continue and enhance its monitoring efforts through the Global Annual Inclusion Survey, to assess progress in terms of implementation of the three sets of International Recommendations. Documentation of good practice and lessons learned should also be featured, complemented by methodological research to address common gaps and challenges.

- The Expert Group should strive to avoid silos and ensure linkages with relevant processes and platforms across the humanitarian, development and statistical landscapes, to foster stronger impact of improved statistics on forced displacement and statelessness, and to enhance coherence and applicability of international statistical standards.

54. Consequently, new terms of reference for the Expert Group have been developed and are presented as a background document, for consideration and endorsement by the Commission.

V. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

55. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To recognize the collective achievements of Expert Group members that resulted from collaborative efforts undertaken during 2020–2025;**

(b) **To review and endorse the revised terms of reference of the Expert Group and to approve its future work priorities.**