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

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics on progress in its work. Following decision 49/115, adopted by the Statistical Commission in March 2018, the Expert Group was mandated to develop international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and a compilers' manual with hands-on guidance and a refined methodology for collecting and disseminating statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons. The two documents address the need for international standards and improved comparability and quality of data on internally displaced persons and for guidance on how to implement the international recommendations on refugee statistics, approved by the Commission in March 2018, and the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics, submitted as a background document to the present report. The deliverables from the Expert Group are aimed at increasing capacity at all levels in the area of statistics on forcibly displaced populations. The Commission is invited to discuss and adopt the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and to welcome the development of the compilers' manual, as suggested in paragraph 49 (a) and (b). The Commission is also invited to discuss and reaffirm the future work of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, as suggested in paragraph 49 (c).

* E/CN.3/2020/1.



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

I. Introduction

1. At the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission, held in March 2015, Statistics Norway and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presented a joint report on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons (E/CN.3/2015/9). The authors of the report highlighted several challenges associated with the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and suggested that an international conference be organized to address those challenges. In its decision 46/104, the Commission supported the proposal to organize an international conference and acknowledged the need for international recommendations and a related handbook with practical guidance.

2. In follow-up to Commission decision 46/104, the Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat), Statistics Norway, UNHCR, Eurostat and the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association organized the International Conference on Refugee Statistics, held in Antalya, Turkey, in October 2015. During the conference, it was agreed that refugee statistics should form an integral part of national statistics and that there was a need to better understand stocks and flows of refugees and asylum seekers. At the forty-seventh session of the Commission, in March 2016, the outcomes of the conference were presented in a report by Statistics Norway, Turkstat, Eurostat and UNHCR (E/CN.3/2016/14). The suggestions made by the authors of the report included the establishment of a committee of experts on refugee statistics and the development of international recommendations on refugee statistics and a related compilers' manual.

3. The Commission, in its decision 47/111, agreed to establish an expert group on refugee statistics, acknowledging the need to develop standards and improved systems on refugee statistics, and at the same time suggested that the expert group include internally displaced persons in its scope of work. It was decided that the overall mandate of the Expert Group was to be focused on developing international recommendations and guidance on refugee statistics and to advance discussions on standards for statistics on internally displaced persons.

4. On the basis of the decision of the Commission, a steering committee, consisting of Statistics Norway, Eurostat and UNHCR, was established to develop the terms of reference for the work of the Expert Group, which were approved by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission in July 2016.¹

5. Under decision 47/111, the Expert Group was mandated to develop the following deliverables:

(a) A set of international recommendations on refugee statistics, which can be used as a reference guide for national and international work concerning statistics on refugees and asylum seekers (submitted to the Commission at its forty-ninth session);

(b) A refugee statistics compilers' manual, with operational instructions on how to collect statistics on refugees and asylum seekers (to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session);

¹ The terms of reference can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1001617/7723880/terms-of-reference-refugee-statistics.pdf>.

(c) A technical report outlining a way forward for the development of comparable international standards for statistics on internally displaced persons (submitted to the Commission at its forty-ninth session).

6. A separate subgroup was established to work on the technical report outlining a way forward for the development of comparable international standards for internally displaced persons statistics. The Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service² was asked by the Steering Committee to lead the work of the subgroup, with the support of Statistics Norway and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

7. The Expert Group organized several global and thematic meetings and finalized and submitted both the set of international recommendations on refugee statistics and the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics to the Statistical Commission for consideration and approval at its forty-ninth session.³ The Commission commended the work undertaken by the Expert Group and endorsed the international recommendations on refugee statistics and the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics, taking full account of the comments received during the discussion.

8. At its forty-ninth session, in 2018, the Statistical Commission adopted decision 49/115, in which it made the following decisions in respect of these two documents and the way forward proposed in the report of the Expert Group:

(a) Supported the proposal to upgrade the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics to a set of recommendations;

(b) Recognized the challenges in implementing the recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics and expressed support for the development of a compilers' manual to provide hands-on guidance and a refined methodology for collecting statistics on forcibly displaced persons;

(c) Requested that the recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and the compilers' manual be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session, in 2020.

9. In the same decision, the members of the Statistical Commission also:

(a) Acknowledged the importance of a harmonized statistical framework on refugees and internally displaced persons statistics for comparable data within a country and between countries and international agencies, and emphasized that all data sources, including population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources, should be used;

(b) Expressed the need for clear definitions of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons and the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, and invited international and regional organizations to support Member States in this regard, at their request;

² The Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service is an inter-agency service, established in 2009, that is concerned with profiling in internal displacement situations. The focus of its work is to provide support to Governments and humanitarian and development organizations in implementing profiling exercises, including field support, capacity-building and the provision of tools and guidelines (www.jips.org/en/home).

³ The international recommendations on refugee statistics can be found at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018_1746_EN_08-E.pdf. The technical report on internally displaced persons statistics can be found at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Technical-Report/national-reporting/Technical-report-on-statistics-of-IDPs-E.pdf>.

(c) Emphasized the need for better coordination of different data needs between the United Nations, Eurostat and other relevant international organizations.

10. The drafting of the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and the compilers' manual for the implementation of the international recommendations on refugee statistics, approved by the Statistical Commission in March 2018, and the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics was a result of this decision.

11. Based on critical contributions made in earlier stages of the work of the Expert Group and commitments moving forward, new members were invited to join the Steering Committee. These included Turkstat, the Statistics Division, the World Bank and the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service. In its current form, the Expert Group consists of the Steering Committee, statistical authorities from 45 countries and territories,⁴ and almost 25 regional and international organizations.⁵ Membership in the Expert Group is open to all national statistical offices and international organizations.

II. Background

12. With the growing prominence of the issue of forced displacement internationally, there is an increasing interest at the national and international levels in statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, including complete, accurate, timely and internationally comparable estimates of the numbers of forcibly displaced persons. Robust statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons are critical for informed decision-making, which ultimately affects the lives of vulnerable populations. There is a range of potential users of statistics on these populations, including national and local authorities and international humanitarian and development organizations. Statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons are required in order to improve understanding of the phenomenon of forced displacement, analyse its impacts, measure changes over time and provide an adequate response. Good-quality statistics provide the requisite evidence to inform: (a) better policy formulation and sound

⁴ Countries and territories include: Afghanistan, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo (all references to Kosovo in the present report should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#)), Kurdistan region of Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and the United States of America.

⁵ International organizations include: the African Development Bank; the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD); the European Commission (Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs and Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion); the European Asylum Support Office; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Eurostat; the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; the International Organization for Migration; the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service; the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; the Household International Migration Surveys in the Mediterranean Countries; the Euro-Mediterranean statistics cooperation project; the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century; the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; the Economic Commission for Africa; the United Nations Population Fund; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; the World Bank; the World Food Programme; and academia.

decision-making to address the challenges of forced displacement, including in both the humanitarian and development fields; (b) more effective monitoring, evaluation and accountability of policies and programmes; and (c) enhanced public debate and advocacy.

13. Until the work of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, however, existing principles and statistical recommendations had only addressed forced displacement peripherally. Efforts to improve statistics on international migration, for example, do not address large movements of refugees or internally displaced persons.⁶ International recommendations on population and housing censuses⁷ or vital statistics⁸ also do not cover forcibly displaced populations. The inclusion of internally displaced persons in relevant international guidance has been especially scarce, and much of the available data are based on operational data produced by humanitarian agencies as part of their assistance programmes rather than official statistics. There is a range of national and international practices reflecting differences in the interpretation of international definitions and in context-specific responses to the practical, technical and policy challenges that can be encountered.

14. It therefore became necessary to develop a set of specific recommendations that countries and international organizations could use to improve the collection, collation, disaggregation, reporting and overall quality of statistics on forcibly displaced populations.

15. In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/1, Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of improved data collection, particularly by national authorities; called for enhanced international cooperation to improve data collection on refugees and migrants, including capacity-building for national authorities; noted that such data should be disaggregated by sex and age and include information on regular and irregular flows, the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, human trafficking, the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities and other issues; and stated that data collection would be consistent with national legislation on data protection and international privacy obligations, as applicable.

16. The Statistical Commission responded by developing the international recommendations on refugee statistics, as described above.

17. Internally displaced persons – defined as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”⁹ – account for the greatest share of displaced populations globally. In several resolutions, United Nations bodies have emphasized the importance of reliable data on internally displaced persons in order to improve policy, programming and response for these populations, ensure the protection of their human rights and support durable solutions to displacement. These resolutions also contain specific recommendations

⁶ See *International Migration Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1953, XVII,10); *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.1979.XVII.18); and *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14).

⁷ *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.XVII.10).

⁸ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XVII.10).

⁹ See the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement ([E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2](#), annex).

for Governments to seek relevant expertise in order to ensure the availability of reliable data on internally displaced persons.¹⁰

18. Good-quality statistics on internal displacement are a requirement for the inclusion of these population groups in the monitoring and implementation of several international agendas and agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ and its commitment to leave no one behind, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.¹² They are also needed to monitor progress towards the Secretary-General’s ambitious call to reduce new and protracted internal displacement by at least 50 per cent by 2030 (A/70/709, paras. 81–84) and to inform action under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees,¹³ although these do not explicitly address internal displacement, as well as other relevant policy processes. In addition, the Secretary-General recently responded to calls from Member States to establish a high-level panel on internal displacement that will address considerations for improving data on internal displacement.

19. The Statistical Commission has recognized a need for improved practice using an internationally agreed statistical framework for internally displaced persons and has asked for recommendations that provide clarity on conceptual challenges and allow for better comparability of data. These recommendations are described below.

20. The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, stress the need for capacity-building and improved statistics, including the increased “availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” (Goal 17, target 18). Specific recommendations on refugee, asylum seeker and internally displaced persons statistics can serve to strengthen the capacity of national authorities to measure progress towards the achievement of the Goals, with a specific focus on vulnerable population groups. In the light of this, and in addition to its mandate, the Expert Group coordinated with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators¹⁴ to share their work on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics and develop recommendations for priority Sustainable Development Goal indicators to be disaggregated by forced displacement. This proposal was included in the report submitted to the Commission in 2019.¹⁵ Moreover, the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics believes that the recommended inclusion of a refugee indicator in the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda may bring further momentum to and visibility of the issue of forced displacement in the Goals.¹⁶

¹⁰ See Human Rights Council resolutions 23/8, 32/11 and 41/15 on the human rights of internally displaced persons; and General Assembly resolutions 68/180, 70/165 and 72/182 (2018) on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹² General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹³ See www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html.

¹⁴ See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>.

¹⁵ See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/disaggregation/>.

¹⁶ The refugee indicator was proposed as part of the 2020 comprehensive review of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework and was thus discussed alongside other proposals at the tenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, held in Addis Ababa in 2019 (see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-10/>). The indicator was included in the proposal for the comprehensive review of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework to be considered by the Commission for its approval in March 2020.

21. Recognizing a need for support beyond recommendations to improve statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, the Statistical Commission has initiated the development of a compilers' manual, which is described below.

III. Development of the publications

22. The international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and the compilers' manual providing technical guidance on the implementation of those recommendations and the international recommendations on refugee statistics have been developed collaboratively by the members of the Expert Group, under the guidance of the Steering Committee members. As mentioned above, membership in the Expert Group is open to all national authorities and regional and international organizations with a stake in refugee and/or internally displaced persons statistics. The members of the Expert Group represent a great variety of regions, contexts and experience.

23. The international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics were developed by the subgroup on internally displaced persons statistics led by the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service, with support from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. The subgroup comprised representatives of governmental bodies, including national statistical offices and agencies responsible for internally displaced persons statistics.¹⁷

24. The subgroup also benefited from input from technical experts from UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the International Organization for Migration, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the African Centre for Statistics of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Africa Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Security and Development Centre and the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

25. The international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics are therefore the result of a highly collaborative process that built on the experience and expertise of all members of the internally displaced persons subgroup. Following consultations on the first draft, which was developed on the basis of the technical report on internally displaced persons statistics and was reviewed and discussed in Kampala in December 2018 and in Ankara in February 2019, two sub-working groups were established to tackle more challenging topics, including recommendations for the global coordination of internally displaced persons statistics and for measuring the outflow from the stock to complete the statistical framework for internal displacement. Results from these sub-working groups were incorporated into the draft. A second draft was compiled and reviewed by the internally displaced persons subgroup and the Steering Committee in October and November 2019, following which an advanced draft was prepared for global consultation.

26. From 18 November to 16 December 2019, the Expert Group, through the Statistics Division, conducted a global consultation on the advanced draft of the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics for all relevant authorities and offices of the States Members of the United Nations. In response to the feedback and comments received on the final draft, the recommendations were modified and edited for submission to the Commission.

¹⁷ Comprised representatives of national and regional statistical offices in the following countries and territories: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Kurdistan region of Iraq, Kosovo, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Somalia, Uganda and Ukraine.

27. The work on the compilers' manual was coordinated by the Expert Group secretariat at UNHCR, and a lead was appointed for each chapter to support the coordination and compilation of material. Material was compiled by the senior consultant working with the Expert Group since the beginning of its mandate.

28. All members of the Expert Group were invited to provide input and feedback throughout the process to ensure in particular that different regions and contexts were reflected in the manual. Given that the Expert Group includes 45 national statistical authorities, it was possible to identify and include various country-specific examples to showcase best practice. These examples illustrate how statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons can be integrated into national statistical systems, give practical and hands-on guidance on how such integration can be implemented, and provide lessons learned on implementation in specific countries. The goal was to ensure that the final document was relevant and useful to the national statistical authorities and regional and international organizations.

29. A global meeting of the Expert Group was organized in Ankara in February 2019, hosted by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries. Multiple virtual meetings were also held in order to ensure thorough discussions on the content of the publications. Furthermore, draft versions were circulated for comprehensive feedback within the Expert Group, and the members discussed the content extensively.

30. The compilers' manual is intended to be a practical and user-friendly publication that is available online for easy global access. Given the nature of the manual as a living publication to be shared online and regularly updated, it was decided that a global consultation would not be conducted on the manual.

31. As demonstrated through the processes outlined above, both the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and the compilers' manual reflect a consolidated understanding and consensus of the members of the entire Expert Group.

IV. International recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics

32. The aim of the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics is to provide recommendations on the production and dissemination of statistics on internal displacement. This will help to strengthen evidence-based public policy and national responses to displacement in the long term by:

(a) Increasing the visibility of internal displacement by providing stronger evidence about it;

(b) Improving the quality, comparability, accessibility and coherence of statistics on internally displaced persons;

(c) Better informing the efforts of national authorities to ensure protection and assistance to internally displaced persons and to enable the achievement of durable solutions;

(d) Supporting analyses of the impact of internal displacement and progress towards durable solutions for the affected populations;

(e) Systematizing analyses of vulnerability data relating to displacement and better targeting populations in need of humanitarian and development interventions in response;

(f) Supporting the inclusion of internal displacement in local and national development plans and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. The recommendations on how to improve the quality and availability of internally displaced persons statistics have been submitted for consideration by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session, in 2020.

A. Links to other products of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics

34. Although a separate product, the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics have been aligned, as far as possible, with the international recommendations on refugee statistics, also developed by the Expert Group. The link between these two documents is important given the similarities in the production of statistics about the populations concerned. Furthermore, both sets of recommendations are often relevant in countries with both populations, in particular those in which returning refugees may be reintegrating alongside internally displaced persons. In addition, aligning the statistical recommendations on both populations is necessary for ensuring efficient data collection and producing interoperable statistics on different displaced populations to inform comprehensive policymaking and responses. Though different in terms of objectives and scope, both documents follow a similar structure and strive to harmonize concepts and definitions to the extent possible. Furthermore, the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics make reference to the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* and other broadly endorsed technical guidelines on statistical standards and definitions.

35. The international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics build on and refer to, as relevant, the technical report on internally displaced persons, endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its forty-ninth session, in 2018. They also link to the compilers' manual on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics, which is being submitted concurrently to the Commission.

B. Outline of the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics

36. The international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics cover all the main elements of a statistical framework and include recommendations on how to improve official statistics on internal displacement. The chapters are as follows:

(a) Chapter 1, "Introduction", provides context for the recommendations and introduces the rationale and scope of the report. It briefly presents background information, identifies key links between the recommendations and other efforts, including the international recommendations on refugee statistics, and provides a summary of the structure of the recommendations and the process through which they were developed;

(b) Chapter 2, "The legal and policy framework", summarizes the current international and regional frameworks relevant to protecting and identifying internally displaced persons. It reviews pertinent laws and policies and touches upon challenges relating to and deviations from commonly used definitions of internally displaced persons;

(c) Chapter 3, "Turning legal definitions into a statistical framework", draws on the legal framework chapter to define the populations in the scope of the

recommendations, classifications and the measurement of stocks and flows, which are all relevant to producing statistics about internally displaced persons;

(d) Chapter 4, “Durable solutions and overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities”, focuses on the analysis of vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons and proposes a statistical measure for assessing progress towards durable solutions and identifying whether internally displaced persons have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities;

(e) Chapter 5, “Variables and tabulations”, outlines the recommended variables and tabulations for the different categories of persons that fall within the internal displacement statistical framework that should be adopted in the national context;

(f) Chapter 6, “Collecting statistics on internally displaced persons”, outlines the main types of data sources available for the production of internally displaced persons statistics and details issues related to data quality and the constraints inherent to each source;

(g) Chapter 7, “Coordination of statistics at the national and international levels”, describes how the various data producers and users of internally displaced persons statistics can work collaboratively to enhance the quality and accessibility of such statistics and discusses quality measures and the governance of internally displaced persons statistics.

V. Compilers’ manual with technical guidance on how to implement the international recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics

37. The compilers’ manual is designed to support those implementing the international recommendations on refugee statistics, adopted by the Statistical Commission in March 2018, and the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics, which are being submitted with the present report, to compile statistics on forcibly displaced persons. It is based on contributions and examples provided by members of the Expert Group.

38. The aim of the compilers’ manual is to provide operational instructions on the implementation of the two sets of statistical recommendations. Through practical and concrete guidance, the manual seeks to strengthen the national capacities of the countries hosting asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons and assist them in collecting and disseminating high-quality statistics on those populations.

39. The compilers’ manual is a living publication that will be amended and extended as the body of expertise and knowledge develops worldwide. It will be available online with relevant tools, guidance and case studies to enable easy access to the global statistical community.

Outline of the compilers’ manual

40. The compilers’ manual concerns statistical frameworks on both refugee and internally displaced persons and their different classificatory requirements. The manual clearly indicates the specific population groups to which each section applies.

41. The compilers’ manual is divided into three sections:

(a) Part I, “The manual”, includes concrete guidance on the collection and dissemination of statistics on forcibly displaced persons;

(b) Part II, “Case studies and examples”, is drawn from national and international practices;

(c) Part III, “Technical information”, includes links and references to existing guidance and tools (such as questionnaires, tabulations and indicator banks).

42. Part I of the compilers’ manual is structured according to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, with each chapter describing a phase in the model, as follows: specify needs; design (subheadings: census; sample surveys; administrative systems; and data integration); build; collect; process; and analyse, disseminate and evaluate.

43. An additional phase, phase zero, related to coordinating the statistical production at the international level and improving the coherence of global statistics has been included. This phase is not explicitly included in the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. It is however included in the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations under “Strategy and leadership activity”, which includes the component “Manage strategic collaboration and cooperation”.

44. Some of the subprocesses included in the Generic Statistical Business Process Model are generic to all official statistics and do not require specific content for statistics about displaced persons. Such subprocesses are therefore not included in the manual. Statistics on displaced persons also need to be aligned with the business processes that national statistical offices have in place for all their statistical outputs, and guidance on this is therefore not included in the manual.

VI. The way forward

45. Following the presentation of the set of international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics and the compilers’ manual, the Expert Group will continue its work on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics. Member States and organizations wishing to take part in the future work of the Expert Group are encouraged to join and to contribute to the work ahead.

46. The priority moving forward is to ensure that the international recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics are transformed from paper into practice through implementation by national statistical authorities and international actors alike. The dissemination of the recommendations and the compilers’ manual will be a critical next step. It will also be necessary to exchange experiences and develop the capacities of national as well as regional and international statistical systems. As the recommendations are implemented and further lessons are learned, new and relevant material will need to be included in the compilers’ manual, and elements of the international recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics will need to be refined.

47. In addition, the Expert Group will continue to provide guidance and advice on the disaggregation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators by forced displacement. The Expert Group will be an important platform for consultation on the continued work in this area, especially as it links to supporting strategies for the implementation of the international recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics by national authorities.

48. Building on the achievements of the Expert Group, which has been instrumental in bringing together different stakeholders to develop the recommendations, a formal continuation of the Expert Group until 2025 is envisioned to ensure the effective execution of the work ahead. The Expert Group and its expertise and experience will facilitate the efficient and coordinated implementation of the recommendations on

forced displacement statistics, following the priorities outlined in the paragraph above. Terms of reference for the continuation of the Expert Group have been developed and submitted as a background document to the present report.

VII. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

49. The Commission is invited:

(a) **To endorse the international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics submitted as a background document to the present report with implications for States Members of the United Nations;**

(b) **To welcome the development of the compilers' manual on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics, submitted as a background document, which contains guidance on the implementation of the international recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics;**

(c) **To provide guidance on the continuation of the work of the Expert Group, as outlined in the terms of reference, which are submitted as a background document to the present report.**

50. The Expert Group will continue its work and will report to the Commission on progress made in the implementation of the international recommendations on refugee and internally displaced persons statistics in countries, coordinated capacity development support and further development of the compilers' manual on the basis of best practices.
