

# Statistical Standards on International Migrant Workers

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# Agenda

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- The Approach & Framework
- Demographic classification variables
- International and ILO Normative Framework
- Specific Groups
- Work and the labour force
- Criteria and Characteristics: Identification of more homogenous categories
- National data sources



# The approach and framework



## Guiding principles:

1. Taking existing concepts and definitions as given, versus their adaptation or even replacement by new concepts or definitions,
2. Casting a wide net covering all the diverse labour migration types, versus focusing on the most 'significant' of them,
3. Recommending what is ideally desirable, versus what is feasible and achievable.

## Conceptual framework concerning international migrant workers:

1. **'Demographic definition'**: persons who have changed, at any time in their life, their usual place of residence from another country to the country of their current residence.
2. **'Foreign-born'**: persons whose place of birth is located outside the current geographical boundaries of the country where they now live and/or work.
3. **'Non-citizens'** (foreigners): persons not citizens of the country where they live and/or work.

# Demographic classification variables



## Country of citizenship:

- Fundamental as subject to state regulation.
- It is the key to the rights, obligations and treatment a person receives as a resident/worker.

## Country of birth:

- Defined in terms of current geographic boundaries.
- Identifies foreign-born persons.

## Residence status:

- Persons who change their usual residence from one country to another are considered long-term migrants.
- A person can be a usual resident of at most one country.

Groups (1)-(5) in Table 1 are usual residents of the country where they work.

Group (7) are non-resident workers, who are usual residents of another country.

Group (6) are non-residents or with uncertain residential status; their distinguishing feature is that, at the same time, they are NOT usual residents of any other country.

# Categories according to migration status



Elements used in defining migrant					Category according to migration status		Target population		
Residence status		Country of citizenship (1)	Country of birth	Migrants; migrant workers			Foreigners; foreign workers	Foreign-born; Foreign-born workers	
Status in-country	Whether resident abroad								
	Currently	Life-time							
usual resident	no	never	citizen	-	0	"base" population			
usual resident	no	has been	citizen	native born	1	return-migrant	1		
usual resident	no	never	non-citizen	-	2	not given/taken citizenship		2	
usual resident	no	has been	non-citizen	native born	3	(also) not given/taken citizenship	3	3	
usual resident	no	has been	citizen	foreign-born	4	naturalised migrant	4		4
usual resident	no	has been	non-citizen	foreign-born	5	non-citizen migrant	5	5	5
not usual-resident; or uncertain (2)	no	has been	-	-	6A	refugee, asylum seeker	6A	6A	6A
					6B	undocumented	6B	6B	6B
not usual-resident	yes	-	-	-	7A	"short-term" migrant		7A	7A
					7B	border workers and similar		7B	7B

- (1) Stateless persons are included under category 'non-citizen'
- (3) Normally non-citizen; may include citizens
- (5) Is currently resident

- (2) May lack definitive, long-term residence status
- (4) Normally foreign-born; may include native-born persons
- Variable not necessary or relevant

# International & ILO Normative Framework



## UN Convention 1990 – a wide framework

- **Objective:** Protect migrant workers and their families from exploitation and the violation of their human rights.
- **Article 1:**
  - “1. The present Convention is applicable, except as otherwise provided hereafter, to **all migrant workers and members of their families** without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status.
  - 2. The present Convention shall apply during the **entire migration process** of migrant workers and members of their families, which comprises preparation for migration, departure, transit and the entire period of stay and remunerated activity in the State of employment as well as return to the State of origin or the State of habitual residence”.
- **Article 2:**
  - The term **migrant worker** refers to “a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national”.

# Specific Groups



Group	Definition
0	Native-born citizen workers who have never lived abroad
1	Return migrants - native-born persons who moved abroad but have now returned to their native country.
2 & 3	Native-born residents that do not possess citizenship of the country
4	Naturalised foreign-born residents
5	Non-citizen foreign-born
6	Externally displaced persons
A	Documented persons such as persons identified as refugees, asylum seekers or others seeking or granted protection
B	Irregular or undocumented persons entering to stay in the country
7	Non-residential workers:
A	Short-term migrants – more than 3 and less than 12 months abroad
B	Other non-resident workers – move to country on a daily, temporary, discontinuous basis



# Work & Labour force

## Persons engaged in work – new framework

- **Work** - “any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or provide services for use by others or for own use”
- Covers all productive activities within SNA General Production Boundary.
- Introduced new concepts: time-related underemployment and labour underutilization

## Persons in the labour force

- All who work for pay including unemployed.
- More **inclusive** concept of work – persons having a labour force attachment in the present country of residence.
  - Unemployed migrant workers can be identified
  - Labour utilization may be measured
- **Narrower definition** may be more practical - international migrant worker is an international migrant who is in the labour force of the country of which he/she is now a usual resident.
  - **Migrant worker**: international migrant who entered the destination country’s labor force – **Stock**.
  - **For-work migrants**: indicate main motive of the international migrant at entry – **Flow**.



# Criteria & Characteristics:

## Identification of more homogeneous categories



### Characteristics of work:

- Sector and occupation,
- Employment status and status in employment,
- Remittances sent and received

### Rights of the migrant worker:

- Right of residence, to work and at work
- Limits on permitted duration of stay
- Remuneration from work and entitlement to social security and other work-related entitlements

### Duration and permanence of stay:

- Idea on how long people are likely to be or have been in the country
- Duration of stay (actual or intended) provides a distinction between groups 5 and 7A&B
- Not the duration per se, but whether or not the country acknowledges the worker as an actual/potential permanent resident
  - Type of residence status
  - Migration type



# National Data Sources

1. **Population census and household surveys**
  - All responding countries report at least one of these two data sources.
  - Information on country of birth/ citizenship is available along with employment status.
2. **Population-based registers**
  - Include general population and social security registers as well as international migrants and migrant worker registers.
  - Availability differs across regions.
3. **Establishment surveys and employment services**
  - In general, countries report on one or the other.
  - Information on international labour migration is limited.
4. **Border/Admission statistics**
  - Obtained through immigration/emigration forms at borders and other entry points.
  - Rarely contain information on country of birth/ citizenship as well as employment status.
5. **Registers of nationals**
  - Very little use as information on stocks and flows of emigration is limited.



Thank you for your attention!