

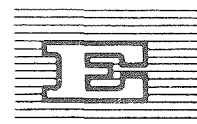
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STANDARDS AND TECHNIQUES FOR POPULATION PROJECTIONS

(Report of the Secretary-General)

I. Background

1. This report summarizes work in the field of population projections carried out by the Population Branch, Bureau of Social Affairs, United Nations, in recent years pursuant to recommendations of the Population Commission and regional economic commissions, and the plans for future work in this field. It is presented to the Statistical Commission in view of the interest in the development of standards and techniques for such projections, expressed by the Statistical Commission at its twelfth session (E/3633, para. 80, resolution 8 (XII)).

2. Four United Nations publications containing world population projections have been issued to date, in 1951, 1954, 1958 and 1964.^{1/} The 1964 publication is provisional and has been circulated among Governments, selected demographic institutions and individual experts for comments and suggestions with a view to preparation of a revised publication to be issued in the United Nations series of

^{1/} "The Past and Future Growth of World Population - A Long-Range View", Population Bulletin No. 1, United Nations publication, Sales No.: 52.XIII.2; "Framework for Future Population Estimates, 1950-80, by World Regions", Proceedings of the World Population Conference 1954, Vol. III, United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.8, pp. 283-328; The Future Growth of World Population, United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.XIII.2; Provisional Report on World Population Prospects, As Assessed in 1963, ST/SOA/SER.R/7.

Population Studies (ST/SOA/SER.A) in 1965. More detailed projections of population by sex and age groups for countries in certain regions of the world have also been published at various dates from 1954 to 1959.^{2/}

3. Under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America, several reports containing population projections by sex, age, and urban-rural residence for Latin American countries were published at various dates from 1960 to 1962.^{3/} Work on population projections on a regional basis is being done also under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

4. The Population Commission, at its eleventh and twelfth sessions, recommended the preparation, on an international scale, of projections of urban and rural population, economically active population, school population, and numbers of households. Plans for work on such projections during 1965-66, in co-operation with the specialized agencies as appropriate, are included in the proposals for future work programmes in the population field prepared for consideration by the Population Commission at its thirteenth (1965) session (E/CN.9/182, E/CN.9/196).

^{2/} The Population of Central America (including Mexico), 1950-1980, Sales No.: 54.XIII.3; The Population of South America, 1950-1980, Sales No.: 55.XIII.4; The Population of South-East Asia (including Ceylon and China; Taiwan), 1950-1980, Sales No.: 59.XIII.2; and The Population of Asia and the Far East, 1950-1980, Sales No.: 59.XIII.3.

- ^{3/} CEPAL: (ECLA) División de Asuntos Sociales (Social Affairs Division). Proyección de la población urbana, población rural y fuerza trabajadora de Colombia. April 1960.
- CEPAL: (ECLA) División de Asuntos Sociales (Social Affairs Division). Proyección de la población urbana y rural de Cuba, con estimaciones de la fuerza de trabajo, de la población en edad escolar y del grado de alfabetismo. April 1960.
- ECIA: Some aspects of population growth in Colombia. E/CN.12/613. November 1962.
- ECIA: Preliminary study of the demographic situation in Latin America. E/CN.12/604. April 1961.
- ECIA: Human resources of Central America, Panamá and México, 1950-1980, in relation to some aspects of economic development. E/CN.12/548. Sales No. 60.XIII.1.

II. General principles for national programmes of population projections

5. Acting upon a recommendation of the Population Commission at its eleventh session, the Secretary-General presented at the Commission's twelfth session a document entitled, "Draft Standards for National Programmes of Population Projections as Aids to Development Planning" (E/CN.9/170). After discussing this draft, the Population Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised text, taking into account the views expressed by the Commission, and to circulate it widely to international and national agencies and institutions and to individual experts with a view to obtaining their comments and suggestions. It further requested that the text should be revised again in the light of these comments and presented to the Population Commission at its thirteenth session.

6. Accordingly, the draft of this document was circulated widely and comments and suggestions were received from more than eighty agencies, institutions, and experts throughout the world. These, together with the views expressed by the Population Commission at its twelfth session, were taken into account in preparing a revised text which is in process of publication under the title, General Principles for National Programmes of Population Projections as Aids to Development Planning (ST/SOA/SER.A/38).

7. This publication will include, among other things, indications of the most useful types of population projections for economic and social planning and policy-making, the classifications most useful to include in projections and types of data and other information needed as a sound basis for population projections. The principles do not aim to achieve international uniformity in population projections; the guiding principles are formulated in such a way that they can be adapted in each country to national needs and available resources. These principles are expected to be helpful in achieving as much international comparability of projections as is compatible with differences in national needs and resources.

8. Furthermore, the general principles set forth in the forthcoming publication do not deal with details of the methods of population projections; separate publications on methods are being prepared as stated in Part III below. The methodological and other problems of analysing and evaluating results of population censuses and other demographic data required as a basis for population projections

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have been the subject matter of several publications of the United Nations^{4/} and additional technical publications in this field are planned.^{5/}

III. Manuals on methods of demographic projections

9. In compliance with the recommendations of the Population Commission, the Secretariat in co-operation with specialized agencies of the United Nations has undertaken work on methods of population projections. The progress of this work to date and plans for future work are summarized in the following.

10. A manual dealing with methods of calculating future population by sex and age was prepared and published by the United Nations in 1956.^{6/}

11. A manual on methods of projecting school population and school attendance, prepared with UNESCO's co-operation, has been completed and is in the process of joint publication by UNESCO and the United Nations.

12. A manual on methods of urban and rural population projections is being prepared, and is expected to be published in the course of 1965.

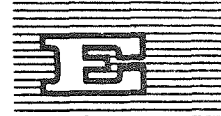
13. Plans have been drawn up for a manual on methods of projections of economically active population, to be prepared with the co-operation of the ILO. This manual is expected to be completed during 1965/66.

14. A manual on methods of projections of households and families is planned to be undertaken as soon as staff resources become available.

^{4/} Manual I, Methods of Estimating Total Population for Current Dates, Sales No.: 52.XIII.5; Manual II, Methods of Appraisal of Quality of Basic Data for Population Estimates, Sales No.: 56.XIII.2; National Programmes of Analysis of Population Census Data as an Aid to Planning and Policy-Making, Sales No.: 64.XIII.4; Report of the Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Latin America (E/CN.9/CONF.1/1/Rev.1); Report of the Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Asia and the Far East (E/CN.9/CONF.2/1); Case Studies of Arrangements for Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Results: Report I, The Sudan; Report II, Guatemala; Report III, Ecuador; Report IV, Japan; Report V, Iran (ST/SOA/SER.R/1-5), respectively.

^{5/} Manual on methods of estimating basic demographic quantities for insufficient statistics is prepared with the co-operation of Princeton University. It is hoped that drafting will be completed soon by Princeton University.

^{6/} Manual III, Methods for Population Projections by Sex and Age, Sales No.: 56.XIII.3.



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STANDARDS AND TECHNIQUES FOR POPULATION PROJECTIONS

(Report of the Secretary-General)

Addendum

1. This document presents a summary of the report of the thirteenth session of the Population Commission on the above subject. The Commission commended the Secretariat on its work in preparing the population projections for different regions of the world to the year 2000 which had been issued in the Provisional Report on World Population Prospects, as Assessed in 1963 (ST/SCA/SER.R/7).

The Commission strongly approved of the link which had thus been established with work on projections at the national level, and hoped that such collaboration could be extended further in the future. The Commission expressed the hope that the revised report which the Secretariat was preparing on the basis of comments received could be completed and published in 1965.

2. The Commission was impressed by the striking differences between future population prospects in the more developed and less developed regions of the world. In the former regions, the outlook was for relatively moderate growth and further aging of the population. In the latter region, on the other hand, the prospect of continued rapid population growth was evident in each of the variants, the medium variant showing an increase from 2,000 million in 1960 to 3,100 million in 1980 and 4,600 million in 2000.

3. The Commission recognized that the population projections provided by the United Nations served many different needs of units of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, other organizations and Member States. The provision of up-to-date projections to meet these needs was becoming ever more urgent, and

the Commission was gratified to note that the Secretary-General was taking steps to assemble and maintain up-to-date systematic bibliographic and reference material relating to national and international demographic projections and to speed the provision of population estimates and forecasts in the future, through the use of an electronic computer. The Commission also suggested some methodological innovations which might improve the accuracy of population projections. These included particularly the development of regional models, both of age-specific fertility rates and life tables, and more systematic attention to differences between urban and rural areas with regard to population growth and economic and social development.

4. The Commission noted that the appropriate regional economic commissions and demographic centres, in collaboration with the staff at Headquarters, were to prepare the projections by sex, age and urban and rural residence for countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and it hoped that it would be possible to publish a series of regional reports during 1965 and 1966, as well as to prepare a world-wide report on urban-rural population projections by sex and age. The survey of urban and rural population growth since 1920, in which the Secretariat was engaged, would provide a useful basis for such projections.

5. The Commission was gratified that arrangements had been made for the International Labour Organisation to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat, projections of economically active population by sex, age and urban-rural residence for selected countries. The Commission hoped that such projections could be made available during 1966/67.

6. The Commission was aware of the many demands being made upon the Secretariat for population projections of various kinds. Although impressed by the urgency and importance of this work, the Commission was mindful of the need for thorough methodological studies and analytical research to provide a sound basis for such projections. Many members felt that in some countries the basic data and analytical work were as yet not sufficiently advanced to provide a sound basis for different kinds of projections, such as those relating to households and families. Such projections needed, however, to be undertaken without undue delay to meet urgent requests of various organs of the United Nations. The Commission believed that the initial work on household projections should relate only to the total numbers of households and not to household composition.

7. The Commission recommended that in due course, the different kinds of demographic projections should be integrated in a consistent body both as regards techniques and results.