

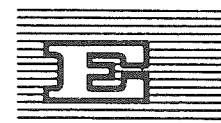
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PROGRESS REPORT ON STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS, 1962-1964

(Report by the Secretary-General)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1 - 4
I. COMPENDIUM OF SOCIAL STATISTICS	
A. Present status . . . . .	5 - 7
B. Proposal for future development . . . . .	8 - 12
II. HANDBOOK OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS	
A. Present status . . . . .	13 - 15
B. Content . . . . .	16
III. STATISTICAL SERIES REQUIRED FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMMING . . . . .	17 - 18
A. Statistics for housing programmes . . . . .	19 - 24
B. Statistics for educational planning . . . . .	25 - 26
C. Statistics for health programming . . . . .	27 - 31
IV. STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS . . . . .	32 - 33
A. Present status . . . . .	34
B. Background . . . . .	35 - 39
V. HOUSING STATISTICS	
A. Methodological studies . . . . .	40 - 49
B. Statistical indicators of housing conditions . . . . .	50
C. Methods of estimating housing needs . . . . .	51 - 53
D. Dissemination of data . . . . .	54 - 56
VI. SOCIAL WELFARE STATISTICS . . . . .	57

## INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighth session in 1954, the Commission considered a memorandum (E/CN.3/178) by the Secretary-General concerning the scope of social statistics. A draft survey on the wider aspects of social statistics and work being done by international agencies in this field was also made available at that session as a working paper (in English), entitled Survey of Social Statistics<sup>1/</sup> although it did not form part of the official documentation.
2. In his memorandum, the Secretary-General had discussed the need for social statistics mainly from the point of view of the formulation and administration of government policies aimed at improving conditions of life and had emphasized that the formulation of social policies required the association of data on social conditions with a wide range of economic statistics.
3. The Commission agreed with the point of view put forward by the Secretary-General that the development of social statistics is not so much a question of collecting information of a new type as arraying data, which are regularly collected in many countries, in such a way as to make possible an analysis of the differences which appear among socially and economically significant groups, and among countries, in regard to various topics such as health, nutrition, housing, education, and conditions of work and employment.
4. At subsequent sessions, the Commission has reviewed progress achieved in developing statistics for social programmes and this document is a report on progress during 1962-1964 in carrying out the programme set forth by the Commission at its various sessions. It is divided into six parts. Parts I, II, III and IV refer to joint projects undertaken with the specialized agencies to further the development of statistics useful for describing social structure and conditions of living as well as changes therein; part V deals with progress in the field of housing statistics, for which the Statistical Office is responsible. Part VI refers briefly to social welfare statistics.

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1/ Survey of Social Statistics (United Nations publications, Sales No.: 54.XVII.8).

## I. COMPENDIUM OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

### A. Present status

5. In accordance with resolution 9 (XII), operative paragraph 3, of the Statistical Commission, the bilingual English/French Compendium of Social Statistics 1963 was published in April 1963.<sup>2/</sup> It was brought to the attention of the Social Commission at its fifteenth session in line with the understanding<sup>3/</sup> that it should be issued in co-ordination with the 1963 Report on the World Social Situation<sup>4/</sup> and the latter Report took cognizance of this relationship by noting in the Preface that "The report should be read in conjunction with the Compendium of Social Statistics which contains statistical data showing trends in sectoral fields over the decade."<sup>5/</sup>

6. As originally conceived, the Compendium was intended as a statistical framework for the Report on the World Social Situation, but because of the timing involved, it had been recognized from the beginning that many of the results of population censuses carried out around 1960 which it was hoped to include, would not be available in time to meet the November 1962 deadline of the Compendium. Hence, rates of change over the 1950/1960 decade which depended on census results had not been able to be computed for many countries. Consequently, with the exception of the health facilities data which are administrative statistics collected annually, the data had not been especially useful in drafting the text of the Report on the World Social Situation.

7. These facts as well as other deficiencies in the experimental issue were discussed by the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the occasion of the Inter-Agency Statistical Co-ordination Meeting, held 11-12 May 1964, and it was agreed that despite this handicap, a statistical compilation similar to the Compendium was essential as a basis for formulating policy in the social field

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2/ Compendium of Social Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No. 63.XVII.3).

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1, Resolutions, Resolution 693 (XXVI), Annex, I. Statistical Activities, p. 23.

4/ 1963 Report on the World Social Situation (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.IV.4).

5/ Ibid., p. iii.

and that therefore steps should be taken to improve and correct the data and to issue a revised volume.

B. Proposal for future development

(1) Content

8. The content of the first (1963) issue of the Compendium is essentially that which the Commission considered in outline form at its tenth and eleventh sessions.<sup>6/</sup> It is organized into eight sections<sup>7/</sup> which roughly parallel the components designed for measuring levels of living<sup>8/</sup> and also the chapters of the Handbook of Household Surveys<sup>9/</sup> discussed in paragraphs 13-16 below. A total of 104 tables comprise rates, ratios, index numbers and similar devices not commonly found in the regular statistical publications of the agencies concerned. Explanatory notes describing each series and their limitations are set forth at the beginning of each section.

9. At its eleventh session, the Commission recommended (resolution 10 (XI), operative paragraph 2) that provision be made in future issues for (1) the inclusion of additional subjects, such as the distribution of households and the gainfully occupied population by levels of income; (2) suitable classification of

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<sup>6/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10, pp. 16-17; *ibid.*, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, pp. 15-16.

<sup>7/</sup> I. Population and Vital Statistics (except population in the labour force which is in Section VI)  
II. Health Conditions  
III. Food Consumption and Nutrition  
IV. Housing  
V. Education and Cultural Activities  
VI. Labour Force and Conditions of Employment  
VII. Social Security  
VIII. Income and Expenditure

<sup>8/</sup> Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 54.IV.5), and International Definition and Measurement of Levels of Living; An Interim Guide (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 61.IV.7).

<sup>9/</sup> Handbook of Household Surveys: A Practical Guide for Inquiries on Levels of Living (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.XVII.13).

subjects by socio-economic groupings, and (3) greater depth in the treatment of subjects listed in E/CN.3/269 and Corr.1, which contained the outline of the contents of the first issue as agreed by the inter-agency Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes.<sup>10/</sup>

10. At its twelfth session, the Statistical Commission requested that proposals for revision of the Compendium 1963, including additional subjects and ~~classific~~ classifications, be brought to the attention of the Commission at its thirteenth session. In accordance with this request, the specialized agencies as well as the Bureau of Social Affairs were invited in September 1964 to submit proposals for revision of the content. Suggestions were received from the World Health Organization, the International Labour Office, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Bureau of Social Affairs and these have been circulated to each contributing agency. They will also be discussed at an informal meeting of representatives of the specialized agencies acting as the inter-agency Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes, to be held during the first part of the Statistical Commission's thirteenth session. Their findings will be placed before the Commission when the Compendium is being discussed.

(2) Publication schedule

11. At its twelfth session, the Statistical Commission had agreed to await the first issue of the Compendium before recommending a time schedule for publication of future issues.<sup>11/</sup> In this connexion, the Inter-Agency Statistical Co-ordination Meeting gave general support to a second issue and agreed that it should continue to be prepared in conjunction with the Report on the World Social Situation. Since the postponement of the Social Commission from 1964 to 1965 has changed by one year the regular schedule of the Report, the next full issue will be published at the beginning of 1968. This means that the statistical tables for the next issue of the Compendium should be completed early in 1967, in order that they could be

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10/ First Technical Report of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes (United Nations document ACC/WPSSP/1/9/Rev.2).

11/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, paragraph 86, p. 13.

used in the preparation of the text for the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation. This would result in the second issue following the first after a four-year interval.

12. The Inter-Agency Statistical Co-ordination Meeting gave consideration to a six- or eight-year cycle for issuing the Compendium but it became obvious that either schedule would place the next issue at 1969 or 1971, both of which are too early to take advantage of the results of the 1970 censuses of population and too late to be useful in connexion with the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation. Accordingly, it is suggested that the second issue of the Compendium be published early in 1967 and that, if the Commission decides that a third edition might be useful, it be issued in 1975, at which time it could conceivably include results of the 1970 censuses of population. The Commission will wish to give its comments on this proposed publication schedule.

## II. HANDBOOK OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

### A. Present status

13. The Handbook of Household Surveys: A Practical Guide for Inquiries on Levels of Living was published in English in October 1964 and in Spanish in January 1965. A French edition is in preparation. It has already been found useful at the African seminars on labour statistics and vital statistics and at a Latin American workshop on household surveys.

14. Publication of the Handbook is the culmination of work undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination's inter-agency Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes, to promote the household-survey method of collecting statistics for social programming especially in the less developed countries. It will be recalled that the Working Party reviewed the various revisions of the draft Handbook at its first, second and third meetings (1959, 1960 and 1961) and the results of its deliberations were placed before the Statistical Commission at its eleventh and twelfth sessions.

15. At the latter session, the Commission requested that a third draft be circulated for critical review to members of the Statistical Commission and other

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experts selected by the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies. Accordingly, the draft revised in accordance with the Working Party suggestions during its fourth session, 10-14 September 1962,<sup>12/</sup> was transmitted to eighty-six selected experts in July 1963 and by January 1964, constructive replies had been received from some fifty of these. Comments received from this expert panel were transmitted to the agencies which authored the various chapters for their consideration and as a result of this, a fourth revision or fifth draft was prepared. Since the comments on the fourth draft had been favourable on the whole, and entailed only such points as could and should be within the competence of each author to accept or reject, it was felt that further consideration by the Working Party was not required. The Inter-Agency Statistical Co-ordination Meeting concurred on this and the various chapters were merged into a technical manual.

B. Content

16. The Handbook consists of nine chapters, and a bibliography. The eight chapters which deal with substantive topics are: I. The unit of enumeration; II. Demographic characteristics; III. Health; IV. Food consumption and nutrition; V. Housing conditions and facilities; VI. Educational characteristics; VII. Employment; and VIII. Economic level of the household. Chapter IX deals with sampling methods and is entitled Conducting the household survey. As indicated in paragraph 13, some, if not all of these chapters have been used as background working papers at two seminars and a workshop. It is expected that as a result of this regional activity, revision and expansion will be necessary and such revision is tentatively proposed to be undertaken in 1968, with publication in 1969/70.

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<sup>12/</sup> Fourth Technical Report of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes (United Nations document ACC/WPSSP/IV/8/Rev.1).

### III. STATISTICAL SERIES REQUIRED FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMMING

17. The primary purpose of the Compendium of Social Statistics was to bring together "the basic statistical data required for describing the major aspects of the social situation in the world and in the regions". In addition, the Statistical Commission thought it "would serve to a certain extent as a guide to the objectives which it would be desirable for the less developed Member States to attain in the field of statistics for social programmes".<sup>13/</sup>

18. To give guidance in this area, the Commission at its tenth session had "considered that there was a need for studies to determine the ways in which social statistics could be used by Member States in formulating, implementing and evaluating social policies in different specialized fields"<sup>14/</sup> and in resolution 11 (X), the Commission requested the Secretary-General with appropriate collaboration to prepare "studies on the uses of social statistics for the formulation of social policies".<sup>15/</sup>

#### A. Statistics for housing programmes

19. The most important developments in this area during 1962-1964 were undoubtedly the convening of two seminars on housing statistics and programmes which drew up a list of statistics required for the formulation and implementation of housing programmes. These two seminars were the latest in a series being organized by the Statistical Office in collaboration with the Housing, Building and Planning Branch of the Bureau of Social Affairs, the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the appropriate regional commission and the Danish Government, in accordance with the United Nations Long-range Programme of Concerted International Action in the Field of Housing and Related Community Facilities.<sup>16/</sup>

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<sup>13/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, paragraph 90, p. 15.

<sup>14/</sup> Ibid., Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10, para. 116.

<sup>15/</sup> Ibid., paragraph 121.

<sup>16/</sup> Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 11, Annex III, Resolution A.



20. The principal purpose of the seminars was to bring together representatives of housing agencies and statistical services for the purpose of studying methods of formulating housing programmes within the over-all programmes of economic and social development, to determine the statistical data required for this purpose and the best means of obtaining them.

(1) Latin America

21. This seminar, which met from 2 to 25 September 1962 in Copenhagen, was attended by thirty-one participants from sixteen countries. Views were exchanged on all aspects of housing programmes but the result of significance in a statistical sense was the list of statistics required for the formulation and implementation of housing programmes in Latin America which was developed.<sup>17/</sup> The presentation covers not only the series, but their source, including national accounts, housing censuses, surveys, current statistics, demographic sources, economic censuses and so forth.

(2) Asia

22. A similar seminar was held from 25 August to 14 September 1963 in Copenhagen for twenty-seven participants from seventeen countries in the region. The report of this seminar contains a detailed description of the statistics required for the formulation and implementation of housing programmes in Asia and the principal methods of collection.<sup>18/</sup> This, like the Latin American list, covers all types of statistics, the need for which has been demonstrated.

(3) Europe

23. A forerunner of the two seminars described in paragraphs 21 and 22 was held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, in October 1961 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe.<sup>19/</sup> That seminar discussed the basic information required for programming housing in Europe, but this is not set out separately in the report.

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<sup>17/</sup> Report of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.II.G.14), Chapter V, pp. 52-75.

<sup>18/</sup> Report of the Seminar for Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East (United Nations document E/CN.11/677), pp. 101-141.

<sup>19/</sup> Report on the Seminar on Housing Surveys and Programmes with Particular Reference to Problems in the Developing Countries (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.II.E/Min.8).

(4) Africa

24. Plans are under way for the convening of a seminar similar in some respects to the Latin American and Asian meetings described above but with an approach tailored to the African circumstances. This will probably be held in 1966.

B. Statistics for educational planning

25. At its fourth session in 1962, the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had for discussion a paper entitled Statistics Needed for Educational Planning,<sup>20/</sup> a preliminary draft prepared by the Statistical Division of the Department of Social Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The paper was intended to provide a preliminary inventory of statistical information of various kinds and from different sources, which is needed for the purpose of educational planning at the national level. The Working Party discussed the draft and offered some suggestion for revision which included subdivision into two groups of series, according to priority, for some simplification in respect of differentiation and precision, and also some additions.

26. It may be noted that at its recent twelfth session, the Conference of European Statisticians had before it a memorandum by the Secretariat (Conf. Eur.Stats./212) suggesting topics for consideration in the context of statistical needs for planning educational development, and for studies of future needs and supplies of different skills, particularly higher skills.<sup>21/</sup>

C. Statistics for health programming

27. At its eighth session in 1962, the Expert Committee on Health Statistics of the World Health Organization (WHO) had on its agenda an item entitled "General Principles of Health Statistics". The report on the meeting noted<sup>22/</sup> that "Health

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<sup>20/</sup> Statistics Needed for Educational Planning (United Nations document ACC/WPSSP/IV/5).

<sup>21/</sup> Report of the Twelfth Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.II.E/Min.33), para. 96.

<sup>22/</sup> Expert Committee on Health Statistics, Eighth Report (World Health Organization Technical Report Series, No. 261), pp. 28-29.

administrations concerned with the level of health of the community, whether on the local, regional or national level, need statistical data of various kinds for the formulation of health programmes, control of operations and evaluation of the results. Data are required on the health status of the population, and conditions of the environment affecting health, as well as on facilities and services intended to protect, promote and restore health. The types and sources of the information needed are of a wide range and variety, such as: population censuses; statistics of births, marriages and deaths, including causes of death; morbidity data obtained through surveys or as a by-product in the operation of health and welfare programmes (e.g., notification of communicable diseases, mass screening campaigns to detect cases of illness, and examination of school children); service statistics of health establishments and medical institutions; data on conditions of the environment (e.g., housing, climate, and air pollution).

28. "All these are data which either deal with 'health' or have a direct bearing on it. But other statistics dealing with entirely different subjects could provide information useful to the health administrator. For instance, data on food production in terms of calories, protein and other nutrients may permit some estimate of the nutritional status of the population. In fact, while statistical data dealing with health as the primary topic of interest form the larger part of the numerical information needed by health administrations, valuable knowledge can be obtained from statistics treating other aspects of life which may implicate 'health' (e.g., employment, education, clothing and social welfare).

29. "Summarizing the above, the Committee stressed that a broad meaning be given to health statistics as the numerical information essential for the formulation, operation and evaluation of health programmes, to comprise the large variety of data bearing on health, irrespective of the source of the data and the methods of collecting them."

30. The Committee in considering what action should be taken in this area, recommended "that WHO prepare manuals along the following lines: (1) A general manual containing /inter alia/ a discussion of the theoretical needs of health programmes for statistical data, the sources of such data and their utilization in health work and (2) A series of manuals dealing with specific types of health statistics, e.g., notifiable disease statistics and hospital statistics."<sup>23/</sup>

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<sup>23/</sup> Ibid., p. 30.

31. At the same session, the Committee considered the statistics dealing with the administrative and financial aspects of hospital operation and adopted a minimum general content of a statistical programme which countries should attempt to carry out.<sup>24/</sup> It also recommended that WHO should prepare and issue manuals dealing with the technical aspects of recording, collection, compilation and presentation of statistics relating to the hospital.<sup>25/</sup>

#### IV. STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

32. The Commission was informed at its twelfth session that in response to a recommendation made at its eleventh session,<sup>26/</sup> the Secretariat had examined the classifications of socio-economic status used in over 100 population censuses and a working paper entitled Suggestion for Social-Economic Classifications had been brought before the third session of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes<sup>27/</sup> in 1961. The consensus of the Working Party was that the subject required further study, and that an international classification might be developed along the lines of that adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians.<sup>28/</sup>

33. The Statistical Commission at its twelfth session agreed that a study of the success achieved with the ECE classification might provide the best chance of achieving progress in this area and accordingly the Commission recommended further study in co-operation with regional organizations (resolution 9 (XII), operative para. 4). This recommendation was conveyed to the fourth session of the Working Party<sup>29/</sup> in 1962. It was pointed out that with the exception of the work done in

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<sup>24/</sup> Ibid., pp. 7-21.

<sup>25/</sup> Ibid., p. 23.

<sup>26/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, resolution 10 (XI), p. 16.

<sup>27/</sup> Suggestion for Social-Economic Classifications (United Nations document ACC/WPSSP/III/2).

<sup>28/</sup> Third Technical Report of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes (United Nations document ACC/WPSSP/III/9/Rev.1), para. 38, pp. 9-10.

<sup>29/</sup> Standard Classification of Socio-Economic Status of Population (United Nations document ACC/WPSSP/IV/6).

Europe, regional activity in this area was largely lacking, and that until the experience of the 1960 cycle of population censuses was fully available, it would not be possible to pursue systematic studies of the actual socio-economic classification employed throughout the world. In view of this time-table, the Working Party suggested that the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Statistical Division of the International Labour Office work together on the project along the following lines:

(a) to prepare a comparative review of the socio-economic classifications used in the current population censuses and household surveys carried out or planned in Asia, Africa, Latin America, United States, Canada and Oceania;

(b) on the basis of this review and the socio-economic classification recommended for use in European censuses of population, to draft a proposal for an international socio-economic classification;

(c) to circulate this proposal to the Regional Economic Commissions and to other regional bodies for study and comment; and

(d) to revise the draft in the light of these comments for consideration of the Working Party at a future meeting.<sup>30/</sup>

A. Present status

34. The Secretariat undertook to prepare a first draft of a paper setting forth a proposed "standard classification of socio-economic status of population" and to confer with the International Labour Office on it. However, it was found that only twenty-four countries had tabulated their population census data by a socio-economic classification and nineteen of these were European countries whose experience in this area was under intensive study by a Group of Rapporteurs whose meeting was scheduled for 1965. Moreover, no information was able to be obtained on the nature of the use made at the national level of data tabulated by a socio-economic classification. It seems premature, therefore, to present a report to the Commission at this time, before advantage can be taken of the work of the ECE Group of Rapporteurs, and the analysis of actual uses made of the national classifications employed.

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30/ Fourth Technical Report of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes, op. cit., para. 45.

B. Background

35. It should be noted that interest in developing a classification which would reveal the socio-economic structure of population, that is, would stratify the population into what the Conference of European Statisticians has defined as "... different population groups which are, on the one hand, reasonably homogeneous, and on the other hand, fairly clearly distinguished from other groups in respect to their behaviour and which can, therefore, be used to establish the relationship between the socio-economic position of individuals (and households) and many demographic, social, economic and cultural phenomena..."<sup>31/</sup> is not new. The League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts (1938), the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the Population Commission and the Statistical Commission of the United Nations have all studied the subject, especially as it pertains to the derivation of a classification from appropriate tabulations of population census results by such variables as industry, occupation and status.

36. At its seventh session, the Statistical Commission considered a paper (E/CN.3/149) which set forth preliminary proposals for a programme of work in social statistics, which revealed extensive need for more comprehensive and comparable data on "... statistics showing social stratification, that is, tabulations of populations according to industry, occupation and status (as employer, employee, etc.), urban and rural areas, education, ethnic characteristics, and the like..."<sup>32/</sup> "Considering what priorities should be given to these projects in view of the limited resources... the Statistical Commission stressed the importance of studies, on the basis of available census data, concerning various characteristics of socio-economic groups..."<sup>33/</sup>

37. At its eighth session, the Statistical Commission in considering social stratification felt that "a satisfactory grouping of population from this point of

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<sup>31/</sup> European Programme for National Population Censuses (United Nations document Conf. Eur. Stats./WG.6/81), para. 69, p. 22.

<sup>32/</sup> Social Statistics: Proposals for a Programme of Work (United Nations document E/CN.3/149), para. 3 (a), p. 2.

<sup>33/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 5, para. 99, p. 13.

view might be arrived at by means of a cross-classification of occupation by status (as employer, employee, etc.), in particular if the occupational classification made it possible to distinguish manual and non-manual workers, skilled and unskilled labour and the like".<sup>34/</sup> A project to develop methods of social stratification was given high priority in the work programme approved by the Commission.<sup>35/</sup>

38. At its eleventh session, the Commission in discussing plans for the Compendium of Social Statistics moved away from the ideas previously presented regarding classification by socio-economic status and mentioned that classifications which would assist in describing the economic and social structure include "data for separate groups such as urban and rural population, income or expenditure levels, agricultural workers and workers in selected industries."<sup>36/</sup> It was at this session that the Commission requested a study of "the nature and uses of socio-economic statistical classifications currently in use in the various States Members of the United Nations".<sup>37/</sup>

39. In summary, it may be noted that a number of variables, information on which is usually collected at the census of population, have been mentioned as possibly having a bearing on socio-economic status, in different national circumstances such as economic characteristics, ethnic group, educational level, literacy, income, urban/rural residence, and religious affiliation, but experience appears to show that cross-classification of the four variables which describe economic characteristics of the population, i.e., type of activity, industry, occupation and status (as employer, employee, etc.), offers the best possibility. Further, it may be said that among the possible cross-classifications of the four variables, the tabulation of population by occupation and status (as employer, employees, etc.) would produce the most useful basic categories, which could be further amended or consolidated as required for national purposes.

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<sup>34/</sup> Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 5, para. 46, p. 7.

<sup>35/</sup> Ibid., para. 142 (12).

<sup>36/</sup> Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, para. 91, p. 15.

<sup>37/</sup> Ibid., resolution 10 (XI), operative para. 3, p. 16.

## V. HOUSING STATISTICS

### A. Methodological studies

#### (1) Housing censuses

40. Development of housing census methodology is described in documents E/CN.3/329 and E/CN.3/337.

#### (2) Housing surveys

41. Information on the methodology of housing inquiries carried out in a sample of housing units, as well as the results of such inquiries, is being assembled systematically with the intention of developing a methodological manual. See also Handbook of Household Surveys, paragraphs 13-16 above, for surveys in which the unit of enumeration is the household.

#### (3) System of current housing statistics

42. At its twelfth session, the Statistical Commission agreed that activities designed to develop current housing statistics could be most effectively carried out at the regional and national levels and that activity at the international level should be primarily one of stimulating co-ordination. Accordingly, the Commission requested the Secretary-General "To continue efforts, in collaboration with the regional economic commissions and national Governments, on the development of standards for a system of current housing statistics".<sup>38/</sup>

43. During 1962-1964, the Secretariat has continued to stimulate the development of regional programmes, through the medium of correspondence, seminars and through general recommendations on construction statistics, a report on which is before the Commission at this session (E/CN.3/305). The sections in this paper which deal with statistics of dwelling construction are in accord with the recommendations which have so far been made on this subject, and they reflect the topics upon which information should be collected in the early stages of developing a system of current housing statistics.

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<sup>38/</sup> Ibid., Thirty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, resolution 9 (XII), operative para. 6, p. 15.



44. At the regional level, the seminars on statistics for housing programmes in Latin America<sup>39/</sup> in 1962 and Asia<sup>40/</sup> in 1963 have discussed the need for current housing statistics and made recommendations which have been influential in furthering development of regional programmes. These are set forth below.

(a) Latin America

45. The Latin American seminar mentioned above recommended that "... priority be given to the collection and improvement of the basic statistics needed for housing programming, in particular to population and housing censuses and to current housing statistics."<sup>41/</sup> The value of a statistical programme of the kind envisaged in Europe (see paragraph 49) was recognized as a means for providing a systematic basis on which the statistics could gradually be developed. "If well designed, such a programme can ensure that, in the initial stages when resources are very limited, they will be used for the development of the statistics most urgently required, and that these statistics are compiled in such a way that they provide an adequate starting-point for the establishment of a fuller set of statistics when resources permit. This implies that the programme should not be limited to the statistical requirements which can be realized in the immediate future for countries in Latin America; it should be drawn up so that it will constitute a useful basis for the achievement of the long-term objectives to be pursued in developing national housing statistics in the region."<sup>42/</sup>

46. The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) collaborates with the United Nations in the development of housing statistics in North and South America. There is as yet no regional programme for collecting current housing statistics. Probably the latest development is the meeting of the Fourth Congress of the Inter-American Construction Statistics Workshop in Lima, Peru (26-28 October 1964). The Congress

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<sup>39/</sup> Report of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes, op. cit., paras. 512-538, pp. 69-71.

<sup>40/</sup> Report of the Seminar for Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East, op. cit., pp. 134-139.

<sup>41/</sup> Report of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes, op. cit., para. 583, p. 78.

<sup>42/</sup> Ibid., para. 529, p. 70.

agreed that a regional programme should be developed for the collection of construction statistics and proposed that the responsibility for this work should be undertaken by IASI in collaboration with the United Nations. It may be noted that the Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics<sup>43/</sup> includes tables on construction which will undoubtedly provide an important basis for the formulation of a regional programme for the collection of current statistics.

(b) Asia

47. The participants at the Asian Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes also recognized the value of a current housing statistics programme such as that being developed in Europe and they agreed that a regional programme should be established.<sup>44/</sup> In considering the report of the seminar, the sixth session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians recommended "... that a regional programme of current housing statistics be established for the ECAFE countries".<sup>45/</sup> They also agreed on the priority items of a minimum programme.<sup>46/</sup>

(c) Africa

48. Some suggestions for current housing statistics were included in a draft programme of statistics for economic and social development, but they were not well formulated. It is expected that the prospective seminar on housing statistics and programmes for Africa, tentatively scheduled for 1966 (see para. 24), will serve to stimulate work on housing statistics in the region, at least in urban areas where housing problems are most pressing, and regional interest in a current housing statistics programme may follow.

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<sup>43/</sup> Conclusions of the VIII Session of COINS, Inter-American Statistical Institute, VIII Session of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics, Panama, 2-15 September 1964 (Inter-American Statistical Institute document 4921a-9/12/64-75), Part I: Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics.

<sup>44/</sup> Report of the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East, op. cit., p. 12.

<sup>45/</sup> Report of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (Sixth Session) to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (Twenty-First Session) (United Nations document E/CN.11/686), para. 134 (d), p. 45.

<sup>46/</sup> Ibid., paras. 136-137, p. 46.

(d) Europe

49. A Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics of the Economic Commission for Europe's Housing, Building and Planning Committee has been discussing the subject of current housing statistics since 1953. More recently, the Working Party has been concerned with the improvement and standardization of current housing and building statistics in general. A European programme<sup>47/</sup> was formulated in 1960 in close co-operation between the Housing, Building and Planning Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians. This is a draft programme which is in the course of being further developed by the Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Current Housing and Building Statistics. The Economic Commission for Europe publishes an Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics which includes construction data for most of the countries in the region.

B. Statistical Indicators of Housing Conditions

50. These proposed indicators of the housing component of levels of living which provide statistical yardsticks to aid countries in assessing their housing conditions in relation to other countries and in evaluating national progress over time, were published in English, French and Spanish by March 1963. Since publication, the Indicators have been widely distributed to national statistical offices and housing agencies, as requested by the Commission at its eleventh session<sup>48/</sup> and they have also formed an important part of the documentation for the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes<sup>49/</sup> and the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East.<sup>50/</sup> The Indicators have thus been subjected

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<sup>47/</sup> A European Programme for Current Housing and Building Statistics (United Nations document HOU/Working Paper No. 120-Conf.Eur.STATS./113), 18 March 1960.

<sup>48/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, para. 119.

<sup>49/</sup> Report of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes, op. cit., paras. 126-132.

<sup>50/</sup> Report of the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East, op. cit., Chapter I, para. 27, and Chapter IV, paras. 16-26.

to intensive discussion by regional experts in Asia and Latin America; they will come before similar seminars in Africa, in 1966, and the Middle East at a later date. The conclusions of these regional discussions will be especially useful for the anticipated revision of the international indicators and their adaptation to national needs, tentatively scheduled to begin in 1969.

C. Methods of Estimating Housing Needs

51. At its twelfth session, the Commission requested that the document on proposed methods of estimating housing needs be revised in consultation with regional groups and taking account of the comments received from members of the Statistical Commission and other bodies.<sup>51/</sup> It was also requested that this revised document be issued "as a provisional technical study to stimulate national and regional research" in the subject.

52. In accordance with this request, a revision was prepared, based on "Proposed Methods of Estimating Housing Needs" (E/CN.3/274), the comments received from regional bodies, statistical offices and housing agencies, as reported in "Progress Report on Development of Statistics for Social Programmes" (E/CN.3/296), the comments made by the Statistical Commission at its eleventh<sup>52/</sup> and twelfth<sup>53/</sup> sessions and the conclusions of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes which considered the subject in detail.<sup>54/</sup> The revised draft was circulated for comment to the regional commissions and the Inter-American Statistical Institute; it was also placed before the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East as a working paper.<sup>55/</sup>

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<sup>51/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, resolution 9 (XII), operative para. 5.

<sup>52/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, paras. 120-123.

<sup>53/</sup> Ibid., Thirty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, para. 90.

<sup>54/</sup> Report of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes, op. cit., paras. 133-224.

<sup>55/</sup> Methods of Estimating Housing Needs (United Nations document E/CN.11/ASTAT/HSP/L.4).

53. The Asian Seminar recommended that "... Governments prepare realistic estimates of their housing needs and that to this end they should experiment with standard methods of arriving at such estimates with a view to developing the procedures best suited to their own circumstances".<sup>56/</sup> The Latin American Seminar had also emphasized the need to develop methods of estimating housing needs applicable to the needs of the region. Accordingly, steps were taken in 1964 to collect national estimates of housing needs together with the pertinent methodology to supplement the information already at hand for the final revision of the proposed "methods". To date, thirty-four countries have provided estimates of their housing needs, current and projected. In anticipation of the receipt of more material of this type and because of the need to give priority to developing the 1970 World Housing Census Programme (E/CN.3/337), it was not possible to complete the revision nor to issue it as a provisional technical study, but it is hoped that this can be accomplished in the latter half of 1965.

D. Dissemination of Data

(1) Publication

54. Statistics on housing are collected and analysed annually on a world-wide basis. Analytical tables which include data on number and size of households, number of permanent dwellings together with size, density of occupation and facilities, and on construction of dwellings and other buildings, are prepared for publication in the Statistical Yearbook. In addition, the Statistical Office maintains data files on statistics of housing for each country and territory of the world. Files are based on data received in response to the annual questionnaire<sup>57/</sup> on housing conditions and construction, circulated to national statistical offices, and on material from national publications.

55. In the 1964 issue of the Statistical Yearbook, the housing table includes data for 122 countries, in contrast to the 1961 issue, where it was possible to include

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<sup>56/</sup> Report of the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East, op. cit., Chapter I, para. 29, p. 12.

<sup>57/</sup> The questionnaire also provides the source of data used to compile the housing tables for the Compendium of Social Statistics: 1963, op. cit.

only data for ninety-one countries. Now that country coverage is approaching completeness, consideration will be given to ways of expanding the publication programme of international housing statistics in order to present absolute numbers in more detail, along the lines adopted for publication of the results of censuses of population.

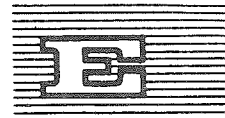
(2) Bibliography

56. Bibliographic references to official sources of national housing statistics, including censuses, surveys and current statistics, are being routinely collected with a view to issuing a bibliography.

VI. SOCIAL WELFARE STATISTICS

57. No progress was made in this area during 1962-1964, but plans are being made to initiate work in criminal statistics before the end of the decade. The phases of the proposed programme are described in E/CN.3/336.

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Thirteenth session  
Item 23 of the provisional agenda

PROGRESS REPORT ON STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS, 1962-1964

(Report by the Secretary-General)

Corrigendum

Change the title to "PROGRESS REPORT ON STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES,  
1962-1964".

In para. 46, change the name of the meeting in the third sentence to "Fourth  
Inter-American Congress of the Construction Industry".

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