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FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS^{1/}

(Report by the Secretary-General)

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^{1/} This report is in part based on material prepared by the statistical services of the specialized agencies; the Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation for their generous collaboration. He also wishes to thank the Secretary General of the Inter American Statistical Institute for his contribution to the report.

The Commission will recall that at its twelfth session it discussed at some length "the need to obtain a judicious balance among the different programmes, both as regards the emphasis to be accorded to various subjects and as regards the regional activities in statistics of the United Nations and the specialized agencies" (E/3633, para. 10). The Commission decided that "it would be desirable to ask the statistical agencies, including the regional statistical organizations, if they would, before the 1964 [subsequently changed to 1965] session of the Commission, draw up in as much detail as possible, programmes of activities for at least five years ahead, and perhaps in more general terms, programmes for the next ten years" (para. 11). The Commission indicated that it would wish to study and comment on these programmes at its thirteenth and succeeding sessions. The Commission felt that "this practice would facilitate the adaptation of the statistical programmes to the requirements associated with the United Nations Development Decade. It would also assist in achieving a reasonable balance among the programmes and bring to light areas of work that might have been neglected or overlooked" (para. 11).

This document presents the long-range plans in the field of statistics of the United Nations, the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies and the Inter American Statistical Institute. In most cases, the work programme is given for the period 1965-1969; in a few cases, it is also possible to present information for the period 1970-1974. In this first effort at bringing together the work programmes of so many agencies, no attempt has been made to co-ordinate the style of presentation. The material is given as supplied by the agencies.

United Nations Statistical Office

Computer methods. It is expected that an IBM 7044/1401 computer system will be installed at the Statistical Office late in 1965 to do statistical and accounting work, and advantage will be taken of it to extend the range of statistics compiled by the Office. A "data bank" of trade statistics has been started, and similar "banks" will be created where large volumes of data are of international interest, for instance, demographic data.

The Commission has been informed that generalized computer programmes are used for manipulating the trade data (E/CN.3/312), and it is expected that they

can be adapted to wider applications, thus reducing the expense and delay incident to ad hoc programming for the computer.

The new system promises to have enough surplus capacity to undertake projects for Governments and international organizations on a cost basis whether or not these are directly connected with the data banks or other work of the Office.

External trade and transport statistics. The work on external trade statistics centres primarily on compiling figures which will be useful to the understanding of world trade and the trade relations among countries, regions and economies at different stages of development. Basic to the compilations are the data regularly reported by most Governments of the world by cable and questionnaire, through their own official publications and, since the processing and storing of the detailed data at the Statistical Office have been done by computer, on punched cards and magnetic tape. The Office endeavours to exploit this supply of data at as many levels as possible of commodity and country detail to provide as complete an account as resources permit of current trends in external trade.

In order to assure the minimum of international comparability necessary to permit assembly of national trade data into consistent tables, the Office, in cooperation with Governments and under the direction of the Statistical Commission, established standards and, often through technical assistance or by means of regional working groups, tries to extend their domain of application.

Summary tables compiled by the Office, in US dollars, show the value of world trade on a quarterly basis together with the analysis of the aggregates by regions and countries, thus providing an up-to-date record of merchandise trade balances. Changes in global and regional value totals are analysed quarterly into their price and volume components. A current indicator of price trends, of interest to raw-material producing countries, is the global index of basic commodity prices available quarterly about six weeks after the last transaction to which it refers. Network matrixes, compiled semi-annually, show the flows of trade between regions. Annually, these are analysed by large commodity groups and the value changes in each commodity group are broken down into price and volume components, distinguishing in each commodity the four flows of trade within and between the developed areas on the one hand and the developing areas on the other.

The terms of trade of each region are thus available in aggregate on a quarterly basis and in commodity detail annually. The annual data permit study of the flows of food, raw materials, chemicals, machinery and other manufactures among and between the developed and developing areas.

Summary data, such as those described above, make it possible to isolate situations which require remedial action but the action itself must take place at the level of trade in individual commodities. The Office, therefore, tries to make currently available in published form as much as possible of the vast accumulation of commodity-by-country detail it is building up on magnetic tape; it is now publishing about 8,000 pages a year of computer tables. Besides being useful to Governments, these data are also useful to the individual enterprises on which the details of progress so often depend.

During the period 1965-1969, special attention will be paid to using the computer to free staff from the routine of maintaining existing series so that they can engage in the development of additional compilations for the analysis of current trends in external trade, particularly as they affect the developing countries. Efforts will be concentrated on devising methods of responding to the needs of Governments and international bodies concerned with international trade by rapid and economical methods.

During the next few years, the Statistical Office will bring up to date the data on the efficiency of the use of the world merchant fleet, for which no figures more recent than those for 1954 are available. It will also prepare international standards for transport statistics relating to the movement of goods in international trade.

National accounts, price and financial statistics

1965-1969

1. Compilation of a supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, consisting of a comparative and analytical study of the dimensions and circumstances of economic growth during the decade 1955-1965, and the strategic relationships and factors in this process.
2. Revision, including extension in the scope, of the publication National Accounting Practices in Sixty Countries (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 11).

3. A study of methods of converting the main aggregates of national accounts into a common basis of valuation, and the gathering and compilation of data in order to establish suitable rates of conversion for various countries.
4. Revision of the SNA, including the issue of a third revision of the publication A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 2).
5. Definition of the links between the SNA and MPS in terms of aggregates and perhaps selected accounts.
6. Preparation and issue of a technical manual on the requirements for and uses of national accounts, the details of the new SNA adapted to various circumstances, and the sources and methods of estimation.
7. Recommendations and a technical manual on the objectives, nature and concepts of statistics of the distribution of household and personal incomes according to size and socio-economic characteristics and on the sources and methods of compiling these data. Compilation of comparable series data on the subject for publication.
8. A manual on the uses and concepts of national accounting data in constant prices and on the sources of data and ways of estimating these data, including an analysis of national problems, practices and experience in this work.
9. Revision and extension of the international recommendations on price statistics and preparation of a technical publication on the requirements and uses for and concepts and methods of collection and compilation of statistics of prices.
10. A technical publication on the main requirements for and uses of estimates of capital formation; the concepts, definitions and classifications of these statistics; and the sources of basic data for and methods of estimating capital formation statistics.
11. A detailed study of the accounts, tables and statistics relating to the public sector, within the framework of national accounts, and the sources of data for this purpose.
12. Study of the requirements and uses for and the concepts, definitions, classifications and compilation of national and sector balance sheets and other wealth statistics; formulation of international recommendations on the subject.

13. An analysis of the requirements for and national practices in the collection and use of enterprise statistics in compiling national accounts and for other purposes, devoting particular attention to data on financial flows, transactions and holdings; the formulation of international suggestions for the collection and compilation of these data.

14. Development of an integrated set of statistics (accounts, balances, tables and analytical aggregates) on the labour force and levels of living that are correlated with the national accounts on production, income and expenditure.

15. A study, within the framework of a comprehensive set of national accounts, of the requirements for and uses of data, with emphasis on analytical aggregates and tabulation, in assessing, planning and programming economic growth and social development, and of the related statistical problems and techniques.

Industrial statistics

1965-1969

1. The material collected as part of the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics will be used in a new publication on industrial statistics and in the estimation of new weights for the world and regional production and employment indexes.

2. The documents "Construction Statistics" (E/CN.3/305) and "Classification of Commodities by Industrial Origin" (E/CN.3/307) elicited many comments asking for revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). The expert group on the revision of the system of national accounts (SNA) also felt that ISIC needed to be reviewed in the light of the uses made of it in the new system and of developments in the field of input-output statistics. Apart from the revision of ISIC, there are many proposals for the revision and improvement of its Indexes (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev. 1, Add. 1). Among the suggestions made are ones (a) to expand the description of certain ISIC groups in order to achieve greater clarity and (b) to introduce into the lists new economic activities relating to the production of important new products and machinery, etc. All this makes it necessary to start, in the near future, the revision of ISIC and the improvement of its Indexes.

3. The increase in the volume of international trade, market research, development planning, etc. demands ever more commodity production data. The Statistical

Yearbook now contains data for about 80 commodities, but it is felt that (a) this should be increased and data for more commodities shown in quantities should be published and (b) it is necessary to prepare a list of selected commodities, giving quantities and descriptions (e.g., SITC number), in order to try to establish international recommendations in this field. This list might be used for the 1968 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics (see E/CN.3/318, para. 9).

4. As outlined in the "Progress Report on the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics" (E/CN.3/318), it will be necessary to prepare (in consultation with the regional economic commissions) recommendations for the 1968 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics.

5. At its fifth (1950) session, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations concerning index numbers of industrial production (E/1696/Rev. 1, para. 60). Shortly thereafter, the Statistical Office issued a technical study on Index Numbers of Industrial Production (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 1). The recommendations and the study aimed at improving both the quality of the compilation of national index numbers of industrial production and their international comparability.

During the last fifteen years, increasing emphasis has been placed on the importance of industrial production indexes; most countries have improved their existing indexes, whilst many others have started to compile an index. In all, some 66 countries compile an annual index of industrial production; of these, 52 also compile more frequent indexes - either quarterly or monthly. The regional distribution of these countries is as follows:

| | <u>Annual</u> | <u>Quarterly or monthly</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Africa..... | 12 | 8 |
| America, North..... | 6 | 5 |
| America, South..... | 8 | 3 |
| Asia | 12 | 9 |
| Europe | 26 | 25 |
| Oceania | 2 | 2 |
| | <hr/> 66 | <hr/> 52 |

The Statistical Office has described the various methods of calculating the national indexes in the Supplement to the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.

Several regional statistical conferences have discussed the different aspects of the problems of compiling production indexes and the question of their international comparability. It is felt that the experience gained in many countries during the last fifteen years may help in reviewing the previous recommendations and in revising the technical study.

In a future review of the 1950 recommendations, the following might be suggested:

a) that index numbers of industrial production should cover Division 1 (Mining and Quarrying); Divisions 2-3 (Manufacturing); Major Group 51 (Electricity, gas and steam) and Group 521 (Water supply) of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). Experience indicates that it would be advisable to compile a separate index for Division 4 (Construction), whilst Group 522 (Sanitary services) can be ignored for purposes of a production index. It might also be emphasized that a separate index should be prepared for each major group (i.e. two-digit level) of ISIC.

b) that in the compilation of the general index, all available elementary series might be used even though some of these series are part of individual industries or major groups for which no index has been compiled.

c) that each country should ensure that the weight base of a fixed weight index is not more than ten years old and that, if possible, the weights should be reviewed every five years.

d) that public holidays should not be treated as working days and should consequently be dealt with when adjusting for calendar irregularities and not when eliminating the influence of seasonal factors.

The study Index Numbers of Industrial Production should be revised (i) in the light of changes in the recommendations suggested above and (ii) taking into account a number of problems which should be dealt with in more detail in a new study. The latter might include the use of price indexes in connexion with production indexes, the clarification of the different concepts of production and different index formulae and the measurement of coverage. In addition, the relationship between index numbers of production and the appropriate national accounts series could also be dealt with.

6. It is felt that after the experience of the 1958 and 1963 industrial censuses, it will be necessary to revise the study entitled Industrial Censuses and Related Enquiries (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 4, Vol. 1). Developments in this field - especially in the developing countries - since the study was issued twelve years ago make a revision necessary.

7. There is constant demand for international comparisons of the level of labour productivity in different branches of industry. It is felt that studies of methods of international comparison of the level of labour productivity in several branches of industry would be very useful. These may include some examples, necessitating, of course, a comparison of the volume of industrial production in selected branches of the selected countries.

8. A second revision of the Bibliography of Industrial and Distributive-Trade Statistics (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 36) will be issued shortly. The demand for this publication shows that it is necessary to keep it up to date; therefore, it should be revised biennially.

9. The Input-Output Bibliography, 1960-1963 (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 39) was issued in 1964 as a supplement to the Input-Output Bibliography, 1955-1960 (ST/STAT/7). Taking into account the fast-growing literature in this field, it will be useful to continue issuing these bibliographies, the next one covering the period 1963-1966.

10. It is hoped that the study entitled "Some Problems of Input-Output Tables and Analysis" (E/CN.3/317) will be published and later expanded. The expansion might include more about the compilation of the tables, dynamic models, linear programming, etc.

11. The Statistical Commission adopted, at its ninth (1956) session, recommendations on 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. Later a technical paper, International Recommendations in Statistics of Distribution (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 26), was published. It is felt that it is necessary to review the 1956 recommendations in the light of national experience and of developments since they were adopted and to prepare proposals for revision. It is especially necessary to make recommendations for the 1968 censuses of distributive trade.

1970-1974

1. Preparation of a study on industrial censuses for experts serving in developing countries.
2. Standardization of methods of gathering industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics.
3. Statistics of producer prices, methods, gathering of data.
4. Standardization of input-output tables.
5. Study on the concentration of production.

Demographic statistics. It is an accepted fact that demographic statistics of adequate scope and satisfactory quality, properly evaluated and analysed, are essential as a basis for sound decisions on questions of population policy and planning of social and economic action. Hence, increasing assistance to developing countries in the procurement, processing and evaluation of demographic statistics should be an important part of the long-range programme of work in the population field. Assistance should be provided on an enlarged scale in census-taking, in establishing comprehensive and reliable registration systems of vital statistics, and in various kinds of sampling inquiries as major sources of demographic data. Intensified work in this field should be co-ordinated and integrated as closely as practicable with the research and technical work outlined below. A primary objective should be to establish for all countries, so far as possible within the period of the long-range work programme, reliable measures of the size, growth rate, geographical distribution and principal characteristics of the population, the birth and death rates and their changes in the course of time, and the volume of the principal migratory movements.

Achievement of the objectives of the long-range programme will be pursued during the period 1965-1969 through the following projects:

1. Collection, annotation and publication of statistical series in population, natality, general mortality, foetal mortality, nuptiality, divorce, and international and internal migration will be continued, with the Demographic Yearbook featuring a different major subject each year on a rotation principle designed to provide more detailed statistics once in five years.
2. Completion of the publication of the results of the 1960 censuses of population and an analysis of availability and adequacy of these national results.

3. Study of the feasibility of compiling an historical volume of selected demographic statistics from the year 1700.
4. Study of the use of electronic computers for storage, retrieval, testing, and dissemination of international demographic statistics and for possible standardized tabulation of national census results (see E/CN.3/311, paras. 10-14).
5. Completion, in co-operation with the regional economic commissions, of studies on the methodology of national population censuses taken during the period 1955-1964 and preparation of international and regional recommendations for the 1970 cycle of censuses.
6. Study of national methods of producing vital statistics (including civil registers and household interviews) and revision of the Principles for a Vital Statistics System (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 19).
7. Survey of national methods of collecting international and internal migration statistics and development of international recommendations for their improvement.
8. Promotion of civil registration of vital events not only for population accounting and as a source of vital statistics, but as a file of legal documents which have intrinsic value as well as usefulness in research.
9. Second revision of the Handbook of Population Census Methods (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 5) and first revision of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 7).
10. Publication of technical manuals on (a) methodology and evaluation of continuous population registers; (b) field methods of testing accuracy of enumeration in population censuses, and (c) household-interview method of obtaining demographic statistics.
11. Case studies, in co-operation with the regional economic commissions, on evaluation of accuracy of vital statistics in selected countries.
12. Strengthening technical assistance in (a) training in techniques of organizing population censuses and civil registration systems, (b) regional seminars, (c) courses in demographic statistics; (d) training, by fellowships, (e) a corps of regional statistical advisers and national consultants, and (f) support and promotion of experimentation in methods of obtaining demographic statistics.
13. Study of adaptations required for application of civil registers and demographic statistics to programming economic and social development.

Housing statistics. Of particular interest among the statistics which are useful for social programming are housing statistics. In this field, the Statistical Office has been working in five directions, namely (a) developing principles for and promoting the taking of housing censuses, (b) developing statistical indicators of housing conditions, (c) developing methods of estimating housing needs, (d) developing international standards for current housing statistics, and (e) organizing training activities in the various regions.

The use of housing and other statistics for the formulation and execution of housing programmes has been promoted in three regional seminars; a fourth is tentatively scheduled for 1966. One of the results of this should be the recognition of statistics as a pre-requisite for planning housing programmes.

A start has been made in developing standard techniques for estimating housing needs and an attempt has been made to develop objective criteria for this purpose, adapted to regional needs; this will be completed at the earliest opportunity.

Achievement of the objectives of the programme will be pursued during the period 1965-1969 through the following projects:

1. Collection, annotation and publication of statistical series on housing will be continued and expanded in the Statistical Yearbook and the Compendium of Social Statistics (Statistical Papers, Series K).
2. Completion of the publication of the results of the 1960 censuses of housing and an analysis of availability and adequacy of these national results.
3. Completion, in co-operation with the regional economic commissions, of studies on the methodology of national housing censuses taken during the period 1955-1964 and preparation of international and regional recommendations for the 1970 cycle of censuses.
4. Preparation and publication of a handbook of housing census methods.
5. Completion of study and publication of a technical manual on methods of estimating housing needs.
6. Strengthening technical assistance in (a) training in housing census techniques; (b) regional seminars, (c) a corps of regional statistical advisers and national consultants.
7. Study of the methodology of housing surveys and of housing in household surveys.
8. Publication of a bibliography of sources of housing statistics.

9. Promotion of development of current housing (building and construction) statistics in the regions.

Migration statistics. Several series of international migration statistics have been collected by the Statistical Office since 1959, namely (a) arrivals of travellers from another country by major types; (b) departures of travellers to another country by major types; (c) long-term immigrants by age and sex; (d) long-term emigrants by age and sex; (e) long-term emigrants by country of intended residence; (f) long-term immigrants by country of last residence, and (g) long-term emigrants by nationality and whether movement is continental or inter-continental. The schedule calls for publication of these series in the Demographic Yearbook biennially but, because of the inadequacies of the data, no attempt has been made to adhere to this schedule. In fact, in the 1962 Yearbook, where they were last published, data on intended and last residence were deemed too poor for inclusion.

Recommendations for improving migration statistics were approved by the Statistical Commission at its seventh (1953) session (E/2365, paras. 89-93 and Annex 4). It is obvious that little improvement can be expected in international migration statistics until a concerted effort is made to aid countries in the application of these recommendations. To date, lack of resources has been the obstacle. It is expected that the collection and publication of the series mentioned above will continue but, in addition, a project to collect current methodological information from countries for study should be undertaken. The objectives of the project would be to revise the 1953 recommendations with perhaps a simpler system of international migration statistics, which would meet national needs and also provide the statistics required for the international studies of population trends and structure.

Social welfare statistics. Statistics on most aspects of social welfare and security are available for only a few of the more developed countries and their international comparability is very limited. The International Labour Office has compiled some statistics on the scope and functioning of social security schemes; international statistics for the study of child welfare are very scarce; statistics on forms of public assistance for the aged and destitute are not developed; statistics of the physically handicapped are incomplete and insufficient; and statistics of crime are severely limited in usefulness.

The Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations has recently suggested that renewed attention be directed to the development of statistics of social welfare so as to improve the factual basis of social welfare policy. The first steps in this project would be to arrange for consultations with the substantive officers in the social welfare field in order to delineate the areas requiring quantification. It is proposed that such consultations be undertaken in the latter half of 1965.

Since all of the fields mentioned above cannot be undertaken at one time, it might be well to concentrate first on criminal statistics. Nothing has been done in this area for a number of years. The report on the Programme of Concerted Practical Action in the Social Field of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies noted that:

"Owing to the fact that the prevention of crime is mainly based on the study of the state of crime in the different countries, statistical information is of vital importance to the development of any international policy on social defence. On the basis therefore of the recommendations of the International Group of Experts [On the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, convened in December 1950] and of the Social Commission, the Economic and Social Council has requested [resolution 390 F (XIII)] that the following projects be undertaken:

- "(a) a survey of national statistics with a view to the preparation of a manual to promote improved statistical procedures;
- "(b) the preparation of a standard classification of the three following offences: (i) criminal homicide; (ii) aggravated assault; and (iii) robbery and burglary." (E/CN.5/291/Rev.1, para. 608)

At its sixth (1951) session, the Statistical Commission had endorsed (E/1954, para. 48) the resolution on criminal statistics adopted by the Social Commission at its seventh (1951) session (E/1952, para. 67) and declared its willingness to assist the Social Commission in the discharge of the task it had undertaken. It is now proposed that, in accordance with the above-mentioned endorsement and resolution 20 (IX) of the Statistical Commission, work be intensified on criminal statistics and, specifically, that resources be made available to enable a start to be made in 1965-66. The first phase would involve assembling available current national statistics of crime for study, together with the necessary methodological

information for their interpretation. The second phase might be the preparation from these data of analytical tables on concepts and definitions as well as synoptic tables of topics investigated and their classification and tabulation. By 1968, it might be possible to begin drafting minimum standards of crime statistics for consideration by the Commission. Promotion of the standards would be undertaken through handbooks, manuals, seminars, workshops and so forth.

Sampling

1965-1969

Volume II of A Short Manual on Sampling (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 9) is to be prepared. Volume I contains theoretical sampling concepts and processes and compares these processes in simple terms. A set of examples is given illustrating a wide variety of processes with formulae used for estimating the mean (or total) and the relevant sampling error variances, indicating in some detail the working of the data. Volume II will concern itself entirely with practical aspects of conducting sample surveys in the same fields as are covered in the annual Sample Surveys of Current Interest (Statistical Papers, Series C). Country experiences will be described in considerable detail on points such as sampling design; reference and survey periods; methods of data collection; methods of estimation and precision; staff, equipment, cost of the survey and training.

In connexion with the population and housing censuses planned to be taken around 1970, it is proposed to prepare papers concerning applications of sampling to censuses. These will deal with the following topics: census tests, census enumeration, post-enumeration checks, data processing, tabulation of provisional results and tabulation of additional data and data required for special studies. These papers will also include a discussion of the use of sample surveys, by countries which have never before taken a census, for securing estimates of data of the kind traditionally obtained in other countries through a census, and a discussion of some independent sample surveys which are devised as subsequent supplements to a complete census.

1970-1974

It is proposed to study the use of sampling methods in censuses of distribution, in retail price statistics and in small-scale and cottage industries.

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Conference of European Statisticians

At its twelfth plenary session, the Conference adopted the following programme of meetings (unless otherwise indicated, the meetings scheduled are meetings of full working groups):

Programme for 1964/65

1. National accounts and balances
2. Group of rapporteurs on SNA/MPS links
3. Meeting(s) of rapporteurs on population and housing censuses (subjects to be decided upon in the light of the progress made and the need for consultations)
4. Statistics of the distributive trades
5. Electronic data processing

Meetings in co-operation with other bodies

6. Agricultural statistics (with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems) (preparation of the 1970 World Census of Agriculture)
7. Statistics on education (with UNESCO and ILO)
8. Consultation on co-ordination of international statistical activities in Europe (see E/CN.3/311, paras. 125 and 202)

Seminar

Population censuses (organization and conduct of censuses)

Provisional programme for 1965/66

1. National accounts and balances
2. Group(s) of rapporteurs on national accounts and balances
3. Censuses of population and housing
4. Activity and commodity classifications
5. Statistics of the distributive trades

Meetings in co-operation with other bodies

6. Agricultural statistics (with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems)
7. Current housing and building statistics (with the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning)
8. Health expenditure (with WHO)
9. Group of rapporteurs on benchmark statistics relating to transport (with the ECE Inland Transport Committee)

Tentative programme for 1966/67

1. National accounts and balances
2. Group(s) of rapporteurs on national accounts and balances
3. Group(s) of rapporteurs on population and housing censuses
4. Public sector statistics
5. Electronic data processing
Meetings in co-operation with other bodies
6. Agricultural statistics (with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems)
7. Benchmark statistics relating to transport (with the ECE Inland Transport Committee)
Seminar
Statistical requirements for planning economic and social development.

Tentative programme for 1967/68

1. National accounts and balances
2. Censuses of population and housing
3. Statistics and indices of prices
4. Migration statistics and international movements of labour force
5. Statistics of tourism
Meetings in co-operation with other bodies
6. Education and training of official statisticians (with UNESCO)
7. Productivity measurements and statistics (with ILO)

Tentative programme for 1968/69

1. Electronic data processing
2. Statistics of income distribution
3. Industrial statistics; possible topics: (i) review of 1963 basic inquiries, (ii) annual programme of industrial statistics, (iii) index numbers of industrial production.
4. Current economic indicators
Meetings in co-operation with other bodies
5. Health statistics, including morbidity and hospital statistics (with WHO)
6. Statistics on scientific research (with UNESCO)

The Bureau of the Conference will prepare proposals, for consideration by the Conference at its next plenary session (October 1965), concerning the preparation of programmes of work covering a ten-year period, at least in broad terms, so as to permit better planning of the work relating to basic statistical inquiries and their integration with current statistics.

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Conference of Asian Statisticians

1965

1. National accounts
2. Censuses of population and housing.
3. Sampling
4. Assistance to countries in organizing and developing national training centres
5. Establishment of sub-regional training centres.
6. Expert group to work out plans for setting up a statistical research and training centre

1966

1. National accounts
2. Migration statistics
3. Data processing
4. Censuses and sample surveys of distributive trade
5. Assistance to countries in organizing and developing national training centres
6. Establishment of sub-regional training centres
7. Training centre in national accounts

1967

1. National accounts
2. Vital statistics
3. Index of industrial production
4. Survey of data processing equipment
5. Assistance to countries in organizing and developing national training centres
6. Industrial statistics.

1968

1. National accounts

2. Current housing and building statistics
3. Health statistics
4. Censuses of population and housing
5. Workshop on labour force statistics

1969

1. Statistical organization
2. Transport statistics
3. Statistics on education
4. Wholesale prices

Future publication programme. It is proposed to issue during 1965 an Asian Programme for the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing, in the light of the discussions held and the recommendations made by the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing which met in December 1964. It is also proposed to issue during 1966 a statistical training manual containing information on data collection, data processing, presentation and publication.

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Conference of African Statisticians

General prospects. The aim of the Economic Commission for Africa has been to promote and stimulate statistical development in all African countries and territories so that economic and social problems and programmes could be handled with fuller quantitative knowledge. The activities of the Secretariat in this respect have been based on the recommendations of the Conference, as approved by ECA at its annual sessions. They have continued along the four main lines of (a) training staff, (b) carrying out methodological research aimed at the formulation of statistical standards adapted to African conditions, (c) rendering direct assistance to Governments at their request in specific fields and (d) increasing the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of statistical information in the region.

A principal trend in ECA's activities has been a gradual shift from the initial effort to encourage basic statistical organization at the national level to more detailed research and consideration of methodological improvements.

The third Conference endorsed outstanding and continuing projects on the work programme of ECA resulting from earlier recommendations and including in particular the periodic sub-regional meetings of heads of statistical offices and directors of training centres. Accordingly, in the functional analysis of the work programme below, no further specific mention will be made of these periodic meetings. Note should be taken that the work programme is based on a 5-year projection commencing in 1963, and no programme of activities is available for the period beginning 1968.

Training. Negotiations are continuing in respect of a further middle-level centre to be established in East Africa. There is some progress in establishing higher-level statistical training facilities for English-speaking students, and several African universities have expressed an interest in introducing diploma courses.

The United Nations Demographic Research and Training Centre in Cairo is in its second year of operation and the Secretariat has arranged for the award of United Nations fellowships to candidates from North Africa and assisted in arrangements for candidates from the Middle East. Efforts are continuing in preparation for the establishment of a similar centre in West Africa.

The 5-year agreement providing for United Nations support of the middle-level statistical training centres in Achimota, Yaoundé and Addis Ababa (see E/CN.3/311, para. 75) will expire in 1966. Possibilities are being considered for continued support by the United Nations or possibly by other international organizations and/or foundations.

Advisory services. The third Conference recommended establishment of three additional regional advisory posts in the fields of national accounts, programming of statistical activities and data processing. Implementation in this respect will depend on availability of funds.

Research and technical meetings

1. Statistical programming. This topic is described in E/CN.3/311, para. 209. In this connexion, a working group of statisticians and economic planners has been proposed for 1965, possibly in conjunction with the fourth Conference.

Future work in this field includes elaboration of the summary table on statistical staff requirements in the region, preparation of an organizational chart of work of the United Nations and other agencies in the statistical field, and

furnishing documentation on available ECA and African statistical publications. It is also planned to carry out a more detailed survey of statistical manpower and requirements.

2. National accounts. Two future meetings are planned: (a) a seminar on national accounts at constant prices; (b) a working group is scheduled to meet in July 1965, to discuss revision and extension of the System of National Accounts (SNA).

3. Public finance statistics. Work continues on the extraction of public finance data from the budgets and accounts of countries in the region.

4. Distribution statistics. For 1966, a seminar on distribution statistics is envisaged with special reference to sampling techniques for small-scale enterprises.

5. Industrial statistics. Two preliminary issues of both the annual and the quarterly bulletins on production statistics of agricultural, mining and industrial commodities are being circulated to countries for comments. Both bulletins will, for most recent information, depend on data supplied directly from statistical offices.

6. Demographic and social statistics. A working group on population and housing censuses will meet in 1965 to discuss recommendations in connexion with the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes and their adaptation to Africa. In addition, a working group on nomadic populations was recommended by the third Conference but has not been specifically scheduled.

A Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for African countries is scheduled for 1966.

7. Agricultural statistics. Under consideration but of lower priority is a seminar on problems of agricultural statistics, to be organized in co-operation with FAO. Also proposed is a study tour in West Africa on problems relating to statistics on subsistence activity and shifting cultivation.

8. Statistics and economic planning. The proposal for a working group of statisticians and planners has been mentioned above. In addition, the third Conference recommended the compilation of a list of technical coefficients for the use of planners.

Exchange of information on statistical activities. Efforts are made to maintain contact with national statistical offices and experts working in the countries. The reports of country experts and regional advisers assist in this respect. In addition, new experts going to countries are briefed at ECA Headquarters.

The Statistical Newsletter will continue to provide a quarterly review of African and ECA statistical activities. A new emphasis is now laid on introducing comment on technical problems in addition to reporting meetings and other current activities.

Processing and publication of statistical data. Statistical annexes to the Economic Bulletin for Africa were previously published. It is considered preferable to issue an independent bulletin on African Statistics. Resources permitting, this bulletin may appear twice a year.

In the field of data processing, ECA's mechanical unit continues the considerable work required for the publication of the trade statistics bulletins and the temporary processing of the Ethiopian external trade statistics. It also undertakes several other assignments, including work for WHO's TB Centre in Ethiopia, the geographical observatory in Addis Ababa, the Service National de la Statistique of the Congo (Brazzaville) and the regular preparation of the ECA payroll.

A proposal of the third Conference has been to convene a working group on data processing problems, including electronic data processing, and to expand the size and service of the ECA mechanical unit.

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Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

Santiago Office. It is rather difficult, if not impossible, to present a long-term work programme, since it depends very much on the decision of the ECLA sessions. However, the work programme is geared to (a) improvement in basic statistics of the region: help to individual countries, studies, etc.; (b) improvement and revision of national accounts statistics, including possible assistance missions to individual countries; and (c) development of a statistical programme

for the region.

In 1965, a seminar on industrial and commercial statistics is planned; in 1966, a seminar on external trade statistics. A working group on national accounts statistics and capital formation statistics is foreseen for the near future.

Mexico Office. With respect to the countries of the Central American Isthmus, the Sub-Committee on Statistical Co-ordination will draw up at its 1965 session the short- and longer-term programmes which will be recommended for the development and implementation of the integral programme approved at its sixth session (Panama, 1964), covering it is hoped the period 1965-1974, including a uniform and co-ordinated programme for carrying out the 1970 censuses. For the countries of the Caribbean, it is planned to extend the work of co-ordination and evaluation of statistics in general with a view to their improvement and timeliness. For all the countries covered by the Mexico Office, an attempt will be made to standardize the level attained by the various statistical series and to broaden and improve them where necessary in the light of the new requirements.

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Inter American Statistical Institute (IASI)

The Executive Committee of IASI at its 24th session (Guatemala, March 1964), made an extensive review and evaluation of the activities of the Institute during recent years through its committees and Secretariat and, considering available resources, established a new orientation for the work to be carried out in the immediate future under a more rigid system of priorities than previously employed. Accordingly, IASI's activities will be divided into two major groups, i.e., those of a permanent and recurring nature, and those that are to be developed or initiated principally as "projects," sometimes considered as quasi-independent or sometimes linked with others in the same field, further classified as first, second or third priority.

The regular activities are related to the permanent functioning of the Secretariat of IASI (as well as to the Department of Statistics of the Pan American Union) and represent a sine qua non for its operation. They, therefore, comprise activities such as the following: direction and administration, planning, and coordination; organization of conferences and meetings; editorial, translation and other administrative services; technical activities of a continuous nature; and the Focal Point for Statistical Information (numerical information, information on statistical sources, statistical personnel, and on organizations engaged in statistical work in the Western Hemisphere).

The special activities, although interrelated with those of a permanent and recurring nature, are being carried out or are to be initiated principally as "projects," aimed at either developing final products or producing results to be used in connexion with other projects of a more complex and varied nature. Activities assigned first priority are those selected primarily in accordance with the importance attributed to them, directly or indirectly, by IASI and the Organization of American States. Certain projects were included in the category of second priority activities principally because their importance and need were not felt to be on the same level as those to which first priority was assigned. The classification as second priority also implies that the project will be carried on with present resources if the tasks programmed in connexion with those of a higher priority permit. In the category of third priority activities are principally those projects which

may be initiated or continued to the extent that additional resources are available, or whose development would benefit from the results of projects of higher priority.

The adoption of a system of priorities in connexion with IASI's programme of activities required a frame of reference ^{for} each of the six objectives or major areas of action as described below.

1. Improvement of the organization of national statistical services. These activities will be conducted in accordance with the recommendations approved by the fourth Inter-American Statistical Conference (IASC) and have as their major aim the elimination of the factors hindering statistical work in the region. This involves an extensive amount of field work, which will be done by the permanent staff of the IASI Secretariat unless new sources of financing are obtained. The discussion of matters related to the above-mentioned factors in future IASCs and sessions of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) will be limited to a review of the measures applied for implementing the recommendations of the fourth IASC and the results achieved.

2. Development and improvement of current statistics. The Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics (PIEB) will be used as a frame of reference not only for the formulation of the national statistical programme, but also for the work of the Secretariat as it relates to: (a) the study of standards and the development of methodology, (b) the preparation of special studies; and (c) the conduct of pilot projects concerned with new methods and procedures. All other work on standards, methodology or pilot projects related to current statistics, with the exception of that which is too advanced to be interrupted, will be discontinued until the Secretariat concludes the review or development, in detail, of the concepts and definitions, classifications, etc. for the solution of methodological problems for each of the statistical series included in the PIEB. As soon as it becomes available and even in draft form, the material related to PIEB will be (a) distributed to the national statistical services as a way to expedite its use in their investigations, as well as to elicit comments regarding its applicability which may be considered during the COINS sessions; (b) used in the course on statistical techniques of the Inter-American Statistical Training Center (CIENES) and other training centres on

national and regional levels; (c) applied, to the maximum extent feasible, by experts on technical assistance missions in the countries; and (d) discussed by subcommittees of COINS and later by COINS itself as a way to build, step by step, a complete and integrated set of standards and methods adapted to the needs of the American region.

3. Periodic censuses. The work will follow the pattern established for the 1950 and 1960 Programs of the Census of America and will involve promotion, development of regional standards and methodology, direct technical assistance, and training and dissemination of census results. The census work will be carried out in close association with that of PIEB.

4. Education and training of statistical personnel. The programme which is now being developed will have as its aims (a) the gradual introduction of "statistics" as a part of the regular curriculum of national courses at the secondary and advanced levels; (b) the continuation of statistical training of an inter-American character during the period 1962-1971 so that it may serve simultaneously the needs of statistics-producing institutions, of institutions that compute derived statistics and analyse statistical data, as well as of teaching institutions, and (c) the expansion of activities that will provide auxiliary and complementary elements to hasten the training of statistical personnel. These premises, therefore, indicate that the present activities related to education and training of statistical personnel - especially those conducted through the Inter-American Statistical Training Center (CIENES) - will be continued and expanded in accordance with the original plans. Nevertheless, a more detailed study is required by the Secretariat on ways and means which will permit (a) an expansion of statistical training at the national level, since the possibility of the statistical services undertaking this task at present has been overestimated; (b) emergency training in those specific cases where it continues to be needed, and (c) fulfilment of the demand for specialized and high-level statistical education which cannot be completely met through CIENES.

5. Dissemination of statistical information. This will cover not only statistical data but other types of information, required for many

purposes, principally in connexion with the coordinating functions of IASI. In that context, the quarterly journal Estadística merits special reference, since it reaches not only the national statistical offices but also training institutions and individual statisticians. The periodical publications Estadística, América en Cifras, Consumer Price (Cost-of-Living) Indexes, Noticiero: El Censo de América, Quarterly Consolidated Report on Statistical Consulting and Some Statistical Training in the Western Hemisphere, Monthly List of [Statistical] Publications Received, Directory of Statistical Personnel in the Western Hemisphere and Directory of Members of IASI are to be continued and, if possible, expanded, with highest priority assigned to Estadística and América en Cifras. Subject to the availability of additional resources, the Secretariat is to prepare a detailed manual on tabular presentation, to be used as a guide by the national statistical services.

6. International statistical co-ordination. This has been accomplished in the past principally on a bilateral basis, through correspondence and personal visits of members of the Secretariat to various organizations. Recently, however, some developments have occurred such as the joint IASI/FAO activities in the field of agricultural statistics, that may open new possibilities. Pending further developments, agreements of a similar nature may be made with other organizations for work in the American region.

As a consequence of the recommendations approved by the fourth IASC, arrangements were made for holding a first meeting on international statistical co-ordination during the month of April 1964 in Washington, D.C. However, the impossibility of agreement regarding the dates caused postponement of the meeting. In view of these considerations, the problems affecting statistical coordination are to be given special attention, and the holding of meetings on international statistical co-ordination (as recommended by the fourth IASC) is to be considered among the special activities of first priority in the years ahead. Bilateral discussions with the international organizations are to be continued, pending the convening of the meeting referred to; the efforts made to solve problems of international statistical co-ordination, as well as the results achieved, are to be reported to the fifth IASC.

The relationship between the activities of the IASCs, COINS and the IASI Secretariat was also a subject of study. It was decided that IASC will be concerned with the evaluation of the present status of statistical development of the American nations, through an examination of what has been achieved and what is hindering progress, particularly with respect to the six objectives mentioned above, in order to achieve the broadest possible development and improvement of statistics in the Western Hemisphere. Consequently, IASC will be concerned with aspects of policy and general orientation for statistical work in the American region. The fifth IASC is tentatively scheduled to be held in the second half of 1965, in Venezuela.

The work of COINS will be linked closely to the development of PIEB. In complementing a prior decision - that the work of the Secretariat in standards and experimentation in methods and procedures be connected with PIEB - it was decided that the activities of COINS will henceforth be organized in close relationship with those of the Secretariat. Its sessions will be held biennially and the next one (ninth session) is tentatively scheduled for 1966 in Lima, Peru. COINS will devote itself, in the immediate future, mainly to matters related to (a) the development and improvement of current statistics, (b) periodic censuses and (c) dissemination of statistical information. Sessions will be planned according to the priorities established and progress made in the development of standards and methodology and experimentation for the various parts of PIEB. The examination, by COINS, of matters related to each statistical field will be made in a co-ordinated way regardless of the fact that the data are obtained through current statistics (using either statistical surveys or administrative records), census or any other means. The agendas of sessions of COINS are to include only matters previously considered by subcommittees, which are to be established to deal with each field or group of fields of PIEB. A more adequate situation would be to have permanent subcommittees working in constant contact with the Secretariat in connexion with its regular programme and developing activities on a long-term basis. However, this will not be feasible until the countries are in a position to follow the European practice of bearing the cost of the corresponding

representation or until new ways of financing the meetings are obtained.

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International Labour Office (ILO)

Scope of activities. The ILO is concerned with all aspects of labour statistics, including concepts and definitions, survey methodology and the analysis and application of data relating to the characteristics, activities and levels of living of the working population. Included within this area of interest are statistics of the labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment; wage rates, earnings and hours of work; family incomes and expenditures and costs of living; industrial disputes; industrial injuries; social security; labour turnover and labour productivity.

ILO is actively engaged in promoting improvements in statistical methodology and the adoption of uniform international standards relating to the fields enumerated above. This is done through staff research, the temporary employment of specialists and meetings of committees of experts. Recommended improvements in international standards are considered by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians and approved by the ILO Governing Body.

The Statistical Branch also has responsibility for assembling and publishing labour statistics in the regular Office publications, including the Year Book of Labour Statistics and the Statistical Supplement to the International Labour Review. From March 1965, the supplement will be replaced by a Quarterly Bulletin of Labour Statistics. The data issued in these publications are obtained from official national reports and by means of annual and special questionnaires sent to Governments. An annual questionnaire is used to obtain up-to-date data for the Year Book of Labour Statistics. In addition, the "October Inquiry" (initiated in 1923) requests wage rates and normal hours of work for selected occupations and retail prices of selected consumer goods.

According to present prospects, the ILO statistical programme over the five years 1965-1969 will be directed towards the activities and projects summarized below.

Family living studies

1. Revision and expansion/^{of} a bulletin (issued in draft in 1961) which presents in tabular form the results of family budget inquiries undertaken since 1950.
2. Field manual, with particular reference to family expenditure surveys for establishing or revising consumer price indexes. A practical manual designed for use in the less developed countries.
3. Development of revised and expanded international standards for family living studies (to replace the resolution adopted by the seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1949). This item is on the provisional agenda of the eleventh Conference planned for 1966.
4. The Special Committee on Labour Questions of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council has recommended that the OAS General Secretariat draw up, in co-operation with the ILO, a specific project to ascertain the status of real wages and cost of living in the American countries that might serve to indicate the degree of well-being enjoyed by the working population.
5. The ECA/ILO African Seminar on Labour Statistics (Addis Ababa, 3-12 November 1964) has recommended a future joint seminar, to be held at an early date, to study the methodology of family budget studies for consumer price indices and family interview surveys to obtain data on wages and hours of work.

Consumer price indexes

1. Revision and expansion of Report 4, tenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, dealing with consumer price index problems.

Wages and labour costs

1. Studies of labour costs of production, including wages, social charges, fringe benefits, etc.
2. Preparation of a manual on methodology of collecting, analysing and applying wage statistics.
3. Studies of changes in the ratio of wage earners to total economically active population. Analysis of relative income status, variation by economic sector, industry, level of economic development, etc.

Measurement of productivity. As part of its general programme of research in productivity statistics, the ILO will undertake, jointly with the Conference of European Statisticians, a further examination of methods of productivity measurement, data requirements, sources of data and evaluation of existing data in European countries. The future work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians (see above) includes a joint meeting with ILO, on productivity measurements and statistics, to be held in 1967/68.

Automation

1. Review and analysis of data on employment effects of automation and technological change, including effects of such changes on productivity.

Occupational structure of the labour force

1. Collection and analysis of data on employment by occupation, wage rates, and changes in occupational distribution of the labour force.
2. Analysis of long-term changes in the structure of the labour force as related to economic growth.

Underemployment

1. Pilot or demonstration surveys in selected countries to test methods of obtaining data on nature and extent of underemployment.
2. Preparation of documentation for a joint ECAFE/ILO workshop (1968) on labour force sample surveys, with emphasis on the methodology of household interview surveys to obtain data on unemployment and underemployment.

Employment growth in economic development

1. Analysis of labour force changes in relation to population growth, income levels, urbanization, etc.

Labour force projections

1. Preparation of a manual on methods of making labour force projections.
2. Development of regional projections of labour force by sex and age.

International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

1. Preparation of a revised classification, to be considered by the eleventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1966.

Industrial injuries

1. Development of an international standard scale of time-charges for permanent partial disability.

2. Collection and analysis of data on industrial injuries.

Social security

1. Costs and coverage of social security.

Statistics of vocational training. The Conference of European Statisticians at its twelfth session (October 1964) recommended that priority be given to work on problems involved in developing an adequate statistical base for studies of future supplies of trained workers. A joint meeting of the Conference, ILO and UNESCO is proposed for 1965.

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Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The functions of the Statistics Division are concerned with providing statistical information to member countries and to FAO itself on production, trade, prices, consumption, agricultural structure, means of production and related aspects of food and agriculture, and with promoting the improvement and comparability of these statistics. Many of the tasks involved are of a continuous nature, but variations in emphasis are necessary to concentrate the available resources on the most urgent needs during a particular biennium. The work programmes of the Statistics Division and of other Divisions are reviewed every two years by the FAO Conference, and modifications and intensification of work are approved in certain specified fields in order that FAO may play its full part in assisting countries in their development planning.

Many of the continuing activities of the Division are already known to the Statistical Commission as embodied, for example, in the Program of Work and Budget, 1964/65, document C 63/3 of the twelfth FAO Conference. The main developments as envisaged during the period 1965-1969 may be summarized as follows:

Intensification of work on the incidence of hunger and malnutrition and on estimates of future food needs. During the last few years, the Division had carried out a number of studies in connexion with the third World Food Survey, the World Food Congress and the second World Population Conference. These studies will be intensified and extended in scope. The basis of the present world

estimate of hunger is somewhat slender, and all the necessary data are available from only a very limited number of countries. Furthermore, the data obtainable from the national food consumption surveys in different countries will be recast in the form of ^ahomogeneous distribution of intake by households so that comparisons can be made with a known distribution of requirements. Work on the incidence of hunger and malnutrition is at an even earlier stage of development. More data are required to determine the form of the distribution of the indicators of malnutrition used in order to enable estimates to be made of the incidence in the different countries of the world. Work will be continued country by country on the revision of the estimates of future food needs, based on revised population projections and nutritional goals.

FAO has recently formulated a Program of Food Consumption Surveys, and efforts are currently being made to promote the participation of the countries. Training centres on the methodology of these surveys have already been held for the Near East, Southern Europe, South-East Asia and for the French-speaking countries of Africa. It is expected that, as a result of these and further promotional efforts, the availability of food consumption data by households will increase substantially in the near future.

Statistics of agricultural experimentation. Systematic work in this field was initiated in 1964 in relation to fertilizer experimentation. Information available from the main rice-producing countries on the response of this crop to various levels of fertilizer application was assembled and analysed for presentation in a standardized form. Similar studies will be carried out on the application of fertilizer to other major crops. This work obviously involves many problems of classification and standardization in relation to soil and climatic conditions, level of fertilizer application and the interaction of fertilizers to varieties and other agricultural practices. To tackle these problems in the most satisfactory way involves not only co-operation with other technical Divisions of FAO but also detailed consultations with national institutes which have accumulated experience in this field. The last FAO Conference, while approving this project, drew attention to the contribution which the work on statistics of fertilizer experimentation would make to the wider application of statistical techniques in agricultural research. It

is proposed to expand the scope of this programme to experimentation with other improved practices, such as improved seeds, irrigation, application of pesticides, etc.

Statistics of production means. The last FAO Conference adopted a resolution which calls upon FAO to expand its work on collecting statistical information on the chief means of increasing agricultural productivity. Information is currently collected, to the extent available from the countries, on production and consumption of fertilizers, on use of pesticides and on farm machinery. Besides filling the gaps in information on these items, it is further proposed to initiate work on the collection and compilation of information on the uses of certified seeds - quantities used, area seeded, imports and exports. Seeds specifically grown for sowing purposes are classified as certified according to whether or not they satisfy the requirements of seed certification schemes operating in the various countries. These requirements may not be uniform in all countries and, in order to ensure greater national comparability of statistics on certified seeds, it will be necessary to further explore the existing methods of evaluating certain seed qualities such as germination, purity, and sanitary conditions.

Statistics of agricultural institutions and services. The effectiveness of improved techniques for raising agricultural productivity depends to a large extent on the organizational services needed for their dissemination and implementation. The Division, therefore, proposes to start systematic work on building up of adequate series on statistics of agricultural institutions and services, such as co-operatives and credit organizations and extension and education services. This will involve not only putting together the available information from different sources and the collection of a large body of additional information from the countries, but also a considerable amount of research and studies in problems relating to coverage, definitions, classification and selection of data. The improvement, expansion and international comparability of these series will be a matter for continuous study by the Division. Perhaps it will take a considerable amount of time before complete and comparable statistics on agricultural institutions can be published on a world-wide scale.

Index numbers of agricultural production and agricultural sector accounts.

The base period for the time comparison as well as that for the weighting pattern for the current FAO index numbers series relates to the average of the period 1952-56. This needs revision to a more recent period. It is also planned to re-examine the principle of using wheat price relatives as weights and to make the necessary adjustments in the concepts and methods of calculations that may be required for the revision.

Preliminary work has been undertaken on the compilation of index numbers of agricultural production consistent with national accounting practices. A questionnaire for the collection of basic data required for computing such index numbers will be sent to the countries in 1965, and it is planned to compile and process the available national data according to this questionnaire beginning in 1966. This work is closely connected with the work on standardization of methods and concepts in agricultural sector accounting. A meeting of a group of experts convened in December 1963 reviewed the status of agricultural sector accounts in Europe and agreed on a number of recommendations for improving the current production accounts and on the first steps to be taken in building up a complete set of agricultural sector accounts. Similar studies on agricultural sector accounts will be carried out in other regions of the world.

Agricultural prices. With the emergence of new countries and the development of new patterns of production and trade, a continuous revision is necessary of FAO's published price series. For each country, commodity statistics of production and trade should be frequently reviewed in order to identify these commodities which are assuming importance. Once identified, it is necessary to select for each commodity reliable series which are comparable between countries. It is proposed to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing price series during the coming years and to expand the series currently being published with such modifications as necessary.

Trade statistics. Processing of the trade statistics published by FAO has been done by an electronic computer at the International Computation Centre since 1963. This has made possible the compilation and publication of data in greater detail, especially on value, in the Trade Yearbook. The work will be further developed so as to facilitate the development of commodity trade

statistics by country of origin and destination. In carrying out this programme, use will be made, whenever possible, of the data compiled by the United Nations International Trade Statistics Centre. These developments assume greater importance with the growing demands of other Divisions of FAO following the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Censuses. The programme of the 1970 World Census of Agriculture will be finalized by a meeting of experts in 1965 and submitted to the thirteenth session of the FAO Conference for approval of its distribution to Governments. The programme will be issued in five different editions, adapted to the needs and conditions of the five regions, with the world programme as a common denominator.

With the conclusion of the programming phase in 1965, efforts will be shifted towards the promotion of agricultural censuses in the countries. This will include the preparation of a study on the actual use, in a few selected countries, of census results for preparing development plans. Possibilities will be explored of "transferred data processing", that is, processing of the census data in a country other than where they originated. This may lead to the establishment of regional data processing centres, which might not only reduce census costs but also help in the timely publication of census results.

Field projects and regional activities. The work programme at Headquarters is closely linked with the regional activities and the field projects carried out under the technical assistance, Special Fund and Freedom-from-Hunger-Campaign programmes. In fact, these field projects have an important impact on the content and direction of the Headquarters' programme. Fertilizer experimentation on cultivators' fields and more complex experiments at research stations are being carried out in a number of countries under Special Fund projects and the Fertilizer Program of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. The work on the standardization of statistical procedures for designing, analysing and summarizing these experiments falls within the responsibilities of the Statistics Division. The data derived from these projects provide an important contribution to the work on the compilation of information on crop responses mentioned above. Direct assistance to countries for conducting their agricultural censuses will be carried out mainly through the technical assistance projects. At the beginning of 1965, about 45 experts were working in different countries carrying out

surveys for the improvement of agricultural statistics; this number is likely to increase in the coming years. Supervision of these experts provides an opportunity for interchanging information on field problems and their practical solution. This supervision is an integral part of the Headquarters' activities and forms the basis for the preparation and publication of methodological studies.

In the course of the last four years, regional bodies devoted exclusively to work on agricultural statistics have been established in Africa, the Near East, Asia and the Far East, America and Europe, either as independent commissions on agricultural statistics, or as groups set up jointly with other bodies (e.g., the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe, and the Subcommittee on Agricultural Statistics in America). These regional bodies are the active links between FAO and the countries for obtaining better and more reliable national data, for conducting studies on standardization and international comparability, and for promoting efficient use of these data in planning agricultural development. The work programme initiated during the last few years by these bodies for carrying out studies such as those on cereals, livestock numbers and products, fruits and vegetables, agricultural prices, etc. is intended to identify the deficiencies in national statistics and those factors which lead to lack of comparability between countries. These studies when completed in the course of the next few years will serve as useful reference documents for exchange of information between countries and for evaluation of national statistical data.

In addition to the work to be carried out by the Statistics Division (reported above), the following statistical work is planned by other Divisions of FAO:

Fishery statistics. Continual improvement and development of international standards and organization in fishery statistics will be carried out. Through investigations and in liaison with other units of FAO, other international agencies, national institutions, etc., it is planned to establish international standard classifications and definitions, methods of collecting, reporting and improvement of the Yearbook and Bulletin of Fishery Statistics. These activities are related to the statistical classification of aquatic animals

and plants, fishery commodities, fishing regions and areas, fishing craft, fishing gear and methods, fishermen, etc. They also concern the development of standard reporting systems and methods, including standard reporting forms, to be used in the North Atlantic region and in the Mediterranean. The maintenance of liaison and co-operation with national and international organizations includes the secretarial servicing of the joint FAO/ICES^{2/}/ICNAF^{3/} Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, whose fourth session will take place early in March 1965. It is planned to establish a Standing Working Party on Statistics, as recommended by the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council at its eleventh session (October 1964), to give attention to fishery census work and promote such activities at the national levels in the Indo-Pacific area.

Through the preparation of working aids, manuals, bibliographies, etc., it is planned to assist national offices and international and regional agencies to improve and extend the application of standard classifications, methods and practices in the collection, treatment and prompt publication of fishery statistical data. It is also intended to provide for investigating and keeping under continuous review the nature and usefulness of currently produced publications and, in particular, to report on proposals for improving publication media presenting fishery statistics.

The following volumes of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics will be published in 1965-66:

- Volume 18 - Catches and Landings, 1964
- Volume 19 - Fishery Commodities, 1964
- Volume 20 - Catches and Landings, 1965
- Volume 21 - Fishery Commodities, 1965

It is also planned to issue Bulletins of Fishery Statistics and tabulations appearing as FAO Fishery Circulars on catches in the North Atlantic, Central and South Atlantic, tuna catches in the Atlantic, catches in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific; world indexes for fish catch statistics and the world trade in selected fishery commodities.

^{2/} International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

^{3/} International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

Attention will also be given to the improvement of national and regional fishery statistics by means of the various regional fisheries councils and commissions, Special Fund projects, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA), etc.

Forest and forest products statistics. Regional studies of forest resources and production and trade and consumption of forest products are being completed and will be summarized and integrated into the first comprehensive world review, for consideration by the sixth World Forestry Congress (June 1966) and the FAO Conference (November 1966).

Assistance will be continued to individual countries in estimating their national wood requirements, both by assigning experts under EPTA and by giving advice on methodology.

Topical and routine reviews of the principal forest products markets will continue to be prepared for various meetings and publications.

In connexion with the FAO/ECE Joint Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics, further consideration of the problems dealt with at the fourth session (1963), relating to statistical reporting of forest fires, labour, product prices and conversion factors, will be given at the fifth session (January 1965). In addition, this session will deal with fixed capital formation and economic indicators in forestry. During the period 1965-1969, studies on consumption of tropical hardwoods in Europe and on consumption, production and trade of plywood will be undertaken in compliance with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; a revision of the 1961 study on production, trade and consumption of fibreboard and particle board in Europe and an interim review of the projections made in European Timber Trends and Prospects; A New Appraisal, 1950-1975 are also planned for this period.

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Scope of activities. The Statistical Office of UNESCO is responsible for a programme of statistics in UNESCO's major fields of competence: education,

science, culture and mass communications. The responsibilities are exercised in the four following groups of activities:

1. Collection, evaluation, processing and publication of statistics needed by Member States; UNESCO Headquarters and regional offices; other international organizations, specialized scholars and the general public;
2. Standardization of statistics including basic concepts, definitions, classifications and tabulations, by developing international standards for statistics to be adopted eventually as international recommendations;
3. Promotion of the improvement of the quality and coverage of national statistics through methodological studies and publications, seminars and a technical assistance programme including fellowships and country missions;
4. Development of analytical tools, with particular emphasis on those to be used for educational planning, and of techniques for assessing human resources.

The staff of the Statistical Office of UNESCO (January 1965) consists of 30 persons, of whom ten are at the professional level; the remaining twenty staff members are clerical and secretarial. A small staff increase is anticipated in 1965.

Within recent years there has been a noticeable, world-wide awakening to the development of human resources as the most fundamental aspect of the development of nations. In this reassessment, the paramount importance of education, science and culture has come to the fore. A number of Governments have begun programmes of statistics of science and technology, and a significant strengthening of long-dormant educational statistics programmes is taking place. The importance of such data in planning, involving a need for facts of the present and projections of the future, is increasingly recognized.

UNESCO has, of course, been aware of these developments, and its General Conferences have shown a willingness to approve modest increases in the statistical programme. The specific projects outlined below are based on the assumption that continued increases will be approved for the 1967-68 and future budgets. Several general projects are contemplated which are fundamental to the basic statistical programme:

1. Co-ordination of questionnaires. Within UNESCO, by recent decision of the Director-General, all statistical questionnaires sent to Member States are to be cleared by the Statistical Office, with a view to simplifying, if

possible, the task of Member States in answering them.

2. National statistics. During the Development Decade, great emphasis is being placed upon educational planning, with a consequent increased demand for educational statistics. In addition, a number of nations are currently strengthening and expanding their statistical programmes, especially in the fields of science, culture and information. In order to keep abreast of these developments which point to the availability of additional data, the Secretariat plans to request Member States to report on the current status of and plans for expansion, if any, in statistics of education, science and culture.

3. Manual of Educational Statistics. UNESCO will in the near future ask Member States for comments on the 1961 Manual, as well as ^{on a} report on application of the 1958 Recommendation on the International Standardization of Educational Statistics. These will be reviewed as the Secretariat undertakes a revision of the Manual.

Individual statistical projects are listed below. Budgetary provision has been made with regard to the first two items listed, i.e. "statistics of science and technology" and "statistics of literacy". Other projects are listed as evidence of the needs for statistics in UNESCO's fields of competence; they will be undertaken only as funds may be available for them. More detailed information on the time-schedule for these projects cannot be presented, since this depends upon unpredictable budgetary decisions.

Statistics on science and technology. The importance of science and technology in economic development in the twentieth century can scarcely be overstated. Statistics at the national level on activities in this field are of very recent date and are not highly developed. The major areas in which data are required relate to personnel with scientific and technical training at various levels and to expenditure by source of funds for scientific and technological research. The new priority given to science and technology by UNESCO makes it essential that data in this field on an international level be made available. This is particularly important with respect to the efforts being made by the developing nations to build up their scientific research activities. Benchmark data are required against which their progress may be evaluated. In view of the "underdevelopment" of national statistics on

scientific research and technology, emphasis will initially be placed upon methodology, so that sources of data and methods of collecting them may be determined and clear definitions and concepts may be developed and standardized at the international level. As the initial exploratory work progresses, a programme of data collection will be developed and initiated.

Activities in this new field are to begin in 1965. Various methods will be explored to build up responsive sources of information within the Member States, and on-the-spot visits will be made to investigate record-keeping systems as well as differing national approaches to the classification of various types of data.

Collection, compilation and analysis of data will begin as soon as the exploratory work and pilot studies indicate that this is feasible, with the possibility that some data may be available for the 1967 or 1968 edition of the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook.

Statistics of literacy. As a basic supporting document for the new World Literacy Campaign starting in 1966, the 1957 statistical study entitled World Illiteracy at Mid-Century will be brought up to date using the latest available data and estimates. Work on this project will be carried out during 1965-66, with the expectation that a new study may be issued in 1967, containing the latest available data on illiteracy and on literacy efforts of various types.

Educational statistics. It is the intention of the Statistical Office of UNESCO to broaden and deepen its programme in educational statistics. Since the most elementary needs with respect to data collection and international standardization now have been met, it is time to devote more attention to the improvement and refinement of educational statistics on a world-wide scale. The objective is above all to achieve more meaningful, detailed and adequate types of statistical data which can in the most useful and rational way serve as a basis for the various kinds of calculations, projections and estimates which are required for proper planning of educational programmes.

In this context one project is being initiated, jointly with the Conference of European Statisticians, to develop and refine educational statistics in that region. It has been decided to set up a special working group for this purpose, which will deal with problems involved in developing an adequate statistical

basis for studies of future supplies of different skills (particularly higher skills), including data on the flow of students into, through and from the educational system and data on the level of education and skills of the population.

1. Data on pupils by grade. Hitherto UNESCO's statistics on enrolment have only comprised totals for levels and types of education, though enrolment by grade would be highly useful, especially for planning purposes. To overcome this serious gap, it is intended that data should be collected on enrolment by grade for education at the first level and for general, vocational and teacher training education at the second level. Because of methodological difficulties, it will probably not be possible to attain complete distribution by grade for education at the third level (universities and other institutions of higher education), but an extension of the present data collection programme can be undertaken by also including statistics on first year university students. It is obvious that an extension of enrolment statistics for the various levels and types of education will considerably improve the basic quantitative information for educational planning and evaluation of educational systems. It is envisaged that this ^{programme} might start during the next budgetary period, 1965/66, though on a modest scale.

2. Data on repetition of grade. In connexion with and as an extension of the collection of statistics on enrolment by grade, information should also be gathered with respect to repetition of grade. Data will be collected, for the various levels and types of education, about the number of pupils in each grade who have spent more than 1 year in the same grade.

3. Data on premature school leaving. Another phenomenon of great importance for evaluation of a school system and for projections of educational planning is premature school leaving, which for the present is not covered in the data collection programme of UNESCO. It is intended that this shortcoming be eliminated and figures gathered concerning the number of pupils, by level and type of education as well as by grade, who leave school without completing the normal study course. Such statistics on "drop outs", together with data on "repeaters", constitute indicators of the "wastage" in education and are essential for evaluating the efficiency of a given school system.

4. Data on financing of education. Information now collected on public educational expenditure is not sufficiently detailed to be used for projects of educational planning. For that purpose, it is necessary to ascertain the unit cost per pupil by level of education and the distribution of the capital expenditure.

In order to meet the requirements in educational planning, it is proposed, as a first step, to collect data relating to recurring expenditure in education by main groups, such as expenditure directly concerned with teaching, expenditure for special services, etc. and by level of education. It would be useful to extend the distribution of recurring expenditure by type of education (or school), and this can be planned for 1965/1966. In 1967, an inquiry could be made of the public and private educational authorities in order to determine how their requirements are financed. By that time, an attempt to include funds from private sources will have been made. Within the next five years, requests for data on the financing of education will be improved to include further detail and expansion of the coverage, endeavouring to interpret the term "education" in its broadest sense (i.e. outside-school educational activities).

5. Data on teachers' qualifications. In view of the current shortage of qualified teachers in many countries and of the tremendous future needs for such teachers, as projected in educational development plans, it is indispensable to start a new data collection programme in this field. This will certainly involve difficult methodological problems, as the formal requirements for teacher certification differ from country to country and the actual value of such requirements may be difficult to evaluate and compare.

A minimum classification of broad categories of qualifications for teachers of the various levels and types of education may, however, be aimed at to meet the most urgent needs for information in this field.

6. Data on school buildings and classrooms. No information is at present collected at the international level on the number of school buildings and classrooms. To fill this gap, which is particularly serious in connexion with educational planning, statistics on the stock and yearly provision of school buildings and classrooms should be included in the educational statistics programme of UNESCO. The implementation of this new

data collection programme will require careful methodological studies, as the norms and standards regarding school buildings, classrooms, laboratories and other facilities differ widely between countries at different stages of development.

7. Data on school attendance. As the normally used enrolment figures in educational statistics represent a more formal concept, relating to those pupils who are registered in a given school for a certain school year, it is in many cases useful to supplement such figures by information about the number of pupils who actually attended school. Such attendance figures may in certain countries, particularly in the latter part of the school year, differ considerably from the enrolment figures which usually refer to the beginning of the school year.

8. Data on length of schooling, size of classes. Data on schools by length of study course and on classes by size are important for evaluation of an educational system. The Statistical Office of UNESCO will, therefore, attempt to collect statistics of this kind in the first place on schools and enrolment of the first level of education, by number of years in the study course provided, and also on classes at this level, by number of pupils enrolled.

International standardization and methodological studies. Although a specific Recommendation on the International Standardization of Educational Statistics was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1958, the application of the Recommendation still leaves much to be desired. Because of the very diversified educational systems in the various countries and because of great differences in the traditional ways of collecting and presenting statistics on education in these countries, it is quite natural that it should take a long time before the difficulties in the application of the Recommendation are overcome. The activities in the Statistical Office will, therefore, have to concentrate on the question of international comparability. At the same time, it has to be recognized that the 1958 Recommendation deals with only the most elementary concepts, definitions and classifications in educational statistics and that much work remains to be done before international standardization can be achieved with respect to the more detailed types of statistics in this field.

It is the intention of the Statistical Office to continue the work on improvement of international comparability and on methodological studies as far as available resources permit. These activities will be closely coordinated with the project referred to above, to be undertaken jointly with the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to a possible extension of the Recommendation in order to give definitions and classifications of a more detailed nature, suitable to describe more accurately the quantitative aspects of educational development and to form a basis for planning activities. In connexion with this work which is planned to start in 1965/66, a revision of the 1961 Manual of Educational Statistics is also envisaged at a later date.

Assistance to Member States. In order to help Member States improve and develop their national services for educational statistics, UNESCO is already, under the technical assistance programme, organizing expert missions and granting fellowships in educational statistics at the request of Governments who want to receive such assistance. Since it is expected that requests from Member States in this field will increase in the near future, it is the intention of the Statistical Office to expand and consolidate this programme (as far as staff resources at Headquarters and possibilities for recruitment of field experts will allow) in order to speed up the qualitative improvement of educational statistics in the developing countries so that the basic statistical data most urgently needed for educational planning become progressively available within the not too distant future.

Regional seminars on educational statistics will be organized, as before, under the technical assistance regional programme in order to give officials responsible for educational statistics in the various countries of the regions an opportunity to discuss technical and organizational matters of mutual interest. It is, however, envisaged that in 1965/66 and onwards, the character of these seminars will be somewhat changed to give more of the type of concrete and practical training which is usually provided in workshops.

Concerning the professional training of statisticians, UNESCO will (in close co-operation with the International Statistical Institute) continue to assist Member States in introducing and promoting the teaching of statistics in their universities.

Statistics of culture and mass communications. With regard to statistics on culture and mass communication, one of the main task will be to continue the promotion of the international comparability of statistical data with particular reference to the recently adopted international recommendation concerning statistics on book production and on newspapers and other periodicals.

In pursuance of action towards improvement of international comparability of statistics in other fields of mass communications, studies concerning the development of standard classifications of radio and television programmes by content and also concerning basic statistics on films and cinema would be a valuable contribution.

As a matter of further expansion in the field of mass communication statistics, consideration will be given to the possibilities of collecting statistics on (a) the use of radio and television for educational purposes; and (b) educational films.

In addition, it is hoped to develop internationally comparable and complete data on trade in educational, scientific and cultural materials and equipment. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development unanimously adopted a resolution (A/VI/9) requesting UNESCO to pursue its studies of the problems faced by the developing countries in the procurement of these materials. The assistance of the United Nations Statistical Office will be sought in the compilation of statistical data for these studies.

Finally, UNESCO is currently reviewing the possibility of undertaking a study leading to the standardization of international statistics of libraries.

Statistical analysis and human resources assessment. With the development of a more precise educational classification system and a possible expansion of data-collecting activities, especially grade enrolment statistics, a system for the measurement of quantitative indicators of human resources development and the refinement of methods and techniques in planning as a result of increasing field experience in educational planning, it might be possible in the future to approach long-term integrated planning of the education sector on a logical and systematic basis, through the introduction of mathematical model-building techniques so successful in other areas. This appears to be a logical development following the systematic accumulation of data and methodology gained from

UNESCO's efforts now and in the immediate future. The viability of the mathematical model-building approach, however, cannot be ascertained for some time.

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International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The future work programme includes the following projects:

1. Non-scheduled air transport operations: study of the problems involved in improving such statistics, beginning, for this purpose, a voluntary experimental programme of collection.
2. Aerial-work statistics (such as crop dusting, aerial surveying, etc.): development of national programmes and co-ordination by the Secretariat.
3. Origin and destination statistics: study of extent and nature of the needs and uses for such statistics in Member States, by means of a questionnaire.
4. Regional statistics: continuation and development of programme of statistical work on determined geographical areas.
5. Statistics by type of aircraft: survey of available data by the Secretariat and study of the desirability of collecting and publishing such material.
6. Traffic-flow statistics: study of adequacy of the existing sampling basis (months of March and September).
7. Visits to States and "workshop" meetings: continuation and intensification of the existing programme.
8. Distances between airports: study of simplified method of calculation and of desirability of publishing airport co-ordinates.
9. Mechanical processing of ICAO's statistics: study of the needs and the most appropriate means for meeting them.
10. Other studies: variations in assumed passenger weights; seasonal fluctuations in air traffic; statistical problems raised by leasing and pooling arrangements; methods of calculating the cubic capacity of aircraft; additional bases for calculating accident rates; feasibility of reporting "business aviation" movements in connexion with airport statistics.

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World Health Organization (WHO)

1965-1969

Expert Committee on Sampling Methods in Morbidity Surveys, November 1965.

Sampling methods are being extensively used nowadays for the carrying out of morbidity surveys; the expert committee will discuss the latest techniques available and their suitability for application in the health field.

Expert Committee on the Methodology of Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology, 1966. The expert committee will review the methods generally employed, will assess their usefulness and will indicate where and to what extent these methods differ from those traditionally used in communicable disease epidemiology.

International Conference for the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases. The Conference will be held in Geneva in July 1965 to adopt revision proposals and to discuss various other topics concerned with health statistics. The preparation, translation and publication of the revised Manual of the International Classification of Diseases, as well as the establishment of documents and other material related to the Classification (diagnostic index, glossary of diagnostic terms describing mental disorders, instructions on the use of the Classification, coding procedures), will follow.

A meeting will be held in January 1965 at the WHO Regional Office of the Americas and the Pan American Health Organization in Washington on the preparation of a manual on congenital malformations.

Conference on Vital and Health Statistics. The Conference is being arranged by the European Office of WHO and will meet in April 1965 in Budapest to provide the opportunity for discussion of recent developments in the functions of national health statistical services. The main topic of the agenda will be the need for, and present and potential value of, health statistical services for public health administration.

Working group on statistics of health expenditure in national accounts. Under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians, a working group will meet in 1966 to improve statistics relating to expenditure on health within national accounts.

Publications. The monthly Epidemiological and Vital Statistics report will contain in 1965 data on arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart diseases, vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system, malignant neoplasms of various important sites requiring studies, accident statistics, data on syphilis and its sequelae, leprosy and results of surveys carried out on onchocerciasis.

Manuals will be published to guide in developing and improving health statistical programmes. Two types of handbooks will be prepared: (1) a general manual containing the information on existing national systems of health statistics in the countries and a comprehensive statement on the theoretical needs of health programmes for statistical data, the sources of such data, their utilization, and (2) a series of manuals dealing with specific types of health statistics (hospital morbidity statistics, hospital statistics from the administrative point of view, health services statistics).

Manuals on statistical methodology will be issued. They will include one on sampling in public health, one on graphic presentation of health statistics and one on processing of health statistical data.

Manuals in the field of epidemiological study of chronic diseases will be prepared during this period in collaboration with technical units of WHO (cancer, nutrition, etc.). On the basis of individual manuals, a general manual on epidemiological studies may be worked out within the next five years.

Other international standards, medical classifications, guiding principles will be established and training material will be developed.

A code of surgical operations and anaesthetic procedures for statistical and indexing purposes will be prepared for international use.

Teaching and training material to cover various fields of vital and health statistics to be used in health statistical seminars and training centres (coding of causes of death, hospital statistics) will be developed and consolidated.

Surveys will be organized for the preparation of international indices and standard methods and measurements for investigating the distribution of chronic diseases.

It is proposed to start fifteen country projects and thirteen inter-country projects during 1965 and 1966 to assist in developing vital and health statistics in various countries and new proposals will be made for the following period.

Guiding principles for health statistical programmes according to different levels of development in the country and the existing needs for vital and health statistical services will be formulated for use in the field, especially in the projects initiated. Among the inter-country projects are a seminar on vital and health statistics for the African Region, a group meeting on vital and health statistics for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, two symposia for the European Region--one on the use of electronic computers in health statistics and medical research and the other on the application of health statistical methods to rural areas.

With the continuous developments in WHO's medical research programmes, as well as in its assistance to Governments envisaged for 1965-1969 in public health activities, more extensive collaboration is foreseen between the Division of Health Statistics and other technical Divisions of WHO in order to ensure that the planning, execution and evaluation of projects will be based upon sound statistical principles.

Methodological studies will be extended. They will include, in particular, studies of sampling techniques in health surveys and studies on the application of automatic data processing systems to medical, public health and biological statistics.

Sound applicable ways for the collection of morbidity statistics will be developed, and such procedures will be adopted when studies are contemplated.

National health statistics reports will be studied to investigate the possibility of uniform presentation of at least some basic information which merits international dissemination. The study of national health statistics will continue, and the differences of magnitude will be investigated. Some may arise from variations in recording, collection, coding, classification or processing of the data, which require correction and adjustment; or the differences may be real and call for epidemiological investigations to reveal aetiological factors and thus lead to the establishment of preventive measures.
