



International  
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## International migration and labour migration statistics: concepts & measurement

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- Guidelines from the 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS
- Statistical measurement

# 1. International standards

- United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998);
- United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census, Rev.3 (2017);
- The Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention C143 of 1975;
- The United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ( UN Migrant Workers Convention, 1990);
- **Guidelines concerning Statistics on International Labour Migration (20<sup>th</sup> ICLS, 2018)**

## 2. Conceptual framework (1): International migrant (UN)

- UN International recommendations on statistical measurement of international migration (1998):
  - **International migrant:**
    - Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence.
  - **Usual residence\*:**
    - Country in which a person lives, i.e., the country in which he or she **normally spends the daily periods 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 residence.

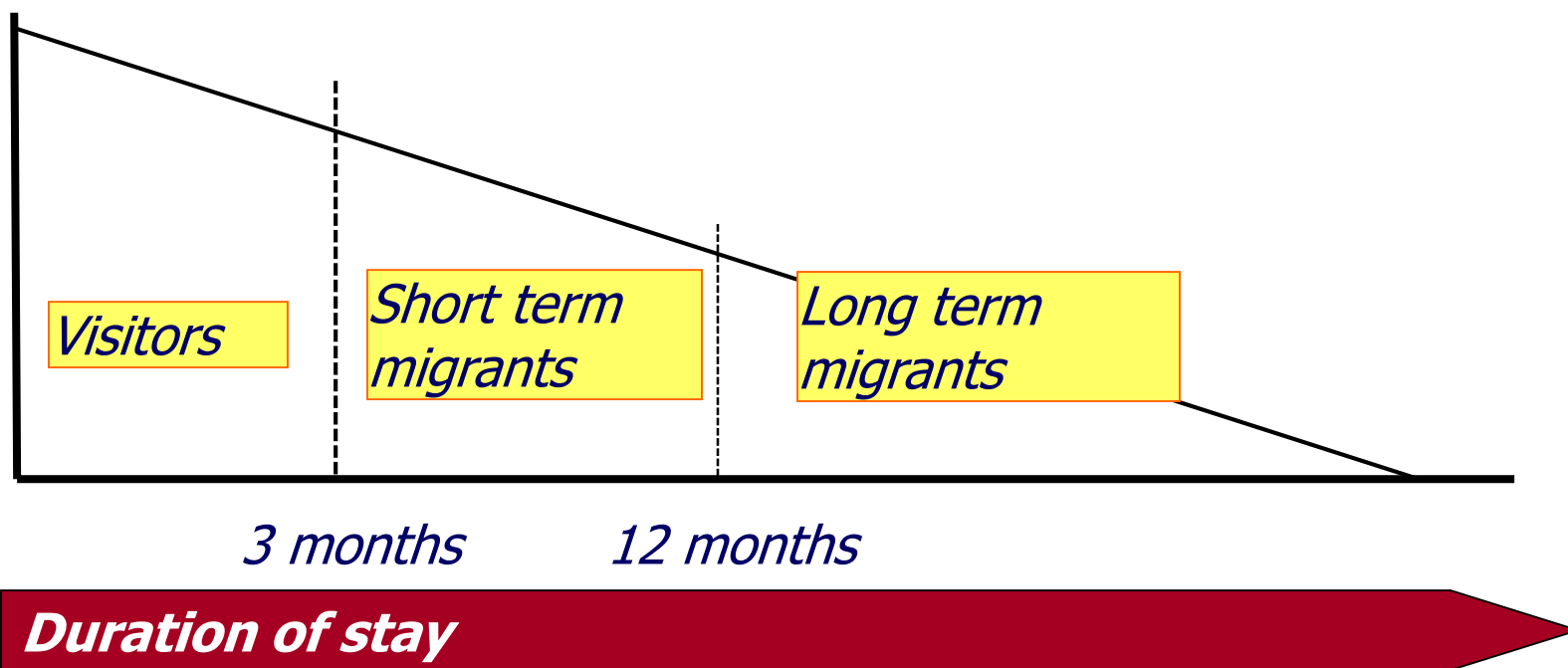
(\*) usual residence determined on the basis of duration of stay

## 2. Conceptual framework (2): International migrant (UN)

- **Short term migrant:**
  - A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months) except in cases where the move is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage
- **Long term migrant:**
  - A person who moves to a country other than that of his/her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination becomes his/her new country of usual residence

## 2. Conceptual framework (3): International migrant (UN)

- **Principal measurement criteria:**
  - Move from one country to another country by crossing a border
  - Change in usual residence
  - Minimum duration of stay (3+, 12+)



## 2. Conceptual framework (4): Migrant worker (UN)

- *United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICMW)*
  - Adopted in 1990 by the UN General Assembly
  - Provides legal definition that can serve as basis for statistical measurement
- **Migrant worker:** “A migrant worker is 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.” (Art 2.1).



## 2. Conceptual framework (5): Migrant worker (UN)

### Categories of migrant workers (UN ICMW, 1990):

- **Frontier worker**
  - migrant worker who retains his or her habitual residence in a neighbouring State to which he or she normally returns every day or at least once a week
- **Seasonal worker**
  - refers to a migrant worker whose work by its character is dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year;
- **Seafarer** (including fishermen)
  - refers to a migrant worker employed on board a vessel registered in a State of which he or she is not a national;



## 2. Conceptual framework (6): Migrant worker (UN)

### Categories of migrant workers (cont'd):

- **Worker on an offshore installation:**
  - migrant worker employed on an offshore installation that is under the jurisdiction of a State of which he or she is not a national;
- **Itinerant worker:**
  - migrant worker who, having his or her habitual residence in one State, has to travel to another State or States for short periods, owing to the nature of his or her occupation;
- **Project-tied worker:**
  - migrant worker admitted to a State of employment for a defined period to work solely on a specific project being carried out in that State by his or her employer

# 20th ICLS

## Guidelines concerning Statistics on International Labour Migration

Adopted by the  
**20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of  
Labour Statisticians (ICLS)**

# Rationale



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## Protection of migrant workers:

- Manage labour migration taking into consideration the interests of different stakeholders and the origin and destination countries;
- Strong evidence to better protect international migrant workers;

## 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 within countries.

20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians  
10-19 October 2018, Geneva



# Concepts and Definitions

## Guiding international instruments, ...

- 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**.

# Concepts and Definitions



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## *Resident population of a country (Para. 11)*

- ... comprises all persons who are *usual residents* of the country, regardless of sex, national origin, citizenship or geographic location of their place of work.
- ... includes stateless persons and non-citizens who are usual residents but have no documentation of residence.
- ... defined in line with a specific usual residence period (e.g. more than 12 months).

## *International migrants (Para. 13)*

- ... all those residents who have ever changed their country of usual residence.
- ... measured as “all ... usual residents ... who are citizens of another country (foreign population) or whose **place of birth** is located in another country (foreign-born population)”.

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# Concepts and Definitions

## *International Migrant workers (Para. 14-19)*

- The concept refers to “***international migrant and non-resident foreign workers***”, and;
- ... includes all persons of working age present in the country of measurement who are in one of the following categories:

### *a. Usual residents (foreign workers):*

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

### *b. Not usual residents (non-resident foreign workers):*

... 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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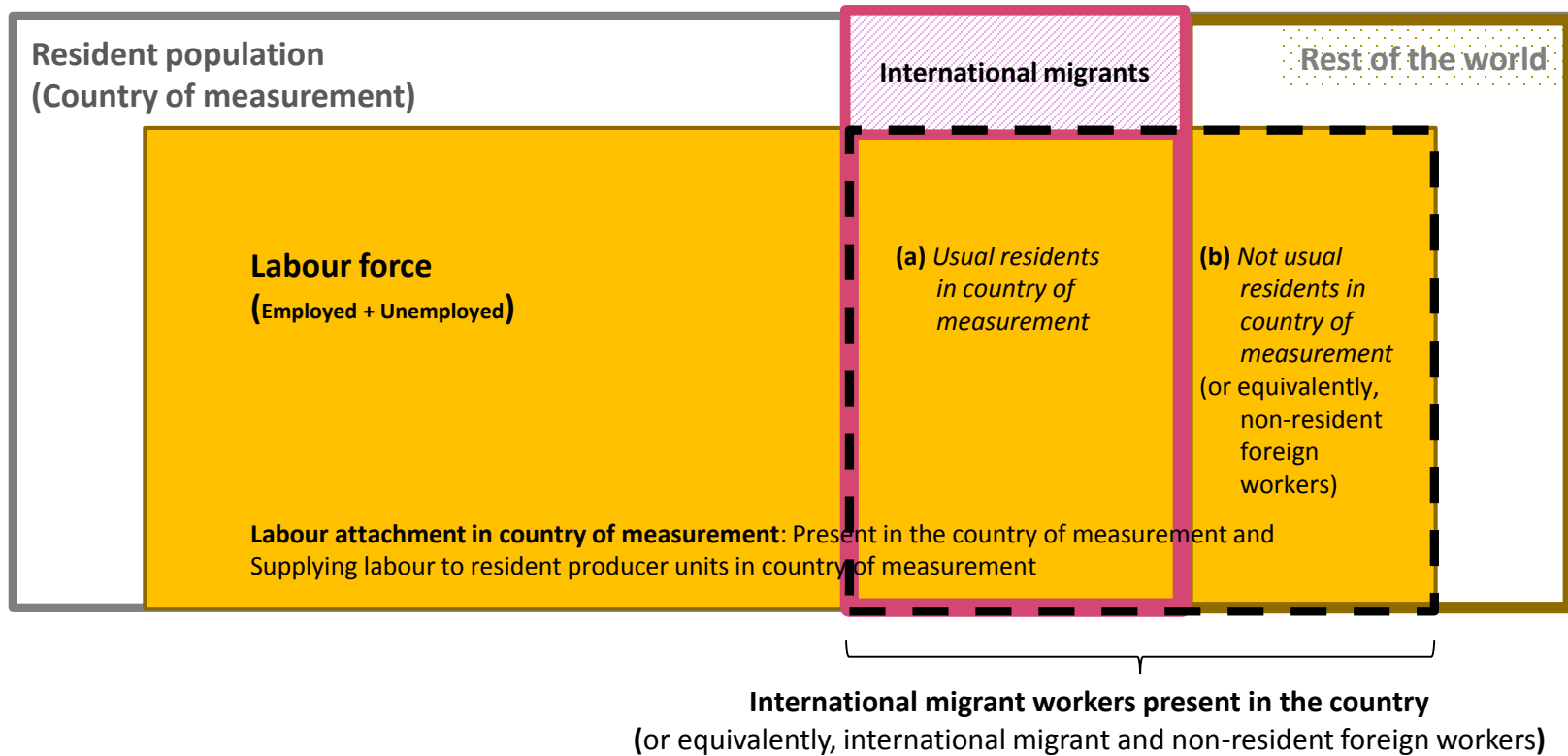


# Concepts and Definitions



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



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# Concepts and Definitions

## *For-work international migrants (Para. 22):*

- ... 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 workers 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.

# Concepts and Definitions

## *Return international migrant workers (Para. 23):*

- Intends to provide a basis for measuring the work experiences of international migrant workers.
- Defined as all current residents of the country (of measurement) who were previously international migrant workers in another country or countries.
  - 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 -cumulative) in the country of destination.
  - d) It is recommended that the reference period for the date of return (to be counted as return migrant workers) 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.

# Special categories of workers

**Included**, categories are not exhaustive and not mutually exclusive (Para. 20):

- Frontier workers,
- Seasonal workers, itinerant workers, project-tied workers, specified-employment workers,
- Self-employed workers,
- Seafarers (including fishermen),
- Workers employed on an offshore installation, etc.

**Excluded** (Para. 21):

- Foreign military and diplomatic personnel,
- International travellers on tourism trips with no purpose of working, etc.

# Measurement: key data items

## International migration, UN recommended items:

- **Country of birth,**
- **Country of citizenship,**
- Country of birth of parents,
- Household members residing abroad,
- Country/ place of previous residence,
- Duration in current place of usual residence;

## Labour migration , ILO recommended items:

- **Reason for moving abroad,**
- **Labour force status, current (and in past as optional, Para. 50),**
- Work experience abroad.

# References

- ILO (2018). [Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration](#). 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS, Geneva, Oct.
- UN (2017). [Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3](#). New York.
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- ILO (1975). [Migrant Workers \(Supplementary Provisions\) Convention, No. 143](#). 60th ILC session, Geneva, 24 Jun.