

**United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the  
Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration  
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**INTRODUCTION**

**AND**

**PART ONE: CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS \***

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# INTRODUCTION

1. International migration is taking on ever increasing importance in the world both politically and economically, linked to processes of globalization sweeping the planet. No dimension of the massive global demographic, social and economic change in the last two decades, which has been both a cause and effect of that change, has been more dramatic or as far reaching in its impact as the increase in personal mobility. International population movement between countries within regions and to countries outside of regions has increased greatly in both scale and diversity, and mobility is now an option for most world citizens as they assess their life chances. The relationship between this mobility on the one hand and economic development and social change on the other, however, is a complex, two-way and only a partly understood one. Levels of mobility have increased for most groups – unskilled as well as skilled, lowly educated as well as highly educated, females as well as males, residents of isolated areas as well as those in major cities and traditionally mobile ethnic groups as well as those who traditionally have not been peripatetic.

2. The number of persons living outside their country of birth rose from 120 million in 1995 to 191 million in 2005 (UN, 1995; UN, 2006). At the same time, remittances from international migrants reached an estimated \$235 billion worldwide in 2005 (UN, 2006), far surpassing all bilateral and multilateral aid combined.

3. Migrants are variously seen as providing great benefits (human capital, entrepreneurship, cheap labour, increased output and economic expansion, cultural diversity, etc.) as well as incurring considerable costs (of social services for migrants, cultural conflicts, problems of integration, pressures on resources/environment, loss of foreign exchange) in countries which are significant net receivers of international migrants. Similarly, in countries which are net senders, there can be substantial costs (e.g., loss of human capital and skilled labour; loss of young, motivated workers; increased inequality resulting from remittances going to families already better off) as well as benefits (relieves pressures on local labour markets, return migrants come back with new skills and more modern attitudes, migrants provide remittances which may be used to meet food and other necessary consumption needs or be invested for economic growth, etc.).

4. But despite the great and rising importance attributed to international migration, even the most basic data on the numbers of migrants continues to be weak and unreliable in many countries. Evidently, if the basic numbers, that is, of immigrants and emigrants, are not reasonably well known in countries, how can their benefits and costs to society be determined, or policies formulated to address their numbers or to enhance their benefits or reduce costs in countries affected?

5. The case for improving international migration statistics is a very compelling one. The United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Measuring International Migration: Concepts and Methods, 4-7 December 2006 (United Nations, 2007a) stressed this need and recommended the development of a handbook with a methodological orientation

that would serve as a practical guide on the application of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*<sup>1</sup>. In view of the preparations already ongoing for the 2010 round of population censuses, priority is being given to that part of the handbook that addresses the use of population censuses and surveys to collect statistics on international migration. This report is an effort toward fulfilling that goal.

6. The present report consists of three parts. The first part presents the basic concepts and definitions relating to the measurement of international migration. The second and third parts provide guidelines on how population censuses and sample surveys, respectively, can be used to measure aspects of international migration.

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<sup>1</sup> *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev. 1. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14.

**PART ONE**  
**Concepts and definitions**

## Chapter 1. Definitions

### A. International migrant: basic definition

7. The basic definition of an international migrant is “any person who changes his or her country of usual residence”<sup>2</sup> (United Nations, 1998, p.9). There are a number of elements in this superficially simple definition.

- The migrant must cross an international boundary
- He or she must have a previous country of usual residence
- He or she must establish usual residence in the country of destination

8. Clearly, the definition of international migrant is closely linked to the definition of place of usual residence and more specifically to the country of usual residence. Accordingly, there is a need at the outset to define precisely what “country of usual residence” means.

#### *The concept of country of usual residence*

9. The concept of country of usual residence is used to distinguish a “migrant” from a “visitor”. It is also used to compile the usual resident population count in a country. In general, countries are most interested in the count and distribution of usual residents because usual residence is usually the best indication of where people will demand and consume services, and a count of usual residents is therefore most relevant for planning and policy purposes<sup>3</sup>. Usual residents of a country may have citizenship or not, and they may also include undocumented persons, applicants for asylum, or refugees.

10. The definition of country of usual residence, as stated in the United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International migration, Rev. 1, is

*“The country in which a person lives, that is to say, the country in which he or she has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest. Temporary travel abroad for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage does not change a person's country of usual residence.”<sup>4</sup>*

11. The definition stated above does not designate a particular time period which qualifies for usual residence. However the concept of place of usual residence, which is usually used in censuses to define the geographic place where an enumerated person usually resides, is defined in the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Household Censuses, Revision 2 (United Nations, 2007). The definition

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, Para. 32.

<sup>3</sup> Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 (Draft), United Nations, 2007, para. 2.18

<sup>4</sup> *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev. 1. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14, Para. 32

of place of usual residence uses a 12-month threshold according to either of the following two criteria:<sup>5</sup>

- (a) *the place at which the person has lived continuously for **most of the last 12 months** (i.e., for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months*
- (b) *the place at which the person has lived continuously **for at least 12 months** (not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments), or intends to live for at least 12 months.*<sup>6</sup>

12. For the study of international migration, the country of usual residence of a person is defined naturally as the country where the place of usual residence of this person is located. Therefore the country of usual residence is defined using a 12-month threshold according to either of the above two criteria. For most persons, the application of this rule will not give rise to any major difficulty. For people moving frequently across countries, however, this definition may be difficult to interpret. For example when two countries may be considered as being the country of usual residence because the daily periods of rest are distributed equally between the two (six months a year in each country or part of each week in one country and an equal part in the other), some additional criteria may be considered, such as place of work, country where taxes are paid, where most family members and relatives are living, or country where the person owns most of his/her properties. The same problem extends to people who resided in multiple countries, logging less than 6 months in each.

13. It is worth noting that the two criteria listed above are quite different: the first one is based on a duration of stay totaling more than 6 months in a 12-month period, while the second one uses a continuous duration of at least 12 months. The more than six month criterion requires a relatively shorter period of stay in a place to consider someone as a usual resident. Part of the reason for introducing the first criterion is to accommodate the identification of place of residence of persons who live in 2 or more places in a circular way, for example students and workers who live away from their family home during the week. However in order to ensure the full consistency between international migration flows and census counts of the population with usual residence in the country, the twelve months criterion will be preferred.

14. Discussions in this chapter will be using the twelve-month criterion for consistency purposes. However for the measurement of international migration, countries that have a large number of international migrants who stay for shorter period (than 12 months) but do contribute significantly to be counted in the country's usual resident population, such as seasonal workers, may consider using the more than six months

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<sup>5</sup> Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 (Draft), United Nations, 2007, para. 1.463.

<sup>6</sup> This approach is also recommended by Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing, 2006, United Nations publications, Sales No. ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/4, Para. 159.

criterion (this proposal may introduce inconsistencies between flows and stocks what is essential for demographic statistics). In addition, in cases when people maintain dwellings in different countries and spend certain months in one country and the rest in another, using the six-month criterion might be preferred. These people should be counted in the country where they spent most of the time in the year of interest. There are certain limitations when a duration requirement other than twelve months is used and they are discussed later in this Chapter in relation to identifying an international migrant.

## **B. International migrant: definition with time element**

15. International migrant and international migration are two complementary concepts. International migration is the movement by which a person changes his or her country of usual residence. As any international migration changes the population figure of both concerned countries, the country of origin and the country of destination, it is considered as a demographic event. An international migrant is the person experiencing this event and accordingly changing his or her country of usual residence. The difference between the concepts of international migration and international migrant is simply the one between a specific event on one hand and the person experiencing this event on the other hand.

16. Strictly speaking a migrant will only be considered as such at the time of migration. However, in practice, those who immigrate or emigrate once are often perceived as immigrants or emigrants a long time after, if not during all their life.

17. An international migrant, also identified as a long-term international migrant in the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Rev. 1<sup>7</sup>, is defined as follows:

*“a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure the person will be an emigrant and from that of the country of arrival the person will be an immigrant”.*

The period of at least a year is consistent with the 12-month threshold used in the definition of country of usual residence.

18. Therefore, an immigrant of a country has to satisfy the following conditions:

- entering the country by crossing the border;
- having been a usual resident of another country before entering;
- staying (or intending to stay) in the country at least one year.

19. Similarly, an emigrant of a country must satisfy the following conditions:

- leaving the country by crossing the border;

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<sup>7</sup>Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Rev. 1, United Nations, New York, 1998. Sales No. E.98.XVII.14, Box 1.



- being a usual resident of this country;
- staying (or intend to stay) in another country for at least one year

20. A “short-term international migrant” is defined in the United Nations 1998 Recommendations similarly as the one for long-term migrant except that the duration of residence is at least 3 months and less than a year. The definition also states that:

*“... For purposes of international migration statistics, the country of usual residence of short-term migrants is considered to be the country of destination during the period they spend in it.”<sup>8</sup>*

21. Such practice is not recommended even if the 3 months limit is the maximum period of stay without residence permit in a lot of countries. There are two reasons. First, the concept of a short-term international migrant is a misnomer. A residence of less than 12 months can not be considered as establishment of usual residence in a country, hence can not result in a change of country of usual residence and does not qualify someone as an international migrant. Second, the use of a 3-month limit inflates the number of migrants compared to the use of a 12-month limit, but at the same time decreases the level of self-declaration of migration and hence the coverage of these migrants.

22. The sole use of 12-month duration to define international migrants is recommended, as it allows a better fit between the annual production of statistics on migration flows and population stocks. However, shorter term international movements and movers need to be studied in conjunction with circular and non-permanent flows of international mobility that have characterized the last two decades. The term of international migrant should be reserved exclusively in relation with the 12-month criterion while the term mover may be used for the 3 to 12 month criterion. The term of long-term and short-term migrants will therefore not be used anymore.

### ***Relaxation of the definition***

23. The definitions of international immigrant and emigrant presented in paragraphs 18 and 19, although perfectly consistent with the concept of “change of usual residence”, are not always adopted by countries, or even in the interest of countries. Not only that countries are not very much interested in knowing whether someone was a usual resident of another country (for immigrant) and whether someone is going to become a usual resident of another country (for emigrant), but also that the data collection is much more complicated when information on the establishment of usual residence in another country is required<sup>9</sup>. Additional questions would have to be added on the census or survey questionnaires or on the administrative forms, an action for which the value added is not proven.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, Box 1

<sup>9</sup> This concrete problem may be solved by exchanging individual data between sending and receiving countries as operational electronically between the Nordic countries.

24. Therefore a relaxation of definitions of international immigrant and emigrant, as will be adopted throughout Part 1, is stated as:

An international *immigrant* of a country has to satisfy the following conditions:

- entering the country by crossing the border;
- not a usual resident of the country when entering;
- staying (or intending to stay) in the country at least one year.

An international *emigrant* of a country must satisfy the following conditions:

- leaving the country by crossing the border;
- being a usual resident of this country;
- staying (or intend to stay) abroad for at least one year.

### ***Treatment of particular groups***

25. There are certain groups for which country of usual residence can not be established unambiguously. These groups should not be considered as international migrants even though they might stay in a foreign country for period longer than 12 months.<sup>10</sup>

- (1) Persons belonging to the diplomatic and consular corps are likely to maintain dwellings in two countries and may consider that their country of usual residence remains their country of citizenship since their presence in the country where they are posted is strictly temporary and they continue to work for their own Government.
- (2) Members of the armed forces stationed outside their country of citizenship are also unlikely to be viewed as changing usual residence since they are usually posted abroad for limited periods and may not establish dwellings in the country of destination.
- (3) Nomads, by the very nature of their mode of life, cannot have a fixed place of usual residence. Thus, even if they cross international boundaries, they cannot be regarded as changing their country of usual residence.
- (4) Border workers may maintain a place to live in both their country of citizenship and their country of employment. They should not be treated as changing their country of usual residence.

### ***Identifying immigrants under the legal system***

26. As rules and regulations are usually in place to administer the admission of immigrants, in particular of foreigners, the definition of immigrants can not be separated completely from the legal perspective. Under these rules, most foreigners do not have the right to live in a country for more than a limited period of time without a specific authorization or visa and therefore the concept of intention to stay used in defining an international immigrant is not sufficient.

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<sup>10</sup> Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Rev. 1, United Nations, New York, 1998. Sales No. E.98.XVII.14, Para. 42

27. This is especially true when administrative sources are used in the collection of international migration statistics – rarely is the intended duration of stay in the country reflected in the collected data even if this intention is implicitly considered in the rules. One way to identify an international immigrant taking into consideration the impact of legal system on the data collection is to use different criteria for people according to their legal status in the country:

- Citizens entering the country after being absent for at least one year are considered as immigrants and part of the usual resident population if they intend to live in the country for at least one year;
- Non-citizens who do not need a residence permit or any kind of specific authorization to live in a country can be treated similarly as citizens of that country, and are considered as immigrants and also part of the usual resident population if they enter the country with the intention to live within for at least one year;
- Non-citizens for whom a residence permit or a specific authorization is required are considered as immigrants and part of the usual resident population if they have been granted one or more residence permits or specific authorizations valid for a total duration of at least one year and enter the country with the intention to live within for at least one year;
- Other non-citizens without residence permits but seeking asylum are considered as immigrants and also part of the usual resident population after one year of effective residence in the country<sup>11</sup>. However, in contrast to all above-mentioned international immigrants, asylum seekers will only be considered as such: (a) after one year of actual residence as asylum seeker in the country or (b) at the time of recognition as refugee or when being granted a temporary residence permit for humanitarian reasons, but only if they intend to live in the country for the remaining part of the 12 months.
- Other undocumented foreigners, clandestine migrants, rejected asylum seekers and foreigners with expired residence permits can theoretically be considered as immigrants and part of the usual resident population if they are living in the concerned country for at least one year from the date of arrival.

28. The above proposal may not suit the needs of some countries that, in practice, are using their own criteria for identifying immigrants. If these countries have strong arguments for using their own criteria, it is important for them to document whatever criteria they have used and provide these whenever the statistics on international migration are made available. Any attempt to understand the impact of using a different set of criteria will be helpful to ensure better understanding of the statistics and improve data comparability at international level.

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<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, in the case where administrative registers are used, when foreigners with temporary residence permits or asylum seekers are not included in the population register, the aliens register or asylum database should be used to count those who have been living in the country for one year or more.

### *Terminology issues related to international immigrant*

29. As discussed earlier, an international migrant, immigrant or emigrant, is defined purely based on a duration criteria, except for some particular groups whose country of usual residence cannot be established unambiguously<sup>12</sup>. In practice however the term migrant, especially immigrant, is often used differently from the Recommendations.

30. For instance, the term immigrant is often associated with foreigners only since some countries will not consider citizens as immigrants as they always have the right of abode in the country. However in the UN Recommendations, the concept of “immigrant” does not limit itself to foreigners but also refer to citizens who have crossed the national border and met the duration criteria.

31. A more restrictive use of the term “immigrant” relates to a foreigner who is staying in the country permanently (for settlement). Examples of these uses of the term immigrant are permanent residents in the United States<sup>13</sup>, the landed immigrants in Canada<sup>14</sup> and immigrants in the Philippines<sup>15</sup>. In those countries, legal status is given to those people indicating they could enjoy most of the privileges that citizens have in the country and are entitled to acquire citizenship later on. Similar usage of the term happens in some other countries as well. On the other hand, persons in the country to study or work, no matter how long they stay in the country, are sometimes considered temporary in nature, as these people are expected to go back to their home country eventually.

32. However according the UN Recommendations, the group of foreigners coming into the country for settlement is only one category of immigrants and is much more restrictive than the general concept proposed by the same Recommendations. The concept of immigrants theoretically includes not only people who are settlers in the

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<sup>12</sup> See paragraph 25 for the list of particular groups.

<sup>13</sup> Immigrants in the United States include permanent resident aliens (for settlement) and illegal aliens. “Permanent resident alien is an alien (non-citizen) admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident. Permanent residents are also commonly referred to as immigrants; however, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) broadly defines an immigrant as any alien in the United States, except one legally admitted under specific nonimmigrant categories (INA section 101(a)(15)). An illegal alien who entered the United States without inspection, for example, would be strictly defined as an immigrant under the INA but is not a permanent resident alien. Lawful permanent residents are legally accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States. They may be issued immigrant visas by the Department of State overseas or adjusted to permanent resident status by the Department of Homeland Security in the United States”. United States Department of Homeland Security, Definition of Terms. (<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtm/statistics/stdfdef.shtm#0>)

<sup>14</sup> Landed immigrants in Canada refer to persons who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is defined as a person who is not a Canadian citizen by birth, but who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by Canadian immigration authorities. Demographic Yearbook Special Census Topic tables, Table on Foreign-born population by country or area of birth, age and sex, 1985-2004 ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBcensus/V3\\_Table2.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBcensus/V3_Table2.pdf))

<sup>15</sup> Immigrant refers to any alien (non-citizen) departing from any place outside the Philippines destined for the Philippines, for categories other than those non-immigrants who are in the country for purposes of visiting, business traveling, studying, prearranged employment. Measuring International Migration in the Philippines, Lina Castro, presented at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Measuring International Migration: Concepts and Methods, 4-7 December 2006, New York.

country but also those who have crossed the border and are staying in the country for a lengthy period (twelve months), such as people in the country to work, to study as well as those who are asylum seekers, refugees and etc. (for a complete list of these categories, see Chapter 2 of this Part).

33. Therefore when countries are compiling statistics on international migration, efforts should be made to not limit data compilation to foreign settlers but also include other categories such as foreign workers, students, asylum seekers and refugees as well as citizens who have crossed the border, even though they may not be recognized as “immigrants” in the country. When national data on immigrants are used for international comparison, knowing and understanding the definitions applied is especially important.

### ***Impact of data collection mechanisms on identifying international migrant***

34. Various sources such as population registers, border control, censuses and surveys, can be used to identify international migrants. Depending on the source, there are two ways to identify an immigrant:

- **at the time of immigration**, either when crossing the border or when registering at the new place of residence with nearby local authorities immediately after entering the country;
- **at any time after the immigration**, on an *ex post* base through censuses, surveys or by investigating retrospective data extracted from administrative registers or by comparing embarkation and disembarkation cards.

35. Data collected from both border collection and registration system tend to exclude entries that are not sanctioned by the country. Censuses and surveys will capture international immigrants partially through questions on the place of residence at a given time in the past (preferably one year ago) or the date of last arrival in the country although both may be affected by memory biases. Finally data extracted from administrative registers will be limited to officially registered information in the administrative database and exclude any unreported entry.

36. Also varying by data source is the type of duration that is used to identify an immigrant. Three types of duration are possible: intended duration of stay, actual duration of stay and the duration of stay allowed by legal documents (authorised stay, apply for foreigners only as citizens do not require legal authorization to enter the country). For example, censuses and surveys can generate information on actual duration of stay; whereas border data collection usually captures information on intended duration of stay or duration allowed by a permit. When administrative register is used, either intended or legal stay can be obtained while actual duration of stay cannot be completely identified as people will not de-register for short-term absences. The type of duration used also depends on the legal status of a person entering the country, i.e., whether this person is a citizen, a non-citizen but with the right to free establishment in the country, or any other non-citizen who needs certain type of permit to enter the country (Table 1).

**Table 1. Identifying immigrants in different data sources**

<b>Duration of stay in the country</b>	<b>Border control cards</b>	<b>Administrative register/residence permit</b>	<b>Population censuses and surveys</b>
<b>Intended stay</b>	Citizens, and foreigners with right to free establishment	Citizens, and foreigners with right to free establishment	
<b>Actual stay</b>	All, if embarkation and disembarkation cards are linked afterwards	Both citizens and foreigners, with at least one year delay in data production	Citizens and non-citizens, but not all migrants are captured
<b>Authorized stay</b>	Foreigners who need permits	Foreigners who need permits	

37. The use of the three types of duration of stay has different implications in the collected data. When intention is used, it concerns a future event and there is a presumption that the intended duration will become the actual. However, statements of intention may not be realized. There are people who stay either longer or shorter than their stated intention, therefore the intended duration of stay does not become the actual. Moreover, people often declare a period of intended stay that coincides with what is allowed by their visa or entry permit, rather than their true intention. In this case, the intended duration as reported, instead of reflecting the true duration of stay, is usually limited to the period specified in the authorization, i.e., equivalent to legal stay.

38. If an authorised stay is used, it is assumed that people, more specifically foreigners, will not overpass the duration of stay allowed by legal permit. In reality, there are people who leave before their permits expire and also those who overstay. Accordingly the duration of permit does not correspond necessarily to the foreigner's intention about the length of his or her stay, or to the actual duration of stay. In fact, when his or her permit expires, the person may obtain one or more renewals and stay for a longer time or may remain in the country as irregular ones. Therefore the reference duration on permit is an initial one, which is quite likely not matching the actual duration of foreigners in the country.

39. When the actual duration of stay is used at data collection to identify immigrants, it is not always the case that the "true" duration is captured. How well the information collected imitates the "true" duration depends on how the information is collected. Data from self-reporting sources, such as censuses and surveys, may suffer from biases as a result of recollection problems or false declarations. Data collected from border collection have theoretically a better chance of reflecting the real situation if the system is fully reliable. However, one has to keep in mind that only people who are in the country legally are included in the border collection. Another disadvantage of using the actual duration of stay to identify immigrants is that statistics on immigrants would be systematically delayed at least one year to allow completion of the one-year duration criterion.

40. The collection of data on emigrants is less systematic than on immigrants. Intended or actual duration of stay outside the country may be possible to collect, depends on the source of data. The use of consulate registers represents an additional method for collecting data on emigrants, but only on citizens. There are two possible ways to identify and count international emigrants (Table 2):

- **at the time of emigration** when crossing the border or when the person informs the administration either before leaving by asking to be deregistered in the administrative data source or after emigration by requesting to be registered in the consulate abroad.
- **any time after emigration**, through censuses or surveys but only by asking relatives or members of the household about persons who were living there one year ago and emigrated during the last year with intention to stay abroad for at least twelve months, or through retrospective data extracted from administrative data sources.

**Table 2. Identifying emigrants in different data sources**

<b>Duration of staying abroad</b>	<b>Border control cards</b>	<b>Administrative register/residence permit</b>	<b>Population censuses and surveys</b>
<b>Intended stay</b>	All	All, self report to local authorities or, for citizens only, to consulates abroad	Incomplete, through questions asked to family members or neighbours remaining in the country
<b>Actual stay</b>	All, if disembarkation cards are linked afterwards with any new embarkation cards issued when returning to the country	All, with at least one year delay in data production	Incomplete, through questions asked to family members or neighbours remaining in the country

41. All above mentioned data collection mechanisms fail to count all emigrations systematically for various reasons. Border control tends to be affected by the under-reporting of undocumented migrants; administrative registration system will not be able to identify an emigrant unless the person himself asked to be deregistered from the system; the consulate registration of citizens abroad usually cannot register all the citizens abroad due to lack of incentives to do so; censuses and surveys have problems identifying emigrants if the entire family emigrated and left nobody behind to report their emigration.

### **C. International migration flows versus migrant stocks**

42. Generally speaking there is a basic difference between the concept of flow and the one of stock:

- Flow data are related to events that happen on a continuous basis and are counted during a given period of time, usually one calendar year. These data also include the characteristics of the persons who undertake these events.
- Stock data present the situation of a given population at one point in time with the size and all characteristics of that population at that very precise moment.

### ***International migration flows***

43. International migration flow data consist of the number of international migrations counted for a given country during a given period.

- *International immigration flow is the number of international immigrations in a given country over the course of a specified period, usually a calendar year.*
- *International emigration flow is the number of international emigrations from a given country over the course of a specified period, usually a calendar year.*

### ***International immigrant stock***

44. According to the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, the stock concept directly linked with the general definition of long-term international migrant is naturally the “*stock of international migrants present in the country*” that would be composed by all persons “*who have spent at least one year of their lives in a country other than the one in which they live at the time the data is gathered*”.<sup>16</sup>

45. The term of “migrant stock” is often used as a short-cut of the “stock of international migrants” but only concerns immigrant stock. This denomination is based on the general notion that a person who has ever immigrated will keep the status of migrant during his or her whole life. It is defined as

*The total number of international immigrants present in a given country at a particular point in time. Therefore immigrant stock includes anybody who was not a usual resident of the country at some point of time in the past and is now a usual resident living in the country.*

### ***International emigrant stock***

46. Emigrant stock for a country represents a count of the number of persons that can be identified as emigrants for this country at a given time. It is defined as

*The total number of international emigrants is composed by all persons who have ever emigrated out of the country and are currently living abroad. Therefore emigrant stock includes anybody who was a usual resident of the country at some point of time in the past and is not a usual resident anymore at this time.*

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<sup>16</sup> Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Rev. 1, United Nations, New York, 1998. Sales No. E.98.XVII.14, Para. 185



47. On a purely demographic point of view international migration flow data and population stock are complementary concepts. The first partly explains the change in the latter. In addition vital events and changes of citizenship or legal status are also responsible for changes in the population stock and its various characteristics. Moreover it is important to keep in mind that international migration flows include both citizens and non-citizens, the latter being characterized by various specific legal statuses related to their residence in the country. Thus population accounting systems and population projections even when dealing only with the total population need international migration flow figures in order to update stock data and to make projections.

48. For policy makers, population stocks that are related to international migrations are relatively more important than the international migration flows themselves and this is true when developing integration or multicultural policies but also when dealing with international migrations. In this perspective, the key population stock concerning international migration varies between countries depending on whether the country is traditionally an immigration or an emigration country:

- In an immigration country the focus will be on the so-called population with some kind of foreign background such as being born in another country, not holding the citizenship of the country or having parents who were born abroad, even though people with foreign background cannot be strictly defined in a comparative way. (more details in Chapter 2)
- In an emigration country the most sensitive question will be related to citizens living abroad in order to define the population composed by all citizens including those living abroad and excluding all non-citizens living in the country. Data on citizens living abroad is a key topic for all emigration countries and essential for supporting policies related to citizens working abroad on a seasonal or longer period basis, to high skilled emigration, and to incentives and supporting actions for returning citizens.(more details in Chapter 3).

#### **D. Other concepts**

49. There are a few concepts that are relevant to the study of international migration. These concepts either play an important role in defining an international migrant, such as country of citizenship and country of birth, or relate to the study of international migration. Some of these include temporary movement and circular movement, although theoretically defined as non international migration because of the temporary and short duration that these people are present in the country. The other relevant concepts are segments of international migrants and are of particular policy interest to countries, such as return migrants.

##### ***Country of citizenship***

50. Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his State. A citizen is a legal national of the country concerned and a foreigner is a non-national of that country. An important attribute of citizenship is that it determines a person's right in the country and has been traditionally used to define who is subject to

control at border crossing. Citizens are entitled to have the right to enter his or her own country, which may have an impact on the availability of statistics on citizens when administrative sources are used.

51. When information on citizenship of a person is collected, it is usually more objective compared to other characteristics, especially when such information is collected through certain administrative sources. However, when the information is collected through censuses and surveys, it might not be so objective due to the self-reporting mechanisms within the data collection.

52. A problem appears when a person holds more than one citizenship. In some cases when a person holds dual citizenship, one of them being the citizenship of the country where the information is collected, this person will be considered as citizen and his or her other citizenships will not be considered. This practice may bring some confusion when comparing data between sending and receiving countries as a migrant with dual citizenship may leave a country as citizen of that country of origin (emigration country) and enter another country as citizen of that (immigration) country.

53. There are countries that use the stock of foreigners as a proxy for the stock of persons who ever immigrated in the country. Overlaps as well as differences exist between the two concepts. On one hand, foreigners could have never migrated. If a country does not grant citizenship for someone born in the country, this person could be born and never migrated and still be foreigners in the country. On the other hand, citizens could be migrants as well. For instance, the citizens could be return migrants, i.e., emigrated and then immigrated. There are also citizens who acquired the citizenship of the country after immigration. Although they pretty much enjoy the benefits of being citizens of the country, the citizens who obtained citizenship by acquisition are still immigrants.

### ***Country of birth***

54. The country of birth is the country in which the person was born. For purposes of both internal consistency and international comparability, it is recommended that information on the country of birth be recorded according to national boundaries existing at the time of the data collection. If there have been boundary changes affecting the country of birth of a person, it is important that persons who have remained in the territory where they were born, but whose “country of birth” may have changed because of boundary changes, not be counted as foreign-born because of the failure to take account of the new configuration of the country where they live.<sup>17</sup>

55. Unlike country of citizenship, country of birth has the advantage of not changing over time. Generally speaking persons born abroad must have moved from that country to the country of enumeration, except in a few rare cases that boundary changes have resulted in the change of country of birth. Foreign-born people are also called “life-time

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<sup>17</sup> Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 (Draft), United Nations, 2007, Para. 2.94

migrants”, indicating that they have immigrated in the country, in their life time, at least once, even if they were citizens at birth.

**56.** The term native-born is the opposite of foreign-born and includes all those who are living in a country and born in that country.

### ***Returning migrants and repatriating foreign-born citizens***

**57.** Persons entering a country of which they are already citizens can be considered return migrants if they have been absent from their country of citizenship for at least 12 months and plan to stay in that country for at least 12 months.

**58.** The category of repatriating foreign-born citizens includes persons born outside their country of citizenship who enter it for the first time with the intention of staying for at least 12 months.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Seasonal migrant workers***

**59.** Seasonal *migrant* workers are persons employed in a country other than their own for only part of year because the work they perform depends on seasonal conditions. Although the word *migrant* is used in the term, seasonal migrant workers most of the time do not satisfy the conditions to be considered as migrants defined by the United Nations Recommendations.

### ***Circular movement***

**60.** Circular movement or circulation is defined as moving back and forth between country of origin and country of destination of workers who are temporally employed and may be part of organized migration programs. Circular movement or circulation result from increasing international mobility due to easier possibilities for travel, relative cheapness of travel means and less constraint for crossing borders.

**61.** Circular movements may only be captured by reconstructing migration trajectories. Circulation is increasing nowadays. The question is how to define the country of usual residence for these movers. Probably for most of these there will be no changes of country of usual residence as defined in the United Nations Recommendations and accordingly no international migration *sensu stricto*. However circulation is a new phenomenon that cannot be ignored. Innovative statistical tools should be developed in this aim and a special attention should be devoted to identify international migrants among these circular movers.

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<sup>18</sup> International Migration Statistics, Guidelines for improving data collection systems. Bilborrow et al., International Labour Office, Geneva, 1997, Page 39.

## Chapter 2. Categorising international migration flows

62. The United Nations Recommendations presents a taxonomy of international inflows and outflows of people, in an attempt to identify the types of flows that are most likely to be reflected in the statistics produced by existing data collection systems.<sup>19</sup> The taxonomy and the definitions of terms used in the taxonomy are reproduced in Annex 1 and 2.

63. The current chapter discusses in more detail the categories that are relevant to international migration only (categories 9 to 18 in the taxonomy). The country of usual residence for people falling into some of those categories such as border workers, diplomatic and military personnel as well as their dependants cannot be established unambiguously and are usually excluded from international migration statistics. People who are granted short periods of stay for the purpose of tourism or business travel are not considered as international migrants either. These categories (categories 1 to 8 in the taxonomy) will not be elaborated in the chapter because they are generally not considered as international migrants.

64. Categories 1 to 8 in the taxonomy, however, should not be taken completely out of the picture of international migration. One shall not treat the taxonomy as static and persons belonging to one category at a specific point in time may move to another category as time elapses and their status changes. Such transitions are particularly important when they involve a move from a non-migrant category, such as that of a tourist, to a migrant category. That type of transition may mean that a person is counted as an international migrant only some time after the actual move has taken place. A particular type of transition worth noting is related to the group of people who are tourists or business travelers but stay beyond the time allowed by their visas or violate the terms of their admission by, for instance, engaging in an activity not sanctioned by the receiving country such as gainfully working. This group of people is unlikely to be included in any statistics of international migration flow. (see more discussions below)

65. There are two main purposes that data on migration flows are of interest. First, flow statistics is used in the population accounting system to produce an estimate of the total population in the country. Second, flow statistics is important in monitoring the trend of inflows and outflows of people for various reasons such as wellbeing of the residents in the country, national security and so on. Depends on the purpose of compiling flow statistics in a country, the degree of details needed for migration flows varies. If population balance is the main purpose, it suffices to have the net inflows of migrants each year. If however, information of immigrant and emigrant flows is of interest, the following discussion can provide some insight on how data on different groups of people can be identified and categorized.

66. Among all the characteristics pertaining to a migrant, citizenship is probably the most important one. Therefore, the most basic categorization of international migration

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<sup>19</sup> Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Rev. 1, United Nations, New York, 1998. Sales No. E.98.XVII.14, Table 1.

flows introduces distinctions from one side between immigration and emigration, and from another side between citizens of the country concerned and non-citizens. (Table 3). The citizens of the country concerned in this table refer to those who have the citizenship of this country when crossing the border, including both citizens at birth and naturalized citizens. In special cases when a person holds more than one citizenship, the distinction should be made between international migrants who hold the citizenship of the country concerned and those who do not.

**Table 3. Main categories of international migrants by citizenship**

	<b>Citizens of the country concerned</b>	<b>Not-citizens of the country concerned</b>
<b>Immigrating into the country</b>	1A Citizens immigrating	2A Foreigners immigrating
<b>Emigrating from the country</b>	1B Citizens emigrating	2B Foreigners emigrating

67. The four categories of migrants, however, are not treated with equal importance in terms of data collection in countries. As a result, the availability of data on these categories of migrants and their characteristics varies. The following four sections discuss each category relevant to policy and presents further categorizations that are necessary for data collection. When the categories of immigrants and emigrants are discussed in this chapter, it is assumed that the 12-month duration of stay or absence criterion is met. Such duration can refer to intention, legal (by permit) or actual, depending on the group of people it is applied to.

***Immigrating citizens (Category 1A)***

68. Immigrating citizens include citizens who are returning after being abroad for at least 12 months as well as those entering for the first time as repatriating foreign-born citizens. These people can theoretically be categorised according to their status abroad (Annex 1). However the collection of information to allow such categorization is not usually done since by convention citizens are free to enter their country. One way to count these people would be through the population register, which can provide the total number of returning citizens by some basic characteristics.

***Immigrating foreigners (Category 2A)***

69. The category “immigrating foreigners” usually gets the most administrative control in the country receiving these immigrants. Considering the legal status of migrants is useful for supporting policies that aim to control borders and legal residence in the country. Therefore immigrating foreigners may be distributed as shown in Table 4, where a distinction is made between immigrants having the right to free establishment based on bilateral or multilateral agreements and those who are admitted on the basis of residence permits or another kind of permit to stay, like long term visa.

70. Two specific groups of immigrants are identified separately: (1) asylum seekers and those who are admitted as refugees or displaced persons for a temporary period of time; and (2) persons who entered or stayed illegally in the country. For details on how these categories can be identified under a legal system, see paragraph 27.

**Table 4. Categorization of immigrating foreigners by their legal status and purpose of stay in the country**

2 A. Immigrating foreigners	Corresponding category in the taxonomy
Foreigners having right to free establishment with intention to stay at least one year	13
Foreigners with any permit to stay at least one year and intend to stay at least one year (residence permit, student visa, work permit, long term visa...)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- studying</li> <li>- training</li> <li>- working</li> <li>- working for an international organisation</li> <li>- settling in the country</li> <li>- family formation or reunification</li> </ul>	9
	10
	11
	12
	14
	15
Asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons admitted on a temporary basis and staying in the country at least one year	16, 17
Persons who entered the country illegally and stayed in the country at least one year (regardless of whether or not they are discovered and apprehended)	18
Persons who entered the country with a tourist visa or short-term stay permit and overstayed the expiry of the document and effectively lived in the country at least one year	18

71. The detailed categorization of immigrating foreigners not only reflects the administrative control at the border or at registration, it also mirrors how data are collected. In countries where a central registration system covering all foreigners does not exist, separate systems or administrative agencies are in charge of certain segments of people migrating. For example, the administration responsible for labour might be in charge of registering all foreign workers who are issued a work permit; the one for education has information on foreign students; and the one responsible for regularization of asylum seekers and refugees is more likely to have information on the people who seek asylum as well as those who are refugees.

72. People who change their status should be given special attention in the measurement of immigrating foreigners. The most important types of status change relate to a change from non-immigrant categories to immigrant categories. The first type refers to people who come into a country on tourist, business or other temporary permit but either extended their stay by renewal of permit or changed to another category such as for studying or working. If flow statistics is collected at the border, these people will not be counted as immigrating. However it is possible to adjust flow statistics according to the information on renewal of permit or changing status, usually obtained through administrative sources in the destination country.

73. Another type of status change refers to cases when people granted a residence permit for less than one year overstay their permit and effectively stay in the country for more than one year. Direct measurement of these people does not exist.

#### ***Emigrating citizens (Category 1B)***

74. For countries with sizeable emigration, it could be important to know the total number of their citizens emigrating as well as the purpose they are emigrating, such as study, training, work, family reunification and etc (Annex 1). Such information can either be collected at the border if reliable measure is in place; or through certain registration system that requires emigrating citizens to be recorded by the system. For most countries information required to categorise emigrants into detailed categories is not readily available.

#### ***Emigrating foreigners (Category 2B)***

75. For emigration of foreigners who have been in the country at least one year, information on the legal status of the migrant when leaving the country may also be considered but this distinction is less policy relevant as a foreigner leaving the country is not anymore a concern. Nevertheless it may be important to know which groups of foreigners effectively left the country, for example, foreigners with temporary permit to stay whose permit has expired and was not renewed, foreign tourists or visitors who overstayed the expiry of their visa, asylum seekers who have not been recognized and not allowed to stay in the country and undocumented persons who have been found as such and are deported. (see Annex 1 for detailed categories of emigrating foreigners.)

### **Chapter 3. Population stocks related to international migration**

76. Theoretically “international immigrant stock” and “international emigrant stock” refer to the stock of persons who ever changed their country of usual residence and are currently in the country (for immigrant stock) or abroad (for emigrant stock). (see also Chapter 1) However, the demand for information relates not so much to the totality of international migrants characterized as having ever changed their country of usual residence, as to population groups such as those who were not born in that country, those who do not have the citizenship of the country where they live, or citizens living outside the country of their citizenship, among others.

77. The current Chapter presents a framework for identifying population groups that can be used for the study of immigration and emigration. A number of population stocks related to immigration and emigration are depicted against this framework. It is easy to see from the framework how the population stocks commonly used for international migration studies relate, or correspond to, the stock of international migrants defined in the UN Recommendations.

#### **A. Population stocks related to immigration**

78. The most useful and widely-used variables for identifying population groups related to international immigration are country of birth and country of citizenship. These are therefore the two of the dimensions used in the framework. A third dimension, whether a person is an immigrant (UN definition) or not, is included in the framework in order to illustrate how closely different population stocks correspond to the theoretical concept of immigrant stock as defined by the United Nations.

79. Thus the framework is able to identify the stock of (1) foreign-born and native-born based on the variable country of birth; (2) foreigners and citizens based on the variable country of citizenship; and (3) immigrants and non-immigrants based on the variable whether or not ever immigrated. In the framework shown, the citizenship variable is expanded to differentiate citizens by birth and those by naturalization. Many other population stocks related to international immigrants can also be identified from the framework, such as the stock of foreign-born citizens, the stock of persons who are citizens by birth and so on, by considering the three dimensions together. Descriptions are provided for each cell within the framework.

80. The framework includes only the usual residents of the country. Persons who are temporarily present in the country are not included, while persons who are temporarily abroad but are part of the usual resident population of the country are included.<sup>20,21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> For more specific definition of country of usual residence, see Chapter 1.

<sup>21</sup> In cases when a population present count is used, persons who are temporary present are part of the framework.



81. A table showing the stock of immigrants as recommended by the United Nations is first presented to provide a point of reference. Then four population groups used to study international migration are depicted, namely:

- Stock of foreign-born persons
- Stock of foreigners
- Stock of return migrants
- Stock of persons with foreign-born parents

These population groups are illustrated in the subsequent tables, where the groups of people that are included in the stock being described are highlighted in grey. Additional population stocks such as the stock of foreign-born citizens, the stock of foreign-born persons who are not citizens at the time of immigration, the stock of persons who are citizens by birth and so on are illustrated in Annex 3.

### *Stock of immigrants*

82. The stock of international migrants present in a country, termed “stock of immigrants” here for short, is defined in the United Nations Recommendations as the set of persons who have spent at least one year of their life outside the country in which they live at the time the data are gathered. The identification of this stock is based solely on the concept of usual residence, namely: (a) usual residence in the country of enumeration at the time of enumeration, and (b) not a usual resident of the country at some point of time in the past. (Para. 45)

**In practice, data on immigrant stock so defined is not produced by countries for reasons related to measurement issues or policy relevance. Nevertheless, the concept is closely linked to the basic tenet of international migration and the “stock of immigrants” provides a theoretical basis and point of reference for comparing the scope of other population stocks considered in the sections that follow. Thus it is useful to start by illustrating the location of the stock of immigrants in the framework for population stocks related to international immigration (**

83. Table 5).

84. The stock of immigrants consists of the six subgroups on the left-hand side of the table. Thus, all native-born persons, whether citizens or foreigners, who emigrated and returned thereafter; plus all foreign-born persons, including citizens born abroad who immigrated, together constitute the totality of immigrant stock.

**Table 5. Framework for population stocks related to international immigration – stock of immigrants**

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

***Stock of foreign-born persons***

85. The stock of foreign-born persons refers to the stock of population born abroad. This group is represented by the 3 greyed-out cells in

86. Table 6. Most foreign-born individuals satisfy the definition of immigrant, that is, they have lived at least a year of their lives outside the country in which they are enumerated. The only exceptions would be those who settled in the country of enumeration when they were less than one year old.

87. Nevertheless, the stock of foreign-born population can not be equated with the immigrant stock for the reason that it excludes native-born persons who have lived at least a year of their lives outside the country and returned to live in their country of birth (represented by the three white cells falling under persons ever immigrated). These persons are, by the UN definition, part of the immigrant stock. The exclusion of these native-born immigrants, however, is not necessarily a drawback for most purposes, and may in fact be desired depending on the policy questions. At present, the foreign-born population is one of the most commonly used measures of “immigrant stock”.

**Table 6. Framework for population stocks related to international immigration – stock of foreign-born persons**

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

### *Stock of foreigners*

88. The stock of foreigners refers to the stock of population who do not have the citizenship of the country of enumeration. Many countries use the stock of foreigners as a proxy for the stock of international immigrants. Whereas by definition virtually all foreign-born persons qualify as international migrants, many foreigners are not international migrants. This is easily seen by the rightmost cell in

89. Table 7. In certain countries, children born to foreigner parents are accorded the citizenship of their parents and are thus foreigners even if they were born and have always lived in the receiving country. They would therefore not qualify as international migrant under the UN definition. On the other hand, not all immigrants are covered by the stock of foreigners.

90. However, citizenship is a fundamental determinant of the rights that a person has in the country in which he or she is located. Thus, for purposes of assessing integration of immigrants or the effects of differential rights and entitlements, the distinction between citizen and foreigner is basic. Countries exercise a great deal more control over the latter than the former, not just in their movements but in other activities as well. For these reasons, the stock of foreigners figures prominently in the study of international migration.

**Table 7. Framework for population stocks related to international immigration - stock of foreigners**

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

### *Stock of return migrants*

The stock of return migrants refers to citizens of the country of enumeration who emigrated and subsequently came back to live in the country. This group is important to countries that experience a large number of citizens returning. The citizens here include both citizens by birth and citizens by naturalization. Among the latter, only those who were citizens at the time of return are counted as return migrants. In

91. Table 8, the column under citizens by naturalisation (second column in the table) is hatched indicating that only some of the people in the cell are included in the stock of return migrants.

**Table 8. Framework for population stocks related to international immigration - stock of return migrants**

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

### *Stock of persons with foreign-born parents*

92. The stock of persons with foreign-born parents refers to the stock of persons whose parents were both born abroad. To illustrate this particular population stock, an additional dimension is introduced to expand the framework – country of birth of parents (Table 9). In this framework, the third and fourth rows together constitute the stock of persons with foreign-born parents. It is easily seen that this stock includes persons who are not international immigrants (represented in the last three columns). This group is also defined as the “stock of persons with foreign background” (in the ECE recommendations)<sup>22</sup>.

93. The stock of persons with foreign-born parents includes “first generation immigrants” and “second generation immigrants”. The “first generation immigrants” refer to persons who were born abroad and whose parents were both born abroad (fourth row in Table 9). The information on this group of people can be useful for the study of “new comers” for their integration and assimilation in the country. “Second generation immigrants” refer to persons who were born in the country and whose parents were both born abroad (third row in Table 9). This group of persons, although born in the country, may differ from people who have been in the country for many generations, in terms of education and economic status. Information on second generation immigrants can be compared with immigrants who are first generation.

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<sup>22</sup> Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing, 2006, United Nations publications, Sales No. ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/4, Para. 398.

**Table 9. Framework for population stocks related to international immigration - stock of persons with foreign-born parents**

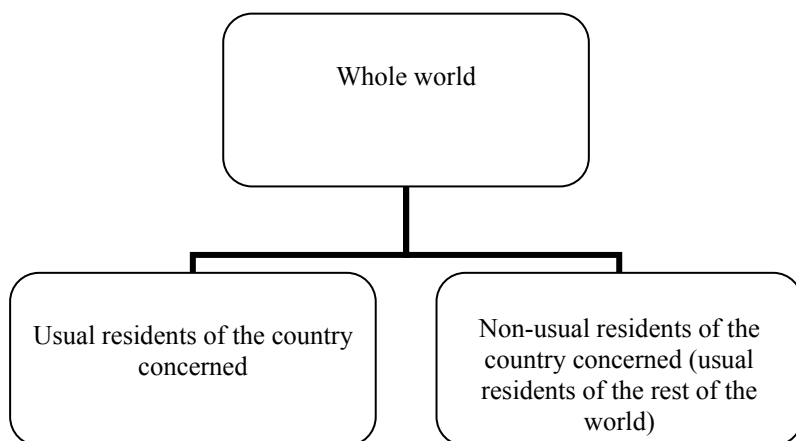
		Usual resident population					
Country of birth of parents	Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
		Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
At least one parent was born in the country	Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born in the country	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated, parents born in the country
	Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated, parents born in the country			
Both parents born abroad	Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born abroad	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated, parents born abroad
	Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated, parents born abroad			

## B. Population stocks related to emigration

94. Stock of emigrants (or its proxy) may be particularly important for traditional emigration countries. As with immigrant stock, there are specific population groups that are relevant to emigration.

95. The framework for identifying population stocks related to emigration starts from an angle which is different from the one for immigration. For the study of immigration the focus is the usual residents in the country, while for the study emigration the focus is the non-usual residents of the country concerned, since by definition usual residents of the country can not be emigrants at the same time. Figure 1 depicts the division of the world by usual residence in the country concerned. From the perspective of a single country, the population of the whole world except their own usual residents are possible emigrants at a given point in time. This means that this country has to reach the rest of the world to capture the totality of its emigrants.

**Figure 1. Division of the world by usual residence from perspective of the country concerned**



96. The framework for population stocks related to international emigration is created by considering only two variables – citizenship and whether or not the person is an emigrant of the country. Two population stocks related to emigration – stock of international emigrants and the stock of citizens abroad – are illustrated using the framework, where the relevant cells are highlighted in grey.



### *Stock of emigrants*

The stock of emigrants refers to all persons who have been usual residents of the country, who emigrated and are still abroad, irrespective of their citizenship. Emigrants of a country are no longer usual residents of the country. This is the stock based on the United Nations definition of international emigrant. It is included here as point of reference for comparing the scope of other population stocks considered in the section. The stock of emigrants by definition is represented by the left hand side of

97. Table 10.

**Table 10. Framework for population stocks related to international emigration - stock of emigrants**

Citizens or foreigners	Non-usual residents of the country concerned	
	Emigrants (have ever been usual residents of the country)	Non-emigrants (have never been usual residents of the country)
Citizen	Citizens who have lived in the country before for at least 12 months and emigrated	Citizens who have never lived in the country before and are outside the country
Foreigner	Foreigners who have lived in the country before for at least 12 months and emigrated	Foreigners who have never lived in the country before and are outside the country

### *Stock of citizens abroad*

98. Countries are interested in knowing about their citizens abroad. One of reasons is that assistance can be provided to citizens in case of emergency. In countries with a large volume of emigrating migrant workers, the total size of citizens abroad can also be used to provide some indication of the remittances.

Not all citizens of a country who are abroad are emigrants of this country. A citizen who has never been in the country but obtained his or her citizenship through parents cannot be considered as an emigrant of this country. The stock of citizens abroad is not equivalent of the stock of emigrants also because emigrated foreigners are part of the emigrant stock but are not covered in the stock of citizens abroad. This is easily seen from

99. Table 11.

**Table 11. Framework for population stocks related to international emigration - stock of citizens abroad**

Citizens or foreigners	Non-usual residents of the country concerned	
	Emigrants (have ever been usual residents of the country)	Non-emigrants (have never been usual residents of the country)
Citizen	Citizens who have lived in the country before for at least 12 months and emigrated	Citizens who have never lived in the country before and are outside the country
Foreigner	Foreigners who have lived in the country before for at least 12 months and emigrated	Foreigners who have never lived in the country before and are outside the country

## Annex 1. Taxonomy for characterisation of different categories of international movements

CITIZENS	FOREIGNERS		CITIZENS
OUTFLOWS	INFLOWS	OUTFLOWS	INFLOWS
1. Border workers departing daily or weekly to work in a neighboring country	Foreign border workers entering daily or weekly to work	Foreign border workers departing daily or weekly to go home	Border workers returning daily or weekly to their home
2. Departing citizens in transit	Arriving foreigners in transit	Departing foreigners in transit	Arriving citizens in transit
3. Departing excursionists	Arriving foreign excursionists	Departing foreign excursionists	Returning excursionists
4. Departing tourists	Arriving foreign tourists	Departing foreign tourists	Returning tourists
5. Departing business travellers	Arriving foreign business travelers	Departing foreign business travelers	Returning business travelers
6. Departing diplomatic and consular personnel (plus their dependants and household employees)	Arriving foreign diplomatic and consular personnel (plus their dependants and household employees)	Departing foreign diplomatic and consular personnel (plus their dependants and household employees)	Returning diplomatic and consular personnel (plus their dependants and household employees)
7. Departing military personnel (plus their dependants)	Arriving foreign military personnel (plus their dependants)	Departing foreign military personnel (plus their dependants)	Returning military personnel (plus their dependants)
8. Nomads	Nomads	Nomads	Nomads
9. Citizens departing to study abroad (plus their dependants)	Arriving foreigners admitted as students (plus their dependants)	Departing foreign students (plus their dependants)	Citizens returning from studying abroad (plus their dependants)
10. Citizens departing to be trained abroad (plus their dependants)	Arriving foreigners admitted as trainees (plus their dependants)	Departing foreign trainees (plus their dependants)	Citizens returning from being trained abroad (plus their dependants)
11. Citizens departing to work abroad (plus their	Arriving foreigners admitted as migrant	Departing foreign migrant workers (plus	Citizens returning from working abroad (plus

dependants)	workers (plus their dependants, if allowed)	their dependants)	their dependants)
12. Citizens departing to work in an international organization abroad (plus their dependants)	Arriving foreigners admitted as international civil servants (plus their dependants and employees)	Departing foreign international civil servants (plus their dependants and employees)	Citizens returning after having worked in an international organisation abroad (plus their dependants and employees)
13. Citizens departing to establish themselves in a country where they have the right to free establishment	Arriving foreigners having the right to free establishment	Foreigners departing after having exercised their right to free establishment	Citizens returning from a country where they exercised their right to free establishment
14. Citizens departing to settle abroad	Arriving foreigners admitted for settlement without limits on duration of stay	Departing foreigners originally admitted for family formation or reunification	Citizens returning after having migrated for family formation and reunification
15. Citizens departing to form a family or join their immediate relatives abroad	Arriving foreigners admitted for family formation or reunification	Departing foreigners originally admitted for family formation or reunification	Citizens returning after having migrated for family formation or reunification
16. Citizens departing to seek asylum	Foreigners admitted as refugees	Departing refugees	Repatriating refugees
17. Citizens departing to seek asylum	Foreigners seeking asylum	Departing former asylum-seekers (not granted refugee status)	Returning former asylum-seekers
18. Citizens departing without the necessary admission permits	Foreigners whose entry is not sanctioned	Deported foreigners	Citizens being deported from abroad

## Annex 2. Definitions of the categories included in the taxonomy

### Box 1. Definitions of the categories included in the taxonomy

#### A. Categories of transients not relevant for international migration

1. Citizens departing as border workers ÿ Foreign border workers: Foreign persons granted the permission to be employed on a continuous basis in the receiving country provided they depart regular and short intervals (daily or weekly) from that country.
2. (a) *Citizens in transit*: Persons who arrive in their own country but do not enter it formally because they are on their way to another destination.  
(b) *Foreigners in transit*: Foreign persons who arrive in the receiving country but do not enter it formally because they are on their way to another destination.

#### B. Categories relevant for international tourism

3. *Citizens departing as excursionists -> Foreign excursionists* (also called “same-day visitors”): Foreign persons who visit the receiving country for a day without spending the night in a collective or private accommodation within the country visited. This category includes cruise passengers who arrive in a country on a cruise ship and return to the ship each night to sleep on board as well as crew members who do not spend the night in the country. It also includes residents of border areas who visit the neighbouring country during the day to shop, visit friends or relatives, seek medical treatment or participate in leisure activities.
4. *Citizens departing as tourists -> Foreign tourists*: Foreign persons admitted under tourist visas (if required) for purposes of leisure, recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, health medical treatment, or religious pilgrimage. They must spend at least a night in a collective or private accommodation in the receiving country and their duration of stay must not surpass 12 months.
5. *Citizens departing as business travellers -> Foreign business travellers*: Foreign persons granted the permission to engage in business or professional activities that are not remunerated from within the country of arrival. Their length of stay is restricted and cannot surpass 12 months.

#### C. Categories traditionally excluded from international migration statistics

6. *Citizens departing with the status of diplomatic or consular personnel or as dependants and employees of that personnel -> Foreign diplomatic and consular personnel plus their dependants and employees*: Foreigners admitted under diplomatic visas or permits. Their dependants and domestic employees, if admitted, are also included in this category.
7. *Citizens departing with the status of military personnel or as dependants or employees of that personnel -> Foreign military personnel plus their dependants and employees*: A category encompassing all foreign military servicemen, officials and advisers together with their dependants and domestic employees stationed in the country of arrival for a limited period.
8. *Nomads*: Persons without a fixed place of residence who move from one site to another, generally according to well-established patterns of territorial mobility. When their trajectory involves crossing current international boundaries they become part of the international flows of people. Some nomads may be stateless persons because, lacking a fixed place of residence, they may not be recognized as citizens by any of the countries through which they pass.

#### **D. Categories relevant for the compilation of international migration statistics**

9. *Citizens departing to study abroad -> Foreign students*: Foreigners admitted under special permits or visas allowing them to undertake a specific course of study in an accredited institution of the receiving country. If their dependants are admitted, they are also included in this category.
10. *Citizens departing to be trained abroad -> Foreign trainees*: Foreigners admitted under special permits or visas allowing them to undertake training that is remunerated from within the receiving country. If their dependants are admitted, they are also included in this category.
11. *Citizens departing to work abroad -> Foreign migrant workers*: Foreigners admitted by the receiving State for the specific purpose of exercising an economic activity remunerated from within the receiving country. Their length of stay is usually restricted as is the type of employment they can hold. Their dependants, if admitted, are also included in this category.
12. *Citizens departing to work for an international organization abroad -> Foreigners admitted as international civil servants*: Foreigners admitted under special visas or residence permits as employees of international organizations located in the territory of the receiving country. If their dependants and employees are admitted, they are also included in this category.
13. *Citizens departing to exercise their right to free establishment -> Foreigners having the right of free establishment*: Foreign persons who have the right to establish residence in the receiving country because of special treaties or agreements between their country of citizenship and the receiving country. Their dependants, if admitted, are included in this category.
14. *Citizens departing to settle abroad -> Foreigners admitted for settlement*: Foreign persons granted the permission to reside in the receiving country without limitations regarding duration of stay or exercise of an economic activity. Their dependants, if admitted, are also included in this category.
15. *Citizens departing to form a family or join immediate relatives abroad -> Foreigners admitted for family formation or reunification*: This category includes the foreign fiancé(e)s and foreign adopted children of citizens, the foreign fiancé(e)s of other foreigners already residing in the receiving country, and all foreign persons allowed to join their immediate relatives already established in the receiving country.
16. *Citizens departing to seek asylum -> Refugees*: Foreign persons granted refugee status either at the time of admission or before admission. This category therefore includes foreign persons granted refugee status while abroad and entering to be resettled in the receiving country as well as persons granted refugee status on a group basis upon arrival in the country. In some cases, refugee status may be granted when the persons involved are still in their country of origin through “in-country processing” of requests for asylum. Refugee status may be granted on the basis of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, other pertinent <sup>a b</sup> regional instruments, or humanitarian considerations.

#### **E. Other categories relevant for the measurement of international migration but encompassing persons whose duration of stay in the receiving country is uncertain**

17. *Citizens departing to seek asylum -> Foreigners seeking asylum*: A category that encompasses both persons who are eventually allowed to file an application for asylum (asylum-seekers proper) and those who do not enter the asylum adjudication system formally but are nevertheless granted the permission to stay until they can return safely to their countries of origin (in other words, foreigners granted temporary protected status).
18. *Citizens departing without the admission documents required by the country of destination -> Foreigners whose entry or stay is not sanctioned*: This category includes foreigners who violate the

rules of admission of the receiving country and are deportable, as well as foreign persons attempting to seek asylum but who are not allowed to file an application and are not permitted to stay in the receiving country on any other grounds.

United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545. a  
Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791. b

### Annex 3. Other derived population stocks related to immigration

*Stock of foreign-born citizens:* the stock of population who were born abroad and who have the citizenship of the country of enumeration. This group of people includes those who were born abroad but had the citizenship of the country at birth (probably from native parents) or obtained the citizenship through naturalization.

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			



**Stock of foreign-born persons who are currently non-citizens:** the stock of population who were born abroad and who do not have the citizenship of the country of enumeration. Sometimes indicated as the real “foreign” population.

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

**Stock of foreign-born persons who are not citizens at the time of immigration:** the stock of population who were born abroad and who either do not have the citizenship of the country of enumeration or became a citizen by naturalization. This group of people may have obtained citizenship after entering the country, but it might be useful to distinguish them from those who are foreign-born but with the citizenship at birth.

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

**Stock of persons who are citizens by birth:** the stock of population who are citizens by birth (one can be citizen by birth even if he/she was born abroad). This is usually considered the real “native” in the country, to distinguish from those who become citizenship of the country by naturalization. Many of them are non-immigrants.

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

**Stock of persons who are not citizens by birth:** the stock of persons who are either (a) non-citizens of the country of enumeration or (b) citizens by naturalization. This group, in contrast to the stock of persons who are citizens by birth, refers to those who have some kind of foreign background. Many of them are non-immigrants.

	Usual resident population					
Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated
Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated			

**Stock of “first generation immigrants”:** the stock of persons who were born abroad and whose parents were both born abroad. The information on this group of people can be useful for the study of “new comers” for their integration and assimilation in the country. Information on first generation immigrants can be compared with immigrants who are second generation.

		Usual resident population					
Country of birth of parents	Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
		Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
At least one parent was born in the country	Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born in the country	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated, parents born in the country
	Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated, parents born in the country			
Both parents born abroad	Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born abroad	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated, parents born abroad
	Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated, parents born abroad			

**Stock of “second generation immigrants”:** the stock of persons who were born in the country and whose parents were both born abroad. These people are born in the country but both of their parents were foreign-born. This group of persons, although born in the country, might differ from people who have been in the country for many generations, in terms of education and economic status. Identification of these people could be crucial in finding out the differences and providing necessary assistance in helping them being integrated into the society. Many of them are non-immigrants.

		Usual resident population					
Country of birth of parents	Native or foreign born	Persons who ever immigrated			Others		
		Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner	Citizen by birth	Citizen by naturalisation	Foreigner
At least one parent was born in the country	Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born in the country, who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born in the country	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated, parents born in the country
	Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated, parents born in the country	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised, parents born in the country	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated, parents born in the country			
Both parents born abroad	Native-born	Citizens born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who emigrated and returned and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born in the country who emigrated and returned thereafter, parents born abroad	Citizens born in the country who never emigrated, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born in the country who never emigrated and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born in the country who never emigrated, parents born abroad
	Foreign-born	Citizens born abroad who immigrated, parents born abroad	Foreigners at birth, born abroad who immigrated and have been naturalised, parents born abroad	Foreigners born abroad who immigrated, parents born abroad			