

PS1: 'Alternative' census mechanisms and the need for cross-national comparison

The development of 'alternative' census exercises could possibly be beneficial for more and more efficient international comparative analyses. The fact that future census operations would no longer be based on an exhaustive statistical exercise may lead to considering the census less as a 'national' exercise (implying limited use by others). This may open the possibility for more co-ordinated approaches and more standardised data sets as the basic condition for international comparative analysis.

PS2: The proposed 'future concept' of the population census that is presented here is, in fact, not substantially different from the 'new' approaches that are being developed in, for example, Belgium or even France. It is, moreover, also quite similar to the recommendations made at the UNFPA/PARIS 21 expert meeting that was held end of 2001 in Pretoria, South Africa (see above).

In press - 6th October 2004.