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# United Nations Statistics Division Programme in Support of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

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**The 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census and  
the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework**

Monday, July 31, 2017



## Definitions

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- ❑ A **population census** is the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, disseminating and analysing demographic, economic and social data at the smallest geographical level pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.
  
- ❑ A **housing census** is the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, disseminating and analysing statistical data relating to the number and condition of housing units and facilities as available to the households pertaining, at a specified time, to all living quarters and occupants thereof in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.



## Essential features

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### Individual enumeration

The term "census" implies that each individual and each set of living quarters is enumerated separately and that the characteristics thereof are separately recorded. Only by this procedure can the data on the various characteristics be cross-classified. The requirement of individual enumeration can be met by the collection of information in the field, by the use of information contained in an appropriate administrative register or set of registers, or by a combination of these methods.



## Essential features

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### **Universality within a defined territory**

The census should cover a precisely defined territory (for example, the entire country or a well-delimited part of it). The population census should include every person present and/or residing within its scope, depending upon the type of population count required. The housing census should include every set of living quarters irrespective of type. This does not preclude the use of sampling techniques for obtaining data on specified characteristics, provided that the sample design is consistent with the size of the areas for which the data are to be tabulated and the degree of detail in the cross-tabulations to be made.



## Essential features

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### **Simultaneity**

Each person and each set of living quarters should be enumerated as of the same well-defined point in time and the data collected should refer to a well-defined reference period. The time-reference period need not, however, be identical for all of the data collected. For most of the data, it will be the day of the census; in some instances, it may be a period prior to the census.



## Essential features

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### **Defined periodicity**

Censuses should be taken at regular intervals so that comparable information is made available in a fixed sequence. A series of censuses makes it possible to appraise the past, accurately describe the present and estimate the future. It is recommended that a national census be taken at least every 10 years. Some countries may find it necessary to carry out censuses more frequently because of the rapidity of major changes in their population and/or its housing circumstances.



## Essential features

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### **Capacity to produce small area statistics**

The census should produce data on the number and characteristics of the population and housing units down to the lowest appropriate geographical level, compatible with national circumstance, and for small population groups all the while protecting confidentiality of each individual.



## Resolution

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- ❑ UN Statistical Commission endorsed the draft Resolution on 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme and submitted it to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for adoption
  
- ❑ On 10 June 2015 ECOSOC adopted the Resolution





## Resolution

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- Endorses the 2020 World Programme
- Urges each member state to conduct at least one population and housing censuses in the period 2015-2024
  - Based on international recommendations
  - Advance planning
  - Cost efficiency
  - Coverage
  - Timely dissemination
- Underscores the need for quality standards and assurance and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics



## Resolution

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- ❑ Emphasizes the importance of the 2020 Programme for implementing and monitoring the sustainable development agenda
- ❑ Requests the United Nations to:
  - ❑ Prepare international standards, methods and guidelines
  - ❑ Ensure coordination of activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States in the implementation of the 2020 Programme
  - ❑ Monitor and regularly report on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme



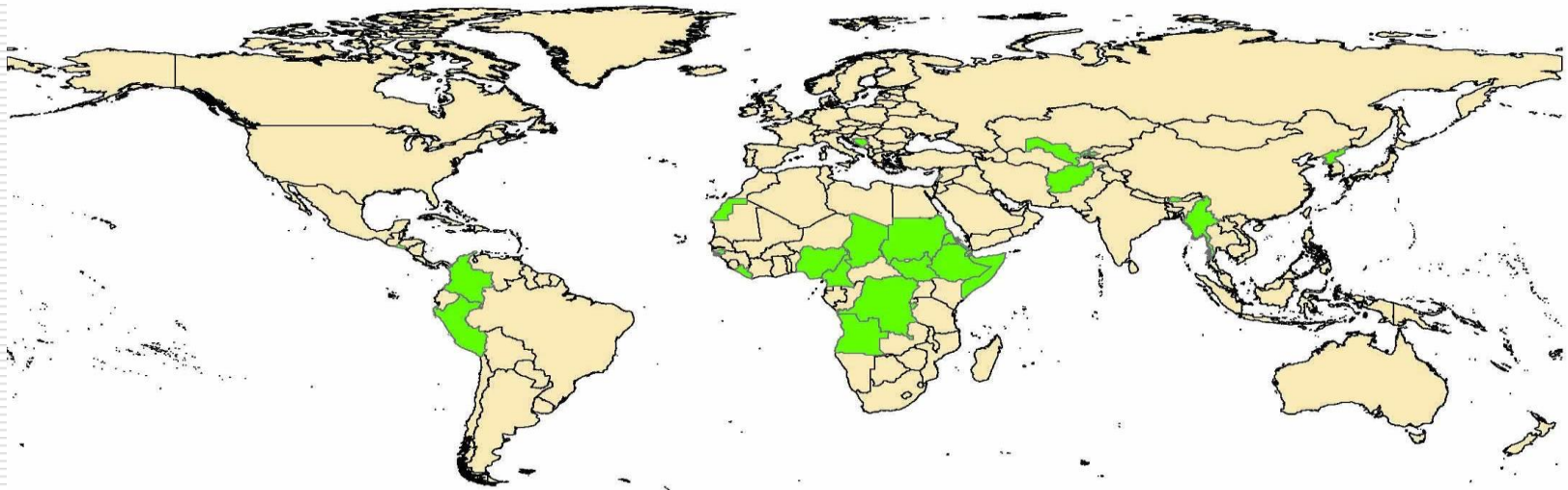
## 2010 Round

- ❑ Censuses conducted from 2005-2014 – 93% of world population

Region	Countries/areas census conducted	Countries/areas census not conducted	Percent not conducted
Africa	49	9	16
America, North	36	2	5
America, South	14	-	-
Asia	41	8	16
Europe	49	2	4
Oceania	25	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>

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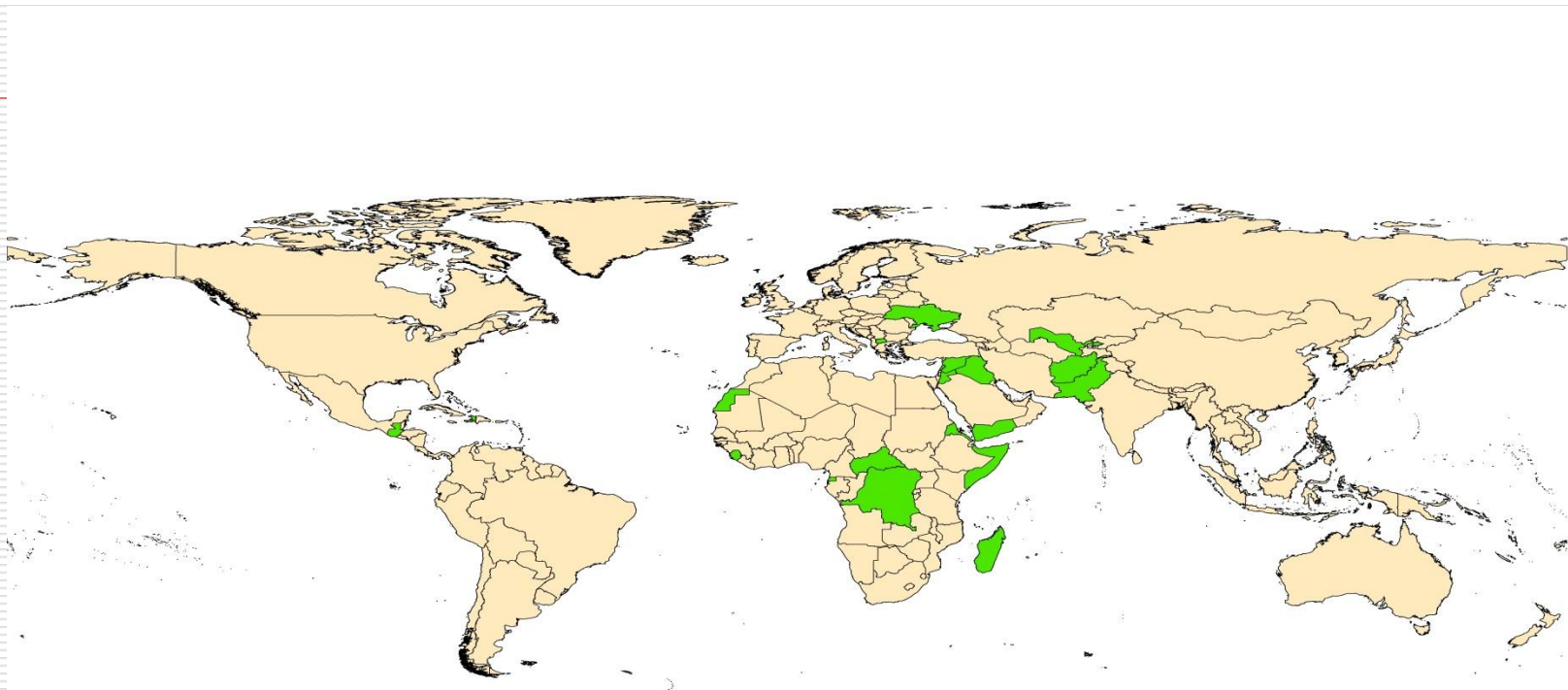
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2000 Round of censuses

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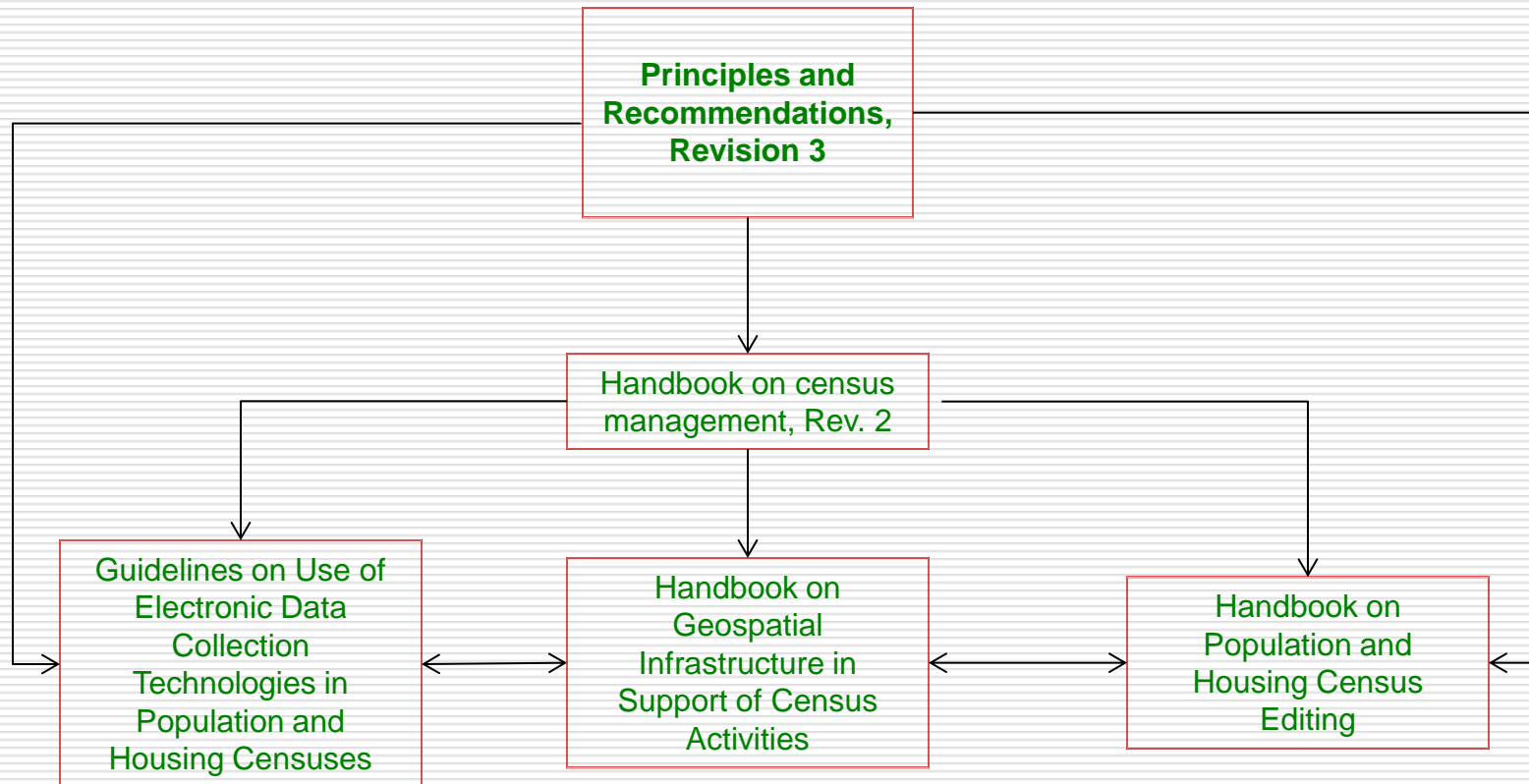
## 2010 Round of censuses

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## UNSD Methodological framework



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## Principles and recommendations

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- ❑ United Nations Statistical Commission established in 1946
- ❑ Developing international standards for official statistics
- ❑ In the field of population and housing censuses
  - ❑ Population Census Methods (1949)
  - ❑ Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses (1958)
  - ❑ General Principles for a Housing Census (1958)
  - ❑ Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses (1969)
  - ❑ Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (1980)
  - ❑ Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1 (1998)
  - ❑ Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 (2008)
  - ❑ Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3 (2015)

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## Principles and Recommendations, Revision 3

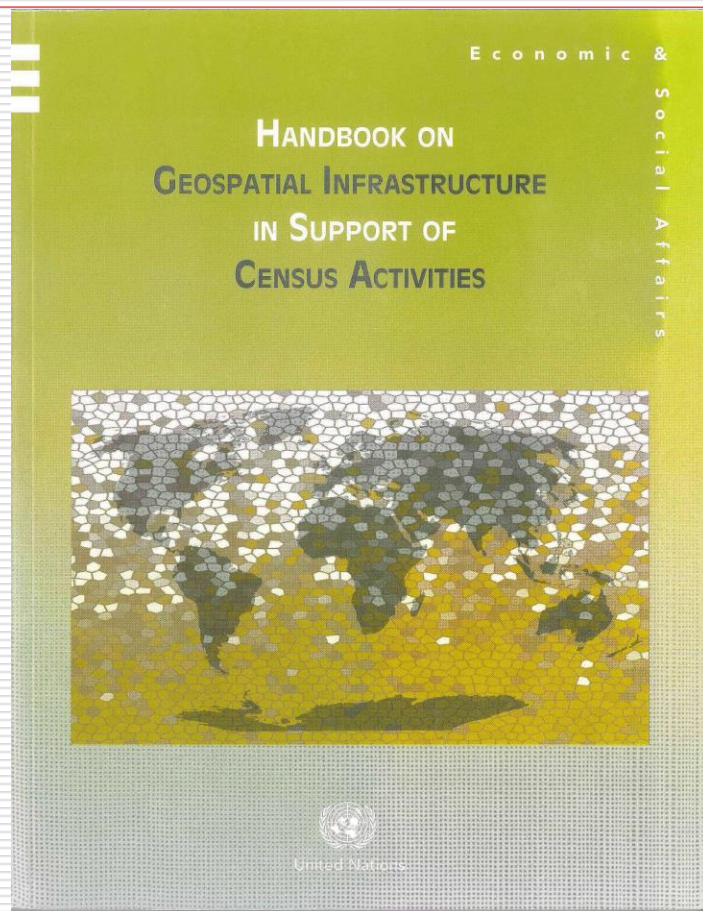
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- ❑ Four parts
  - ❑ Essential features and census methodology
    - ❑ Definitions
    - ❑ Essential features
    - ❑ Census methodology
  - ❑ Planning, organization and management
    - ❑ Strategic objectives
    - ❑ Legal basis
    - ❑ Use of technology
    - ❑ Quality assurance
  - ❑ Census operations activities
    - ❑ Census infrastructure
    - ❑ Mapping
    - ❑ Data processing
    - ❑ Dissemination
  - ❑ Population and housing census topics





## Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure in Support of Census Activities - 2009



- ❑ Six chapters
  - ❑ Introduction
  - ❑ Managerial considerations for heads of national statistical offices and other decision makers
  - ❑ Constructing an EA level database for the census
  - ❑ Integrating field work using GPS and remotely-sensed data
  - ❑ Use of geographic databases (maps) during the census
  - ❑ Geographic databases for the dissemination of census results, products and services

Update needed

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## Programme of work for 2017 – partial overview

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- ❑ Promoting the *Principles and Recommendations*, the *Handbook* and the draft *Guidelines*
- ❑ Series of workshops in partnership with international and regional organizations
- ❑ Finalizing the accompanying methodological materials
- ❑ Regular activities related to monitoring the implementation of the 2020 round of censuses
- ❑ Regular activities in providing assistance to countries

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