

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/551
29 July 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Twenty-first session

~~17-26 February 1981~~

Item 7 (f) of the provisional agenda*

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS: CLASSIFICATIONS OF SIZE AND
TYPE OF LOCALITY AND URBAN/RURAL AREAS

National practices in classifications of size and type of
locality and urban/rural areas

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report responds to the request of the Statistical Commission at its nineteenth session for a continuation of the work on "harmonization of concepts, classifications and definitions in the various fields of social, demographic and related economic statistics, with particular emphasis on those with implications for data collection and analysis in two or more fields ...", and in particular of work concerning size and type of place. The report is the first step towards the development of international guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications of geographical units and their urban/rural characteristics for purposes of international analysis as well as national usage where appropriate and desired. It provides a description and analysis of current national practices concerning types of geographical units, definitions of urban and rural areas and classifications used (paras. 8-45). It also contains an overview of international guidelines and recommendations for classifications of geographical units, urban and rural areas and combinations thereof (paras. 46-76). Points for discussion by the Commission are included (para. 78).

* E/CN.3/535.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its nineteenth session, the Statistical Commission unanimously endorsed the priority to be given to "continuing work on the harmonization of concepts, classifications and definitions in the various fields of social, demographic and related economic statistics, with particular emphasis on those with implications for data collection and analysis in two or more fields ...". 1/
2. Almost any use of demographic, social and economic statistics involves associating the data with geographical units. The choice of suitable units depends on the functional purposes of data analysis as well as on the availability of data by geographical unit. The major functional purposes of data analysis by geographical unit tend to fall into the categories of planning, policy-making and administration. Because of the wide scope of planning, policy and administrative purposes, suitable geographical units of analysis vary widely by level of detail and functional characteristics. For example, while one inquiry may examine the availability of cultural facilities in communities of different sizes, another may concern itself with the housing conditions in low-income neighbourhoods.
3. Availability of data for the geographical units with the desired level of detail and functional characteristics is most likely found when the producer and user of the data are identical. When this is not the case, varying definitions and classifications of geographical units tend to pose considerable problems for data analysis and utilization. 2/
4. Most geographical units used for analytical purposes are either identical with administrative units (such as towns, cities, provinces) or have been constructed for statistical purposes (such as census enumeration areas, grid squares, blocks). Both types of units usually have clearly defined boundaries and, in some instances, they have identical boundaries (for example, a village which constitutes an enumeration area). In addition to these clearly defined units, there are units such as urban agglomerations which may be socially and economically integrated but tend to lack clearly defined boundaries.
5. While geographical units - with some exceptions - may be clearly defined and classified for specific local purposes, there is no co-ordination among definitions and classifications used for different purposes in different subject areas and countries. This lack of co-ordination impedes integration and comparability of data at many levels - interdisciplinary, national, international, all at a point in time or over time.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5910), para. 78.

2/ See The Development of Integrated Data Bases for Social, Economic and Demographic Statistics; Studies in the Integration of Social Statistics: Technical Report and Improving Social Statistics in Developing Countries: Conceptual Framework and Methods (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.79.XVII.14, E.79.XVII.4 and E.79.XVII.12, respectively).

6. Frequently, researchers and data users add a qualifying aspect to the analysis of data by geographical unit by distinguishing between urban and rural areas. The use of varying definitions of urban and rural areas among countries and over time further complicates geographical data analysis at the international level and over time.

7. The difficulties of geographical data analysis are widely recognized and have been discussed extensively at both national and international levels. ^{3/} While parts of the discussion will be reflected in the present report, the major emphasis will be on the description and analysis of current national practices concerning types of geographical units, definitions of urban and rural areas and classifications used. The information is based on a survey of 71 national statistical offices. The analysis of the survey results is geared towards the development of international guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications relating to geographical units and their urban/rural characteristics for purposes of international analysis as well as national usage where it is appropriate and desired. The report also provides an overview of international guidelines and recommendations for classifications of geographical units, urban and rural areas and combinations thereof.

I. CURRENT NATIONAL PRACTICES

8. The examination of current national practices concerning the types of geographical units and definitions of urban and rural areas focuses on the following aspects:

(a) Major data collection programmes from which data classified by geographical units and urban/rural areas are generated;

(b) Geographical units used for storage, analysis and presentation of data from the major data collection programmes;

(c) National geographical classifications;

(d) Commonalities among definitions of urban/rural areas;

(e) Types of data most frequently classified by geographical unit and/or urban/rural area;

(f) Potential quantitative factors for the qualification of size groups of geographical units by urban/rural status.

^{3/} See, for example, "Statistical definitions of urban population and their uses in applied demography", United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1972 and Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.8).

A. The data collection programmes

9. National censuses, and particularly population and housing censuses, probably represent the single most important source of data classified by geographical units and urban/rural status world-wide for both national and international use. At this point, most countries have taken at least one population and housing census. Censuses offer national geographical extensiveness and are generally carefully prepared with maximum standardization. Countries are guided in this effort by previous experience, national standards and/or international recommendations (see paras. 46-76 below). 4/

10. It is precisely for this reason that national practices concerning geographical units and definitions of urban/rural areas used in census programmes are receiving primary consideration as a base from which to develop further standardization, particularly for purposes of international comparability of data. This is especially relevant in view of the frequent role of censuses as data bases for other data collection programmes and over time. Other national data collection programmes considered are national administrative reporting systems, commonly used for statistical purposes (for example, for vital statistics), as well as major sample surveys. These programmes tend to be less universal but have, none the less, frequently been subject to efforts towards world-wide standardization. 5/ The data presented and analysed below were obtained from United Nations files, available publications and a survey conducted by the United Nations Statistical Office.

B. United Nations Statistical Office survey

11. In preparation for the present report, the national statistical offices of 71 Member States were surveyed with regard to current national practices used concerning types of geographical units and definitions of urban and rural areas. A copy of the questionnaire used will be made available to members of the Commission during the session. The following criteria were applied in selecting countries for the survey:

- (a) United Nations member;
- (b) At least one population census taken;
- (c) Definition of urban/rural areas in existence;
- (d) Reasonable geographical size;
- (e) Not part of jurisdiction of another country;
- (f) Reasonably politically stable.

4/ Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

5/ See Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System; Handbook of Household Surveys and Report of the Interregional Workshop on Methodology of Demographic Sample Surveys (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.73.XVII.9, E.64.XVII.13 and E.71.XVII.11, respectively).

12. The following 46 countries responded to the survey: Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Zaire and Zambia.

13. With very few exceptions, the questionnaires were completed clearly and completely. The survey results are reflected in great detail in tables 1-8 below. It was decided to present the data at this level of detail since summarization would have required the use of very broad categories to accommodate the multiplicity of definitions and situations and would thus have resulted in the loss of much useful information.

C. Geographical units for data storage and presentation

14. National social and economic data are collected, stored, analysed and/or presented for geographical units for different purposes. Some units are defined for administrative purposes, for example, municipalities and communes and others are defined for statistical purposes, such as census tracts, grid squares or blocks. While the latter are generally smaller than the smallest administrative unit, the two are sometimes identical as in the case of the village which constitutes an enumeration area or census tract.

15. A world-wide survey of statistical institutes conducted by the Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven in 1971 ^{6/} concerning the use of small-area statistics in censuses showed that 53 of the 61 countries which responded use small-area statistics in one form or another. In almost all of these countries, efforts were made to permit the aggregation of statistical units to administrative units. While small-area statistics, especially population data, were generally available for research upon special request, their publication was very limited.

16. The Leuven study found that in identifying the smallest statistical unit used, 27 countries mentioned the enumeration area (called "enumeration district" in the Leuven study). In most countries, the dimensions of the enumeration area were determined by the combined use of population size and settlement unit or locality criteria. This resulted in a great variety among enumeration areas in terms of size of population and territory encompassed. Only 23 countries cited the locality or local settlement unit with a specific name and with more or less fixed boundaries as the smallest statistical unit used. However, it was perhaps the most frequently

^{6/} See H. van der Haegen, "A world survey of small area statistics and the situation of the Belgian statistical sectors in this context; a preliminary review", in Th. Brulard and H. van der Haegen Small Area Statistics and Their Use for Social-Geographical and Planological Research (Leuven; Acta Geographica Lovaniensia, 1972), pp. 223-242.

used unit if one takes into account those countries where enumeration areas were established following settlement patterns.

17. According to the Leuven study, census tracts were the smallest statistical unit used in six countries. Census tracts are generally constant territorial units with a considerable degree of homogeneity, intended mainly for research purposes. Blocks (called "houseblocks" in the Leuven study), the smallest unit delimited by streets and not subdivided by public roads, were used as the smallest statistical units in the densely populated urban areas of eight countries and on an even more selective basis in two additional countries. One of the eight countries additionally maintained the blockface as a basic unit and two others used it for further regrouping.

18. Four of the respondents had introduced the grid system for the whole country, using various grid sizes. Two countries had used a co-ordinate system (accurate to one metre); one of them applied it universally and the other for only a restricted number of areas. Finally, two countries used house numbers (street addresses) as the basic building block.

19. This brief overview provides a general impression of the types of geographical units used to store census data in 1971. In an age of rapidly increasing technological and statistical capability and the need for ever more refined and accurate data, it is very likely that more countries are already or will in coming years be using one of the smaller statistical units as the basic building block for any desired aggregation, thus enhancing the prerequisites for international standardization and comparability of data. In fact, the recent Statistical Office survey (see paras. 11-13 above) provided some evidence to this effect.

20. As shown in table 8, among the 46 survey respondents population data are published or are available upon special request for all or some localities in 36 countries; for census enumeration districts or areas in 26 countries; for grid squares in 6 countries; for blocks in 10 countries; for blockfaces in 3 countries and for street addresses in 5 countries. The data are related to the 1970 round of censuses (1965-1974); the 1980 round (1975-1984) will probably result in more small-area data.

21. Although flexibility increases as the size of the geographical unit decreases, it is somewhat unlikely that international comparisons and analyses would be carried out at a level below the individual locality. With this consideration in mind and in view of the already widespread utilization of the locality as a standard geographical unit, the concept of the locality and its application are examined below in some detail.

1. The locality

22. For census purposes, the United Nations recommended that a locality be defined as

"a distinct population cluster (also designated as inhabited place, populated centre, settlement etc.) in which the inhabitants live in neighbouring living

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quarters and which has a name or a locally recognized status. It thus includes fishing hamlets, mining camps, ranches, farms, market towns, villages, towns, cities and many other population clusters which meet the criteria specified above. ...

"Localities as defined above should not be confused with the smallest civil divisions of a country. In some cases, the two may coincide. In others, however, even the smallest civil division may contain two or more localities. On the other hand, some large cities or towns may contain two or more civil divisions, which should be considered as segments of a single locality rather than as separate localities.

"A large locality of a country (that is, a city or a town) is often part of an urban agglomeration, which comprises the city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory lying outside, but adjacent to, its boundaries. The urban agglomeration is, therefore, not identical with the locality but is an additional geographic unit which may include more than one locality. In some cases, a single large urban agglomeration may comprise several cities or towns and their suburban fringes. ..." 7/

23. The Statistical Office survey inquired about the extent to which the concept and the above definition are used in unmodified or modified form in national statistical work. Of the 46 responding countries, 27 indicated current use of the locality concept either exactly as defined by the United Nations (15) or in a modified form (12) (see table 3). The latter generally specified a minimum number of inhabitants or dwellings, maximum distance between built-up areas or respect for certain boundaries. The remaining 19 respondents do not use the locality concept; instead they most frequently use some form of civil division or administrative unit - geographical units which are, in many instances, identical or similar to localities. It should be noted that the Statistical Office questionnaire requested countries not using the locality concept as defined by the United Nations for census purposes to complete the remaining questions substituting their concept for "locality" where necessary.

24. Table 4, which summarizes the survey findings concerning the identifiability of localities and similar geographical units (civil division, administrative unit) by population size, shows clearly that the locality concept is utilized - to a varying degree - in all major national data collection programmes and not merely for population and housing censuses. Most countries store and/or present data on size of population for all localities (including urban agglomerations), but some do this for only selected localities.

25. Table 8 summarizes the survey findings concerning the types of geographical unit used and the form in which the data are available for size of population, number and per cent of the labour force in agriculture and population density. It shows that for localities, data on population size are frequently available in published form (unaggregated and/or aggregated). In other instances, they are

available only upon special request. A similar division between forms of availability exists also for data on the labour force in agriculture and population density.

26. Survey results also indicate (tables 4 and 7) that the locality constitutes a useful geographical unit for the identification of urban agglomerations. In 27 countries, it is possible to identify urban agglomerations through aggregation of their constituent localities (table 7).

2. Classifications of localities by size

27. As shown in table 6, a considerable number of countries have classifications of localities by size. While comparatively little information was provided concerning the data collection programme(s) to which these classifications are applied, it appears to be primarily censuses. Particularly noteworthy are the classifications of the German Democratic Republic, Morocco and Poland, which distinguish between rural and urban areas. While no two classifications seem identical, most of them are compatible with the basic classification of localities by five size categories recommended by the Economic Commission for Europe (see para. 60 below).

28. If the countries which responded to the survey are at all typical, it would appear that the majority of countries actively utilize the locality concept, defined more or less uniformly, in their national statistical work, particularly as it relates to the census programme.

D. Definition of urban and rural areas

29. Much of the discussion on definitions of urban and rural areas has focused on their non-comparability, the resulting non-comparability of data and the insufficiency of an oversimplified dichotomy.

30. The multiplicity of definitions has been repeatedly documented. Perhaps the most recent and most complete list of definitions is contained in the foot-notes to table 6 of the United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1976. It contains the national definitions of urban areas for census purposes and documents clearly the great variety of criteria used. Rural areas, with very few exceptions, are defined as the remainder of the country. All but a few relatively small countries provided a definition. Some definitions have undergone changes since 1976. Table 1 below shows the urban/rural definitions used in the latest population censuses by some of the countries listed in the 1976 Yearbook. The Historical Supplement to the Yearbook, 1978, includes a list of the significant changes the definitions of urban areas have undergone during the last three decades.

31. Both table 6 of the 1976 Yearbook and table 1 below show that most countries have a definition of urban/rural areas that is based on specific criteria. While definitions of urban/rural areas are generally established in conjunction with a country's population and housing census programme, their application is by no means limited to this purpose. As shown in table 1, most countries use the same

definition for other censuses, vital statistics records and various national sample surveys. In defining urban/rural areas, a few countries (Morocco, for example) simply indicate the number or the names of their urban entities without indicating underlying criteria. Some definitions rely on a single criterion; others are based on several criteria. Both quantitative and qualitative criteria are used, including size of population, population density, distance between built-up areas, predominant type of economic activity, conformance with particular legal or administrative status and urban characteristics (for example, specific services and facilities).

32. It is important to note that, judging from both the 1976 Yearbook and the Statistical Office survey, the majority of countries use size of population as one or the only criterion for defining urban areas. This is an encouraging finding in spite of the wide range of specified minimum size of population, that is, 200 inhabitants in Sweden and 20,000 in the Syrian Arab Republic. While the above range suggests incongruity, it none the less represents some basic similarity of urban characteristics such as predominantly non-agricultural employment in settings varying according to the national economic and demographic situation. Size of population is unambiguously quantifiable and data are widely available, as indicated above, and thus provide an opportunity for the transformation of the urban/rural dichotomy into a continuum.

33. The concept of a quantifiable continuum is particularly important in view of the increasing difficulties in distinguishing clearly between urban and rural areas in an age of rapidly increasing and widespread industrialization. In addition, an area's degree of urbanization or rurality is undoubtedly at least partially a function of its size and vice versa.

34. In this context, it is interesting to note that since 1974, as a result of a major reorganization of local government areas, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not had a standard official definition of urban/rural areas. The division between urban and rural areas disappeared when towns and countryside were integrated into districts in partial recognition of the functional and service relationships between towns and surrounding countryside. This perhaps is a reflection of a country at the extreme of the international spectrum of urbanization. In the United Kingdom, it appears that differentiation between urban and rural areas has been replaced by increasing interest in small-area statistics which are available for one kilometre grid squares for all areas and 100 metre grid squares for urban areas. Botswana and the Netherlands are countries in which there is also no clear distinction between urban and rural areas. These examples do not, however, detract from the desirability of a quantifiable continuum since there is no indication that many other countries will discontinue in the near future analysing social and economic data by urban/rural status.

35. On the contrary, as is evident from table 2, national statistical offices receive requests for many different types of data classified by urban/rural areas from a variety of both governmental and non-governmental organizations (see paras. 38-39 for a more detailed discussion). As shown in table 5, there appears to be consistency of locality boundaries with national urban/rural definitions in a considerable number of countries. Where such consistency exists, the boundaries

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have usually but not always been determined legally rather than functionally. Urban/rural definitions are reviewed and/or revised frequently in most countries (table 1), generally before or after each population or housing census. In reviewing the definition, a considerable number of the responsible authorities consult with subnational authorities, other than branches of the national statistical office, and with data users.

1. Classification of urban/rural areas

36. As mentioned above, the urban/rural dichotomy is often perceived as oversimplified and insufficient. It does not reflect the quantitative and qualitative differences among areas in the same category or between areas classified as either urban or rural. Very few countries use a classification of urban/rural areas which goes beyond the dichotomy. As is evident from the urban/rural definitions shown in table 1, some countries identify semi-urban (such as Greece) or mixed (such as Zaire) in addition to urban and rural areas. The classifications of localities by size shown in table 6 document the occasional separate identification of the country's capital (for example, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland) or major urban areas (Morocco).

37. It should be pointed out that the line dividing urban and rural areas is quantifiable only in those countries which define urban/rural areas by specifying the minimum or maximum size of the geographical unit falling in one or the other category.

2. Data classified by geographical unit and/or urban/rural area

38. The fairly recent discontinuation of classification by urban/rural in the United Kingdom (see para. 34 above) notwithstanding, countries produce and use a great variety of data classified by geographical units and/or urban/rural areas. Tables 2 and 6 indicate that the demand for such classification exists primarily in the area of population and demographic data. Housing, economic and education data are also mentioned frequently.

39. The data are used chiefly by state and local governmental agencies, but they are also used by research and academic institutions, international organizations and private business enterprises. It is noteworthy that bodies performing planning functions are cited repeatedly.

E. Potential factors for qualifications of urban/rural status

40. In view of the heterogeneity of countries, it seems impossible to establish totally objective universally applicable criteria for the determination of urban/rural status. As discussed above, the degree to which a geographical unit is urban or rural to a considerable extent depends on its size. However, in this context, size is a relative criterion, given the multitude of potential accompanying circumstances which ultimately determine whether a geographical unit - subjectively or objectively - is to be considered urban or rural.

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41. Are there any factors which are at least potentially designed to modify the dichotomy beyond the fairly arbitrary divisions based on minimum/maximum size of population defined by countries (tables 1 and 6)? For purposes of international comparisons and analyses, such factors would promote a higher degree of objectivity and differentiation than is currently possible on the basis of a dichotomy and the acceptance of urban/rural status according to individual national definitions.

42. In selecting potentially suitable factors for the qualification of the urban/rural status of geographical units defined by size of population, particular consideration must be given to quantifiability of the factor and availability of the data. Very few factors either meet or have the potential to meet these two prerequisites. In fact, population density and the proportion of the labour force working in agriculture are the only seemingly usable factors, taking into account the above-mentioned constraints.

43. Table 8 summarizes the extent of the availability of data concerning these two factors in addition to size of population for different geographical units. Over-all, the findings indicate that while these data may not be universally and readily available, their current availability is spread over a sufficiently wide range of countries to warrant serious consideration of their utilization with hope for increasing availability over time.

44. Some countries are already utilizing population density and/or the proportion of the labour force in agriculture in their urban/rural definition, as shown in table 1. The specific practices of these countries, shown below, may serve to provide some guidelines for the determination of different degrees of urbanization/rurality of geographical units:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Urban requirements regarding population in agriculture</u>	<u>Urban requirements regarding population density</u>
Czechoslovakia	<p><u>Urban-large towns:</u> not more than 10 per cent of total population active in agriculture</p> <p><u>Small towns:</u> not more than 15 per cent of total population active in agriculture</p>	<p><u>Large towns:</u> more than 100 persons per hectare</p> <p><u>Small towns:</u> more than 75 persons per hectare</p>
India	<p><u>Places other than towns:</u> three fourths of adult male working population employed in pursuits other than agriculture</p>	<p><u>Places other than towns:</u> not less than 1,000 persons per square mile or 400 persons per square kilometre</p>
Israel	<p><u>Urban-Jewish localities:</u> less than one half of inhabitants working in agriculture</p>	
Netherlands	<p><u>Rural municipalities:</u> over 20 per cent of the total economically active (male) population working in agriculture</p> <p><u>Industrialized rural communities:</u> generally over 50 per cent of the economically active (male) population working in manufacturing industries</p>	
Papua New Guinea		<p>At least 250 persons per square kilometre</p>
Philippines	<p><u>Urban barrios:</u> 1,000 or more inhabitants whose occupation is neither farming nor fishing</p>	<p><u>Cities and municipalities:</u> 1,000 or more inhabitants per square kilometre; <u>central districts of cities and municipalities:</u> 500 or more inhabitants per square kilometre</p>
Zaire	<p><u>Urban:</u> agriculture is not principal economic activity</p>	
Zambia	<p><u>Urban:</u> agriculture is not principal economic activity</p>	

The urban requirements regarding population in agriculture are not specifically quantified for Zaire and Zambia. However, in each case, the descriptive guidelines can probably be interpreted as one-half of the population.

45. If they can be approximately quantified and sufficiently standardized, the two factors mentioned in paragraph 42 above would permit finer differentiation among geographical units of various population sizes with regard to their urban/rural status.

Table 1. Urban/rural definitions

Country	Urban definitions used in most recent census ^{a/}	Other data collection programmes using urban definition cited in Column 2	Availability of historical census data using most recent urban/rural definition		Frequency of revision of urban/rural definition	Year of latest revision
			Yes	No		
Botswana	the towns of Gaborone, Lobatse, Francistown, Selebi-Phikwe, Orapa, Jwaneng	other censuses; national vital statistics, national economic records; national migration study; 1976 urban population sample census	x		as new towns are established	1975
Brazil	urban and suburban zones of administrative centres of municipalities and districts	agricultural, business, manufactures etc. censuses; some national economic records; national sample surveys conducted by IBGE, ^{b/} e.g. household sample survey, annual survey of manufactures	x		before each population and housing census	1970
Bulgaria	towns, i.e., localities legally established as urban	agricultural censuses; national vital statistics and economic records; survey of household budgets, other surveys in the area of employment, salaries, etc.	x		-	-
Colombia	population living in a nucleus of 1,500 or more inhabitants	major national sample surveys	x		before each population and housing census	1973
Czechoslovakia	<u>Large towns</u> , usually of 5,000 or more inhabitants, having a density of more than 100 persons per hectare of built-up area, three or more living quarters in at least 15 per cent of the houses, piped water and a sewerage system for the major part of the town, at least five physicians and a pharmacy, a nine year secondary school, a hotel with at least twenty beds, a network of trade and distributive services which serve more than one town, job opportunities for the population of the surrounding area, the terminal for a system of bus lines and not more than 10 per cent of the total population active in agriculture; <u>small towns</u> , usually of 2,500 or more inhabitants, having a density of more than seventy-five persons per hectare of built-up area, three or more living quarters in at least 10 per cent of the houses, piped water and a sewerage system for at least part of the town, at least two physicians and a pharmacy, other urban characteristics to a lesser degree and not more than 15 per cent of the total population active in agriculture; <u>agglomerated communities</u> which have the characteristics of small towns in regard to size, population density, housing, water supply and sewerage, and the percentage of the population active in agriculture, but which lack such town characteristics as educational facilities, cultural institutions, health service and trade and distributive services, because these facilities and services are supplied by a town in the vicinity.	-	x		first revision in 1980	-
Denmark	agglomerations of 200 or more inhabitants	none	no	information	before each population and housing census	1976
Ecuador	capitals of provinces and cantons defined as urban in previous censuses	agricultural census, census of public services, education census, national vital statistics records, national economic records, survey of urban/rural family budgets; surveys of population and occupation in urban areas; national fertility survey	x		before each population and housing census	1973
Egypt	governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, frontier governorates and capitals of other governorates as well as district capitals and some villages	other national censuses, national vital statistics, national economic records, labour force/family budget/fertility/migration/pregnancy wastage surveys	x		when a decision is taken	no information
Finland	urban communes and localities	other national censuses; all major register systems; communes only for household and income surveys etc.	x		localities - before each population census communes - each year	1979 1979
France	communes containing an agglomeration of 2,000 or more inhabitants living in contiguous houses or with not more than 200 metres between houses, also communes of which the major portion of the population is part of a multi-communal agglomeration of this nature	national vital statistics records; national economic records; national sample surveys conducted by INSEE ^{c/}	x		before each population and housing census	1974
German Democratic Republic	communities with 2,000 and more inhabitants	national vital statistics records	x		revision is planned for 1981 census	no
Ghana	localities of 5,000 or more inhabitants	national vital statistics records, 1971 Supplementary Enquiry	x		no information	1960
Greece	<u>Urban</u> : population of municipalities and communes in which the largest population centre has 10,000 or more inhabitants. Including also the population of 13 urban agglomerations: Greater Athens, Salonika, Patras, Volos, Iraklion, Corfu, Kalamata, Katerini, Agrinion, Chios, Aegion, Hermonpolis, Sparta in their whole irrespective of the population size of the largest locality in them. <u>semi-urban</u> : population of municipalities and communes in which the largest population centre has 2,000-9,999 inhabitants (except those belonging to the above urban agglomerations).	Census of Agricultural Holdings and Commercial and Industrial Establishments; national vital statistics records; labour force survey; Family budget household survey; trying to classify all statistics by urban, semi-urban, rural areas	x		before each population and housing census	1951
Guatemala	Places officially defined as cities, towns, villages (all district capitals are urban areas; so are urbanized areas contiguous to the municipality of Guatemala but belonging to other municipalities) <u>rural</u> : places with scattered population	national vital statistics records, national economic records, Surveys of Human Resources, Survey of Family Income and Expenditures	x		before and after each population and housing census	1973
Hungary	Budapest and all legally designated towns	national vital statistics records; Unified Population Data Survey System	x		as needed	1978

^{a/} Unless otherwise noted, the definition of rural areas is "the remainder of the country".
^{b/} Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística.
^{c/} Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques.

Table 1. Urban/rural definitions

Country	Urban definition used in most recent census ^{a/}	Other data collection programmes using urban definition cited in Column 2	Availability of historical census data using most recent urban/rural definition		Frequency of revision of urban/rural definition	Year of latest revision
			Yes	No		
Iceland	localities of 200 or more inhabitants	national vital statistics		-	before each census	1960
India	towns (places with municipal corporation, municipal area committee, town committee, notified area committee or cantonment board); also, all places having 5,000 or more inhabitants, a density of not less than 1,000 persons per sq. mile or 400 per sq. km, pronounced urban characteristics, and at least three fourths of the adult male working population employed in pursuits other than agriculture	other national censuses; national vital statistics; national economic records; national sample surveys conducted by Government of India	x		before each population and housing census	1961
Ireland	cities and towns (including suburbs and environs) of 1,500 or more inhabitants	-		-	before each population and housing census	1971
Israel	urban: (1) all localities above 10,000; (2) Jewish localities 2,000-10,000 when less than 1/2 work in agriculture and non-Jewish localities with 5,000-10,000; (3) all localities included in Tel-Aviv and Haifa conurbations except kibbutzim and moshavim rural: (1) all localities with less than 2,000 except those in conurbations which are not kibbutzim and moshavim; (2) all localities with 5,000-10,000 where more than 1/2 work in agriculture	agricultural census; national vital statistics records; Labour Force Surveys	x		before each population and housing census	1972
Liberia	localities with more than 2,000 inhabitants	Liberian Population Growth Survey 1969-71; Liberian National Demographic Survey	x		before each population and housing census	1973
Luxembourg	communes having more than 2,000 inhabitants in the administrative centre	none	x		before each population and housing census	1970
Malawi	urban: all townships and town planning areas and all district centres rural: all villages with own roll at the boma	other national censuses, national economic records, National Sample Survey of Agriculture	x	some boundaries have changed	as necessary	1966 review
Malaysia	Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak: gazetted areas with population of 10,000+	agricultural census, Labor Force Survey, Household Expenditure Survey	x		no revision since 1970	1970
Morocco	184 urban centres	agricultural, business, employment censuses; national vital statistics; national economic records; consumption and budget survey; employment survey	x		before each population and housing census	1970
Netherlands	rural municipalities: over 20% of the total economically active (male) population working in agriculture; industrialized rural municipalities: generally over 50% of the economically active (male) population working in manufacturing industries; specific resident municipalities of commuters: over 30% commuters and over 60% of these born elsewhere; towns: over 2,000 inhabitants	business census; national vital statistics records, national health and crime sample surveys	x		after each population and housing census	1974
New Zealand	all cities, plus boroughs, town districts, townships and country towns with a population of 1,000 or more	retail trade, building and construction censuses; national vital statistics records	x		when needed	1966
Norway	An urban settlement is defined as an agglomeration having at least 200 inhabitants at the date of the census and where the distance between the houses - as a rule - does not exceed 50 metres. However, in some cases separately built-up areas which appear to be closely connected are classified as one urban settlement. Some of the urban settlements are located in 2 or more municipalities.	Survey of Migration Motives 1972; Survey of Housing Conditions 1973; Survey of Consumer Expenditure 1975	x		when needed	1960
Pakistan	municipalities, civil lines, cantonments not included with municipal limits any other continuous collection of houses inhabited by not less than 5,000 persons and having urban characteristics and also a few areas having urban characteristics but fewer than 5,000 inhabitants	Demographic Survey, Labour Force Survey, Small (Business) and Household Manufacturing Survey, Distributive Trade Survey	x		before each population and housing census	1970
Panama	localities of 1,500 or more inhabitants with such urban characteristics as streets, water supply systems, sewerage systems and electric lights; in addition these localities should have facilities such as secondary education, commercial establishments, social and recreational centres	national vital statistics records, national economic records, household and demographic surveys; population projections	x		after each population and housing census	1970
Papua New Guinea	To be classified as urban a population centre must meet three requirements: (i) the centre must have a population of 500 persons or more; (ii) the centre must have a population density of 250 persons per square kilometre; (iii) the centre must have urban characteristics. That is such things as: the provision of services, e.g. water and electricity; roads; clustered housing development; shops and commercial facilities; etc.	Household Expenditure Survey, Urban Population Survey, Provincial Data System, Agricultural Survey	x		before 1980, after 1971 - population census	1979
Paraguay	cities, towns and administrative centres of departments and districts	agricultural, industry commerce censuses; fertility, demographic surveys	x		before each population and housing census	1972
Peru	populated centres with 100 or more occupied dwellings as well as district capitals regardless of the number of occupied dwellings	agricultural, economic censuses; national vital statistics records; national economic records; demographic, fertility, multi-purpose surveys	x		before each population and housing census; for surveys	1979
Philippines	Cities and municipalities having a population density of 1,000+ per square kilometre. Central districts of municipalities and cities having a population density of 500+ per square kilometre. Central districts regardless of population density having the following: network of streets, 6+ commercial or recreational establishments and some amenities of a city e.g. town hall, church, public plaza, market place, school, hospital, etc. Barrios conforming to the conditions listed above and having 1,000+ inhabitants whose occupation is neither farming nor fishing.	other national censuses; RPPS/WPS; Integrated Survey of Households; Integrated Census of the Population and its Economic Activities, Phase II		-	as need to change arises	1970

^{a/} Republic of the Philippines Fertility Survey/World Fertility Survey.

Table 1. Urban/rural definitions

Country	Urban definition used in most recent census ^{a/}	Other data collection programmes using urban definition cited in Column 2	Availability of historical census data using most recent urban/rural definition		Frequency of revision of urban/rural definition	Year of latest revision
			Yes	No		
Poland	<u>urban</u> : settlement units - towns - with civic rights granted by proper state authorities; <u>rural</u> : settlement units - other than towns - such as villages, hamlets	agricultural census, national vital statistics records, national economic records, sample surveys of population, housing, households, family, budgets, living conditions	x		not applicable; definition not revised; settlement units are simply reclassified upon granting of civic rights	not applicable
Sri Lanka	municipalities, urban councils and town councils	other national censuses; national vital statistics, national economic records; WFS ^{a/} 1975; Socio-Economic Survey 1969/70; Determinants of Fertility Change 1979		-	as needed	1963
Swaziland	localities proclaimed as urban	agricultural census; family expenditure survey	x		depending on development activities and government	don't know
Sweden	built-up areas with at least 200 inhabitants and usually not more than 200 metres between houses	no information	x		1960	1960
Syrian Arab Republic	localities which are Mohafaza centres, Mantika centres and all other localities with 20,000 or more population	1970 and 1976 sample censuses; national vital statistics records; Fertility Survey; Follow-up Demographic Survey	x		before each population and housing census	1969
Thailand	municipalities (for 1980 - <u>urban</u> : municipal areas and sanitary districts with more than 5,000 population; <u>rural</u> : non-municipal areas except sanitary districts with more than 5,000 population)	agricultural census, national vital statistics records, Labor Force Survey, Socio-Economic Survey	x		will be revised for 1980 population and housing census	no information
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain, Arima borough and San Fernando town	no information	x		no fixed period of time - 1980 next	-
United Kingdom: England & Wales	area classified as urban for local government purposes, i.e. county boroughs, municipal boroughs and urban districts	not applicable after 1974	x		no definition at the moment	-
Northern Ireland	area classified as urban for local government purposes, i.e. county boroughs, municipal boroughs and urban districts	not applicable after 1974	x		-	-
Scotland	area classified as urban for local government purposes, i.e. county boroughs, municipal boroughs and urban districts	not applicable after 1974	x		-	-
United Republic of Tanzania	all regional and district headquarters (87) and other identified urban areas (12)	-	x		before each population and housing census	1978
United States	Places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, villages, boroughs (excluding in Alaska) and towns (excluding in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin), but excluding those persons living in the rural portions of extended cities; census-defined unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more; and other territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in urbanized areas. An urbanized area consists of a central city or cities and surrounding closely settled territory.	Current Population Survey, Annual Housing Survey	x		infrequently	1950
Venezuela	2,500 and more inhabitants	other national censuses; national household survey	x		before each population and housing census	1979
Zaire	<u>rural</u> : all villages with less than 2,000 inhabitants and agriculture as principal economic activity; <u>urban</u> : all agglomerations with more than 2,000 inhabitants where agriculture is not the principal economic activity; <u>mixed</u> : agglomerations urban with regard to economic activity but rural with regard to population size	Demographic sample survey 1955-57		-	no information	
Zambia	localities having 5,000+ inhabitants, the majority of whom all depend on non-agricultural activities	agricultural census 1970-71, annual agricultural and pastoral surveys	x		after each population and housing census	1970

^{a/} World Fertility Survey.

Table 2. Data classified by urban/rural areas requested from national statistical office

Country	Types of data most frequently requested	Organizations requesting data	Country	Types of data most frequently requested	Organizations requesting data
Botswana	population growth, migration figures, poverty datum lines, employment survey	various	Guatemala	population, births, deaths, housing, occupation, income, expenditures	universities - local and foreign; professionals, FAO, UN, ILO; banks local and foreign; ministries of national and world studies; planning offices
Brazil	all sorts of population, family, housing, industry data	administrative and research organizations; independent businesses and companies; regional planning authorities and organizations	Hungary	population, rate of employment, material production etc.	economic, public administration and political organs at national and county level, scientific institutions, press, broadcasting company etc.
Bulgaria	size of population, population by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity, social group	organs of social management at different levels, research institutes, organizations, individuals	Iceland	no information	no information
Colombia	no information	no information	India	labour force	UN Statistical Office, ESCAP, ILO, Central Statistical Organization and various statistical institutions in India and abroad
Czechoslovakia	no information	no information	Ireland	almost all census data but particularly total population, housing, migration, details of travel to work or school	no information
Denmark	age, sex, economically active population analyzed by industry	counties, municipalities and planning institutions	Israel	sex, age, geographical distribution	regional planners, Labour Force Survey
Ecuador	total population by age and sex; economically active population; type of activity/occupation; illiteracy and level of education	UN, FAO, ILO, WHO, CELADE; universities, public and private organizations, statistical offices of other countries; branch offices of the Andean Pact	Liberia	number of localities by size; population by sex	various ministries, housing authority
Egypt	data connected to fields concerned	government ministries; banks and financial institutions; family planning agencies, research centers and researchers, UN, UNESCO, information agencies, agencies responsible for village development	Luxembourg	no information	no information
Finland	data from the census of population and housing by localities; communal data from vital statistics, enterprises, industries, constructions etc.	communes, organizations of regional planning, various user groups from all sectors	Malawi	population, employment	government: town and economic planning; international bodies
France	various data	no information	Malaysia	consumer price indices, unemployment rate, labour force data, population	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning Unit
German Democratic Republic	communities and resident population; households, dwellings	state authorities, scientific institutions, universities	Morocco	population distribution; demographic and socio-economic characteristics	Ministère de l'Intérieur; all other government departments
Ghana	fertility, mortality, population	Regional Institute for Population Studies, Water and Sewerage Corporation	Netherlands	population, housing, geographical maps, population clusters	universities, national ATLAS office, planning offices
Greece	population by demographic, social and economic characteristics at the censuses and current estimates; vital statistics; migration statistics; other economic and social statistics	National Accounts Directorate; Center of Programme and Economic Research; Regional Development Service; Social Sciences Service; Scientific Research Centre; Greek Productivity Centre; Ministry of Social Services	New Zealand	population increase/decrease, age, housing types	private business firms, universities, other government departments
			Norway	population, demographic, employment, environmental, housing, social data	planning, research
			Pakistan	age, sex, marital status, literacy, occupation, industry	planning and development department; research institutions; election commission; revenue department; health, education, bureau of statistics; housing and physical planning; labour and manpower division; food and agriculture division; population planning division

Table 2. Data classified by urban/rural areas requested from national statistical office

Country	Types of data most frequently requested	Organizations requesting data	Country	Types of data most frequently requested	Organizations requesting data
Panama	population by sex and age; economically active population; population 15 years and older by type of activity, industry and occupation; education characteristics	UN, ILO, Ministries of health, education, work, planning, economic policy	Trinidad and Tobago	population	UN Statistical Office, UNESCO, ILO
Papua New Guinea	population figures, migration data, employment and type of employment data	government departments, consultants, private enterprises, research institutes, international agencies	United Kingdom: England and Wales	(small-area statistics)	central government departments; local authorities
Paraguay	total population; general population characteristics; economic activities	public and private sector	Northern Ireland	(small-area statistics)	government departments; local authorities, other public bodies, academic institution; researchers, students etc. in connexion with studies in genetics, population, industry, religion, economic activity etc.
Peru	total population by age groups, level of education, economic activity, literacy, migration	different ministries, private enterprise - e.g. food and drug manufacturers	Scotland	(small-area statistics)	central government
Philippines	population (age, sex, labour force, etc.)	Commission on Population; Family Planning Organization; Disease Intelligence Center; Economic Planning Research Staff; Regional Development Staff; Ministry - Human Settlement; Technical Resource Center; Statistical Programme and Standard Staff; National Account Staff; Academic Institutions; Commercial Establishments; National Housing Authority	United Republic of Tanzania	size of population	Regional and District Offices; Town Planning Offices; Ministries; Parastatal Organizations; some international agencies
Poland	demographic structure of population; economically active population; employees by socio-economic groups, level of education, households, families, housing	units of planning and statistics, scientific and research institutions	United States	growth patterns and migration; social characteristics - age, race, sex, fertility, education; economic characteristics - employment, income	Congress; other government agencies; private research organization; university research organization
Sri Lanka	population by sex; economically active population, school population, buildings statistics	Ministry of Finance and Planning; Central Bank of Ceylon	Venezuela	demographic, educational, economic, housing data	all ministries, regional development corporations, international organizations, state governments, independent organizations
Swaziland	none	-	Zaire	population by sex and age for large urban centres and major administrative subdivisions	international organizations - World Bank, UN and specialized agencies; institutes of higher education and scientific research
Sweden	population, dwellings, economically active population, consumption of energy, commuting	research organizations and departments; local government agencies; municipalities, counties, traffic companies	Zambia	population characteristics by geographical distribution: total, age, sex, occupation, educational status	government agencies, international and bilateral agencies, universities and research institutions, business community
Syrian Arab Republic	all types of data and projections	State Planning Commission			
Thailand	number of population by age, sex and major characteristics	various government agencies, e.g. National Economic and Social Development Board, Ministry of Interior, Institute of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn U. etc.			

Table 3. Definition of locality used by countries

Country	Follows UN definition of locality	Follows modified UN definition of locality, namely	Uses concepts other than locality	Country	Follows UN definition of locality	Follows modified UN definition of locality, namely	Uses concepts other than locality
Botswana	x						
Brazil			<u>Cidade</u> - urban area of the main district of each municipio <u>Vila</u> - urban area of each district	Hungary		The locality is that separate place of residence and working place of any size, e.g. isolated farms, or that adjoining group of working places and places of residence which can geographically be described, has a name or an identification number, which serves as the permanent place of residence or working place of one person or a group of persons and can definitely be delineated from other settlements.	
Bulgaria			administrative unit				
Colombia			administrative division				
Czechoslovakia		with reduction of the size - locality must respect boundaries of the cadastral territory		Iceland		<u>localities other than towns</u> : population centres with 50 or more inhabitants in living quarters 200 meters or less apart; if in a commune with such a locality or localities rural areas would contain less than 10% of population and fewer than 50 inhabitants, they are included in the locality or that locality which is nearer.	<u>towns</u> : defined as one locality or part of one locality
Denmark		must have 200+ inhabitants					
Ecuador		any inhabited place that has a number of dwellings and can be identified by its name and by boundaries more or less defined					
Egypt		no information					
Finland	x			India		locality must satisfy the various criteria listed in the definition of urban/rural areas (Table 1)	
France		UN definition corresponds roughly to "population agglomeration"		Ireland	x		
German Democratic Republic			<u>community</u> : smallest administrative unit	Israel			administrative unit 1. has 20 permanent residents 2. has local administrative body 3. is not included in another locality
Ghana		Any nucleated and physically distinct settlement was regarded as a separate locality. A locality in this sense may be a single house, a hamlet, a village, town or city. Thus a particular population size was no criterion. An arbitrary distance of 200 yards was chosen as the maximum open space or non-built-up area permissible between two sections of the same locality.					
Greece	x			Liberia		data not clear	
Guatemala			place	Luxembourg	x		
				Malawi			wards or other administrative areas in cities, towns and other <u>urban areas</u> ; villages or other places (e.g. police posts where not in a village) in <u>rural areas</u>

Table 3. Definition of locality used by countries

Country	Follows UN definition of locality	Follows modified UN definition of locality, namely	Uses concepts other than locality	Country	Follows UN definition of locality	Follows modified UN definition of locality, namely	Uses concepts other than locality
Malaysia			<u>gazetted area</u> - town or village with a form of local government such as town board/council etc. and legally defined boundaries	Swaziland	x		
				Sweden		additional condition: built-up areas with at least 200 inhabitants	
				Syrian Arab Republic	x		
				Thailand			<u>civil division</u> , e.g. village, municipal area
Morocco	x			Trinidad and Tobago	x		
Netherlands			place - each territorial group of houses forming more or less a continuous built-up area and having a locally recognized place name	United Kingdom:			
				England and Wales			administrative areas and enumeration districts
New Zealand	x			Northern Ireland			local government administrative areas
Norway			urban settlement is used in much the same way as locality	Scotland		<u>for 1981</u> : continuously built-up areas with a population of 500 or more	
Pakistan			administrative units	United Republic of Tanzania	x		
Panama	x			United States	x		
Papua New Guinea			settlements	Venezuela	x		
Paraguay		x (not stated)		Zaire			locality is defined as administrative unit consisting of a group of villages (3-4) - on the basis of proximity and political/administrative decision
Peru		populated centre is used as a synonym for locality					
Philippines			whole political (civil) division such as municipality, city or barrio/barangay				
				Zambia	x		
Poland	x for <u>rural</u> level only		urban localities - towns - are defined legally				
Sri Lanka			<u>urban areas</u> : ward of municipal council, urban council or town council <u>rural areas</u> : village or ward of village council				

Table 4. Identifiability of localities by size of population with regard to data storage and data presentation

Note: 1a = national population and housing census
1b = other national census(es) - as specified
2a = national vital statistics system
2b = other national administrative records - as specified
3 = national sample survey(s) - as specified

Country/Data collection programme	All localities	Some localities (criteria)	Urban agglomerations	No localities	Country/Data collection programme	All localities	Some localities (criteria)	Urban agglomerations	No localities
<u>Botswana</u>		storage and presentation - those which are identical to or can be derived from enumeration areas			<u>France</u> 1a		storage and presentation - agglomerations of at least 250 inhabitants; chef lieu of each commune	storage presentation	storage presentation
<u>Brazil</u> 1a	storage presentation storage		storage presentation storage		1b, 2b, 3				storage presentation storage presentation
1b agricultural business 2a, b		presentation - CIDADES only			2a			storage and presentation - urban units of 50,000+ inhabitants	
3 household survey 3 survey of manufactures		storage - CIDADES only storage, presentation - CIDADES only	storage presentation storage presentation	stored by municipio presentation	<u>German Democratic Republic</u> 1a	storage presentation storage and presentation - by size group	storage and presentation - communities with 10,000 or more inhabitants		
<u>Bulgaria</u> 1a, 2a	storage presentation				2a				
<u>Colombia</u>	no information				<u>Ghana</u> 1a	storage	presentation - localities with population of 200+		
<u>Czechoslovakia</u> 1a	storage presentation				2a		presentation - urban localities		
2a		storage presentation			3 - 1971 Supplementary Enquiry	storage	presentation - urban/rural classification		
<u>Denmark</u> 1a		storage and presentation - those with 200+ inhabitants	storage presentation		<u>Greece</u> 1a, b, 2a		storage and presentation - municipalities and communities		
<u>Ecuador</u>	data not clear				<u>Guatemala</u> 1a	storage presentation storage			
<u>Egypt</u>	no information				1b				
<u>Finland</u> 1a	storage presentation				2a, b, 3		storage presentation		
1b, 2, 3				storage presentation	<u>Hungary</u>				
					<u>Iceland</u> 1a, 2a	storage presentation			

Table 4. Identifiability of localities by size of population
with regard to data storage and data presentation

Country/Data collection programme	All localities	Some localities (criteria)	Urban agglomerations	No localities	Country/Data collection programme	All localities	Some localities (criteria)	Urban agglomerations	No localities
<u>India</u> 1a, b, 2a, b, 3	presentation				<u>Netherlands</u>	data not clear			
<u>Ireland</u> 1a	storage presentation		storage presentation		<u>New Zealand</u> 1a		storage and presentation - legally defined localities		
<u>Israel</u> 1a	storage presentation		storage presentation		1b, 2a		presentation - legally de- fined localities		
1b agricultural	presentation	storage	storage presentation		<u>Norway</u> 1a	storage presentation		presentation	storage presentation
2a	storage		storage presentation		1b, 2b				
3 Labour Force Survey		storage presentation			3		presentation - size of popula- tion		
<u>Liberia</u> 1a	storage presentation		storage presentation storage presentation		<u>Pakistan</u> 1a population	storage presentation storage			
3 National Demographic Survey		storage and presentation - those cross-tabulated by social, economic and demogra- phic factors; population size, structure, composition and distribution			3 housing, eco- nomic and de- mographic				
<u>Luxembourg</u> 1a	storage	presentation - size of population			<u>Panama</u> 1a	presentation		presentation	
1b				storage presentation	<u>Papua New Guinea</u>	no information			
2a		storage and presentation - by commune			<u>Paraguay</u> 1a, 2a				
<u>Malawi</u> 1a	storage presentation - in due course				1b agricultu- ral	storage presentation			
<u>Malaysia</u> 1a, b, 2a, 3	storage presentation				3 fertility and demogra- phic surveys				
<u>Morocco</u> 1a de jure po- pulation	storage presentation				<u>Peru</u> 1a	storage presentation			
1b agricultural			storage presentation		1b agricul- tural		storage and presentation - District: minor administrative division		
2a	storage presentation				1b commerce	storage	presentation - Province: inter- mediate administrative divi- sion		
3 employment survey			storage presentation		2a		storage and presentation - District: minor administrative division		
					3			storage presentation	

Table 4. Identifiability of localities by size of population with regard to data storage and data presentation

Country/Data collection programme	All localities	Some localities (criteria)	Urban agglomerations	No localities	Country/Data collection programme	All localities	Some localities (criteria)	Urban agglomerations	No localities
<u>Philippines</u>					<u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>				
1a, b as-1-cultural	storage presentation				1a	storage			
2a		storage and presentation - cities/municipalities			<u>United Kingdom</u>				
<u>Poland</u>					1a, 2a	presentation			
1a	storage	presentation - towns only		storage presentation	<u>United Republic of Tanzania</u>		} note: data by region and district only		
1b agricultural				1a, 2a, b household budget survey		storage presentation			
2a		storage - towns only		storage presentation	3 national demographic survey			storage presentation	
2b, 3					<u>United States</u>				
<u>Sri Lanka</u>					1a	storage presentation		storage presentation	
1a	storage presentation	storage			1b economic		storage and presentation - incorporated places of 2,500+ inhabitants		
1b agricultural					2a		storage and presentation - incorporated places of 10,000+ inhabitants		
2a, 3	storage				2b		storage and presentation - variable to as small as 2,500		
<u>Swaziland</u>	data not clear				3	storage presentation		storage presentation	
<u>Sweden</u>					<u>Venezuela</u>				
1a	storage presentation		storage presentation			data not clear			
<u>Syrian Arab Republic</u>					<u>Zaire</u>				
1a	storage presentation				1a, b, 3	storage presentation			
1b	storage		presentation		2a				
2	storage			storage presentation	<u>Zambia</u>				
3					1a	storage	presentation - population size, administrative status	presentation	
<u>Thailand</u>					1b, 3	storage	presentation - administrative status	presentation	
1a	storage	presentation - population by size of localities and administrative units at provincial level, plus urban/rural area							storage presentation
1b agricultural	storage	presentation - administrative units at provincial level for non-municipal area; regional level for municipal area							
2a				storage presentation					
3 Labour Force and Socio-economic Surveys		storage and presentation - municipal and non-municipal area by region							

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Table 5. Determination of locality boundaries and their consistency with definitions of urban/rural areas

Country	Locality boundaries are determined			Locality boundaries are consistent with urban/rural definition		
	Legally	Functionally (criteria)	in another manner, namely	Yes	No	Other
Botswana			district population cluster in which inhabitants live in neighbouring living quarters and which has a recognized name	x		
Brazil	x					not always
Bulgaria	x			x		
Colombia	x					no information
Czechoslovakia		according to natural or created borders like rivers, communication, boundary of built-up area or house-block etc.				urban/rural classification based on classification of communes by type of commune
Denmark			plotting addresses on maps	x	a/	
Ecuador	x	frequently it is necessary to better determine the boundaries for statistical purposes			-	
Egypt		no information				
Finland		cluster of buildings with at least 200 inhabitants where the distance between buildings does not usually exceed 200 meters. The distance can exceed 200 meters only if a separate group of buildings belongs clearly to the sphere of influence of a larger locality. On the other hand the distance must be less than 200 meters if the nature of the settlement so demands, i.e. the borderlines are vague and the density of the locality does not clearly differ from the density of the surrounding region.				b/
France			the boundaries of population agglomerations are determined according to maps and plans			consistent at the level of entire communes
German Democratic Republic	x				-	
Ghana	x					no information
Greece	x		administrative boundaries are established only for municipalities and communes including one or more independent locality	x		
Guatemala	x	x for places contiguous to the municipality of Guatemala		x	c/	
Hungary	x civil division			x		
Iceland	towns		new localities: aerial photos and consultation with local authorities	x		
India	x				-	
Ireland		generally in accordance with European Recommendations for 1970 Censuses - modified where necessary to meet local circumstances			x in general	
Israel	x					urban agglomerations include some "rural" localities
Liberia	x					localities not satisfying the criterion of civic amenities like school, hospital, electricity... and yet qualifying for the population criterion are classified as rural
Luxembourg	x				-	
Malawi	x urban		villages by home	x	d/	
Malaysia	x			x		
Morocco	x			x		

a/ Except Copenhagen metropolitan area.
b/ Not with urban and rural communes.

c/ Except municipality of Guatemala.
d/ All areas have agricultural land and forest.

Table 5. Determination of locality boundaries and their consistency with definitions of urban/rural areas

Country	Locality boundaries are determined			Locality boundaries are consistent with urban/rural definition		
	Legally	Functionally (criteria)	in another manner, namely	Yes	No	Other
Netherlands	x				-	
New Zealand	x	x			-	
Norway		x	outer limit of what is classified as densely populated areas ("urban settlements")	x		
Pakistan	x				-	
Panama		x		x		
Papua New Guinea			combination of both		-	
Paraguay			determined by population			
Peru	x	consultations with cartographers and census experts			-	
Philippines	x			x		
Poland			based on registers (charts) of agricultural estates	x		
Sri Lanka	x			x		
Swaziland	x urban areas			x		
Sweden		x		x		
Syrian Arab Republic	x				-	
Thailand	no information				-	
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain, San Fernando, Arima		place name for villages	x		
United Kingdom:						
England and Wales		not applicable	not applicable			
Northern Ireland		not applicable	not applicable			
Scotland		not applicable	not applicable			
United Republic of Tanzania	x				-	
United States	x	x the Census Bureau delineates boundaries for localities without corporate limits that have populations of 1,000 or more				the Census Bureau designates extended cities in some cases where city boundaries are so extensive as to include territory essentially rural in character
Venezuela	x	population size, existing services, agricultural population, economic characteristics			x	
Zaire	x				x	
Zambia	x				x	

Table 6. Currently utilized classifications of localities by size

Country	Classification	Data collection programme	Types of data classified by size of locality	Country	Classification	Data collection programme	Types of data classified by size of locality
Botswana	-	-	-	Guatemala	-	-	-
Brazil	Cidades: 1-500, 501-1,000, 1,001-2,000, 2,001-5,000, 5,001-10,000, 10,001-20,000, 20,001+ Vilas: 1-200, 201-500, 501-1,000, 1,001-2,000, 2,001-5,000, 5,001-10,000, 10,001+	-	-	Hungary	civil divisions: -499, 500-999, 1,000-1,499, 1,500-1,999, 2,000-2,999, 3,000-4,999, 5,000-9,999, 10,000-19,999, 20,000-29,999, 30,000-49,999, 50,000-99,999, 100,000-199,999, 200,000+; Budapest	publications: unified census summary schemes, publications on locality network	population number and composition, housing stock and composition, industry, trade, construction, vital statistics, internal migration
Bulgaria	-200, 200-499, 500-999, 1,000-1,999; 2,000-4,999; 5,000-9,999; 10,000-24,999; 25,000-99,999; 100,000-499,999; 500,000+	-	number of population and localities	Iceland	1-199, 200-999, 1,000-9,999, 10,000+, Capital urban area	population and vital statistics	sex, age, marital status
Colombia	no information	-	-		1-49, 50-99, 100-199, 200-299, 300-499, 500-999, 1,000-1,999, 2,000-4,999, 5,000-9,999, 10,000+, Capital urban area	population and vital statistics	
Czechoslovakia	-	-	-	India	I 100,000+ II 50,000 - 99,999 III 20,000 - 49,999 IV 10,000 - 19,999 V 5,000 - 9,999 VI 0 - 4,999	-	general population for all sizes, economic, housing and migration data for class I cities
Denmark	Copenhagen metropolitan area; other urban areas 10,000+; 2,000-9,999; 200-1,999; rural districts	all types of data	all types of data	Ireland	1. urban agglomerations 2. towns with 10,000+ population including environs	census	total population, sex (other census data - e.g. employment, housing - are normally given for individual localities with population of 1,500+)
Ecuador	-	-	-		3. 5,000-10,000 " 4. 3,000- 5,000 " 5. 1,500- 3,000 " 6. 1,000- 1,500 " 7. 500- 1,000 "		
Egypt	no information	-	-		8. under 500 population but with at least 50 inhabited dwellings		
Finland	-	-	-	Israel	classification exists but was not stated		population, settlements
France	-	-	-	Liberia	has 3 classifications which, however, were not described in sufficient detail	Population and Housing Census	population, sex, urban, rural
German Democratic Republic	rural: -200; 200-500; 500-1,000; 1,000-1,500; 1,500-2,000 urban: 2,000-3,000; 3,000-5,000; 5,000-10,000; 10,000-20,000; 20,000-50,000; 50,000-100,000; 100,000+	-	-	Luxembourg	-	-	-
Ghana	-	-	-	Malawi	-	-	-
Greece	500,000+ 200,000 - 499,999 100,000 - 199,999 50,000 - 99,999 20,000 - 49,999 10,000 - 19,999 5,000 - 9,999 2,000 - 4,999 1,000 - 1,999 500 - 999 200 - 499 50 - 199 0 - 49	population census data storage, data presentation	total population	Malaysia	classification exists but was not stated		population data

Table 6. Currently utilized classifications of localities by size

Country	Classification	Data collection programme	Types of data classified by size of locality	Country	Classification	Data collection programme	Types of data classified by size of locality
Morocco	- 6 cities with over 100,000 inhabitants - rest urban - rural	(publication)	demographic and socio-economic characteristics	Syrian Arab Republic	classification exists but was not stated		total population only
Netherlands	-500; 500-999; 1,000-1,999; 2,000-4,999; 5,000-9,999; 10,000-19,999; 20,000-49,999; 50,000-99,999; 100,000-199,999; 200,000-499,999; 500,000+			Thailand	-200, 200-499, 500-999, 1,000-1,999, 2,000-4,999, 5,000-9,999, 10,000-19,999, 20,000-49,999, 50,000-99,999, 100,000-199,999, 200,000-499,999, 500,000-999,999, 1 million+	1980 Population and Housing Census	number of localities, population in locality, by size-classification of locality and sex
New Zealand	-	-	-	Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	United Kingdom:			
Pakistan	-	-	-	England and Wales	-	-	-
Panama	-50; 50-99; 100-499; 500-999; 1,000-4,999; 5,000-9,999; 10,000-24,999; 25,000-99,999; 100,000+	population census	number of populated places and inhabitants by province	Northern Ireland	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	Scotland	continuously built-up areas: 1,000,000+ 100,000 - 1,000,000 10,000 - 100,000 1,000 - 10,000 -1,000 or rural		
Paraguay	-	-	-	United Republic of Tanzania	-	-	-
Peru	-50; 50-99; 100-199; 200-499; 500-999; 5,000-9,999; 2,000-4,999; 5,000-9,999; 10,000-19,999; 20,000-49,999; 50,000-99,999; 100,000-199,999; 200,000-299,999; 300,000+			United States	-2,500; 2,500-5,000; 5,000-10,000; 10,000-25,000; 25,000-50,000; 50,000-250,000; 250,000+ (+ almost any size grouping specified)	national censuses - population, housing, business	social and economic characteristics
Philippines	-	-	-		no specific classification in general use	Current Population Survey, Annual Housing Survey	
Poland	<u>urban</u> : -5,000, 5,000-10,000; 10,000-20,000; 20,000-50,000; 50,000-100,000; 100,000-200,000; 200,000+ <u>rural</u> : -50; 50-99; 100-199; 200-499; 500-999; 1,000-1,999; 2,000+	all censuses	population, households, equipment of localities with schools, health service establishments, social welfare and cultural services	Venezuela	500,000+, 200,000-499,999, 100,000-199,999, 50,000-99,999, 20,000-49,999, 10,000-19,999, 5,000-9,999, 2,500-4,999, 1,000-2,499, 500-999, 200-499, 100-199, -100; scattered population		
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	Zaire	-	-	-
Swaziland	-	-	-	Zambia	-	-	-
Sweden	200-499, 500-1,999; 2,000-4,999; 5,000-9,999; 10,000-19,999; 20,000-49,999; 50,000-99,999; 100,000+		population, immigrant stock, economically active daytime population, economically active resident population, households, dwellings				

/...

Table 7. Identifiability of urban agglomerations

Country	by aggregation of constituent localities			by other currently used or potentially available means	Country	by aggregation of constituent localities			by other currently used or potentially available means
	yes	no	not applicable			yes	no	not applicable	
Botswana			x		Norway (cont)				a. At least one third of the economically active population residing in the urban settlement, have their place of work in one or more of the other urban settlements of the cluster. b. At least one third of the economically active population having their place of work in the urban settlement, have their residence in one or more of the other urban settlements of the cluster.
Brazil	x								
Bulgaria	x								under revision: aim for aggregation from regularly updated register of addresses; enumeration districts as building blocks
Colombia	no information								
Czechoslovakia			x		Pakistan	x			
Denmark		x			Panama	x			
Ecuador	x				Papua New Guinea		x		
Egypt	no information				Paraguay	x			
Finland		x		use concept of city regions which may consist of several communes adjacent to a city; they have been determined by comparing data on place of residence and commune of employment	Peru	x			
France		x			Philippines	x			
German Democratic Republic			x		Poland	x			
Ghana	x				Sri Lanka	x			
Greece	x				Swasiland	x			
Guatemala	x				Sweden	x			
Hungary	x			note: Budapest is sole urban agglomeration	Syrian Arab Republic	x			
	civil division				Thailand	no information			
Iceland	x				Trinidad and Tobago		x		
India	x				United Kingdom:				
Ireland		x			England and Wales	not applicable			
Israel	x				Northern Ireland	not applicable			
Liberia	x				Scotland	x			the Central Clydeside Conurbation is defined in terms of administrative areas
Luxembourg			x		United Republic of Tanzania	x			
Malawi	x				United States		x		
Malaysia		x			Venezuela	x			
Morocco			x		Zaire		x		
Netherlands		x			Zambia	x			
New Zealand		x		aggregation of municipalities					
Norway	x			Urban settlements belonging to a common labour market are grouped to form a cluster of urban settlements. An urban settlement is included in a cluster of urban settlements if satisfying one of the following requirements:					

Table 8. Availability of data by geographical units

Country/ Geographical units a/	Type of data and form in which they are available											
	Size of population				Number and percent of labour force in agriculture				Population density			
	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request
<u>Botswana</u> 1b, 2a, 3	x	x	x									
<u>Brazil</u> 1a 1b 1c 3 5, 6 7	x		x		x		x CIDADES x VILAS		x big CIDA- DES only x		x	
<u>Bulgaria</u> 1a, 2a 3	x	x	x		x	x						x x
<u>Colombia</u>	no information											
<u>Czechoslovakia</u> 1a, 2a communes			x				x total only					
<u>Denmark</u> 1a, c 5, 6, 7			x x			x # only x	x # only x					x x
<u>Ecuador</u> 1a 1c			x	x								
<u>Egypt</u>	no information											
<u>Finland</u> 1a, 2a 5	x			x x	x				x x			x x
<u>France</u> 1b 1c 2b 3 5			x x x x				x x impor- tant com- munes				x	
<u>German Democratic Republic</u>	considered not applicable											
<u>Ghana</u> 1a, 2a 1c 2b		x	x			x	x					
<u>Greece</u> 1a, 1b, 2a 3, 5 7	x	x	x x			x			x			x
<u>Guatemala</u> 1b 1c 2a 3	x x		x x	x x	x x		x x	x x	(only for municipios)			
<u>Hungary</u> 1a, 2a civil divisions 3	x x	x	x x		x x # & % of total popula- tion by sex		x x # & % of total population by sex		x		x	
<u>Iceland</u> 1a, 2a 7	x	x	x	x								
<u>India</u> 1a 1c 2a 2b 3			x x x				x x					x x can be calculated where area and population are pub- lished
<u>Ireland</u> 1a, 2b 1b, 2b			x				x with population 1,500+					

a/ 1a = all urban localities
1b = selected urban localities
1c = urban agglomerations
2a = all rural localities
2b = selected rural localities

3 = census enumeration district or enumeration area
4 = grid square
5 = block
6 = block face
7 = street address

Table 8. Availability of data by geographical units

Country/ Geographical units a/	Type of data and form in which they are available											
	Size of population				Number and percent of labour force in agriculture				Population density			
	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request
<u>Ireland (con't)</u>												
3 small civil divisions (district electoral divisions)			x				x					
<u>Israel</u>												
1a, 2a	x	x	x									
1b						x						
1c			x			x						
3		x				x						
<u>Liberia</u>												
1a		x	x			x			x			
1c	x	x	x		x	x			x			x
3	x	x		x	x	x			x	x		x
4		x		x	x					x		x
5	x	x		x	x			x		x		x
<u>Luxembourg</u>												
1b, 2b		x	x									
3		x	x			x						
<u>Malawi</u>												
1a	x	x				x			x	x		preliminary
2a	x	x						x				
2b	district x	district x	district in due course		district x	district x	district in due course		sub-district x	district x	district preliminary	
3				x				x				
<u>Malaysia</u>												
1a, 2a, 3			x	x								
<u>Morocco</u>												
1a	de jure population x	x	x	x		x						
1b	x		x		x							
2a	x	x	x	x		x			x			
3	x	x		x	x	x			x	x		
<u>Netherlands</u>												
1a, 2a	x		x					x				
3	x		x							x		
4	x		x		x			x				
<u>New Zealand</u>												
1b, 2a			x									
1c			x									
3, 5, 7	x											
<u>Norway</u>												
1a			x					x	x males/females			
1b												
1c, 3			x									more than 1,000 population x
<u>Pakistan</u>												
1b, 2b			x									
2a			x									
3			x									
<u>Panama</u>												
1a, 2a												
3						x (total)				x (total)		
<u>Papua New Guinea</u>												
2a	x	x		x								
3	x	x		x								
<u>Paraguay</u>												
1a	x											
3 for districts	x				x							
5 for capital	x								x			
<u>Peru</u>												
1a, c, 2a	x		x		x			x				
3	x	x										x
<u>Philippines</u>												
1a, 2a			x									
1b, 2b			x									
<u>Poland</u>												
1a		x	x									
2a, 3, 4		x		x		x				x		
5, 6, 7				x								

Table 8. Availability of data by geographical units

Country/ Geographical units	Type of data and form in which they are available											
	Size of population				Number and percent of labour force in agriculture				Population density			
	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request	Unaggregated	Aggregated	Published	Special request
<u>Sri Lanka</u>												
1a, 2a			x				x				x	
1b			x				x					
5				x				x				x
<u>Swaziland</u>												
1a	x											x
1b	x			x					x			
1c			x								x	
2a	x			x				x				
2b				x				x				
3		x						x				
5				x								x
7				x								x
<u>Sweden</u>												
1a, c	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	
3, 4, 5	x	x	x		x	x	x					
<u>Syrian Arab Republic</u>												
1a, 2a			x									x
2b												x
3												
5												
7												
<u>Thailand</u>	no information											
<u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>												
3				x				x				
<u>United Kingdom:</u>												
England & Wales												
1a, 2a, 3, 4		x								x		
1c		x	x			x	x			x	x	
Northern Ireland												
4		x		x		x		x		x		x
local government district		x	x			x	x			x	x	
Scotland	no information											
<u>United Republic of Tanzania</u>												
1a			soon	x	x						soon	x
1b, 2a, b, 3				x	x							x
1c			soon	x	x							x
4, 5, 6, 7	x				x				x			
<u>United States</u>												
1a, 2b, 5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1b, c	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2a	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x
<u>Venezuela</u>	no information											
<u>Zaire</u>												
1a, c, 2a		x	x									x
<u>Zambia</u>												
1a	x		x			x	x			x	x	x
1b	x		x			x	x			x	x	
1c	x		x			x	x		x	x	x	
2a	x		x			x	x			x	x	
2b small urban centres with population < 5,000	x		x			x	x			x	x	
3	x		x			x	x			x	x	

II. INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

46. In developing international guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications relating to geographical units and their urban/rural characteristics, consideration must be given to both current national practices and international guidelines or classifications. An overview of the latter is provided below.

A. United Nations Statistical Office

1. Population and housing censuses

47. The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses points out that the principal difference in the circumstances of living between urban and rural areas tends to be a matter of the degree of concentration of population. It recommends maintaining the traditional urban/rural dichotomy and *Corr. 1* supplementing ~~or replacing~~ it by a classification by size of locality in which the major concern is with characteristics related only to density along a continuum from the most sparsely settled areas to the most densely built-up localities. The locality is considered the most appropriate unit of classification for national purposes as well as international comparability. (For the United Nations definition of a locality, see para. 22 above.)

48. The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses refers to the basic classification of localities by five size categories, which was recommended by the Economic Commission for Europe for use in that region (see para. 60). Within size categories of localities, it may be appropriate to distinguish between agricultural localities, market towns, industrial centres, service centres etc. Where it is not possible to use the locality, the smallest administrative unit of the country may be used.

49. The Principles and Recommendations indicates that density of settlement may not be a sufficient criterion in many countries, particularly where there are large localities which are still characterized by a truly rural way of life. Such countries might find it necessary to use additional criteria in developing classifications that are more distinctive than a simple urban/rural differentiation.

50. Additional criteria that may be useful are the percentage of the economically active population employed in agriculture, the general availability of electricity and/or piped water in living quarters and the ease of access to medical care, schools and recreation facilities. In some countries, it might be advisable to adopt different criteria for different parts of the country.

2. Vital statistics system

51. The Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System 8/ states that in compiling vital statistics, the basis for geographical tabulation may be either place of occurrence, that is, the locality where the event occurred, or

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XVII.9, paras. 97-110.

place of usual residence, that is, the locality where the person in question usually resides. In the Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses, ^{9/} the locality is defined as "a distinct population cluster (also designated as inhabited place, population centre, settlement etc.) in which the inhabitants live in neighbouring buildings and which has a name or a locally recognized status". It is considered the most appropriate unit of classification.

52. The recommended classification of localities by size classes reads as follows: ^{10/}

500,000 or more inhabitants
100,000 - 499,999 inhabitants
50,000 - 99,999 inhabitants
20,000 - 49,999 inhabitants
10,000 - 19,999 inhabitants
5,000 - 9,999 inhabitants
2,000 - 4,999 inhabitants
1,000 - 1,999 inhabitants
500 - 999 inhabitants
200 - 499 inhabitants
Less than 200 inhabitants
Population not in localities

This classification is recommended for vital statistics obtained from a civil registration system or a census, since a survey generally does not have a sufficiently large universe to permit such detailed classification. For survey results, therefore, a less detailed classification may be more suitable.

53. It is not possible with a size continuum alone to identify the point where rural localities end and urban localities begin, since population size is not necessarily highly correlated with urban characteristics. Therefore, where it is not practicable to classify a population according to locality size, a simple dichotomous urban/rural classification may prove useful instead. It is noted that some countries classify their localities according to socio-economic structure of the population, population density, functional aspects and the morphological situation of the localities etc. in addition to population size.

54. Because of national differences in the characteristics which distinguish urban from rural areas, the distinction between urban and rural population is not amenable to a single definition applicable to all countries. For this reason, each country should decide for itself which areas are urban and which are rural. It is felt that differences between urban and rural characteristics are bound to be reflected in statistics so classified even if the classifications are not always precise or comparable.

^{9/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.67.XVII.3, para. 232.

^{10/} Ibid., part VI.C (2).

B. United Nations economic commissions

55. On the whole, the guidelines and recommendations issued by the economic commissions for their respective regions are compatible with the global recommendations of the Statistical Office. The details are summarized below.

1. Economic Commission for Europe

56. The Recommendations for the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region identifies the locality as the most appropriate unit for geographical analysis of census data. The definition of the locality, which is intended to provide general guidance to countries and may be adapted in accordance with national conditions and practices, reads as follows: "A locality is defined as a distinct population cluster, that is, the population living in neighbouring buildings which either:

- "(a) form a continuous built-up area with a clearly recognizable street formation; or
- "(b) though not part of such a built-up area, form a group to which a locally recognized place name is uniquely attached; or
- "(c) though not coming within either of the above two requirements constitute a group none of which is separated from its nearest neighbour by more than 200 metres.

In applying this definition certain land-use categories should not be regarded as breaking the continuity of a built-up area (and accordingly should not be counted in applying the 200-metre criterion above). These categories are: industrial and commercial buildings and facilities, public parks, playgrounds and gardens, football fields and other sports facilities, bridged rivers, railway lines, canals, parking lots and other transport infrastructure, churchyards and cemeteries, etc." 11/

57. "Localities as defined above should not be confused with the smallest civil divisions of a country. In some cases, the two may coincide. In others, however, even the smallest civil division may contain two or more localities. On the other hand, some large cities or towns may contain two or more civil divisions, which should be considered only segments of a single locality rather than separate localities (para. 27)."

58. "It is recommended that the population be classified by size of locality according to the following size-classes:

11/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.E.6, para. 25.

- 1.0 1,000,000 or more inhabitants
- 2.0 500,000 - 999,999 inhabitants
- 3.0 200,000 - 499,999 inhabitants
- 4.0 100,000 - 199,000 inhabitants
- 5.0 50,000 - 99,999 inhabitants
- 6.0 20,000 - 49,999 inhabitants
- 7.0 10,000 - 19,999 inhabitants
- 8.0 5,000 - 9,999 inhabitants
- 9.0 2,000 - 4,999 inhabitants
- 10.0 1,000 - 1,999 inhabitants
- 11.0 500 - 999 inhabitants
- 12.0 200 - 499 inhabitants
- 13.0 Population living in localities with less than 200 inhabitants or in scattered buildings and population without a fixed place of residence
 - 13.1 population living in localities with 50-199 inhabitants
 - 13.2 population living in localities with less than 50 inhabitants or in scattered buildings
 - 13.3 population without a fixed place of residence.

This classification is basic at the one-digit level but optional at the two-digit level (para. 29)."

59. The locality as defined in paragraph 56 above is considered the most appropriate unit of classification for distinguishing urban, semi-urban and rural areas for national purposes as well as for international comparability. However, it is left to the countries to decide whether to use the locality or the smallest civil division as the unit of classification. If the latter is used, every possible effort should be made to obtain results which correspond as closely as possible with those obtained by countries which use the locality as the unit of analysis.

60. The ECE recommendations contain a condensed classification of localities (or similar units) to be used to distinguish urban, semi-urban and rural areas. The classification reads:

- "1.0 less than 2,000 inhabitants
- 2.0 2,000 - 9,999 inhabitants
- 3.0 10,000 - 99,999 inhabitants
- 4.0 100,000 - 999,999 inhabitants
- 5.0 1,000,000 or more inhabitants (para. 33)."

Countries are encouraged to develop typologies of localities (or similar units) based on additional criteria suitable to distinguish different types of areas within particular categories of the basic classification, for example, subdivision of category 1.0 into "agricultural" and "other types of small localities".

61. Thus rural might consist of 1.0, semi-urban of 2.0 and urban of the remainder

/...

but "It is recognized that countries should be given latitude in selecting a dividing line between the first two categories that is appropriate to their conditions (para. 33)."

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

62. The Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses, like the ECE recommendations, identify the locality as the most appropriate unit for geographical analysis of census data. It is defined as "a distinct population cluster (also designated as inhabited place, populated centre, settlement etc.) of which the inhabitants live in neighbouring buildings and which has a name or a locally recognized status. It may include fishing hamlets, mining camps, ranches, farms, market towns, villages, towns, cities and many other population clusters which meet the criteria specified above." 12/

63. "Localities as defined above should not be confused with the smallest civil divisions of a country. In some cases, the two may coincide. In others, however, even the smallest civil division may contain two or more localities. Yet some large cities or towns may contain two or more civil divisions, which should be considered only segments of a single locality rather than separate localities (para. 340)."

64. The recommended size classes of localities for the classification of population are:

"500,000 or more inhabitants
100,000 - 499,999 inhabitants
50,000 - 99,999 inhabitants
20,000 - 49,999 inhabitants
10,000 - 19,999 inhabitants
5,000 - 9,999 inhabitants
2,000 - 4,999 inhabitants
1,000 - 1,999 inhabitants
500 - 999 inhabitants
200 - 499 inhabitants
less than 200 inhabitants (para. 383 (3))."

65. Again as in ECE, the locality (or smallest administrative division if necessary) is considered the most appropriate unit of classification to distinguish urban from rural areas for both national purposes and international comparability. An urban/rural classification as such is not provided. It is, however, recommended that a classification be based on localities by population size with possible refinement through consideration of factors such as density of population, proportion of male and/or female workers in non-agricultural activities, availability of civic facilities and the like.

12/ ST/ESCAP/52, para. 339.

3. Economic Commission for Latin America

66. For users of the data bank containing the census data of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) countries, the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (CELADE) has prepared the following geographical classifications: 13/

Registration place: major civil division
minor civil division

Registration zone: capital
other urban
rural

67. Additional recommendations for Latin America were developed by the Inter-American Statistical Institute, through the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS), which adopted standards for the 1980 Census of America (COTA-1980) as part of the Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics (PIEB). In these standards, the attention of the countries is drawn to the fact that "in a population census the locality constitutes an important geographic classification which requires a reasonably precise delimitation to enable the structuring of socio-economic areas or zones and the presentation of census results for each of them, and to have available the necessary background elements to design post-census investigations". 14/

68. COINS recommends that for census purposes, a locality should be defined as "a distinct population cluster of which the inhabitants live in neighbouring housing units and which has a name or a locally recognized status. Thus, according to this definition, fishing hamlets, mining camps, market towns, villages, towns, cities and any other population clusters which meet the criteria specified above are localities (pp. 8-9)."

69. "Localities should not be confused with the minor civil divisions of a country. In general, a minor political division is made up of a group of localities and only in particular cases do two or more minor civil divisions form part of a single locality. The latter is the case with 'urban agglomerations', which are comprised of the city proper plus the thickly settled territory adjacent to, but outside of, its administrative boundaries (p. 9)."

70. The following size classes of localities are recommended:

13/ CELADE, Boletín del Banco de Datos, Santiago, Chile, Noviembre 1974, p. 6.

14/ Organization of American States, Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics (PIEB), 7398a - sections I.A and II.A, 28 June 1978, p. 9.

"500,000 or more inhabitants
200,000 to 499,999 inhabitants
100,000 to 199,999 inhabitants
50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants
20,000 to 49,999 inhabitants
10,000 to 19,999 inhabitants
5,000 to 9,999 inhabitants
2,000 to 4,999 inhabitants
1,000 to 1,999 inhabitants
500 to 999 inhabitants
200 to 499 inhabitants
less than 200 inhabitants (p. 30)."

71. The locality is considered the most appropriate classification unit for distinguishing urban and rural areas, but an urban/rural classification is not provided for lack of standard criteria. With regard to metropolitan areas, COINS recommends utilization of population density, continuity of the areas and socio-economic interrelationship for their determination and the subdivision of these clusters into subareas with a population not larger than 5,000 inhabitants and with identifiable and permanent boundaries, that is, what are known as census tracts.

4. Economic Commission for Africa

72. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) recommendations are contained in the report of its Working Group. ^{15/} Among other things, the Working Group noted the lack of a distance-separation criterion in the definition of a locality. The merits of using the village rather than the locality as a classification unit were examined. It was felt that in countries where the village is a very precise and unambiguous entity, data should be tabulated by village as well as locality in view of the administrative importance of the village.

73. With regard to the classification of localities as urban or rural, the Working Group considered tabulation by population size groups in recognition of the fact that uniform definitions or concepts may be neither possible nor desirable. The proportion engaged in non-agricultural activities was not generally considered sufficient to define an urban locality. Factors such as type of buildings, type of existing infrastructure, size of agglomeration and administrative function were to be taken into account as well.

5. Economic Commission for Western Asia

74. In the final report of the Expert Group meeting on Census Techniques, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) in general urges the countries in the region to follow as much as possible international definitions and concepts to

^{15/} ECA, "Report of the Working Group on Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses in Africa" (E/CN.14/CPH/47), para. 44.

permit regional and international comparisons. Two specific guidelines are recommended "which should be observed when defining urban and rural places. First, the place should be defined in terms of size of its population since size is generally considered to be one critical dimension of urbanization. Second, the localities should be categorized with respect to the nature of their primary activities, agricultural or non-agricultural." 16/

C. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

75. For its Social Indicator Programme, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) secretariat recently developed a list of classifications for review by the members of the Working Party on Social Indicators. For geographical disaggregation, the following classification was proposed:

- (a) Very large metropolitan areas such as Paris, with at least two or three million inhabitants;
- (b) Large metropolitan areas such as Stockholm, with a minimum population in the vicinity of a half million;
- (c) The rural population as defined by each country; and
- (d) All other areas combined (a residual urban population living in towns and small or medium-sized metropolitan areas). 17/

The precise classifications for these broad categories are to be developed by each of the member countries.

D. International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

76. The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Committee on Demographic Aspects of Abortion recommended classification of place of usual residence as follows:

- (a) First priority
 - (i) Resident of the country
 - (ii) Urban

16/ "Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Census Techniques, held in Beirut, from 12 to 16 December 1977", Population Bulletin of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, No. 15, December 1978, p. 77, para. 18 e.

17/ OECD, annex to a memorandum to members of the Working Party on Social Indicators, 22 October 1979. Mimeo, 3 pp.

- (iii) Rural
- (iv) Major civil divisions
- (v) Non-resident of the country by country of residence
- (vi) Unknown residency
- (b) Second priority
- (i) Resident of the country by minor civil division
- (ii) Non-resident of the country by country of residence. 18/

III. NEXT STEPS

77. The work on the development of international guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications relating to geographical units and their urban/rural characteristics will continue, based on the suggestions of the Statistical Commission. It is proposed that the tables and analyses of the present report be revised to take into account the survey results from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Japan, Romania and Turkey, the completed survey forms from these countries having arrived in the Statistical Office too late for incorporation above.

IV. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

78. The Commission may wish to comment on the present report and make suggestions for further action.

18/ IUSSP, Recommendations for Comparative Abortion Statistics in Countries Where Induced Abortion is Legalized, IUSSP Papers No. 7.