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STRENGTHENING THE COLLECTION AND USE OF MIGRATION DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Regional workshop, organized by:
Population Division and Statistics Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)

Dakar, Senegal
8 to 11 September 2015

1. Report

The Population Division and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
in collaboration with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), a
subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, organized a regional
workshop on the production and use of international migration data for development. The
workshop, which was held mostly in French, with interpretation, took place at the premises of IDEP
in Dakar, Senegal, from 8 to 11 September 2015.

The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the technical capacity of government officials
in producing and analysing migration data from all relevant sources and in using data on migration
and its impact to inform national migration policies and development planning. The workshop
covered issues such as United Nations standards and definitions for collecting international
migration data, data sources (censuses, administrative sources, household surveys), and indicators
to measure the migration related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Participants also discussed ways and means to exchange data on international migration.

The workshop brought together 21 delegates from Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Libya,
Mali, Mauretania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Each country had been invited to nominate
one senior expert from the national statistical office in charge of compiling international migration
statistics and one representative from a relevant ministry in charge of generating and analysing
migration data for policy purposes. In addition, regional experts from the International Labour Office
(ILO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International
Organization for Migration (IOM) contributed to the workshop. IDEP, the host institute, organized a
special session on the contribution of the diaspora to development.

Participants agreed to follow up the workshop by expediting the compilation and dissemination of
the tabulations on international migrants from the 2010 round of population censuses in accordance
with UN standards and guidelines. By compiling the data by country of birth and citizenship,

participating countries will be able to obtain a basic profile of their citizens, or nativem
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2. Recommendations

1. Integrate international migration in national, sectoral and local development plans and strategies,
using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will be adopted by the United Nations
General Assembly in September 2015, as a guide.

2. Develop a project to expedite compilation and dissemination of the tabulations on international
migrants by country of birth and country of citizenship from the 2010 round of population and
housing censuses in accordance with United Nations standards and guidelines. UN/DESA could
provide technical and information technology support while IOM could provide in-country support.

3. The United Nations is encouraged to promote good practices and guidelines for the compilation
and dissemination of migration data derived from administrative sources.

4. Countries are encouraged to include a module on international migration in existing household
surveys. The United Nations is encouraged to provide guidance on how to include migration
questions in household surveys.

5. National statistical offices in the region are encouraged to expand their collaboration, in particular
by exchanging statistical data on the size and characteristics of the foreign-born or foreign national