20th ICLS

Draft Guidelines concerning
Statistics on International Labour Migration

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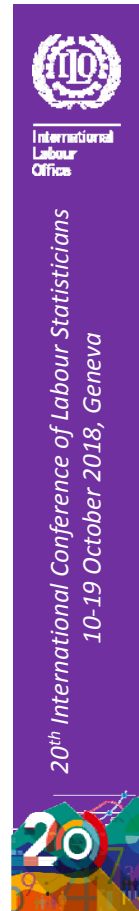
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Background

- The 19th ICLS adopted a Resolution concerning further work on labour migration statistics recommending the ILO to:
    - set up a working group with the aim of sharing good practices, discussing and developing a work plan for defining international standards on labour migration statistics that can inform labour market and migration policies,
    - prepare a progress report for discussion at the next ICLS.

- In order to implement the Resolution, the ILO established a Tripartite Working Group on Labour Migration Statistics to:
    - provide guidance regarding agreed upon international standards, concepts and definitions, and
    - foster the exchange of experiences among data collection institutions and across countries.

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Rationale

Protection of migrant workers:

- Manage labour migration taking into consideration the interests of different stakeholders and the origin and destination countries;

- Better protect international migrant workers;

- Maximize the developmental benefits of international labour migration for all;

- Better match labour demand and supply;

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Rationale

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

- *Target 8.8:* "Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment".

- *Target 10.7:* "Promote orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies".

Rationale

Limitations of the existing conceptual framework:

- Lack of international standards regarding concepts, definitions and methodologies for the measurement and harmonization of labour migration statistics.

- Data comparability issues exist within countries.

- Fragmentation of sources across different national institutions.
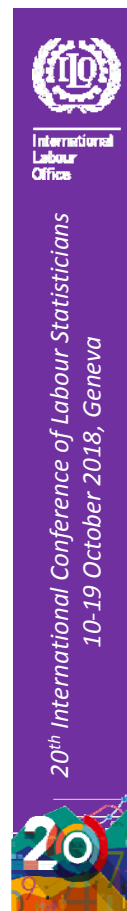
- Lack of institutional coordination.

Objectives and Scope

1. **Support countries to develop national statistics** on international labour migration and to encourage them to test the suggested conceptual framework.

2. **Promote international comparability** and permit the evaluation of trends and differences in magnitude, patterns, and consequences of stocks and flows of international migrant workers.

3. **International labour migration** is used as a generic term to refer, in general, to concepts related to the process and outcome of international labour migration, especially to:
   a. International migrant workers
   b. For-work international migrants
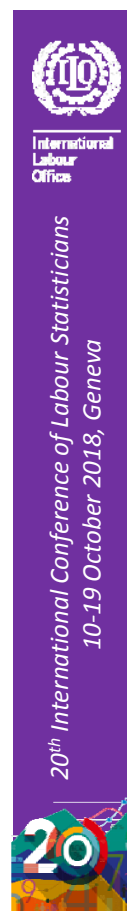   c. Return international migrant workers

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Concepts and Definitions

Guiding international instruments, frameworks, standards concerning international migrant workers

- ILO Constitution, ILO Conventions No 97 and No 143, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (**especially Article 1, 2, and 3**) - in terms of migrant workers` coverage;

- UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998) – in terms of demographic definitions;

- The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses - in terms of census related definitions;

- Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization – in terms of measuring labour.

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Concepts and Definitions

- 'Labour migration' or 'migrant worker' is a marriage between two concepts:
    1. demographic one – 'migration' or 'migrant' and
    2. socio-economic one 'labour' or 'worker';

- ILO's concern is the labour dimension, and in this context the protection of migrant workers;

- The importance of short-term (less than 3 months) migration is growing globally, and not currently covered by existing statistical definitions. Therefore, these groups remain invisible for policy-makers;

- The proposed definition of international migrant workers in the draft guidelines does not change the UN definition of international migrants, and does not have impact on its application.

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Concepts and Definitions

International Migrant workers

- The concept intends to measure the current labour attachment of international migrants; and,
- Includes all persons of working age present in the country of measurement who are in one of the following categories:

    a. *Usual residents*:

    International migrants who, during a specified reference period, were either in the labour force of the country of their usual residence, either in employment or in unemployment;

    b. *Not usual residents*:

    persons who, during a specified reference period, were not usual residents of the country but were present in the country and had labour attachment to the country (i.e. were either in employment supplying labour to resident producer units of that country or were seeking employment in that country).

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Concepts and Definitions
International Migrant workers

- The concepts of "*working age population*", "*labour force*", "*employment*" and "*unemployment*" are defined in line with 19th ICLS Resolution I.

- Depending on policy objectives, countries may wish to also include among international migrant workers persons who, during the specified reference period, were in the potential labour force or were engaged in unpaid forms of work, as defined in 19th ICLS Resolution I.

- The specified reference period should, in principle, be short, such as seven days or one week.
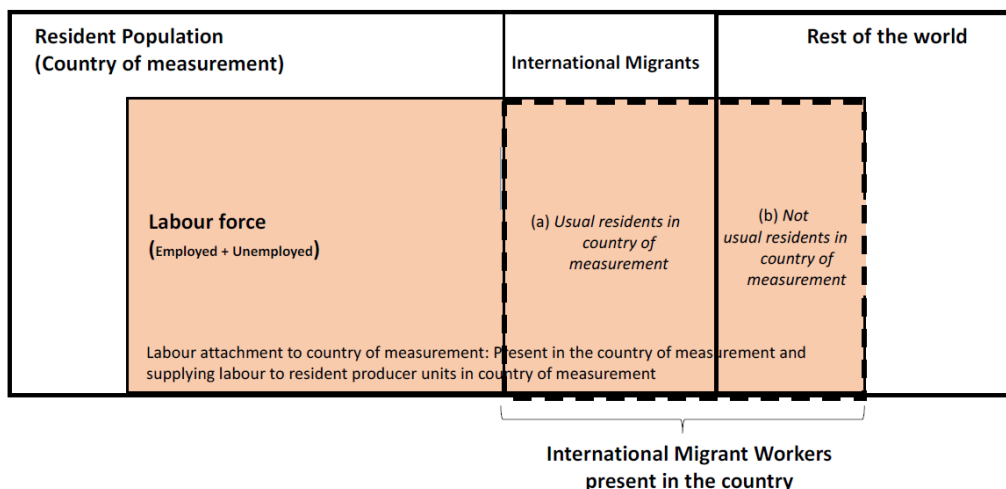
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Concepts and Definitions
International Migrant workers

1. Schematic representation of the measurement framework of international migrant workers

Resident Population (Country of measurement)	International Migrants	Rest of the world
Labour force (Employed + Unemployed)	(a) *Usual residents in country of measurement*	(b) *Not usual residents in country of measurement*
Labour attachment to country of measurement: Present in the country of measurement and supplying labour to resident producer units in country of measurement		

International Migrant Workers present in the country

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Concepts and Definitions

For-work international migrants:

- Aims to measure the movements of persons from one country to another for the purpose of undertaking or seeking work
- For-work international migrants are all international migrants as defined in paragraph 14, including both categories 14(a) (usual residents) and 14(b) (not usual residents), who entered the country of measurement during a specific reference period for the purpose of undertaking or seeking employment and whose intention was documented or declared at the time of entry to the country.

  a) The specified reference period for the measurement of for-work international migrants should be long such as 12 months;

  b) They are distinguished from other international migrants who enter the country primarily for reasons not related to undertaking or seeking employment;

  c) The term "undertaking or seeking employment" is understood to mean engaging in employment or seeking and being available for employment;

  d) The term "documented or declared" is understood to mean documented in official immigration registers or declared to relevant immigration authorities at the time of entry.

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Concepts and Definitions

Return international migrant workers:

- Intends to provide a basis for measuring the work experiences of international migrant workers.
- Defined as all current residents of the country who were previously international migrant workers in another country or countries (for the country of measurement).

  a) The measurement of return international migrant workers does not depend on the current labour force status of persons in the country of current residence.

  b) They also include those current residents of the country of measurement who were working aboard without being usual residents of the country in which they worked.

  c) Recommended to have a relatively short duration of labour attachment (6 months) in the country of destination.

  d) It is recommended that the reference period for the date of return should be relatively long, such as last 12 months or last 5 years, or it may be left open and then classified by date of return.

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Classifications

International labour migration is characterized by:

1. **Directionality** – distinguishes between entry and exit on international migrant workers in the country of measurement.

   - International migrant workers may be classified by country of labour attachment and country of origin;

   - For-work international migrants may be classified by country of origin and destination as well as by country of transit retrospectively.

   - Return international migrant workers may be classified by country of previous labour attachment.
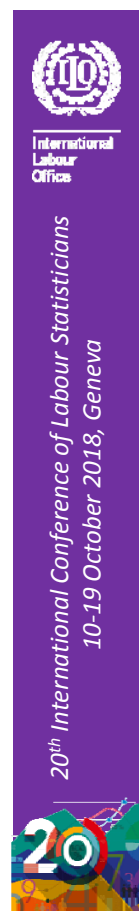
Classifications

2. **Duration** – refers to the duration of stay in country of labour attachment.

   - **International migrant workers**: length of elapsed time spent in the country of labour attachment and includes the following categories:
       - Long-term international migrant workers;
       - Short-term international migrant workers;
       - Seasonal workers, frontier workers, itinerant workers.

   - **For-work international migrant workers**: duration of intended stay in the country of destination.

   - **Return international migrant workers**: duration of completed stay and duration of labour attachment in the country of previous labour attachment.
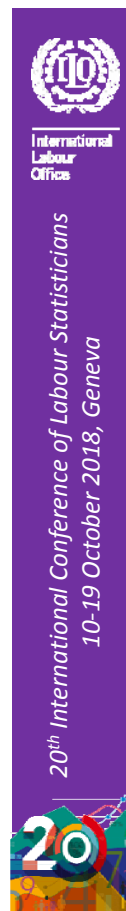
Classifications

3. Nature – refers to permanent or temporary stay in the country of labour attachment.

- International migrant workers and for-work international migrants may be classified according to the permanent or temporary nature of their stay in the country of labour attachment.

- There are international migrant workers and for-work international migrants who <u>cannot</u> be adequately classified due to the nature of their labour migration (e.g. circular international migrant workers).

Statistics of stocks and flows

Provide information on the **number** of International migrant workers in the country, and **changes** in migration status and work status as follows:

International Migrant Workers;
1. <u>Stock</u> of international migrant workers
2. <u>Inflow</u> of international migrant workers is the sum of:
   i. The number of international migrant workers– present but new in LF
   ii. The inflow of international migrants– entered country and LF in reference period.
   iii. Non residents became non-resident international migrant workers in reference period.

3. <u>Outflow of international migrant workers includes:</u>
   i. International migrant workers left country or died.
   ii. International migrant workers remained in country but left LF
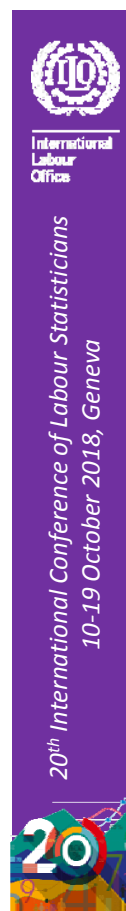   iii. Non-resident international migrant workers lost labour attachment

For-work international migrants :
   Inflow of for-work international migrants– entered in reference period.

Return international migrant workers:
1. <u>Stocks</u> of return international migrant workers,
2. <u>Inflow</u> of return international migrant workers.
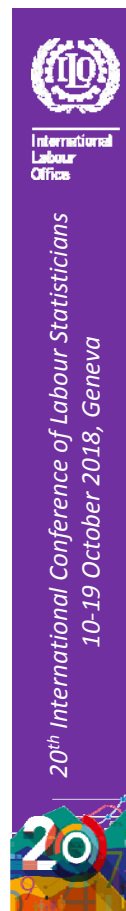
Core indicators

The core indicators should be disaggregated by sex and, where relevant, by country of origin, country of destination, country of labour attachment or country of previous labour attachment for:

- **International migrant workers**;
- **For-work international migrants;**
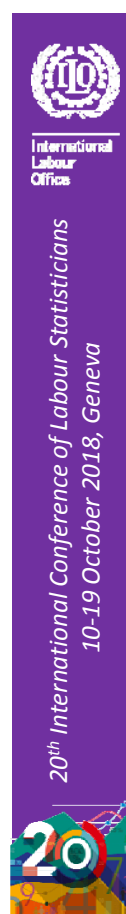- **Return international migrant workers.**

Data Collection

- The items of data collection should provide comprehensive information for the various users, taking into account specific national needs and circumstances.

- The information should cover data on:
  - Main socio-demographic characteristics,
  - Main migrant characteristics and,
  - Main work characteristics.

  of international migrant workers, for-work international migrants and return international migrant workers.

- Depending on policy concerns, additional data items may be collected:
  - Past migration and work history;
  - Family relationships and characteristics of family members;
  - Particular categories of international migrant workers, or
  - Special topics.

- In general, the periodicity of data collection depends on the statistical needs and capacity of the statistical infrastructure in the country of measurement and may not be the same for all items of data collection.

Data Sources & Measurement issues

- Information may come from diverse sources, yet should be treated as complementary to derive comprehensive sets of statistics.

- Useful to distinguish the sources of stock and flow statistics as follows:
  - Sources generating stock statistics;
  - Sources generating flow statistics;
  - Sources that can generate both flow and stock statistics;
  - Other sources such as targeted sample surveys.

- Within each data source, special methodologies should be developed to deal with the particular measurement issues concerning international labour migration.

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Future Actions

- There is a need to continue the methodological work related to these draft guidelines in collaboration with interested countries, social partners and international and regional organizations, which is focused on:
  - Wide dissemination and communication of these draft guidelines;
  - Sharing good practices among countries;
  - Technical assistance through training and capacity-building;
  - Implementation of conceptual and methodological work;
  - Improved harmonization between multiple data sources;
  - Better coordination between users and producers of labour migration information;
  - Mainstreaming the ILO labour migration module in labour force surveys and national censuses;
  - Analysis and presentation of statistics on international labour migration and migrant workers, supported by appropriate technical notes.

- Expand ILO's technical assistance on labour migration statistics to support the implementation of these draft guidelines by member countries.

- Report to future sessions of the ICLS as appropriate.

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Points for Discussion

1. The relevance and feasibility of measuring international labour migration using a harmonised set of definitions;

2. The suitability of the proposed definitions of *international migrant workers*, *for-work international migrants* and *return international migrant workers*, as proposed in the draft guidelines; and

3. The future steps in developing international statistical standards on the topic.

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Thank you for your attention!

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