

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The 19<sup>th</sup> *International Conference of Labour Statisticians* held in October 2013, adopted a resolution requesting the International Labour Organization (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 international labour migration statistics that can inform international labour market and migration policy.” The *Report from the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS* was approved by the 320<sup>th</sup> session of the ILO Governing Body in March 2014.

The ILO’s 2013 Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration concluded to recommend to strengthen data collection, research and capacity development in order to facilitate evidence-based policy making and to develop tools for dealing with the internalization of labour markets to the benefit of all; and promote harmonization of statistical methods and concepts on international migration and the exchange of knowledge on labour migration among countries.

In line with the ILO Resolution, in order to identify ‘best practices’ in defining international standards on labour migration statistics, the ILO has developed a set of questionnaires to survey metadata information on what data are available in the country on international labour migrants, from what source, and using what methods and definitions.

The survey targeted all agencies in the ILO member countries and territories that produce international labour migration related data. The aim of the country survey is to contribute to the development of international standards on the concepts and definitions relating to the measurement of international labour migration and help improve and promote comparability in data across countries. This effort will in turn make it possible to develop a better global understanding of the scope and nature of international labour migration and its relationship to national development and improve the integration of migrants into society and guarantee their rights.

The analysis of the metadata gathered through the ILO metadata country survey is presented in an ILO (2019) report entitled “The Analysis of the ILO Country Survey on International Migrant Workers.” The ILO report summarises the purpose of the data collection effort, explains the current situation about international labour migration statistics highlighting the existing data gaps, describes the methodology of the data collection procedure, provides detailed explanations of each questionnaire prepared by the ILO, presents the major findings by type of questionnaire and based on these findings outlines the ‘best practices’ and offers recommendations.

The present report - the Compendium – describes the metadata survey questionnaire of the ILO, provides information on the number of responding countries, periodicity and coverage of various data sources on international labour migration, the type of information collected by countries on international labour migrants, the concepts and definitions used, the classifications used in organizing the data, methods of data collection and dissemination and information on sampling design for sources that are based on surveys. Furthermore, the Compendium provides detailed information on the sources of data for each country on international labour migration, the type of information collected in each data source and detailed information on methodological issues.

The Compendium is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the ILO metadata survey questionnaires on international labour migration. Section 3 summarizes the metadata gathered from countries that have responded to the ILO country survey. This section of the Compendium is structured in a way to reflect the various sections of the ILO country survey questionnaires. It starts by providing information on responding countries and the ILO questionnaires they have filled out. This is followed by information on sources of data the countries have reported on, the type of information they collect and the methodologies they employ. Section 4 concludes. The Compendium includes two appendices. In Appendix A, sample metadata survey questionnaires are given. In Appendix B, detailed information on a country basis is presented describing the various sources of data and type of information gathered on international labour migration based on the responses the countries have provided to via the metadata survey.