



INTERSTATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CIS  
Together with the United Nations Population Fund and  
State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics

FINAL REPORT

1. The meeting on **“Population censuses in the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States: 2020 round”** was organized on November 27-28, 2019 by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CISStat) together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on statistics (Goskomstat of the Republic of Uzbekistan) in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. The meeting was attended by specialists from the national statistical services of the CIS countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan; the Head and representatives of the UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNFPA country offices in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; representatives of the CISStat, the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Uzbekistan, international experts. From the Republic of Uzbekistan, the meeting was attended by heads and specialists of the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, the central office and territorial bodies of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National Center for State Cadastres, Geodesy and Cartography, the Institute for Retraining and Statistical Studies, representatives of the Academy of Sciences, Tashkent State Economic University, media.

3. During the opening ceremony statements were made by the following:

*Mr. Sokolin Vladimir Leonidovich*, Chairman of the CIS-Stat,

*Ms. Armitage Alanna*, UNFPA Regional Director,

*Mr. Begalov Bakhodir Abdusalomovich*, Chairman of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics,

*Mr. Tiurdenev Vladimir Lvovich*, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Uzbekistan,

*Mr. Vikat Andres*, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE Statistical Division,

*Mr. Umurzakov Bakhodir Khamidovich*, Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

*Mr. Usmonov Botir Shukurillaevich*, Deputy Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4. The following Sessions were organized:

Session 1. "Censuses: first results of the CIS countries." Moderator – Mr. Sokolin Vladimir Leonidovich, Chairman of the CIS-Stat.

Session 2. "Preparation for the census in the Republic of Uzbekistan". Moderator – Ms. Zbarskaya Irina Aleksandrovna, Chief of the Department of Social and Demographic Statistics, CIS-Stat.

Session 3. "Preparation for population censuses in the CIS countries". Moderator – Mr. Vikat Andres, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE Statistical Division.

Session 4. "The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring and the information resource of population censuses." Moderator – Ms. Aleshunina Olga Vladimirovna, Deputy Head of the Department for the Formation of Consolidated Analytical Information on Sustainable Development Statistics and Social Sectors, State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics

Session 5. "Future Activities". Moderator – Mr. Sokolin Vladimir Leonidovich, Chairman of the CIS-Stat.

5. The meeting reviewed the first results of the censuses conducted in October 2019 in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Belarus; matters related to the preparation for the upcoming censuses in the CIS countries were discussed. Particular attention was paid to the methods and technological means of obtaining population data, taking into account that most CIS countries suggest a combination of different approaches: interviewing the population using paper or electronic census forms, filling out population forms online, using population register and administrative data.

A separate session was devoted to preparing for the upcoming census of 2022 in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which will be the first census in thirty years. The crucial importance of its results for the development of the country was noted. It was emphasized that the key to its successful implementation will be the consolidation of efforts of all branches of government, the entire society. At the same time, such a significant break in the census conduct led to the fact that in many respects the skills were lost and there is no practical experience among national statisticians, as well as among all the structures that should participate in its preparation and conduct. In these conditions, for its successful implementation, assistance and support of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic

of Uzbekistan from international organizations, especially CIS-Stat, national statistical services of the CIS countries and other states, and the expert community are required.

The participants of the meeting noted that the universal census is an important information resource for obtaining indicators of Sustainable Development Goals monitoring. In the CIS countries special Road Maps are developed and being successfully implemented; UNECE is creating a regional platform for SDG statistics; the CIS Stat is working to promote the SDG monitoring indicators for the Commonwealth region in the preparation of analytical materials and special publications.

Information about regional Project to strengthening population data collection, analysis and utilization in CIS countries was shared by UNFPA. Project is financed by Russian Federation and managed by UNFPA and implemented in cooperation with national statistical offices, CISStat, ROSSTAT, MSU, HSE, and others as were as regional and inter-national institutions and UNECE and UNSD.

Materials of the meeting will be posted on the website of the CISStat <http://www.cisstat.com/census/index.htm>.

6. In concluding the meeting, it was noted that:

6.1. **For the first time** in the last 30 years, censuses **will be held in all** the CIS member states. Most CIS countries will conduct censuses **as close to 2020 as possible**: from October 2019 to October 2020. In October of this year population censuses were already conducted in Azerbaijan and Belarus. In 2020 censuses will be held in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Tajikistan. In 2022 censuses will be held in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in 2023 – in Moldova.

6.2. Of particular importance is the fact that **for the first time** a list of indicators, wording of individual questions and methodological instructions for their completion were agreed upon with the statistical services of the CIS countries for inclusion in the national population census program This will provide an opportunity to obtain comparable information **on migration and labour**.

6.3. There are all preconditions for the fact that the 2020 round of population censuses **will become a turning point in the CIS region** in terms of expanding methods and means of obtaining information from the population:

- a number of countries intend to use a combination of census methods - interviewing the population, filling out population forms on the Internet, population registers;
- a number of countries plan to use electronic devices as a carrier of information to obtain information from the population;
- The use of data from population registers and other administrative sources is expanding.

6.4. **It is important to ensure the timely publication** of the results of the national population censuses, making them publicly available to all categories of users.

6.5. Taking into account **the exceptional significance of the results of the first census of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2022** - clarification of the total population and its gender and age structure, as well as obtaining demographic, economic, social, ethno-linguistic characteristics both in general and across all administrative-territorial units of the country - it is important **to combine the efforts** of all branches of government and society and, if necessary, the provision of external assistance from international organizations and partner countries.

6.6. **It is important to continue** the practice of holding regional meetings on population censuses of specialists of the statistical services of the Commonwealth countries, since they are an effective platform for the exchange of national experience and practice, which, in turn, serves to strengthen the statistical capacity of the CIS member states.