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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS<sup>1/</sup>

(Report by the Secretary-General)

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<sup>1/</sup> This report is in large part based upon materials prepared by the statistical services of the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation for their generous collaboration. Similarly, he wishes to thank the Secretary-General of the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the Director of the Permanent Office of the International Statistical Institute, the Head of the Statistical Division of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation and the Director-General of the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the fifth in a series of reports summarizing the status of developments in international statistics.<sup>2/</sup> These reports, requested by the Statistical Commission at its sixth session, are intended to give a synoptic view of the main activities of the international statistical agencies in the preparation and application of standards, and in direct and indirect assistance to countries for the improvement of national statistics.

### Points of general interest

2. Regional activities. Perhaps the most significant progress in the last two years was the greatly increased stimulation of activities, in co-operation with the regional economic commissions, to improve the basic statistics essential for purposes of national economic and social development. The Commission will recall the formal establishment of the Conference of European Statisticians in 1953 under general arrangements previously approved by the Economic and Social Council to facilitate regional consultations on statistical matters. In 1956 the Commission recommended, and the Council and the Assembly approved, the creation of regional statistical advisory posts whose incumbents would assist countries in the planning of improved statistical programmes. These arrangements provided the necessary basis for intensified work at the regional level. Recent activities are touched on briefly in the following paragraphs; a more extended account is given later on in this report.

3. At the first session of the Economic Commission for Africa (29 December 1958 - 6 January 1959) the Executive Secretary proposed, after consultation with the Statistical Office, a Statistical Survey of Africa.<sup>3/</sup> The proposal was approved by the Commission and the Executive Secretary was authorized to convene a Conference of African Statisticians to consider it in detail.<sup>4/</sup> The Conference was held in Addis Ababa, 28 September - 8 October 1959, attended by thirty-nine participants from 18 members and associate members of ECA, and by representatives of the

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<sup>2/</sup> Earlier reports are contained in documents E/CN.3/148, E/CN.3/170, E/CN.3/196 and Add.1, E/CN.3/249.

<sup>3/</sup> E/CN.14/4.

<sup>4/</sup> E/3201.

statistical services of seven specialized agencies. The report of the Conference (E/CN.14/25) was considered by the second session of ECA (26 January - 6 February 1960) and unanimously approved.

4. With the formal establishment of the Conference of Asian Statisticians in 1957,<sup>5/</sup> efforts to assist Asian countries in the further development of statistics and statistical methods were strengthened and systemized. The Second Conference of Asian Statisticians was held in Bangkok, 8 - 19 December 1958 and, like the first Conference, was sponsored jointly by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization (with forty-nine participants from eighteen member and associate member countries). The third Conference is scheduled to meet 5 - 15 April 1960.

5. Further steps to link the work on the development of statistics of the Inter American Statistical Institute with that of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were taken in 1959 at the eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (14 - 23 May 1959). The Secretariat of ECLA was authorized, in active co-operation with governments, the Statistical Office, the Inter American Statistical Institute and specialized agencies concerned to plan a meeting in 1960 of national experts in industrial statistics in connexion with the United Nations programme for industrial censuses in 1962-1963. Similar steps were to be taken in due course in respect of other statistical subjects important for economic development purposes (resolution 154 (VIII), E/3246/Rev.2).

6. The Conference of European Statisticians continued the work initiated in 1953<sup>6/</sup> with two plenary sessions of the directors of the European statistical offices (in 1958 and 1959) and eight meetings of specialized Working Groups or Expert Groups as authorized by the Conference.

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<sup>5/</sup> See E/CN.3/249, para. 138; Ad Hoc Regional Conferences of Statisticians have been held in Asia, 22 January - 3 February 1951 (E/CN.11/265); 1 - 13 September 1952 (E/CN.11/354); 1 - 11 March 1954 (E/CN.11/390); 29 March - 7 April 1956 (E/CN.11/433); 8 - 17 April 1957 (also the First Conference of Asian Statisticians - E/CN.11/456).

<sup>6/</sup> Ad Hoc Regional Meetings of European Statisticians, under the auspices of the United Nations, began as early as 1949. The first meeting was 14-18 March 1949 (E/CN.3/Conf.1/3); the second, 17-21 September 1951 (E/CN.3/Conf.2/1); the third, 15-19 June 1953 (E/CN.3/Conf.3/1). The latter was simultaneously the first session of the Conference of European Statisticians. Later sessions were: 14-19 June 1954 (Conf.Eur.Stats/19); 26 September - 1 October 1955 (Conf.Eur.Stats/37); 25-30 June 1956 (Conf.Eur.Stats/61); 17-21 June 1957 (Conf.Eur.Stats/80); 2-6 June 1958 (Conf.Eur.Stats/94); 8-12 June 1959 (Conf.Eur.Stats/112).



7. These activities, taken together, represent a substantial effort which reaches practically all national statistical offices of countries within the United Nations family. While administrative and other arrangements differ considerably among the four regions, substantially similar activities are carried on and similar results achieved. All projects, Working Groups and other activities are closely linked with the work of the Statistical Office and the Statistical Commission. The nature of the work is essentially that of furthering the work of the Commission itself in relation to regional conditions. The regional machinery provides a forum for the exchange of information on technical methods, problems and concepts at the operating level. It assists in activities to give effect to recommendations of the Statistical Commission and other international organs in the light of national and regional conditions. It is available to advise the Commission on regional points of view in connexion with projects on which the Commission is working.

8. In addition, attention should be drawn to the fact that several specialized agencies have established, or are in the process of establishing, posts for regional statisticians. WHO has statisticians in South East Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Western Pacific and the Eastern Mediterranean. FAO has statisticians in the Far East, the Near East (including North Africa), Central and South America and Africa. ILO has a regional statistician in Africa and UNESCO one in Africa and one in Latin America.

9. The availability in the different regions of statisticians of the main statistical agencies contributes materially to the systematic development of statistics in special fields as well as to the total effort of United Nations agencies in the work of the Conferences and similar institutions. The limited decentralization represented by the Conference arrangements and the regional statisticians would appear to represent forward steps of considerable consequence in connexion with the development of national statistics in under-developed countries. The Commission may wish to comment upon the present trends.

10. Basic statistics for economic and social development. At its tenth session the Statistical Commission made a number of suggestions on memoranda (E/CN.3/248 and E/CN.3/L.41) prepared by the Secretary-General dealing with statistical series which would be of assistance to the less industrialized countries in connexion with programmes of economic and social development. The specific comments of the

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Commission were incorporated in a revised memorandum which was sent to the members of the Commission for further comments. Several members made comments which were taken into account in the final version.

11. Subsequently the memorandum was issued as Statistical Series for the Use of Less Developed Countries in Programmes of Economic and Social Development (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 31) in English, French and Spanish.

12. As noted in the introduction of the publication, "the list was not to be considered a minimum or standard set of statistical series which less developed countries should have, either immediately or even ultimately". Rather, it was to be considered a general guide which might assist the statistical offices of those countries to establish objectives and the order of development of their statistical work. The Commission will recall that the text accompanying the list elaborates the purposes of particular series and groups of series in the context of their usefulness in development programmes. The Commission will wish to note that the list of series and the accompanying text have proved very useful in the work of the Conference of Asian Statisticians and at the eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Conference of Asian Statisticians maintains this subject upon its agenda as a standing item and proposed activities are evaluated in the light of the considerations set forth in the basic document. In resolution 15<sup>4</sup> (VIII) the Economic Commission for Latin America requested the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the agencies concerned and using the basic list of statistics for economic and social development, a minimum programme, adapted to conditions in Latin American countries.<sup>7/</sup>

13. Concurrently, a considerably shortened and simplified list was prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in connexion with the Statistical Survey of Africa. This list was discussed at the first Conference of African Statisticians, and modified in some particulars, as a basis for individual country programmes of statistical development.

14. While the Statistical Commission originally approached this project with some hesitation, it would appear that the study is proving useful in the preparation of national programmes, if only as a check-list and description of series which many

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<sup>7/</sup> E/3246/Rev.2, p. 28.

countries have found it practicable to compile and useful to have available. No doubt amendments and improvements can be made from time to time but in the meantime the Statistical Commission may wish to draw attention to its value.

15. Sample survey manual. At the last session of the Commission the view was expressed that it would be of assistance to countries to have "a practical manual illustrating the operational and mathematical aspects of sampling techniques under given costs". A study entitled A Short Manual on Sampling - Elements of Sample Survey Theory was accordingly drafted and sent to several experts, most of whom very kindly furnished valuable comments, as a result of which the first draft was extensively revised and has been sent for reproduction. The Manual is in two parts. In Part I theoretical concepts and processes are described, discussed and compared in as simple terms as possible, with emphasis on common sense rather than the mathematical aspects of the subject, although usually formulae of estimation are given. Part II consists for the most part of a set of examples illustrating a wide variety of processes, prefaced by formulae for estimating the mean (or aggregate) and the relevant error variance, and indicating in some detail manipulation of the data. These data consist of a body of actual agricultural statistics for an area in a European country. Through some twenty processes therefore the problem was always the same, namely, the estimation of average number of cattle per farm.

16. Incidental reference only is made to sampling in practice, the general conduct of the inquiry, training and control of interviewers, processing of data, treatment of non-response, and other topics of the kind. It is hoped to publish a supplementary volume dealing with these aspects.

17. A forthcoming publication of FAO - Part I, Collecting Data and Tabulation - also deals with applied aspects of sampling. It discusses, with special reference to agriculture, sample censuses and the various possibilities of using sampling methods in connexion with complete enumeration (such as auxiliary sample surveys, broadening the scope of census programmes, collecting information on changes and the use of sampling methods in tabulation). In addition, the publication gives some comments on adjusting sample results and on sample errors.

18. Compilation of industrial statistics. The Statistical Commission frequently has referred to the need that the Secretary-General compile and publish basic statistics on the more important economic and social subjects for national and

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international use. In this context the Secretary-General has prepared Patterns of Industrial Growth, which shows the changes which have taken place in the nature and level of industrial activity (including mining, manufacturing, construction, electric and gas industries) between 1938 and 1958.<sup>8/</sup> Part I of the publication gives comparable data for the world as a whole and for countries grouped according to six regions and four degrees of industrialization, based on value added in manufacturing per capita in 1953. Part II consists of country chapters giving index numbers of production, value added, employment, wages and salaries paid, capacity of installed power equipment and the number of industrial units, together with selected ratios to facilitate analytical use. The new publication is scheduled for release in May 1960.

19. Measurements of levels of living. In accordance with a resolution of the Commission at its tenth session (resolution 13 (X), E/CN.3/3126), the Secretary-General has continued work on the development of indicators of the level of living in collaboration with the specialized agencies. A detailed progress report is contained in document E/CN.3/270. It is felt that this work has advanced during the period. It has been especially facilitated through the organization in 1959, by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, of an ad hoc group called the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes. The Working Party consists of statisticians and substantive officers of the agencies mainly concerned: FAO, ILO, the United Nations, UNESCO and WHO.

20. Directory of International Standards for Statistics. This Directory, first published in 1955 at the request of the Commission, has been up-dated and will be available soon. At the tenth session the Commission requested that the Secretary-General prepare a bibliography of all methodological publications in statistics produced by United Nations agencies and conferences. This has been done and the bibliography will appear as Part B of the revised Directory of International Standards for Statistics (Series M, No. 22, Rev.1). Some degree of selectivity was exercised to exclude certain transient publications and documents and ones not considered to have wide applicability. In general, the methodological references were limited to those referring to existing standards and guiding principles.

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<sup>8/</sup> Comprising major groups 11-40 and 511-512 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (Series M, No. 4, Rev.1).

21. As regards the question of wide circulation of technical materials among statisticians, arrangements have been made for materials originating through the work of the Conferences and at the Headquarters of the various international agencies to receive appropriate circulation to national offices and other users. This does not mean that all offices receive copies of all documents and memoranda; the total volume of such material has assumed such large proportions that it is feasible to circulate materials only on a selective basis. At the same time, every care is taken that offices in the less well developed countries receive, or are informed about, materials needed for the development of their statistical programmes.

22. Current economic indicators. Since the last session of the Statistical Commission, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 690 C (XXVI), requested the Secretary-General

"(a) to prepare and publish at as frequent intervals as practicable an up-to-date appraisal of the world economic situation and short-term outlook, and to draw attention to any changes in it that may affect in the near future the levels of economic activity, the volume of international trade and the growth of under-developed countries; and

"(b) to review periodically the information available for that purpose and take or suggest such measures as may be advisable to improve it."

The resolution invited the Secretary-General to submit to the twenty-eighth session of the Council in July 1959 a preliminary report on the work carried out to date, and to submit to the thirtieth session a further report on the subject on the basis of which the Council would consider subsequent action and arrangements.

23. In carrying out this request, the Secretary-General convened a small group of experts in June 1959. The group commented upon the specific proposals for the content of a quarterly publication. The substance of the discussion was conveyed to the Council's twenty-eighth session, together with a draft publication (document E/3266/Add.1). Since then the plans have been given a more final form, in consultation with governments, and it is expected that a preliminary issue of Current Economic Indicators will be distributed about mid-April. A second issue

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is planned for mid-July. The Council will be given a further report at its thirtieth session (summer 1960).

24. In accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Group the publication will consist of three parts. The first part will be devoted to the presentation of the principal economic indicators at the global and regional level, with the addition for comparative purposes of the related series for the main country elements in each aggregate. In this part, extensive use will be made of global and regional index numbers of industrial production, and index numbers of current value, quantum and unit value of international trade now compiled by the Statistical Office. International payments problems will be highlighted by the provision of parallel information on trade balances, terms of trade, drawings from the International Monetary Fund, gold and foreign exchange holdings and commodity price levels.

25. The second part of the quarterly bulletin will attempt to illuminate in broadly comparable fashion the current problems of the under-developed areas. For this purpose the Statistical Office has prepared a considerable number of new statistical series including a set of "global" and "regional" aggregates for the under-developed areas parallel to those presented in Part 1 for the world economy as a whole. Among the more important of these special compilations will be index numbers of industrial production, of trade with the developed countries and of the general price level of primary commodities exported by the under-developed areas.

26. The third part of the publication, accounting for one half of its fifty pages, will consist of the integrated presentation of selected indicators for each of six leading industrial countries. The scope of these indicators will be broadly uniform from country to country except in those instances where lack of comparable data, or the special structure of the country's economy, has required deviation from the standard pattern. Primary emphasis will be given to the presentation of quarterly national accounting and balance-of-payments statements as general indicators of the current economic situation, and to selected series on inventory positions, industrial orders and construction contracts for the assessment of short-period developments.

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27. With a few exceptions, current information in the bulletin will be presented on a quarterly basis, the tables covering a period of 1-2 years and the related charts a period of 3-4 years. Annual data covering the period from 1953 to date will also be incorporated in the tables. Seasonally adjusted series will be employed wherever officially authorized by the country concerned while, to meet the need for interpretation in the case of seasonally unadjusted series, a very brief narrative will be provided in conjunction with the charts and tables on each page. This narrative will have the general function of drawing attention to the salient features of the latest quarterly movement in the series represented.

28. Changes in the content of the bulletin will be introduced from time to time to take account of improvements in the supply of basic information and also to throw light on specific problems of the world economy as they arise. It is expected, for example, that it will soon be possible to establish a more uniform system of forward-looking series for each of the six countries referred to in part 3, and it is hoped that a system of forward-looking series for the world economy as a whole can be developed later on that basis. The present design and content of the bulletin should, however, satisfy the general demand that has been noted for a publication of this kind and should meet, in part, the request for more frequent appraisals of the world economic situation expressed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 690C (XXVI).

29. Energy statistics. The issue of World Energy Supplies covering the years 1955-1958 has two new aspects which may be of interest to the Commission. The publication in question is the first issued under an informal agreement with the World Power Conference by which the content of the volume is determined in consultation with the Conference and, to avoid duplication, the Conference discontinues its publication of data on the production, trade and consumption of energy. The Statistical Office, for its part, will as far as possible rely on the publication by the World Power Conference of statistics on energy resources.

30. Furthermore, the current issue of World Energy Supplies is the first Statistical Office publication for which the basic data were processed by large-scale (stored programme) electronic machine; the data for all but fifteen of the 120 pages of tables were prepared by machine without manual intervention beyond their extraction, in the original units, from national sources. The

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Computing Center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology generously co-operated with the Statistical Office in making the programme and processing the data. It is expected that the use of the programme for future annual issues will make possible substantially earlier release dates. The feasibility of similarly using a large machine to process the 1,600 pages of tables a year for Commodity Trade Statistics is being actively studied.



## II. TRENDS IN THE PRESENT PROGRAMME

31. The Commission is aware of the request of the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 694 D (XXVI), for an appraisal of the programme over the period 1959-1964. The following paragraphs from document E/3260/Add.1 contain the main views of the Secretary-General as to the nature and direction of future work. The Commission is invited to comment upon the views expressed and to indicate any other directions which the members would consider important at this stage.

32. "The general functions laid down in the first decisions of the Commission and the Council continued a historic trend which had been in the direction of an international centre which would meet the needs of countries for international statistical data, for information on methods, and for agreed standards to facilitate international comparability of statistical series. It is notable that the creation of the international statistical service charged with these functions coincided with a period of great advance in knowledge, which led to an increased demand for quantitative information in almost all fields, as distinct from the qualitative information which sufficed earlier. This meant that many countries without adequate statistical services were seeking assistance in setting up statistical services and in applying statistics to new fields. At the same time, international economic relations were being re-examined in quantitative terms, both multilaterally and bilaterally, from new points of view and on a scale that would have been inconceivable before World War II. In these circumstances it was inevitable that countries should look to the international statistical service to provide not only the data necessary for multilateral and international negotiation and action but also such data as would enable each country to measure its share in the principal economic quantities, viewed on a world scale, in comparison with the shares of other countries .....

33. "A complete description of the problems posed by the continual expansion of the needs of individual countries and institutions for this kind of information would involve a review of the whole field of contemporary economic problems and of the statistical information which countries require in connexion with these problems .....

34. "As indicated above, the direction of the work programme has been tending towards the provision of more data, for use by countries, of the kind which can be

most economically assembled internationally. A good deal of this sort of information can be provided by routine operations of a clerical kind, in the Statistical Office, once the system of assembling and compiling the data has been set up at the professional level and put in operation with the co-operation of the national offices. To extend the work in this direction, with consequent savings by the individual countries, would require an expansion of the clerical establishment of the Statistical Office and ultimately the provision of data processing equipment.

35. "The Statistical Commission has emphasized that further work is required both on statistics showing the general interrelation of the parts of the economies of countries and regions and on statistics applying specifically to areas where economic difficulties are arising or are expected to arise. The recent rapid expansion of the use of energy, for example, which is related to the rise in industrial production, brings up the specific question of the availability of sufficient resources of coal, petroleum and water-power and of the role which atomic energy may play. Another specific economic problem is presented by the balance of payments difficulties, which appear to be a recurrent phenomenon of international exchanges and which, at present, are associated with the fall in the prices of primary commodities; more complete use of the wealth of data available in foreign trade statistics would throw light on the problem.

36. "Governments are realizing that the effects of the short-term measures they take to meet emergencies such as balance-of-payments crises or a falling level of employment cannot always be assessed without rigorous logical analysis of mathematical type. Analysis of this sort depends on the availability of persons able to carry it out and of suitable statistical information. Much of this information is contained in national accounts and they require to be expanded by input-output and flow of funds analyses. The techniques underlying this approach need also to be made available to under-developed countries through the establishment of standards and methods adapted to their needs. Since foreign trade plays such a large part in their economies, a study of ways of determining the effects of trade on individual economic sectors may have to be made.

37. "More and better information on sources of investment, on capital requirements and on the economic results of the capital invested in specific sectors of the

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economy are also needed. A related area which needs emphasis is that of financial statistics. Parallel with industrial development there is accumulating a mass of financial and accounting data, both in the private and public sectors. More consideration will have to be given to the development of ways of usefully organizing these data.

38. "The long-range problems of finding the balance of manpower, agricultural production and industrial activity most likely in each country to further economic and social growth are subject to statistical treatment. Because of their very wide scope, much of the data bearing on these problems will have to be obtained by statistical sampling, rather than by full enumeration, particularly in underdeveloped countries. Wherever there are large or mobile populations, interpenetrating cultural and language patterns, wide areas without technically trained personnel or difficult of access, the use of sampling methods is indicated. The results of experience of their use must be widely disseminated and competent advice must be offered the governments so that they will recognize the power, and also the limitations of sampling procedures.

39. "An important expansion in the publications programme is expected to be necessary as a result of the growing demand for data on the part of individual countries. In this connexion, also, the problem will have to be faced of devising means of providing published data to the numerous government agencies in each country, whose work would be facilitated by them. Reports made to the Statistical Office indicate that the provision of a few copies of a document, such as the Statistical Yearbook, is not sufficient to meet the needs of government services ...

40. "In the coming five years, it can be expected that the growing needs of countries will involve a demand on their part for further data required for special purposes, as distinct from the arrays of data which up to now have met their more general needs. An example of this kind of data is the demand for short-term indicators of economic change, which was requested by the Council at its twenty-sixth session (resolution 690 C (XXVI)). A further example is the demand for detailed statistics on individual commodities - this relates mainly to primary commodities, changes in the supply, demand and prices of which affect the fortunes of many countries and which are consequently becoming more and more the subject of international discussion and negotiation.

41. "The demands of countries for direct assistance in developing statistics may also be expected to increase, since it is clear that much more remains to be done in this area than has been achieved up to now, while at the same time the awareness of countries of their needs for statistical data is continually increasing ....

42. "Direct assistance in training of statisticians to countries which do not have the necessary facilities will have to be increased. It may be that the increased needs will be met most economically and effectively by centralizing training in the Statistical Office of the United Nations where training would be combined with the day-to-day tasks of data processing and analysis."

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL STANDARDS

#### United Nations Statistical Office

43. New proposals and progress. During the period 1958-1959 the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the development of uniform statistical standards has been maintained and even accelerated. The main proposals of the United Nations for new or improved standards, which require Commission action, are contained in detailed documentation as follows:

- (a) Industrial statistics, documents E/CN.3/257, E/CN.3/258, E/CN.3/259 and E/CN.3/260.
- (b) Wholesale price statistics, document E/CN.3/264.
- (c) External trade statistics, document E/CN.3/261 and Annex.
- (d) Input-output statistics, document E/CN.3/266.
- (e) Statistics for social programmes, documents E/CN.3/268, E/CN.3/269, E/CN.3/271.
- (f) Housing statistics, documents E/CN.3/R.2 and Add.1, E/CN.3/274 and E/CN.3/275.

44. Progress reports upon standards already elaborated and in effect are contained in the following documents:

- (a) Population census programme, document E/CN.3/276.
- (b) National accounts, document E/CN.3/267.
- (c) Measurement of levels of living, document E/CN.3/270.
- (d) Housing censuses, document E/CN.3/272.
- (e) Classification of government accounts, document E/CN.3/279.

45. Statistics of distribution. International Recommendations in Statistics of Distribution, Series M. No. 26, was issued in accordance with a decision of the Statistical Commission at its ninth session.<sup>9/</sup> This publication sets out the recommendations of the Statistical Commission on monthly or quarterly, annual, and less frequent statistics of the distributive trades - i.e., wholesale and retail trade and related service establishments - for purposes of providing technical guidance to Governments undertaking work in this field. Also included in the publication are explanations of the nature and background of the recommendations of the Commission. A number of the countries which are planning

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<sup>9/</sup> Resolution 2 (IX), E/2876.

censuses or other infrequent surveys of industrial establishments for 1963 or a year close to 1963 are considering taking, at the same time, similar inquiries into the distributive trades.

46. In further response to the Commission's decision, the Secretary-General is planning to prepare in 1960 a technical manual, elaborating concepts and methods. The manual will include a comparative study of country practices. The Commission may wish to comment further upon the subject of distribution statistics.

47. It is noted that distribution statistics is to be a part of the economic census programme of the Committee for the Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) of the Inter-American Statistical Institute. It is noted also that several countries have recently established annual inquiries, and some countries have developed monthly series.

48. International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities. At its tenth session, the Statistical Commission considered a revision (in the light of current patterns in the organization of economic activity) of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) which had been originally adopted in 1948. This revision has now been published as Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev.1. In addition, as the Commission requested, detailed numeric and alphabetic indexes to the revised ISIC have been issued (Indexes to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev.1, Add.1). The numeric indexes of the common kinds of activities, commodities made or dealt in, or establishments that characterize each group of the ISIC consist of some 10,000 entries. The alphabetic indexes cover about 17,000 entries of this type. Because many national statistical offices are engaged in revising their schemes of industrial classification and the ISIC is being utilized to an increasing extent in this work, as well as in the development of industrial classifications by business and other organizations, there has been wide demand for these two publications. Over seventy countries now have schemes of classifying statistics according to kind of economic activity, which are comparable to the ISIC; fifty of these countries are known to have based their system of industrial classification directly on the ISIC.

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49. International travel and migration statistics. At the suggestion of the ILO, the responsibilities formerly discharged by that agency in the field of international migration statistics were transferred to the United Nations at the beginning of 1959, through an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the ILO within the framework of the general agreement between the two organizations on the co-ordination of statistical activities. The transfer applies in particular to the establishment, maintenance and interpretation of standards, the answering of inquiries on methods, the collection of data from Governments and their compilation. The United Nations, assuming primary responsibility for international work on migration statistics, is to provide data required for tables on migration included in the Year Book of Labour Statistics and, within available resources, for special ILO studies on migration.

50. Together with the ILO, the United Nations Secretariat maintained an interest in the Joint Statistical Project on European Migration, conducted mainly by the secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) with participation also from the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC). The project consisted in a detailed review of emigration and immigration data available for selected European and overseas countries. The results of the study are available in a report distributed to Governments, containing estimates of the gross migration between the countries selected and presented in matrix form.<sup>10/</sup>

51. The publication of Economic Characteristics of International Migrants: Statistics for Selected Countries, 1918-1954<sup>11/</sup> completed for the time being a programme initiated in 1948 under resolution 156 (VII) of the Economic and Social Council with the purpose of providing the more important data required for analyses of international migration.

52. The work programme and priorities adopted by the Statistical Commission at its tenth session left only minimum resources available for work by the Secretariat

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<sup>10/</sup> A Decade of Post-World-War II European Migration, 1946-1955, OEEC and ICEM doc. MO (58) 31.

<sup>11/</sup> Population Studies, Series A, No. 12.

on international travel and migration statistics. These resources were concentrated on the collection of data from Governments for international yearbooks. The Commission's recommendations of 1953 on migration statistics<sup>12/</sup> continued to be the basis of a questionnaire covering in some detail the characteristics of long-term migrants as well as basic data on the other categories of international travellers shown in the 1953 nomenclature. The co-operation of the national statistical offices, in an extensive exchange of correspondence, made it possible in several instances to improve the coverage and quality of the series. Particular attention was paid to differences between the visitors' statistics shown in previous editions of the Demographic Yearbook and the Statistical Yearbook. These differences could be eliminated in most cases. The suggestion made by the Commission in 1956<sup>13/</sup> to show transit visitors separately from other visitors has been followed in the table on departures and arrivals included in the Demographic Yearbook 1959, cruise-ship visitors and one-day excursionists also being shown separately, whenever possible. Preference was given to the definitions proposed by the International Union of Official Travel Organisations (IUOTO) for transit visitors and for excursionists.<sup>14/</sup> It is hoped that these dispositions will make it easier to compare the visitors statistics available in the international publications, and that they may contribute to the over-all improvement of these statistics.

53. Emphasis continued to be placed on the simplification of frontier formalities. In June 1958, the Council of ICAO endorsed a statement of its Air Transport Committee advocating the elimination of individual clearance forms, including the Embarkation/Disembarkation card. In November 1959, the General Assembly of IUOTO expressed the view "that no frontier formalities or clearance documents should be sustained or introduced for the purpose of obtaining statistical data, and that other methods should be found to obtain the data necessary for statistical purposes". Governments wishing to implement these suggestions may have to exercise

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<sup>12/</sup> International Migration Statistics, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 20, United Nations, 1953, Chapter II.

<sup>13/</sup> E/2876, para. 153.

<sup>14/</sup> International Travel Statistics, 1957, p. 3.



their discretion in deciding on priorities between travel facilitation and statistical information. Where the Embarkation/Disembarkation card is in use, it could be made suitable for collecting basic travel statistics with a few minor changes or additions. The possibility of introducing these modifications is being further explored with ICAO and IUOTO.

54. In 1958 a Nordic passport zone was established between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, within which no frontier control statistics can be obtained. In a number of other countries, where foreign travel is heavy, frontier formalities seem to have been reduced below the point where they provide an opportunity for collecting any but very general travel statistics. In some of these countries other means, such as population registers, have been resorted to for statistical reporting, but not always without a loss of useful information.

55. At the same time, in a large number of countries, where the growing volume of foreign travel remains of more manageable size, efforts have been made towards a better implementation of the Commission's recommendations of 1953, resulting in improvements in the scope and quality of travel and migration data. An indication of this improvement is the increase of 50 per cent (from 71 to 106) between 1957 and 1959 in the number of countries for which travel and migration data are published in international yearbooks.

56. The situation briefly described above suggests that the 1953 recommendations of the Commission continue to be of practical value for the guidance of a majority of countries. The recommendations could in due course be expanded to embody practices which have been developed, for example, with respect to visitors statistics, as indicated above.

57. At the same time, some countries which represent an important share of the world's international travel experience serious difficulties with the usual methods for collecting the statistical information which they need on travellers. On the basis of evidence available, it appears that countries whose foreign travel is very heavy, particularly over land frontiers, may have to obtain data for the different categories of the 1953 nomenclature by the simultaneous use of a variety of methods. Frontier control may remain the best opportunity for collecting figures on the size of the more numerous categories of travellers, but this operation will increasingly require ingenuity in the use of sampling methods and

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co-ordination between frontier control services and statistical offices. This co-ordination may be improved on a national basis and, in some cases, between neighbouring countries, as had been envisaged in the 1953 recommendations. For the groups of travellers which are of relatively smaller size and for which more detailed classifications are required (long-term migrants; in certain countries, seasonal and other short-term immigrants), it may be necessary to use sources other than frontier control, such as population registers (when they exist) and residence or labour permits. Unfortunately, the utilization of these sources for the collection of meaningful and comparable data, continues to present unresolved difficulties.<sup>15/</sup>

58. Under the circumstances, taking into account resolution 563 (XIX) of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 23 (IX) of the Statistical Commission, it is felt that it might be expedient to have regional discussions to consider in sufficient detail the various methods which can be used by Governments interested in maintaining and improving statistical information on the different aspects of international travel (movements of visitors, migrants and other groups, visitors' expenditures, etc.) under the diverse levels of travel facilitation which now exist. The participants in these discussions might include some frontier control officials as well as experts on visitors statistics, migration statistics, and population registration in those regions where this would be required. It is hoped that the discussions would lead to suggestions of immediate use to the countries of the region where the meetings are held. In addition, they would be of value to the Commission if it should wish to review its recommendations of 1953 and the recommendations made in 1937 by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations on "tourist statistics". The discussions could be organized in the form of expert working groups or otherwise, with the support of the regional conferences of statisticians and with the participation of interested specialized agencies, IUOTO, and regional travel associations where appropriate. Action in this direction would depend on a sufficient allocation of resources, among those available to the Secretariat. The Commission may wish to indicate its views on the above proposals for the development of international travel and migration statistics, and to take appropriate action when it considers the work programme and priorities.

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<sup>15/</sup> Cf. Problems of Migration Statistics, Population Studies, Series A, No. 5, United Nations, 1949.

Population Commission - tenth session

59. The tenth session of the Population Commission was held in Geneva, 9-20 February 1959. Some features of the Commission's report (E/3207/Rev.1) and recommendations, and of the relevant work of the Secretariat, which are of special interest to the Statistical Commission, are briefly summarized here.

60. 1960 World Population Census Programme. In considering this Programme, the Population Commission was concerned mainly with ways and means of encouraging and assisting the Governments of under-developed countries to utilize the results of the censuses effectively as aids to policy-making and planning of economic and social development programmes. The Commission recommended (E/3207/Rev.1, para. 55) that seminars be held for discussion of this aspect of national census programmes, and of the problems of evaluating the quality of census results. Accordingly, a Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Results in Latin America was held in Santiago, Chile, 30 November-18 December 1959. The discussions at this Seminar centred mainly on the planning of integrated national programmes of census field operations, data processing, evaluation and analysis of results with a view to major applications in the economic and social fields. The preliminary report of the Seminar (E/CN.9/CONF.1/1) is being prepared for distribution. A similar seminar is planned to be held in Asia and the Far East during 1960.

61. As a part of the preparations for these seminars, the Secretary-General obtained the co-operation of certain Governments in case studies of national arrangements for the evaluation and utilization of results of population censuses. The report of a case study of this question in the Republic of the Sudan has been published (ST/SOA/SER.R/1), and reports of studies in Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran, Japan, and the United Arab Republic are being prepared.

62. The Population Commission also recommended (E/3207/Rev.1, para. 36) that the Secretary-General co-operate with a Government in a study which would demonstrate the usefulness of an analysis of census results in providing basic information for policy-making and planning of development programmes. Such a co-operative study is now being carried out in the Republic of the Sudan, as a part of the Population Commission's programme of demographic pilot studies.

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63. Reviewing the development of international standards for the population censuses to be taken in and around 1960, the Population Commission suggested (ibid., para. 45) that a study be made of the extent to which regional recommendations differed from the world-wide norms, with a view to safeguarding inter-regional comparability.

64. Other questions relevant to the development of demographic statistics.

The Population Commission expressed the hope (ibid., paras. 46, 47) that a methodological survey of population registration systems and their uses could be undertaken in the near future, as previously recommended by the Statistical Commission, and that efforts to improve vital statistics would again be intensified, as the 1960 World Census Programme had begun.

65. Noting that in many countries of Africa essential demographic statistics are lacking or of doubtful reliability, the Population Commission suggested for the consideration of the Economic Commission for Africa a programme of demographic work including a review and evaluation of the available data, to be related to the proposed Statistical Survey of Africa (ibid., para. 68).

66. Reviewing the Demographic Yearbook programme, the Population Commission particularly commended the practice of rotation of specially featured topics in successive issues, and requested that consideration be given to the differentiation of data given in the Yearbook according to the degree of their accuracy, and to reinstatement of the practice of including a bibliography of sources of demographic statistics (ibid., para. 48).

67. The Population Commission discussed in some detail the problem of developing information on internal migration in under-developed countries, and agreed that available resources for work in this field should be concentrated mainly on studies of movements between rural and urban areas (ibid., para. 39-41). The Secretary-General was requested to invite the co-operation of the specialized agencies, interested governments and local institutions in sample surveys of in-migration to selected cities and out-migration from rural areas, in connexion with the censuses to be taken in and around 1960. The purpose would be to test and develop methods of study and to demonstrate the utility of results. Possibilities of including such projects in the research programmes of the regional demographic centres for Asia and the Far East and Latin America are being explored.

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68. Population projections. The Secretariat has prepared schematic series of population projections for the world as a whole, world regions, and each country, and more detailed projections of population by sex and age for the countries of Central America (including Mexico), South America, and Asia and the Far East, as well as a methodological manual on the projection of population by sex and age groups.<sup>16/</sup> The Population Commission, at its tenth session, reluctantly recommended that work in this field be temporarily abated during the next few years, because of the limitations of staff resources, but that it should be resumed when the results of the censuses to be taken in and around 1960 become available. At that time, additional population projections by sex and age groups are to be prepared, and further studies of the methods of projections are to be undertaken, including methods of projecting the economically active population, school-age population, number and size-distribution of households, and urban and rural population (*ibid.*, paras. 30-32). Meanwhile the Secretariat has begun to compile an analytical bibliography of projections of the latter types, with special reference to the methods used.

Conference of European Statisticians

69. The statistical unit. An Expert Group was convened in February 1958. The group discussed the problem of a common economic unit for all economic statistics, identified various sub-units of the enterprise, discussed the definition of the enterprise and of these sub-units and briefly considered the principles for grouping statistical units into economically significant sectors and the items of data appropriate to different statistical units (Conf.Eur.Stats./81). This work is closely co-ordinated with the activities of the Statistical Commission.

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<sup>16/</sup> The Future Growth of World Population (Population Studies, Series A, No. 28); Future Population Estimates by Sex and Age. Report I. The Population of Central America (Including Mexico), 1950-1980 (Population Studies, Series A, No. 16), Report II. The Population of South America, 1950-1980 (Population Studies, Series A, No. 21), Report III. The Population of South-East Asia (including Ceylon and China: Taiwan), 1950-1980 (Population Studies, Series A, No. 30), Report IV. The Population of Asia and the Far East, 1950-1980 (Population Studies, Series A, No. 31); Methods of Estimating Population. Manual III. Methods of Population Projections by Sex and Age (Population Studies, Series A, No. 25).

70. Censuses of agriculture. At a second session (convened, like the first, in co-operation with the FAO) in September 1958, the Working Group on Agricultural Censuses and Surveys prepared a European Supplement to the FAO Program for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture. The world recommendations were further elaborated in a number of respects and recommendations concerning the application of sampling methods were included under each of the subjects covered (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.8/14).

71. Censuses of population. At its fourth session (November 1958) the Working Group completed the preparation of a European programme for the forthcoming population censuses as a regional variant of the Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses drawn up by the Statistical Commission. The main respects in which this programme went beyond the world recommendations were the elaboration of the classifications by economic characteristics and the inclusion of many additional household, family and dependency data (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.6/81).

72. Censuses of housing. The Working Group also prepared a European programme for the forthcoming housing censuses on the basis of the General Principles for a Housing Census adopted by the Statistical Commission. In addition to converting the world principles into a precise statistical programme, the Working Group expanded the tabulation programme with particular reference to the provision of data on the housing conditions of households as well as on the characteristics of housing units and the occupancy of these units (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.6/82).

73. Statistics of private consumption expenditure. At its second session (March 1958) the Working Group on Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes discussed the sources of data for and the possibilities and methods of compiling monthly and quarterly indicators of the various items (and of the total) of private consumption expenditure and prepared a programme for the collection of statistics in this field (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.7/55).

74. The Working Group on Statistics of Private Consumption Expenditure met in November 1959 and discussed in detail the uses of statistics of private consumption expenditure, and the theoretical statistical requirements for these uses; the definition of private consumption expenditure; and the items to be included in a basic European list of expenditure categories by types of goods and services. The Group recommended a number of changes in the classification of private consumption

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expenditure given in the United Nations System of National Accounts and also sub-divisions of several items, with the chief aim of distinguishing systematically between goods and services. It is proposed that a further meeting be held to discuss the various types of classifications which may be derived for particular purposes from the basic list of goods and services, the sub-division of the data by groups of the population, priorities and methods of collection. The question of the relationship between annual and short-term statistics also needs further study.

75. Statistics of financial assets and liabilities. An Expert Group on Statistics of Changes in Financial Assets and Liabilities met in February 1959. The Group reached a number of conclusions, notably on the uses of integrated financial and non-financial accounts, the classification and definition of sectors, the classification of financial assets and liabilities by type, and on the accounting structure, the latter in the form of a minimum programme of accounts to be distinguished by sectors. The Group recommended that a statement on integrated income and financial accounts should be drawn up, on the basis of its conclusions, for discussion by a full Working Group. The Conference agreed to convene a Working Group to study the classifications and cross-classifications of the sectors to be distinguished, classifications of assets and liabilities by type and consideration of problems of valuation. The statement mentioned above has been circulated as document Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.11/30; the Working Group met in February 1960.<sup>17/</sup>

76. Industrial statistics. A Working Group on Industrial Statistics was set up and met in January 1960 to formulate consolidated European comments on the draft proposals for revisions in the International Standards in Basic Industrial Statistics and the draft plans for the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Inquiries. The Group outlined the approach which might be taken in adapting for Europe the 1963 World Programme to take full account of European needs, problems and possibilities. Consideration was also given to the needs for inter-relating statistics on enterprise-type units with those on establishment-type units and to the desirability of developing directories delineating the relationship between the various statistical units utilized in economic inquiries (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.13/5).

<sup>17/</sup> A short report on this meeting is contained in document E/CN.3/267, Progress Report on National Accounting and Associated Topics. 7...

77. Statistics of capital formation and capital consumption. At its sixth session the Conference adopted a European Programme for Statistics of Fixed Capital Formation which was circulated as document Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.3/57. The Programme, which is related to the world standards in this field, contains recommendations concerning the statistics to be collected at annual and quarterly intervals, the definition and coverage of the statistics, valuation, standard classifications, priorities and methods of collection. The Conference also took note of a paper prepared by the Secretariat contrasting the "gross" and "gross-gross" concepts of capital formation (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.3/55) and another describing differences in national provisions for capital consumption (Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.3/56).

#### Conference of Asian Statisticians

78. Census programmes. The proposals of FAO for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture were discussed at both the first and second sessions of the Conference. A supplement to the world programme was prepared incorporating such changes as appeared desirable in the light of Asian conditions. The 1960 World Population Census Programme was discussed at the second session, at which a number of recommendations were made to adapt certain sections of the Programme, especially those concerned with economic characteristics, to conditions within the region.

79. Sampling methods. The Working Group of Experts on Sampling Methods was convened in Bangkok from 14 to 25 September 1959, with 20 participants. The Group discussed the application of sampling methods, with special reference to conditions in the ECAFE region, and placed emphasis on the use of sampling methods in the 1960 world censuses of population and of agriculture. The Group gave detailed consideration also to the preparation of frames, maps, and collection and maintenance of information necessary for designing a proper sample survey. It paid close attention to the use of census data as a basis for future sample surveys. The Group also discussed ways for developing sample organizations, the difficulties involved, and how they should be overcome.



80. Capital formation. The Working Group of Experts on Capital Formation was convened in Bangkok from 16 to 27 November 1959. Thirteen experts participated. Following the recommendations of the Statistical Commission and of the Conference, the Working Group addressed itself to a critical examination of the methods of estimation of capital formation in the countries of the ECAFE area, with a view to recommending what improvements could be made with the available statistics, and what additional statistics should be collected for further improving these estimates.

81. In view of their importance, the Group gave detailed consideration to problems of estimating capital formation from imports of machinery and equipment, and to capital formation in the government sector. The special problems of estimation of capital formation in the rural sector, and in particular the non-monetized sector, and in community projects and methods of collection of the requisite data through sample surveys were also discussed.

#### Conference of African Statisticians

82. Statistical Survey of Africa. The Survey comprises a list of topics, broadly defined, which were considered by the participants at the First Conference of African Statisticians to be of the first importance to the processes of economic and social development. The topics, which form the targets for statistical development over the next five years, include: population; labour; agriculture (including forestry and fishing); industry; transport and communications; education; health and health services; external trade; money and banking; government finance; personal income, expenditure and consumption; housing; distribution; and a few miscellaneous other subjects which might be important to some countries. The programme agreed by the Conference is to be examined in detail by the statisticians of each country, in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, in the light of national capacities and priorities. A firm programme is thus to be prepared for consideration of the Conference or another meeting.

83. In addition, special early attention was to be given to certain topics to establish standards suitable to the region or sub-regions. The questions of coverage and valuation in the subsistence sector, for example, were selected for early attention.<sup>18/</sup>

18/ E/CN.14/25.

Inter-American Statistical Institute

84. Continuing along the lines of past activities, the work programme of the Inter American Statistical Institute (IASI) for the period 1958-1960 includes individual projects connected with the development of statistical standards for inter-American use, taking into consideration, whenever available, recommendations intended for world-wide use and of tools for implementing the application of those standards. The objectives and status of such projects in the various fields covered are summarized below.

85. Census programmes. The final inter-American minimum for the censuses of population, housing and agriculture were approved by COINS in November 1958. A minimum programme for industrial censuses is being developed on the basis of the results of consultation by IASI among the American nations on the United Nations Draft Proposals for the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Inquiries. The final programme is expected to be ready before November 1960 for approval by COINS.

86. Occupational and industrial classifications. An occupational classification structure for the 1960 Census of America (COTA-1960) has been issued in final form, according to the recommendations made by COINS in November 1958. It provides a basis for convertibility to the International Standard Classification of Occupations at the level of sub-groups. The preparation of coding manuals in Spanish to the Occupational Classification for the 1960 Census of America and to the International Standard Industrial Classification is nearing completion. The coded lists of occupations and industrial activities included in these two manuals have been made on the basis of descriptions provided by the American nations and in similar guides published by the International Labour Office and the United Nations Statistical Office.

87. Hospital statistics. A report on the pilot project for hospital statistics carried out in Guatemala was circulated to the pertinent offices in the American nations to obtain their opinion on the applicability in their territories of the organization and procedures developed. The next step will be the submission to COINS of proposed standards for this type of statistics.

88. Medico-social statistics. A pilot project in the field of statistics of diseases of medico-social interest (tuberculosis, cancer, mental diseases, etc.),

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or of medico-social statistics related to special population groups (such as those covered by social security, social welfare services, etc.), is planned. An outcome of the project would be a study on methodology for inter-American use in the compilation of this type of statistics.

89. Statistics on abandoned children. In a study under the title Consideraciones Generales sobre las Estadísticas de la Infancia Abandonada, prepared for the Eleventh Pan American Child Congress, the definition and classification of abandonment, as well as the methodology of the related statistics, were discussed and further work is expected to be developed in an attempt to formulate standards for inter-American use in this field. This is a joint project of the Inter-American Children's Institute, UNESCO, UNICEF and IASI.

90. Social security statistics. Progressive activities are contemplated towards the adoption of a minimum programme in the field of social security statistics which will take into consideration recommendations prepared by inter-American and world-wide institutions.

91. Current agricultural statistics. In close co-operation with FAO, work was carried out in the field of agricultural statistics as requested from the two organizations by the Subcommittee on Statistical Co-ordination of the Central American Isthmus. This covered a minimum programme for the region and a discussion of problems connected with statistics of prices received by farmers.

92. Maritime statistics. As a result of surveys and studies performed, a report was prepared on the programme outlined by the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, summarizing the present status of and possibilities open for the compilation of this type of statistics by the American nations and pointing out the need for adjustments in the original project.

#### International Labour Office

93. In its last report for the Statistical Commission, the ILO described its major statistical activities relating to international standards and the improvement of world-wide labour statistics series. As noted at that time, much of the ILO's work in statistical standards and methodology relates to the programme and recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. At

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the last (Ninth) Conference, held in 1957, particular attention was paid to occupational classification, social security statistics, and the measurement of under-employment.

94. Occupational classification. The publication, in December 1958, of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, marks a major step in the establishment of a uniform guide for manpower studies. Its availability at this time is particularly opportune because of the world-wide census programmes to be carried out during the next two years.

95. Social security statistics. Work on the development and standardization of social security statistics has continued in co-operation with the Association of Social Security Actuaries and the International Social Security Association. It is hoped that this area of work may be developed more rapidly in the future, not only to provide uniform measures of the costs and benefits of social security programmes, but to make the statistical end-products of social security operations meaningful for general economic analysis.

96. Under-employment. As recognized by the Ninth Conference, the measurement of under-employment involves many complex problems. Solutions for these problems are particularly difficult to find because under-employment exists primarily in under-developed countries and in rural areas, where statistical means are scarce. The ILO has not made as much progress in this field during the past two years as might have been desired because of the pressing demands for other work for which there was an immediate and urgent need. It is hoped that special effort can be devoted to this problem in the near future, with a view to developing the definitions, guides and survey techniques needed for deriving practical data on the extent and characteristics of under-employment.

97. Industrial injuries. Following the recommendation of the Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the ILO in November 1959 convened a meeting of experts to examine the problem of standardization of statistics of industrial injuries. The report of the committee is now available from ILO as roneo document No. SAT/9, and also in condensed form in Labour and Industry, January 1960. This report, together with additional materials developed by the ILO will form the basis for proposals to be submitted to the Tenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

98. Compilation of standards for labour statistics. The publication in 1959 of ILO's revised edition of International Standardization of Labour Statistics (Studies and Reports, New Series, No. 53) brings up to date a report which was first issued in 1934 and last revised in 1943. This third edition provides, in addition to a historical review of the development of international labour standards, a concise compilation of those standards.

99. Future work. As noted before, it is hoped that the work on the measurement of under-employment can be pursued more actively. Additional data on methodology and results of surveys are now available which should provide fruitful sources for analysis. In addition, as noted above, further work on standards for employment injury statistics will be undertaken in connexion with the consideration of this item at the Tenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

#### Food and Agriculture Organization

100. Standardization of production statistics. The main stimulus for this work during the last two years came from the different study groups of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and the FAO Commodities Division. For example, on behalf of the rice study group an analysis was made of the availability of rice statistics, and on the basis of this study a standard questionnaire for the return of detailed information on rice was sent out to the countries. The first detailed information on the rice crop will be available next year. Likewise, at the instance of the cocoa and coconut study groups arrangements are being made for the study of existing methods of forecasting crops in different countries, as a basis for recommending improvements in procedures in forecasting and estimating production.

101. Two specific projects were completed during the last two years as part of the efforts to promote comparability of agricultural statistics. These are The Handbook of Technical Conversion Factors for Agricultural Commodities and the World Crop Harvest Calendar. These publications are in very great demand from the countries and have undoubtedly filled a real need. The publication of the World Crop Harvest Calendar was primarily intended to provide information on the period of the bulk of harvests for all crops in different parts of the world. This information is basic for reviewing the present FAO policy on time reference for

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aggregating national harvests in international tabulations. As it may be recalled, the Statistical Commission, to whom the problem was referred, has asked FAO to convene an expert group familiar with the subject field. Arrangements were made to convene such a meeting during October 1959, but it was found necessary to postpone it for lack of adequate response. The problem of time reference nevertheless remains a crucial one. Apart from discrepancies in the statistical series, as published by the regional economic commissions and FAO, many differences have also been observed in the figures published by the U.S.A. and the Commonwealth Economic Committee, both of which adopt a similar reference policy. As a beginning, to solve this problem, arrangements have been made for detailed discussions with the statistical sections of the regional commissions. These discussions are proving extremely useful.

102. During December 1959, an ad hoc meeting of a group of nine experts from different parts of the world was held in Rome to advise FAO on technical problems related to the statistics work programme. The group discussed, among other things, the problem of time reference and suggested the use of the calendar year during which the bulk of harvest takes place. Before arriving at any conclusion as to the feasibility of this suggestion or of any new time reference procedure, FAO will consult with all the important users of production data to ensure that there is no serious conflict with their needs and will also negotiate with international commodity bodies and other producers of world-wide and regional crop tabulations and secure their agreement to the general adoption of any new proposal. Meanwhile, pending such investigations and negotiations, the use of the calendar year as reference period at present followed by FAO will be replaced by a split reference year in all FAO tabulations in order to remove any ambiguity.

103. By far the most important development in the standardization of agricultural statistics is the proposal from the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems, that an accelerated programme of study of concepts, definitions and methods in current agricultural statistics should be undertaken by FAO. The proposal calls for the preparation of what may be called "a European programme for current agricultural statistics", listing the items for which statistics should be collected and published, giving standard definitions and classifications thereof, and indicating the priorities to be attached to the compilation of the different

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items on the list. In preparation for such a programme, a meeting will be convened in May 1960 in collaboration with ECE.

104. Index numbers of agricultural production. In accordance with the recommendations of past meetings of experts, FAO indices of agricultural production have been revised substituting post-war weights for the pre-war ones formerly used and establishing weights appropriate to the individual regions of the world instead of the previous uniform world weights. Moreover, FAO figures have been reconciled with those of the OEEC so as to avoid the publication of differing indices for the same countries by different agencies. This still leaves the problem of differences between indices of agricultural production as calculated by the countries themselves, using weights appropriate to their conditions, and those calculated by FAO for the countries using uniform regional weights. But such differences are inherent in any approach at making the indices comparable to one another and there is little one can do to remove them although they can be minimized by adopting concepts of agricultural production acceptable to all countries of the region. The last session of the Conference of European Statisticians actually urged FAO to take the initiative in devising such uniform concepts, definitions and procedures, so that European countries could themselves eventually be able to furnish FAO with their own indices on a uniform comparable basis. Meanwhile, another development took place. Because of the interest of Member Governments in Europe, in an index adapted to the concept of national accounts, the Conference of European Statisticians also recommended that the resulting agricultural index of production should relate to value added, that is, the value added in the agricultural sector in line with the internationally agreed index for industrial production. Such an index could usefully supplement the present index which is neither a measure of gross nor of net agricultural output and, in fact, is based on the end-use concept of agricultural production. A meeting of experts is therefore planned for the first half of 1960 to formulate suitable proposals.

105. Food consumption surveys. Work on the assembly of the consumption data derived from household surveys has reached the stage where a mass of data is now available for further work on factors influencing consumption. A Review of Food Consumption Surveys (derived from 56 recent surveys covering 26 countries) was issued in 1959, with descriptive notes on methods used and summary tables of the results obtained.

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The Review has provided most of the basic material for the work on demand projections carried out by FAO, and for the chapter on levels of living in State of Food and Agriculture. It was found, however, that the data suffer from several limitations. Very few of these surveys are nation-wide surveys. They refer mostly to limited areas or sections of the population. Moreover, they are not based on a proper sample design and relate only to a short period of time, thereby denying the possibility of studying seasonal variations in food consumption. Further, these surveys cover about the same countries for which food balance sheets are available. These are mostly the more developed countries in the world. For the overwhelming majority of under-developed countries no figures on food consumption are available on which food or nutritional policy can be based. The situation is clearly highly unsatisfactory and can only be improved by a systematic approach of promoting nation-wide food consumption surveys along comparable lines. The problem clearly calls for what may be called a "world programme of food consumption surveys" along the lines which have been successfully adopted for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture. Two consultants have already been engaged for the preparation of a draft programme, one for the social economic aspects and the other for the nutritional aspects. The draft programme is intended to list items to be included in the surveys, their definitions, classifications to be used, proposed tabulations and explanations on the methodological aspects. It is intended to submit the draft to various regional bodies in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

#### World Health Organization

106. International classification. The seventh revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death and the Additional Regulations of 21 May 1956, amending the WHO Nomenclature Regulations 1948, adopted by the Ninth World Health Assembly, have been applied as from 1 January 1958 in the compilation of morbidity and mortality statistics. The Manual of the International Classification of Diseases was published in English, French and Spanish in 1957 and a large number of countries published the manual in their own languages during the years 1958 and 1959.

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107. Medical certification. A Working Group on Education and Training in Medical Certification, convened in Caracas in May 1959, made a complete review of the status of education and training in medical certification, particularly of medical students. It exchanged views on the various educational and promotional techniques, and prepared recommendations on the teaching of medical certification in medical schools. The Working Group comprised 12 participants from various countries in the Americas.

108. Expert Committee on Health Statistics. The sixth session of the Expert Committee on Health Statistics was held in September-October 1958. The Committee devoted most of its time to problems concerning terms and measurements in the field of morbidity statistics, with a view to securing international comparability of such measurements. Definitions of the terms "incidence", "period prevalence" and "point prevalence" were established and recommended for use in the national and international presentation of morbidity statistics. Guidance in the application of basic measurements to several special fields of morbidity statistics was also provided. The Expert Committee adopted the report of its Sub-Committee on Cancer Statistics. This Sub-Committee had reviewed methods for measuring incidence and prevalence of cancer, the purposes, uses and organization of cancer registration, geographic pathological aspects of the epidemiology of cancer and statistics on results of treatment of cancer.

109. Hospital statistics. A European Conference on Hospital Statistics and their application in health administration was held in Geneva in November 1958, with the participation of 14 countries. The Conference was convened in accordance with a recommendation of the Expert Committee on Health Statistics, urging that a study be made of hospital morbidity statistics in use in different parts of the world. This was to be regarded as a preliminary step to the thorough examination of the subject with a view to the international standardization and presentation of hospital statistics.

110. After reviewing the position of hospital statistics in various European countries, the Conference discussed the use of hospital statistics in health administration in general, in hospital administration and hospital planning. General principles, sources and types of data for hospital morbidity statistics and the organization of such statistics were set out, and methods for classification of diseases for hospital statistics were discussed.

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111. National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics. One of the most useful methods of helping national authorities in improving their statistical systems is by encouraging the creation and the functioning of National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics, of which 37 have been brought into existence since 1948. Not only do they bring together all agencies with responsibilities and interests in health and vital statistics, but they serve as a link between those national administrations and the WHO Expert Committee on Health Statistics, which suggests specific research to them. WHO encourages the creation of such Committees, and assists by providing consultants, fellowships, etc., to those national health administrations who apply to WHO for either an improvement of their general statistical set-up or some specific element of it, such as hospital records and statistics.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

112. International standardization of educational statistics. The General Conference of UNESCO, at its tenth session (Paris, 1958) adopted a Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics.<sup>19/</sup> This marks the culmination of efforts in this direction undertaken by UNESCO over the last few years. An Expert Committee on Standardization of Educational Statistics, which met in November 1951, had proposed a minimum set of definitions, classifications and tabulations of statistics on illiteracy and education. The report of this Committee<sup>20/</sup> was sent to all Member States for comments. The subject was also presented for discussion at various meetings of international organizations.<sup>21/</sup>

113. After examination of preliminary reports on this subject presented by the Director-General at its seventh, eighth and ninth sessions (Paris, 1952; Montevideo, 1954; New Delhi, 1956), the General Conference decided that a

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<sup>19/</sup> UNESCO/CPG.58.VI.10z.AFSR, December 1958.

<sup>20/</sup> UNESCO/ST/R/4 Rev. April 1952.

<sup>21/</sup> Including the 28th session of the International Statistical Institute (Rome, 1953); the eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (Geneva, 1954); and the Third Inter-American Statistical Conference (Petropolis, 1955).

recommendation to Member States should be prepared, in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, and authorized the Director-General to convene a committee composed of technicians and experts nominated by Member States to prepare a draft recommendation for submission to the General Conference at its tenth session. This committee met in Paris, 23 June-4 July 1958, and prepared a draft recommendation which was subsequently approved by the General Conference.<sup>22/</sup>

114. The Recommendation consists of four parts, dealing with (1) statistics of illiteracy, (2) statistics on the educational attainment of the population, (3) statistics of educational institutions, and (4) statistics of educational finance. It includes a set of recommended definitions, classifications, and tabulations relating to these topics. A certified copy of this Recommendation, in the official languages of UNESCO (English, French, Spanish, Russian) was transmitted by the Director-General to all Member States, with a request that they report to the next session of the General Conference (Paris, 1960), on the action they have taken to give effect to this Recommendation.

#### International Monetary Fund

115. Balance of Payments Manual. The revised Manual was issued in February 1960. The nature of the revision is explained in document E/CN.3/278, to which the Commission is referred.

#### Organization for European Economic Co-operation

116. National accounts. A revised edition of A Standardized System of National Accounts published in January 1959 provides standard definitions and classifications for use in national accounts and presents a framework designed to facilitate inter-country comparison. The new version incorporates a number of recommendations resulting from consultations with other international organizations. The revised OEEC and United Nations systems of national accounts are now in close conformity with each other.

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<sup>22/</sup> UNESCO 10 C/11, August 1958.

#### IV. OTHER STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

##### Conference of European Statisticians

117. Comparisons of systems of national accounts. As suggested by the Statistical Commission at its tenth session, the Conference set up a group of rapporteurs on this subject. At its first session in May 1959 the group discussed the broad conceptual differences between the systems of national accounts of the participating countries. Its report clarified these differences and recorded the practices of the various countries where they were at variance. The group proposed that more detailed work be undertaken on important individual sections of the national accounts (consumption, production, capital formation) and that, as a longer-term objective, the possibility of drawing up an accounting structure embracing the main elements of both the United Nations System of National Accounts and the socialist system should be studied (Conf.Eur.Stats/99). The Conference approved this general programme of work and agreed that the next stage of the group's work should be to study in more detail the problems and possibilities of comparing the sectors of the accounts dealing with production and with personal consumption. If time permitted, the group should also give preliminary consideration to the possibilities of drawing up an accounting structure embracing the main elements of the different systems in use in Europe. The second session of the group will be held in May 1960.

118. Statistical activities of the ECE committees. The Conference regularly reviews the statistical work carried out under the programmes of the various ECE committees, e.g. on steel, transport, etc. In order to carry out this work more thoroughly, the Conference decided at its seventh session to set up a working group to examine all aspects of this statistical work including the statistical bulletins and the programmes of work. The first session of this working group will take place in July 1960.

119. Reviews of the implementation of international standards. Each year the Conference conducts a review of the implementation by European countries of international recommendations on a selected statistical subject. The subject covered in 1957-58 was the Statistical Commission's recommendations on statistics of wholesale prices (Conf.Eur.Stats/85) and in 1958-59 it was the recommendations of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians on statistics of

employment and unemployment (Conf.Eur.Stats/100). The subject selected for 1959-60 is the programme for the collection of statistics on stocks and work in progress adopted by the Conference in 1955.

120. Data-processing electronic machines. An international list of documents, articles and other sources of information on the development and use of data-processing electronic machines for statistical purposes (Conf.Eur.Stats/WG.9/10) was circulated in 1958. Reports supplied by a number of national offices on their plans for introducing electronic computers have also been circulated in the Conf.Eur.Stats/WG.9 series. At its seventh session the Conference renewed its invitation to national offices to submit reports on their plans for introducing, and their experience in using, these machines.

121. Future meetings planned. As a general rule, the programmes of work adopted by the Conference extend one year ahead, i.e. from one plenary session to another. At the time of writing, the following meetings are definitely planned in the programme of 1959-1960: (a) comparisons of systems of national accounts, May 1960; (b) review of statistical activities of ECE Committees, July 1960; (c) eighth plenary session, September 1960. At the request of the Conference, preparatory work is being done in 1959-60, with a view to holding meetings later, on statistics of wholesale prices and on the education and supplementary training of official statisticians. Other subjects on which it has been proposed that meetings should be held, when facilities permit, are the following: preparation of a European programme for current housing and building statistics; government accounts; short-term indicators of fixed capital formation, balance-of-payments statistics; and sampling in current agricultural statistics.

#### Conference of Asian Statisticians

122. The second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (COAS) was convened in December 1958 with representatives from 19 countries. It marked the first step towards implementation of the terms of reference of the COAS formulated at its first session. The items in the agenda of the Conference were: world census of population, world census of agriculture, training of statisticians, use of sampling methods, agricultural producer prices, mineral statistics, statistics for planning and development and long-term work programme of the Conference. The item "Statistics for planning and development" was included as a standing item with

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the approval of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, at its fourteenth session.

123. Long-term work programme. The long-term work programme of the Conference is being oriented to the long-term statistical requirements of the countries of the region. Most of the countries are either implementing plans for economic and social development or are in the process of formulating them. The role of the Conference is primarily that of a catalytic agent to devise means to enable the statistical agencies in the countries of the region to develop and give effect to an integrated programme of statistical development over a period of years, which would adequately meet their statistical needs, especially from the point of view of development. In the context of increasing international collaboration, such development should make full use of international standards and recommendations with the consequent advantages of international comparability. The Conference was strongly of the view that in the present state of statistical development, prior attention should be given to basic statistics, such as the censuses.

124. The discussion during the Conference brought out clearly the suitability and advantage of the use of sampling methods for collecting many of the needed statistical data, in the conditions prevailing in the area. The Conference recommended that countries should set up permanent sample survey units or strengthen them where they exist. The Conference also recommended that annual reports on sampling surveys in the region be brought out by the Secretariat. The first annual report on sample surveys is being prepared for the third session of the Conference, to be held in April 1960. Promotional efforts to encourage the use of sampling methods will have to be continued for a number of years to come. The Working Group on Sampling Methods, convened in 1959, recommended that a similar group be convened in collaboration with the ILO on the use of sampling methods in employment, unemployment and under-employment and labour force surveys. The use of sampling methods in these and other fields will have to be taken up.

125. The Conference felt that a good beginning towards formulating a programme of statistical development of basic statistics could be made if countries would examine the list of basic statistics contained in document E/CN.3/248<sup>23/</sup> in the

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<sup>23/</sup> The final version of this document is available in Statistical Series for the Use of Less Developed Countries in Programmes of Economic and Social Development, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 31.

light of their own conditions and needs, and a report on the progress made will be submitted to the third session.

126. An important and continuing task of the Conference is to follow up the long-range recommendations of the second session through periodic reviews at future sessions in the light of the progress made and the problems which arise in implementing them. Thus the items on the world programme of population and agricultural censuses will stand on the agenda of the third, fourth and perhaps the fifth sessions. The progress reports will continue to be prepared, and special problems in further phases of the census programmes will have to be taken up by the Conference, its working groups or seminars.

127. The censuses would provide the basic facts about the population, labour force and agriculture. Attention will have to be switched to industrial statistics and more specifically to the United Nations 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Inquiries. This subject is proposed for a first discussion at the third session of the Conference and promotional and follow-up efforts need to be made at subsequent sessions of the Conference and through working groups and seminars. Consideration should then have to be given to other fields of economic and social statistics, national income, social accounts and other data and studies relating to planning.

#### Economic Commission for Latin America

128. Over the past ten years a great variety of statistical data for the Latin American region has been tabulated by the Statistical Section to serve as background material upon which ECLA's economists have based their analyses. Most of these series are now published in a Statistical Supplement to the Economic Bulletin, in a continuous form over time.

129. In the building up of time series on international trade, an effort has been made to expand the use of machine methods of tabulation, which are now applied also to exports by commodity and country of destination. A number of improvements have been obtained in various fields of statistics in relation with the shift in the base year from 1950 to 1955. An inter-country comparison of purchasing power parities has recently been started.

130. In the field of agricultural statistics, the Statistical Section has prepared detailed information regarding planting and harvesting dates and has

made available a detailed list for various countries in the region, the objective being to reconcile ECLA series with those of FAO, regarding time reference and sources.

#### Inter-American Statistical Institute

131. Statistical organization. The project "Inventory of National Statistics", designed to ascertain the type of data compiled by the American nations and to evaluate their conformity with international standards, advanced in the field of vital statistics to the point of completion of the inquiry. Replies obtained provide voluminous information on eighteen nations, which was made available to the United Nations Statistical Office. An analysis of the results and conclusions formulated will be submitted to a Subcommittee of the IASI Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) which will prepare proposals for consideration by COINS itself.

132. In the series of booklets describing separately the statistical systems of the twenty-two American nations, which, as a whole, will comprise the second edition of Statistical Activities of the American Nations, it is expected that the published texts will reach fifteen covering the following nations: Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and the United States.

133. Publications. Within the general framework of the study Estructura Demográfica de las Naciones Americanas: Analisis Estadístico-censal de los Resultados Obtenidos bajo el Programa del Censo de las Américas de 1950 (COTA-1950), two parts, comprising Volume II, on the economic characteristics of the population, have been published. Volume I, consisting of four parts on the general characteristics of the population, is in an advanced stage of preparation and is expected to be published shortly. This publication, presenting in tables, as uniformly as possible, the results of the population censuses taken by the American nations in or around 1950, provides through a single source systematic information for comparison purposes and at the same time indications of any national deviations from the standards which have been agreed upon as well as information additional to the minimum required.

134. Collection and publication of data is an activity in which IASI has engaged both because of requirements for its own work in the field of standards and of the commitments assumed in its agreement with the Council of the OAS to provide the



statistical information needed by the Pan American Union. Among the publications issued in the period under review are the following: Indices de Precios al Consumidor (Costo de la Vida) de las Naciones Americanas (Enero 1955 a Mayo 1959) and Censos y Encuestas Industriales de las Naciones Americanas: Resumen de los Ultimos Resultados Disponibles. Also preliminary work has advanced in the preparation of a foreign trade yearbook, the first issue of which is expected to be published by the end of 1960. This will not duplicate a parallel UN publication since it is to contain additional details requested for regional use that would lack the necessary significance for world use.

#### International Labour Office

135. Family living studies. An increasing amount of the ILO staff's time in recent years has been devoted to the general area of family living studies. As noted elsewhere, this topic has received great emphasis in connexion with the need of the less developed countries for basic data on conditions and levels of living and related socio-economic information. The multi-subject household survey provides the most effective instrument for obtaining these data.

136. Most of the basic work for the Symposium on Family Living Studies has been done. With completion of the final editorial processing, this volume should be issued in the near future. As indicated in an earlier report to the Statistical Commission, (E/CN.3/250) the volume will contain authoritative case studies of family interview surveys, conducted in both developed and under-developed countries, covering a broad spectrum of subject matter. Another report nearing completion is the Bulletin on Family Expenditure Surveys, which will present in tabular form the results of family expenditure surveys in about 50 countries. Mention should also be made of the plan for the Handbook on Family Living Studies, to which reference is made elsewhere in the documentation (E/CN.3/271). The ILO will co-operate with the UN Statistical Office and other specialized agencies in this project.

137. Labour costs. The final report on the 1955 inquiry on Wages and Related Elements in Labour Cost in European Industry (Studies and Reports, New Series, No. 52) was published in 1959. The report presents detailed tables on the various elements of labour cost for eight industries in nine countries.

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138. Year Book of Labour Statistics. The 1959 edition of the Year Book, published in December 1959, reflects in its broader coverage the continued improvement in the scope and quality of basic labour statistics throughout the world. At the same time, however, the evident gaps in the country tables dramatize the enormous distance still remaining to be covered before an adequate statistical picture of labour conditions throughout the world can be presented. The bridging of this gap continues to be a major element in the ILO statistical programme.

#### Food and Agriculture Organization

139. Production statistics. The work on production statistics includes the collection for publication of all statistics on crop acreage and yields and means of production, including land, livestock, farm machinery, fertilizers and pesticides. These statistics are published in the Monthly Bulletin and the Production Yearbooks. The coverage of production statistics has been considerably expanded by the inclusion of tables on several new commodities. Many of the tables were also greatly enlarged by including information on a number of new countries, particularly the Eastern European countries. For the next biennium, the coverage on production statistics will be further extended by adding tables on live weight of animals slaughtered, milk consumption and utilization and on certain spices for which there is a demand from the Committee on Commodity Problems.

140. A recent addition to the work of production statistics is the preparation of the annual review of world consumption of fertilizers. Efforts will be made to bring this publication in line with the other statistical publications.

141. The longer term plans envisage continuation of the present work, with more tables as may be requested by the countries and inclusion of data for new countries as these become available. There is one specific project in view concerning the preparation and publication of a country yearbook for which there would appear to be a real demand. This project envisages bringing together all available data on the agricultural economic background, country by country, in one single volume.

142. Trade statistics. The contents and presentations of trade tables in the Monthly Bulletin and the 1957 and 1958 Trade Yearbooks have been considerably improved. In particular, the SITC definitions have been adopted for several new commodities, the coverage of the value tables has been expanded from 45 to about 70 countries, and more commodity trade data for Eastern Europe, USSR and mainland China have been included, as these have become increasingly available. For

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planning the work for the coming biennium suggestions were invited from the users of FAO trade statistics. These include suggestions for new tables such as a table for all dried fruit instead of the table for raisins and dates, a table for milling offals, another for meat and fish meal and a summary table for oil seeds and vegetable oils with a total in oil-equivalent for each country. It is hoped to include all these in the 1960 Yearbook. Likewise, many users felt that it would be useful to expand some of the commodity tables like those on trade in milk, giving details for condensed milk, evaporated milk, powdered whole milk and powdered non-fat dried milk, on trade in oil seed cake and meal by type of meal, and on trade in wheat by type. To the extent that meaningful and complete information can be obtained, it is intended to investigate the expansion of these tables along the suggested lines. The most common demand from the users was for the publication of exports by country of destination. It is recognized that the publication of such tables through the Monthly Bulletin and perhaps in the form of a separate volume would provide a much-needed service to users of trade data.

143. Prices. The collection of agricultural price data has steadily expanded. During the last two years the Monthly Bulletin included monthly prices of international significance for about sixty commodities. The Production Yearbook also has included prices for new commodities. In addition, several unpublished series are kept in the files for internal use within FAO.

144. The major emphasis during the past two years has been, however, on the improvement of price statistics collected by the different countries. Following the work done for Europe, a systematic review has been undertaken of the types of statistics on agricultural prices available in the different countries in Asia and Central America and the systems in force for collecting them. This review will form the basis for developing proposals for improvements in the collection of price statistics in co-operation with the Conference of Asian Statisticians for Asia and the Inter-American Statistical Institute for Latin America.

145. Food balance sheets. The work on food consumption surveys has two aspects, a macro aspect and a micro aspect. In the food balance sheets which deal with the macro aspect, FAO estimates national food supplies available for human consumption as also the food intake and nutrients per person over a twelve-month period. Differences between sections of the population and between seasons are naturally concealed in this approach. Household food consumption surveys can alone provide

data needed for the study of such differences. Food balance sheets nevertheless provide a very useful tool for the broad assessment of national food supplies and their utilization and for pointing out over-all deficiencies in the national diet. 146. The assembly and analysis of food balance sheets was continued for about 40 countries, but, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Eighth Session of the FAO Conference, the presentation of these data in publications was changed. Annual figures were published in a summary form in the FAO Yearbooks, while details were given in the form of averages for three-year periods, in two new publications, one referring to the period 1954/55 to 1956/57 (30 countries) and the other reviewing past series for about 40 countries from pre-war to 1954/55 to 1956/57. The latter publication is meant to facilitate research work on trends in food consumption in relation to production, supply and food.

147. Efforts will be intensified to increase the number of countries covered by food balance sheets in order to obtain the basic materials needed for a comprehensive Third World Food Survey. This work will be especially important in connexion with the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

148. Census methodology. Problems of census methodology, with special reference to the uses of sampling in censuses, were also discussed at the various regional meetings. The first volume of the publication on Sampling Methods and Censuses is already distributed in draft form and volume II, dealing with the quality problem of statistical data in census, is under preparation. It is believed that volume I will go a long way in bringing about the realization that censuses are within the reach even of countries having only meagre resources at their disposal in men, money and materials. It is also believed that the volume will be of equal value to the more developed countries in showing how sampling can be used to broaden the scope of census without appreciably increasing the costs.

149. Substantial progress has been made in completing the various studies under the UN/FAO project on methods of processing census data. Altogether five studies were completed and were reproduced as Part I of the Handbook on Data Processing Methods. Work is going forward on other studies in the series. As is well known, tabulation of the results accounts for about one-third of the total expenditure on the census. Several countries in 1950 experienced great difficulties in tabulating the results either for lack of budget or more often for lack of knowledge in planning and organizing the processing of the national census data.

It is believed that these studies will go a long way in helping them in their problems on processing census data.

150. Central tabulation. The Ninth Session of the Conference asked FAO to explore the feasibility of centrally tabulating census data using magnetic tapes and electronic computers. Accordingly FAO ascertained the interest of the countries and found that a number of them were interested in the project. The investigation with suppliers of electronic computers showed that while they were greatly interested in the project they lacked direct experience in processing census data by electronic equipment, and for this reason felt unable to estimate the costs involved in the project. In view of this lack of information FAO convened, in collaboration with the International Computation Centre (ICC), a working party of experts to consider the subject. The Working Party urged that steps should be taken by FAO in co-operation with the ICC, the manufacturing suppliers and interested governments to fill this gap. They recommended that this could be done by processing the actual census data of one or two countries by a pilot project. The Egyptian region of the UAR has offered to participate in this project on a pioneering basis. Accordingly, FAO arranged for an expert to undertake a study of the problem in the context of the actual needs and conditions in the UAR. The expert is of the opinion that the tabulation of agricultural census data of the Egyptian region with electronic computers at ICC under the auspices of FAO would be practicable, economic and worthwhile. In the light of this report meetings are being arranged among the parties concerned, to examine and settle the terms and conditions under which they might proceed with the project, and to give advice on the technical aspects of the problem.

151. Future work. During 1960/61 a bulletin on estimates of acreage and crops and volume II on the uses of sampling in censuses will be prepared. Work will also commence on the manual on the methodology of food consumption surveys. For the years beyond 1961, a publication is proposed on the uses of aerial photography in agricultural statistics. Aerial photographs are available in many countries and represent an excellent means for obtaining accurate statistics. FAO experts in Cuba and Lebanon have successfully used such aerial photographs made available to them by the military authorities. However, a lot remains to be done before the possible uses of aerial photographs in the collection of agricultural statistics can be brought to the attention of countries. Thus, information is needed about

the relative costs of ground surveys and aerial photographs, experiences of other countries in using aerial photographs for preparing the frame for sample surveys and for collecting statistics, the limitations involved in their use, and a lot more details connected with the technique of aerial photography.

#### World Health Organization

152. Much of WHO's work in health statistics has consisted in promoting the use of the International Classification of Diseases on a uniform basis in various countries. This is being done mainly through the WHO Centres for the Classification of Diseases, located in London and Caracas. Plans were made in 1958-1959 to establish in 1960 a South-East Asia Centre for the Classification of Diseases. The increasing use of the International Classification of Diseases in this region has brought to light many local problems in the coding and classification of diseases, and also the need for training programmes.

153. Since the medical profession is the main supplier of records of morbidity and mortality, and accurate certification of causes of illness and death is of importance for comparable morbidity and mortality statistics, efforts have been made to develop programmes and material for teaching physicians and medical students in medical certification for statistical purposes. A preliminary summary of instruction in medical certification was issued in 1959<sup>24/</sup> as a first step in the production of a manual on medical certification.

154. Development of health statistical services. Steps were taken to give effect to the resolution by the Eleventh World Health Assembly in 1958 recommending a forward-looking and balanced WHO programme for the development and strengthening of systematic procedures for the securing of adequate vital and health statistics, including appraisal and assistance in developing procedures best adapted to various social and organizational frameworks, evaluation and dissemination of information on systems in different countries and development and adoption of international standards in health statistics.

155. For this purpose a thorough survey of the situation of health and related vital statistical services in the various countries and territories of the world

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<sup>24/</sup> Document WHO/HS/Nat.Com./123, 30 January 1959.

was continued. Procedures for a follow-up of developments in such services are also being planned. The survey will comprise an analysis of the availability and quality of statistical information in the fields of health statistics, especially causes of death and procedures in their recording, morbidity from various causes, preventive health measures, records from hospitals and other medical establishments, medical personnel, etc.

156 General activities. Briefly stated, work was pursued along three main lines: (a) Stimulation of the work of national health statistical services with a view to improving the quality of coverage of national data in this field. This was carried out through WHO-sponsored field projects, consultants, regional advisers, and headquarters staff, and at the same time by maintaining collaboration with the work of various National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics. (b) Collection and dissemination of epidemiological and health statistical information through the publication of annual and monthly epidemiological and vital statistics reports, as well as by means of special epidemiological and health statistical studies on problems of topical interest. (c) Conferences and meetings of expert committees and study groups, to deal with specific problems in health statistics.

157. Publications. Monthly issues of the Epidemiological and Vital Statistics Report and the Annual Epidemiological and Vital Statistics were published as part of WHO's functions of collecting, elaborating and distributing epidemiological data of general informative significance to health administration.

158. The arrangement of the Annual Epidemiological and Vital Statistics for the year 1956 was modified so as to facilitate the consultation of this publication by statistical workers and national public-health officers, without losing the continuity of the data already published. Relative figures (e.g. rates and proportions) were published, where appropriate, and on a larger scale than in previous volumes, to simplify comparison and study of time trends. Statistics of health personnel, hospital establishments and vaccinations were included to meet the needs and demands of national health authorities.

159. Morbidity data were dealt with more widely in the monthly Epidemiological and Vital Statistics Report. Mortality data were analysed to find the leading causes of death in selected countries so as to direct attention to fields most in need of action. Cardiovascular diseases, malignant neoplasms, and accidents -

the leading causes of death in several countries - were studied. Analytical tables and comments when necessary were also published in the Report.

160. It was not possible to analyse cause-of-death statistics for many geographical areas to highlight the differences which might be the first steps leading to disclosure of etiological factors most important for public-health activities. The reasons for the omission were absence of our incomplete and incorrect cause-of-death statistics which could not be compared from one area to another. Assistance is given to national health statistics offices with a view to improving the degree of completeness, quality and comparability of the basic data.

161. Special studies. Modern statistical methodology has continued to play an increased role in the technical work of the WHO. Two important recent developments have given further impetus to this activity: namely, the need for reliable and meaningful statistics in connexion with the malaria eradication programme and the intensified medical research programme. A detailed study on statistics in malaria eradication has been made.<sup>25/</sup> A manual for reporting procedures and records in malaria eradication has also been worked out. A world-wide study on the birthweight of liveborn infants in relation to the chances of survival during the first week of life has been initiated. In order to keep abreast of the latest statistical research a consultant was engaged to assist WHO in producing a document on Modern Statistical Techniques in Medical and Public Health Studies. Other statistical studies relate to prevention of accidents in childhood and a dental health statistics system.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

162. Statistics and special studies. Regular work is continued in the collection and publication of statistics relating to education, culture, and mass communications. Results are published in Basic Facts and Figures, which is now issued annually in a bilingual (English/French) publication, beginning with the 1959 edition. Current figures on pupils enrolled in educational institutions at each level are presented annually in Current School Enrolment Statistics. Basic

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<sup>25/</sup> Satya Swaroop. Statistical Considerations and Methodology in Malaria Eradication. Part I: Statistical Considerations. Part II: Statistical Methodology. Geneva, 1959.



statistics relating to educational institutions and expenditure are also published in the International Yearbook of Education, a joint publication of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education. Finally, UNESCO is responsible for a number of tables on education, culture and mass communications regularly published in the United Nations Statistical Yearbook.

163. The second World Survey of Education, with special emphasis on primary education, was published in 1958. Besides a global review of educational progress during the period 1950-1954 inclusive, this volume contains a special study on the progress of primary education since 1950 in the different countries and world regions. The use of a "primary school enrolment ratio", based on the number of pupils enrolled in all primary schools related to the child population 5-14 years old, is explained and illustrated in this connexion. Work is now in progress on the third World Survey, featuring secondary and vocational education, and introducing the use of a "secondary school enrolment ratio", based on the number of pupils enrolled in all schools at the secondary level related to the population 15-19 years old. This survey is scheduled for publication in 1961.

164. Three statistical reports were published during 1958 and 1959, covering the following subjects: Book Production 1937-1954 and Translations, 1950-1954; Statistics of Libraries; and Statistics of Newspapers and Other Periodicals.

Another report, dealing with special education for handicapped children, is scheduled for publication in the early part of 1960. Coverage in these reports varies from 48 countries (concerning book translations) to 139 countries and territories (concerning newspapers). Where coverage was most complete, as in the case of daily and non-daily newspapers, an attempt was made to present global estimates for world regions.

165. A beginning has been made in the collection of information relating to resources and requirements of scientific and technical manpower in the different countries. Under the Technical Assistance Programme, an exploratory mission was sent to five countries in Asia (India, Burma, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey) during October-December 1958, to gather information on the methods used or to be used in assessing the supply of and demand for scientific and technical personnel in those countries. Additional information was obtained for Ceylon, China (Taiwan), Japan, Korea and Viet-Nam in the course of two discussion meetings held at Bangkok and Calcutta. The report of this mission, including recent statistics relating to

university graduates in science and technology in these Asian countries, is scheduled for publication in the first half of 1960.

International Civil Aviation Organization

166. Statistics Division. In November 1958, the Third Session of the ICAO Statistics Division was held at ICAO's Headquarters in Montreal. It was attended by representatives of eighteen States.

167. Its specific tasks were to consider the statistical requirements of the Organization and of Contracting States and the extent to which they were being met, to examine the existing ICAO statistical system, and to consider methods of improving the uniformity of ICAO's statistics, the form and content of the Organization's statistical analyses and publications and the speed with which they are disseminated and the completeness and timeliness of reporting by States.

168. The Division accepted, as a satisfactory basis for its work, the statement of general statistical requirements prepared by the Air Transport Committee and approved by the Council, but made a number of recommendations relating to particular requirements not at the present time being fully satisfied. It felt that the value of statistics of non-scheduled commercial air transport and of international non-commercial aviation was not great enough to justify the cost of collecting them regularly and that they should be obtained on an ad hoc basis when required. It considered that statistics on the use and cost of air navigation facilities should also be collected on an ad hoc basis, but recommended that an Air Transport Reporting Form requiring biannual filing of airport movement statistics for selected international airports should be introduced and that an item requiring the number of stages flown should be added to Reporting Form A. Reporting Form C (on traffic flow) should indicate the type of aircraft used on each stage of the flights. It was suggested that on Form G statistics on the number of landings made and hours flown by each carrier should be filed in the same detail for carriers that had not had accidents as for those who had, but after some discussion it was left to the Secretariat to consider whether this was necessary or whether the required information could be obtained from other sources. The Division recommended that the possibility of obtaining preliminary reports on aircraft accidents promptly after occurrence should be explored. It agreed that it would be useful to obtain from governments annually a statement of the

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total number of aircraft registered and recommended that the Organization issue an Air Transport Reporting Form for the purpose. A large number of detailed modifications in the terms and instructions appearing in the Financial Reporting Forms was proposed. A study of the possibility of making use of airport traffic statistics as an alternative source of some of the traffic statistics now obtained from the airlines was also recommended.

169. The question of collecting origin and destination statistics, to the study of which the 1956 Assembly had attached great importance, was discussed at some length. Finding it impossible in the time available to develop any final proposals because of the complexity of the problems involved, the Division recommended the establishment of an ad hoc panel composed of specialists from Contracting States to study the whole question thoroughly and report its findings to the Air Transport Committee, and devoted considerable attention to the preparation of terms of reference for it.

170. Special attention was given to methods of classifying "international" and "domestic" air transport statistics on the basis of the report of the Air Transport Committee's working group on the clarification of the term "international". The Division's recommendations on the subject differed somewhat from the proposals of the working group, which has not yet completed its study.

171. Another question considered was assistance to governments in improving their air transport statistics and their statistical reporting to the Organization. The Division felt that the steps taken by the Council in response to Assembly Resolution A10-38 were not enough and recommended that regional meetings of the "workshop" type should be arranged, where representatives of States having difficulties in filing the statistics required by the Organization could discuss their problems with specialists from States more experienced in statistical reporting, from the Secretariat and from airlines.

172. The further development and improvement of the analyses and presentation of statistics in the Statistical Digests were recommended and it was proposed that the statistical material filed on the Air Transport Reporting Forms should be immediately copied by photographic or other means and circulated to those States that would find it useful.

173. Activities during 1959. The statistical activities of the Organization in 1959, in addition to the continuing function of collecting, analysing and

publishing air transport statistics, were largely concerned with implementation of the recommendations of the third session of the Statistics Division, held in November 1958. One of the most important actions was the establishment by the Council in May 1959 of an ad hoc Panel on Origin and Destination Statistics, composed of experts from ten (later increased to eleven) Contracting States and observers from the International Air Transport Association. This Panel held its first meeting in Montreal in October 1959, at which time views were exchanged on the problems of collecting origin and destination statistics and plans were made for the future work of the Panel, which is expected to meet about twice a year.

174. In December 1959 eight new Air Transport Reporting Forms (A to G inclusive and I) were adopted by the Council for use from 1 January 1960. Seven of these Forms (A to G) are concerned with statistics coming from airlines and are similar to those adopted in December 1952, though a number of revisions have been incorporated. Some of the more important changes result from the adoption of the new classification of air transport operations for statistical purposes into "international", "territorial" and "domestic". The eighth Form (I) is concerned with airport statistics and is a new development. In the preparation of this Form account was taken of the European Civil Aviation Conference's request that, in considering the collection of traffic statistics from international airports, ICAO should give attention to the desirability of obtaining information on non-schedule operations. A Form (H) for the reporting of numbers of registered aircraft is still in a developmental stage.

175. A recommendation of the Division calling for exploration of the feasibility of filing and circulating preliminary reports of air carrier accidents led to despatch to States of a letter inquiring about their interest in and ability to provide such reports. The answers are at present analysed and Council action on this recommendation is expected in 1960. Another recommendation that small regional statistical meetings of the "workshop" type should be arranged in suitable places as a means of helping States having difficulties in filing the Air Transport Reporting Forms was endorsed by the Assembly in Resolution A12-20. Plans are in progress to convene such meetings in Bogotá and Mexico City in 1960.

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Organization for European Economic Co-operation

176. Publications. The OEEC publications on Statistics of National Product and Expenditure, the latest volume of which appeared in 1957, are currently revised and kept up to date in the bi-monthly OEEC General Statistics Bulletin. The March 1959 issue of the Bulletin contained for the first time tables showing breakdowns by industry groups for the current and constant price estimates of gross domestic product at factor cost and gross domestic fixed capital formation. These data, brought up to date, will appear again in March 1960.

177. A systematic statistical description of money and credit developments in the various OEEC countries, comparable from year to year and from country to country, and integrated with the statistics of national product and expenditure, is provided in Statistics of Sources and Uses of Finance, 1948-1958 (February 1960). The relationships shown between the main national accounts aggregates and the corresponding monetary financing are followed, for each country, by more detailed tables relating to major sectors of the economy - central government, local government and the private sector. For each sector, the net balances on transactions in goods and services are brought into relation with their net borrowing or lending - i.e. with their corresponding financial operations. Further detailed tables show financial assets and liabilities of the various financial institutions (e.g. Central Bank, Treasury, and other money creating institutions) and their changes. The concordance between the financial transactions of the financial institutions and those of the non-bank sectors is maintained throughout and all developments shown in the detailed tables are consistent with the over-all developments shown in the first tables.

178. Inter country comparisons. A Comparison of National Output and Productivity of the United Kingdom and the United States, by D. Paige and G. Bombach (published jointly by OEEC and the Department of Applied Economics of the University of Cambridge, June 1959) attempts to assess the relative real output of the two countries using the industry-of-origin approach. Estimates are given for the years 1950, 1954 and 1957. Relative net output, costs and output per worker in 1950 are compared for certain manufacturing industry groups and non-manufacturing sectors as well as for a number of individual manufacturing industries.

179. General statistics. The Bulletin of General Statistics, formerly published every two months, is from the January 1960 issue divided into two parts.

Part I, Main Economic Indicators, published monthly and with minimum delay provides data chosen to reflect current economic trends in each country and in the OEEC area as a whole. Most of the information is given both adjusted and unadjusted for seasonal variations.

Part II, published every two months, corresponds in the main to the former bulletin, but more room is now allotted to non-periodic tables on subjects of topical interest.

180. Foreign trade statistics. The four series of OEEC Foreign Trade Statistical Bulletins (supplemented by a special yearly issue of Series IV) and the yearly Network of Intra-European Trade have from the beginning of 1960 been replaced by three new series:

Series A, Overall Trade by Countries (published every two months). Total trade of each OEEC country including the United States and Canada and groups of countries, by origin and destination; indices, summary data for other areas, etc.

Series B, Analytical Abstracts (quarterly). Summary of the patterns of trade by areas and broad commodity categories of each OEEC country, including the United States and Canada, and groups of countries.

Series C, Trade by Commodities (quarterly), in matrix form, shows the network of trade of all OEEC countries including the United States and Canada by nearly 300 SITC commodity groups, items and sub-items and extended detail of origin/destination. Quantity as well as value data are given. This series will be supplemented by a yearly issue showing country by commodity breakdown for all OEEC countries, as well as unit values by commodity and origin/destination. Apart from the changes in presentation, new features are incorporated: total trade adjusted for seasonal variations (Series A); extensions of volume and average value indices for OEEC member countries combined (Series A); inclusion of data for corresponding period of previous years (Series B); lower value limits for inclusion of data (Series C).

181. The publication of Textiles, a yearly volume on detailed textile trade statistics (ninety-one items or groups of items based on the SITC) for OEEC countries, including the United States and Canada, has continued.

182. Other statistics. The following books give basic statistics in the field under review for each OEEC country, including the United States and Canada,

as well as the whole OEEC area: Agriculture and Food Statistics (1959), Industrial Statistics 1900-1957 (1958), Basic Statistics of Energy for OEEC Countries; 1. 1950-1957 (1958), 2. 1950-1958 (1959) and Population and Manpower 1900-1958 (1959).

183. For 1960, new issues are planned for the last three volumes mentioned above. The publication of Definitions and Methods - giving the characteristics of each series published in the OEEC Statistical Bulletins or volumes - continues. Part II, devoted to "Industrial Commodities", will appear shortly.

184. The report of the Energy Advisory Commission, under the chairmanship of Professor Austin Robinson, entitled Towards a New Energy Pattern in Europe contains many estimates of consumption and production of energy and a critical examination of forecasts.

185. New work, started recently on the following subjects, is expected to result shortly in special reports or regular publications:

Agriculture: Study on the criteria followed by the different countries for the elaboration of basic statistical series relating to agricultural production and its utilization. Study of sampling methods to statistics of agricultural employment.

Non-Ferrous Metals: Elaboration of end-use statistics (the statistics devoted to aluminium are already published). Establishment of monthly statistics of stocks for lead and zinc.

Chemicals: Study of new methods of computation for indices of production in the various sectors of chemical industry.

Pulp and Paper: Inquiry on production capacity of the industry and its utilization.

186. Adjustment for seasonal variation. A detailed review has been made of existing methods of adjustment for seasonal variations both in Europe and in North America. With the help of the United States Bureau of the Census some 300 economic series of OEEC countries have been adjusted for seasonal variations by electronic computer methods based on "Univac Method II". About 100 series and a description of methods used were published in the November 1959 issue of the General Statistics Bulletin. It is possible that a conference on this subject may be organized in the autumn of 1960.

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European Economic Community (EEC)

187. EEC statistics. In beginning the work for the European Economic Community, the first task of the Statistical Office<sup>26/</sup> consisted in assembling existing statistics of general interest for the six countries. As a result, two small statistical pocket books were published (Statistische Grundzahlen für 12 europäische Länder; Statistisches Taschenbuch Energiewirtschaft - Eisen und Stahl (1959)).

188. Coal and energy statistics. Concepts and definitions of coal statistics were widely co-ordinated between the six countries; comparable figures are regularly published in the bimonthly Bulletin statistique de la CECA. A special study Untersuchung über Struktur und Tendenzen der Energiewirtschaft in den Ländern der Gemeinschaft contains, for the first time, energy balances in a unified manner, subdivided in primary energy, secondary energy and transformed energy.

189. Steel statistics. Comparable figures are published bimonthly in the Bulletin. Special statistics concern deliveries of finished steel by industrial groups, statistics of special steel, and detailed foreign trade statistics.

190. Social statistics. Social statistics concerning coal and steel workers in the Community were developed in a systematic manner. Extensive yearly statistics of labour cost and labour income in comparative figures have been published since 1952/1953. In 1954 and 1958 price statistics for a list of 250 consumer goods and services were assembled by personal inquiry in more than 2,000 stores in the six countries of the Community, thus permitting calculations to consumer purchasing power parities. On the basis of these figures real wages were calculated to give a first impression of the level of living of the workers of the Community's industries (see Die Arbeitereinkommen der Industrien der Gemeinschaft im Realvergleich).

191. In order to give further enlightenment regarding the level of living, the following two inquiries were conducted: (1) family budget studies on the basis of information supplied by 2,000 families over a whole year (Statistische Informationen 1958, No. 6); (2) a random sample executed on the same definitions

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<sup>26/</sup> The Statistical Office of the European Communities; until 1 January 1959 this was the Statistical Division of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).



and methods throughout the six countries, covering 40,000 workers, threw light on the housing conditions of the ECSC workers (Statistische Informationen May/June 1959).

192. Future work. In foreign trade statistics a new nomenclature was developed uniting the Brussels and SITC nomenclatures. This combination is employed as of January 1960.

193. In the social field three inquiries are planned for 1960: (a) labour cost and labour income statistics for 12 industries (on the same methodological basis as for the ECSC industries); (2) comparable wage statistics for men and women; (3) a random sample of 150,000 to 200,000 persons to show the structure of the active population in the six countries.

194. The publication programme for 1960 provides for a monthly bulletin of general statistics, three series of foreign trade bulletins, the development of Statistische Informationen, including special issues for industrial, agricultural and social statistics.

#### International Statistical Institute (ISI)

195. 31st session, Brussels. The 31st session of the International Statistical Institute was held at Brussels from 3-8 September 1958, attended by 292 participants. A total of 75 papers were presented in meetings on the following subjects: statistical methods for the assessment of living conditions; international aspects of the 1960 censuses of population; statistical problems of astronomy; the applications of statistical methods in the biological sciences; statistical problems in interdependent dynamic systems, the use of sampling methods, recent developments in experimental design; applications of statistical methods in industry; mathematical statistics (3 meetings), economic statistics; and miscellaneous topics.

196. Statistical education programme. ISI continued the operation of the two International Statistical Education Centres in Calcutta (jointly with the Indian Statistical Institute) and in Beirut. This programme is carried out under the auspices of and with financial support from UNESCO, and with substantial financial aid from the host countries.

197. Under its teaching aids programme, the International Statistical Institute has continued the preparation of different series of bibliographies. In the series

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of bibliographies on the statistical textbooks in various languages, a volume on Italian literature (Bibliografia sui metodi statistiche e le loro applicazioni) has appeared. It has been compiled by the Italian Statistical Society in collaboration with the Institute of Statistics of the University of Rome. The bibliographies on the English and French literature, which were published in 1951 and 1953 respectively, are now being brought up to date, and publication of these revised editions may be expected in the course of 1960.

198. Considerable progress was made with the preparation of a Bibliography on Time Series and Stochastic Processes which is being prepared for ISI at the Institute of Statistics of the University of Uppsala in collaboration with an international panel of experts.

199. Terminology. A multilingual glossary was prepared, containing the English terms of the Dictionary of Statistical Terms (by M.G. Kendall and W.R. Buckland, published in 1957) and their equivalents in the French, German, Italian and Spanish languages. The glossary will be inserted in the next edition of the Dictionary. A Spanish translation of the Dictionary was prepared by the Inter American Statistical Institute and published as Diccionario de Términos Estadísticos in the "Inter American Textbook Series on Theoretical and Applied Statistics". A Japanese translation of the Dictionary is in preparation by the Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers.

200. On the invitation of the Conference of European Statisticians, ISI undertook the compilation of a Multilingual List of Terms Frequently Used in Official Statistics. The list is prepared on the basis of a preliminary glossary made by the Secretariat of the Conference. The work is carried out in two stages. The first stage, viz, the compilation of a standard list of about 3,000 terms in the English language only, is practically completed. The second stage will concern the preparation of lists of equivalent terms in further languages.

201. Statistical Abstracting Service. ISI started in 1959 the publication of the International Journal of Abstracts on Statistical Theory and Method.

Editor-in-chief is W.R. Buckland who is assisted by a panel of regional editors in 15 countries. This new journal is a second project in the Institute's Abstracting Service which began in 1954 with the publication of the International Journal of Abstracts on Statistical Methods in Industry.

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202. Municipal statistics programme. In its series of publications entitled International Statistics of Large Towns, ISI published three further volumes, viz, Population and Vital Statistics of Large Towns 1946-1953 (No. A 2 - 1957), Economic Data of Large Towns 1950-1954 (No. C 1 - 1958) and Public Utility Services and Transport in Large Towns 1950 and 1955 (No. D 1 - 1959).

203. The ISI set up the International Association of Municipal Statisticians. The Association, which is a section of the Institute, held its first two conferences in Geneva in 1958 and in Barcelona in 1959.

V. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Advisory services

204. The total number of statistical consultants provided by the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, whose assignments started in 1958 and 1959, was ninety-seven (see Annex I). These, together with forty-three consultants whose assignments were continued from earlier years, accounted for 124 man-years of service. Almost half the number of consultants in the field during the two years were provided by the United Nations. The table below gives the particulars:

	No. of Experts in the field in 1958 and 1959	Total man- months in 1958 and 1959
United Nations . . . . .	69	627
International Labour Office . . . . .	16	174
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization . . . . .	5	67
World Health Organization . . . . .	12	182
Food and Agriculture Organization . . . . .	38	435
	<hr/> 140	<hr/> 1,485 man-months or 124 man-years

205. The number of consultants provided by the United Nations and the specialized agencies who began their assignments in 1958 and 1959 compared with 1956 and 1957 was less in each of the regions shown in Annex I, with the exception of Africa where the number of consultants was more than doubled. During the period 1958 and 1959, of the total number of new consultants serving forty-six countries in all regions, twenty-four were on demographic statistics (including population censuses), twenty-three on agricultural statistics (including agricultural censuses), thirteen on statistical organization, eleven on labour statistics and nine on health statistics; consultants also advised on national accounts, economic, education and aviation statistics. The figures in Annex I include four regional census advisers who have been visiting countries in the Far East financed by funds provided by the Ford Foundation. One of these advisers provided assistance on questions relating

to sampling, another on data processing and a third on matters relating to agricultural censuses. In addition, there was a fourth regional census adviser to give advice on agricultural censuses in the French-speaking countries of the region for seven weeks during 1959.

206. The fact that in 1960 the ILO will send to Africa an adviser on labour statistics for a one-year trial period is a significant innovation which will be watched with great interest. It is hoped that the continuous on-the-spot services of a general labour statistics expert will reduce the need for costly short-term missions from Geneva, and will provide the expert with an opportunity to develop an intimate understanding of the problems in the countries of the region. Particular emphasis will be given to family living studies, basic employment and wage statistics, and the initiation and improvement of consumer price indices.

#### Fellowships

207. Awards of fellowships were made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in 1958 and 1959 to 108 persons from thirty-six countries. The figures in Annex II exclude awards given to enable technicians to attend short-term training centres and seminars, although the number of such awards was extensive. Annex III provides an indication of the number of persons attending some of the short-term training centres and seminars. Annex II does not include the large number of fellowships and grants under bilateral arrangements.

#### Training and education centres and seminars

208. As may be seen from Annex III, the United Nations and the specialized agencies organized during the period 1958 and 1959 fourteen centres or seminars. In addition, the Annex shows five further centres which had started prior to 1958 but which continued throughout 1958 and 1959. (Mention of these continuing or "permanent" centres is also made under the section below entitled "General problems of training".) For a list of centres and seminars organized during 1948 to 1957 reference should be made to Annex IV of the Review of International Statistics (E/CN.3/249) prepared for the tenth session of the Statistical Commission.

209. The Inter-American Training Center for Economic and Financial Statistics (CIEF) continued operating during 1958 and 1959 and it is expected to do so for

the period 1960-61 under the Program of Technical Cooperation of the Organization of American States and the joint sponsorship of the Government of Chile and the Inter American Statistical Institute.

210. A regional basic statistical training course was inaugurated in 1959 in Panama for students from the Central American and Caribbean regions, under the sponsorship of the Government of that country and the Inter American Statistical Institute. This course is the result of merging two courses which were previously in operation in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

211. In June 1959 a two-week Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America was held in Rio de Janeiro under the joint sponsorship of the Government of Brazil, the United Nations and the Inter American Statistical Institute. As the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth had expressed interest in holding a conference in the region in conjunction with this Seminar, arrangements were made for the two sessions to be held consecutively with a number of joint meetings on subjects of mutual concern to the two groups. While the agenda of the Seminar on National Accounts emphasized methodological problems in national income accounting, discussions were also held on such topics as money flows, input-output, international comparisons, national income in constant prices, as well as training and methods of technical assistance.

212. A Regional Statistics Seminar on Certification and Classification of Morbidity and Mortality was held in New Delhi in October 1958 by the World Health Organization. The objectives of the Seminar were: (a) to bring country representatives, in a position to influence statistical policy, into touch with expert opinion; (b) to pool experience from all countries of the region on practical problems encountered and ways of meeting them; (c) to work out collectively suitable solutions for regional problems, and possibly to make recommendations for the Eighth Revision of the International Classification. There were thirty-two participants and observers at the Seminar.

213. Two regional census training centres were organized in 1958, each for fifteen weeks, under the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, with the Inter American Statistical Institute acting as co-sponsor for the Latin American Centre. The Government of Peru was host to the United Nations/FAO/IASI Regional Census Training Centre for Latin America in

Lima, Peru, and that of Japan to the United Nations/FAO Regional Census Training Centre for Asia and the Far East, in Tokyo, Japan. In connexion with both centres, the host Governments organized experimental censuses of population (including housing) and of agriculture. Seventy-six participants, fifty-three from seventeen countries in Latin America other than Peru, and twenty-three from Peru, attended the Latin American Centre; fifty-one participants coming from seventeen countries and two territories in Asia, from Iran eastward, took part in the Tokyo Centre, including ten from Japan. The Inter American Statistical Institute made available the services of two lecturers at the Lima Centre.

214. The Food and Agriculture Organization, in its endeavours to secure as wide a participation of countries as possible in the 1960 World Census Programme, apart from co-sponsoring the two census training centres mentioned above, organized three regional training centres, one in Accra for countries south of the Sahara, one in Damascus for the Near East, and a third in Warsaw which was attended by countries of Eastern and Western Europe.

215. The International Labour Office carried out the Asian Seminar on Labour Statistics held in Manila in 1958, which was concerned chiefly with under-employment and family living studies.

#### Proposed training centres in 1960

216. A seminar is planned by the United Nations, in co-operation with the Inter American Statistical Institute, in Latin America, on basic and current industrial statistics. The seminar will consider objectives, concepts and methods for gathering and compiling basic and current industrial statistics in the region in the light of international recommendations in this field of statistics. Particular attention will be paid to methods, procedures and devices for the planning and carrying out of inquiries that will be part of the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics.

217. The World Health Organization is to hold a training course jointly with the United Nations on vital and health statistics for countries in Asia and the Far East. The purpose of the course is to improve vital and health statistics services in the region and to make the statistics uniform and internationally comparable by giving additional training to those engaged in their compilation.

General problems of training

218. The absence of trained personnel at all the different levels of skill continues to be one of the main obstacles to the more rapid improvement of statistics, especially in the less well developed countries. The agencies concerned are conscious of this continued need and are attempting to meet the problems by all the means at their disposal: the preparation of manuals and training materials, the conduct of ad hoc seminars and training courses usually financed under the technical assistance programme, the provision of fellowships for advanced study abroad financed in the same way, and in-service training conducted by statistical experts in connexion with their other duties. Mention should also be made of the "permanent" training institutions established or partly supported by international agencies - the International Statistical Education Centres in Calcutta and Beirut, sponsored by the International Statistical Institute, UNESCO, and the respective Governments; the Centro Interamericano de Estadísticas Económicas y Financiera in Santiago, sponsored by the Inter American Statistical Institute; the Statistical Centre of the University of the Philippines; the Statistical Institute at the University of Cairo; and the Statistical Academy in Djakarta.

219. Despite these efforts, a great deal more needs to be done. In Africa, for instance, the need is acute. The First Conference of African Statisticians recommended "that the Secretariat should further investigate specific needs for training, particularly at the middle level, and appropriate measures to satisfy the needs. These should include the organization of regional and sub-regional centres to assist participants to attain a recognizable standard of competence. It was also urged that attention be given to arrangements such as demonstration centres to train instructors (master-trainers) who would be used in their own countries to train field investigators in census and survey operations."

220. The Conference recommended also "that the Secretariat should ascertain from each country or territory the specific forms of training which would be needed and the number of trainees during the next two or three years for the Statistical Survey. The Executive Secretary should then make specific proposals for increasing training facilities".<sup>27/</sup>

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<sup>27/</sup> E/CN.14/25, paras. 62-63.



221. In many countries of Asia the need is not far different. The Conference of Asian Statisticians (second session) noted that one of the serious bottlenecks in statistical development is the lack of trained personnel. It emphasized the need for a survey of statistical manpower and training facilities. In this connexion, countries are being encouraged to take a forward look into their further requirements of personnel in the next few years in the context of national planning and development. The Conference urged the need for training at the intermediate and lower levels, to be organized within the countries. With respect to in-service training, it was suggested that a small working group might develop a detailed programme for the guidance of countries.

222. In Europe, also, special attention was paid by the Conference of European Statisticians to the education and supplementary training of official statisticians. The Conference invited national statistical offices and other appropriate bodies to submit to the Secretariat, for circulation, papers describing the methods of education and supplementary training of official statisticians in their countries on the lines of a questionnaire to be drawn up by the Secretariat in collaboration with UNESCO and ISI. It also invited UNESCO in collaboration with ISI to prepare, in the light of these national documents, a paper for consideration at a meeting to be held later. The questionnaire was circulated recently and it is planned to prepare a paper for consideration at the eighth plenary session.

223. FAO reports that "there is persistent demand from the countries for more training centres and research on statistical technique and sampling, and for guidance on specific problems such as on methods of estimating livestock of nomadic tribes, techniques to be used for estimating areas and yield under conditions of continuous cropping, statistical approach to be used for collecting data on plantation and other crops in countries lacking mapping materials, techniques of forecasting for commercial crops. Such questions call for study and investigation at institutes of research located in the region itself where such problems arise."

224. In Latin America, one of the most urgent needs is for training in statistical sampling and in the conduct of field surveys. While there are a number of well qualified sampling statisticians in Latin America, who have been trained through international and bilateral programmes of various kinds, there are not nearly enough, and there has been insufficient emphasis placed upon the applications of sampling in the assembly of economic and social statistics.

It is for this reason that IASI and the United Nations have been attempting to organize, in co-operation with a national university, a year's course in applications, especially in field surveys. Up to now financial means have not been sufficient.

225. Much the same need prevails elsewhere, especially in parts of Africa and Asia, where a very large portion of economic and social statistics will have to be collected by household and other surveys if the statistics are to be collected at all. The Commission will have noted the emphasis given to this subject - and recommendations for the establishment of sample survey units within the governmental framework - by the Conference of African Statisticians and its counterpart in Asia.

226. Generally speaking, it appears that the training of intermediate and lower level personnel might best be done at the national level, or possibly at sub-regional centres in situations where the conditions and problems of several nearby countries are very much the same. In either case, however, serious problems arise both in the organization and content of the training activity itself and in arrangements for the full-time participation of trainees who in many instances cannot be spared from their regular work; if they are detached for study purposes, it is not usually possible for their offices to obtain replacements. Part of this problem is a financial one which must be met either from national or external sources.

227. The Secretary-General would welcome the views of the Statistical Commission upon further measures which might be taken to solve the training problem. It is felt particularly that the surveys of training needs and requirements (not excluding those in the private sector) envisaged by the three Conferences in Europe, Asia and Africa would be useful steps, at least to the extent of drawing the attention of Governments and private institutions to a rapidly accelerating problem which grows proportionately to the needs for statistics in the conduct of contemporary affairs.

## ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES EXPERTS,  
 BY SUBJECT AND AREA, 1948-1957 AND 1958-1959,  
 WITH TOTALS FOR THE SAME PERIODS AND FOR 1948-1959

	Statistical organiza- tion and ad- ministration		Economic statis- tics 1/		National income		Demo- graphic statis- tics		Health statis- tics		Labour statis- tics		Agri- cultural statis- tics		Edu- cation statis- tics		Aviation statis- tics		T O T A L S			
	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	
	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	and	to	
	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	1958	1948	
	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1957	1959	1959	
Africa (11 countries)	3	-	2	-	1	3	3	2	1	3	1	-	8	4	-	1	-	-	19	13	32	
Asia (17 countries)	24	7	12	1	5	2	4	14	13	5	10	5	18	12	1	2	3	-	90	48	138	
Europe (4 countries)	6	2	5	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	18	6	24	
Latin America (23 countries)	16	1	16	3	11	1	18	6	3	-	17	2	25	6	3	2	-	-	109	21	130	
Middle East (9 countries)	11	3	9	1	1	-	2	1	6	1	3	3	17	-	2	-	-	-	51	9	60	
TOTAL <sup>2/</sup> (64 countries)	60	13	44	6	18	6	29	24	24	9	33	11	70	23	6	5	3	-	287	97	384	
		73		50		24		53		33		44		93		11		3				

1/ Includes industrial, trade and price statistics.

2/ In the 1958-1959 period, 46 countries received expert advice from the United Nations and specialized agencies.

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ANNEX II

UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS,  
BY SUBJECT AND AREA, 1948-1957 AND 1958-1959,  
WITH TOTALS FOR THE SAME PERIODS AND FOR 1948-1959

	Statistical methods		Statistical and administrative methods		Economic statistics		National income statistics		Demographic statistics		Social statistics		Health statistics		Education statistics		Labour statistics		Agricultural statistics		TOTALS		
	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1957	1958 to 1959	1948 to 1959
Africa (8 countries)	-	1	5	-	4	-	1	-	2	-	4	-	16	2	2	-	-	-	5	2	39	5	44
Asia (16 countries)	8	4	10	-	23	3	8	3	9	6	6	-	19	3	6	1	8	1	6	3	103	24	127
Europe (14 countries)	4	1	6	1	4	1	2	2	3	2	11	-	20	11	1	-	4	-	8		63	18	81
Latin America <sup>2/</sup> (29 countries)	7	2	3	1	26	-	7	1	40	-	4	-	129	32	17	-	9	1	18	6	260	43	303
Middle East (9 countries)	5	2	8	-	4	5	1	-	2	1	2	-	15	-	7	-	11	4	10	6	65	18	83
TOTAL <sup>3/4/</sup> (78 countries)	<u>24</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>532</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>640</u>
	34		34		70		25		65		27		249		34		38		64				3/

1/ Includes industrial, trade and price statistics.

2/ Including countries in the Caribbean area.

3/ Including 1 for Canada and 1 for USA.

4/ In the 1958-1959 period, fellowships were awarded to candidates in 36 countries.

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ANNEX III

LIST OF STATISTICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRES  
ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES 1958-1959 1/

- Statistical Training Centre, Saigon. United Nations. Four-month elementary course held from 30 January to 29 May 1958, attended by 51 students. Nine-month intermediate-level course held from 15 July 1958 to 30 April 1959, attended by 28 students.
- Seminar on Agricultural Census and Surveys. CCTA/FAO. Held in Accra, Ghana, from 8 March to 30 July 1959. Attended by 38 participants.
- Seminar on Agricultural Census for the Near East. FAO. Held in Damascus, from 20 May - 30 July 1959. Attended by 32 participants.
- Seminar on Agricultural Census and Surveys. FAO. Held in Warsaw, Poland, from 15-30 June 1959. Attended by 21 participants.
- Training Course in Coding Mortality Statistics. WHO. Held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 19-31 May 1958. Attended by 16 participants from ten countries.
- Conference on Teaching of Medical Statistics. WHO. Held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 22-28 July 1958. Attended by 18 participants from seven countries.
- Regional Census Training Centre for Latin America. United Nations/FAO/IASI. Held in Lima, Peru, from 11 August-21 November 1958. Attended by 76 participants: 53 from seventeen Latin American countries other than Peru, and 23 from Peru.
- Regional Census Training Centre for the Far East. United Nations/FAO. Held in Tokyo, Japan, from 1 September-12 December 1958. Attended by 51 participants (10 of whom from Japan) from seventeen countries and two territories in Asia from Iran eastward.
- Seminar on Certification and Classification of Morbidity and Mortality. WHO. Held in New Delhi, India, from 13-25 October 1958. Attended by 32 participants.
- Conference on Hospital Statistics. WHO. Held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 24-28 November 1958. Attended by 14 participants from fourteen countries.
- Asian Seminar on Labour Statistics. ILO. Held in Manila from 17-29 November 1958. Attended by 47 participants and observers. Principal topics were methods of family living studies and under-employment, but also included were cost-of-living statistics and wage statistics.

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1/ For centres organized during the period 1948-1957, see document E/CN.3/249.

Working Group on Education and Training in Medical Certification. WHO. Held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 26-30 May 1959. Attended by 12 participants.

Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America. United Nations/IASI. Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 11-26 June 1959. Attended by approximately 60 participants from seventeen Latin American countries and a number of countries outside the area.

Regional Seminar for Africa on the International Standardization of Educational Statistics. UNESCO. Held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 21 November-3 December 1959. Attended by 21 participants from fourteen countries.

Statistical Center of the University of the Philippines (continuing). United Nations. Established in Manila in June 1954. Attended, during twelve semesters, by an average of 100 each semester. Since the Center was organized, 17 students have received Master's degrees (13 M.A., 4 M.S.). In addition, 227 students attended five summer sessions, and approximately 380 students attended twelve in-service training sessions.

International Statistical Education Centre, Calcutta (continuing). Established in 1950. Attended during thirteen terms by 347 participants from nineteen countries.

International Statistical Education Centre, Beirut (continuing). Established in 1953. Attended during eight terms by 261 participants from seventeen countries.

Inter-American Training Centre for Economic and Financial Statistics (CIEF) (continuing). OAS/IASI. Established in Santiago, Chile, January 1953. Continued operating during 1958 and 1959.

Training Course in Statistics for Central America and the Caribbean Region. (Curso de Formación Básica en Estadística para Centroamérica y el Caribe (CUFCEC)). IASI. Inaugurated in 1959 in Panama. This course represents a merging of two courses previously in operation in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

General Note: For almost all the centres listed above, the Government of the country in which the meeting was held acted as co-sponsor or otherwise contributed substantially to the work of the project.

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