

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/CN.3/393  
27 August 1970  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Sixteenth session  
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES, 1971-1975

Note by the Secretary-General. This document was prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the statistical services of the specialized agencies.

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SECTION I. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES: THE CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS

A. Historical notes

1. At its twelfth session (1962), the Statistical Commission discussed "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." <sup>1/</sup>

2. The Commission has so far received three long-term plans relating to the statistical activities of the members of the United Nations system. At its thirteenth session (1965), the Commission considered a five-year programme based on material prepared by the statistical sections of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. This first programme presented the data on an agency basis. After considering this plan the Commission recommended that, in order to facilitate its task "it would be essential that for future sessions the material should be arranged according to subject matter." <sup>2/</sup>

In keeping with this request, the two subsequent plans submitted to the Commission in 1966 and 1968 were organized according to subject matter but, within each section, the information was subdivided to indicate the agency responsible for each project. In retrospect, it appears that these documents possessed a significant but not readily apparent disadvantage, namely, size. At its fifteenth session the Commission, while noting the progress achieved in the co-ordination of international statistics, nevertheless felt "that the urgency for a co-ordinated and integrated approach to international statistical development was not adequately reflected in the documents presented". <sup>3/</sup> In calling for further efforts, they expressed the hope that the specialized agencies and the United Nations might work towards longer-term statistical programmes in order that "the Commission at its biennial sessions might study their statistical proposals before final discussions on

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No.13, paragraph 10.  
2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No.13, paragraph 172.  
3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No.10, paragraph 94.

implementation have been taken by the governing bodies of these organizations".<sup>4/</sup> A draft resolution proposed by the Commission was adopted as resolution 1306 (XLIV) of the Economic and Social Council. This resolution not only sought "to promote arrangements to ensure the development of an integrated and co-ordinated international statistical programme, based on longer-term planning ....." but also called for joint consultations between representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and a working group of the Statistical Commission. The working group was assigned two tasks: (a) "ensuring the necessary co-ordination in fields where its absence is greatest" and (b) reporting to the Statistical Commission on the progress made in establishing an integrated international statistics programme.

3. The Working Group established by Council resolution 1306 (XLIV) subsequently recommended (E/CN.3/392, paragraph 9) that each organization within the United Nations system should be asked to submit an outline of its activities. In each case, activities would be divided into three classes:

(a) Regular constituents of the programme previously approved by the organization and expected to continue. For each component, particulars should be given not only of the measures required but also the purposes served in relation to the broad design of the United Nations system as a whole as well as the objectives of the specialized agency. In addition, it would be desirable to indicate the priority assigned, the method of implementation and the approximate time schedule of each activity.

(b) Constituents of the programme newly approved (or submitted for approval) for future implementation. This would be given in the same detail as provided for entries in class (a).

(c) Potential new developments in the programme envisaged for the future.

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<sup>4/</sup> Ibid., paragraph 99.

4. At the consultations held between the Working Group of the Commission and the representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, it was generally recognized that there was need for longer-term planning. However, the representatives of the specialized agencies explained that, in the light of their individual programme approval procedures, they found difficulty in visualizing a situation in which they could submit their programmes to the Commission prior to approval by their own governing bodies. The Working Group emphasized that the Commission did not contemplate its review in terms of budgeting, financial or administrative control, but as a review involving comments, advice and recommendations designed to influence the development of a fully integrated statistical programme for the United Nations system. In this respect the Commission would be acting in its capacity as adviser to the Economic and Social Council on the statistical activities of the United Nations system as a whole, the object being to integrate statistical activities to meet the requirements not only of the organizations but also of individual Member States.

#### B. Conceptual problems

5. All the organizations concerned realise that the Commission is unquestionably right to place such importance on the improvement of long-term planning of international statistical activities. However, the initial problems involved in developing a more satisfactory long-term plan of statistical activities are: (a) the principal methods by which the review, comment and advice of the Commission can be most effective, and (b) the most appropriate techniques for implementation of the above.

6. After a detailed examination of the various techniques, it appears that the goals of the Commission will not be achieved merely by enlarging the documentation of long-term statistical plans. Whatever sub-division of the material is attempted, the increased amount of information on each element of the programme (resources, purposes, timing, priority status, etc.) will inevitably increase an already large document to unmanageable

proportions.<sup>5/</sup> Even if the Commission devoted most of the time available at its biennial sessions to the review of such a document, a comprehensive discussion of the countless elements in all their relevant detail would be unrealistic.

7. A thorough examination of the problem reveals that, aside from technical considerations, the preparation and reviewing of detailed long-term programmes may not really serve the purposes of the Commission. Experience gained with economic planning suggests that detailed plans are feasible and applicable to short-term periods only. Long-term plans are, of necessity, mainly indicative of the direction of progress and likely targets. Any attempt to elaborate on the latter would be time-consuming, and result in increased amounts of documentation filled with conjectural detail.

8. As an alternative, consideration may be given to the possibility of up-dating detailed long-term plans every second year. But it is likely that little in the way of positive results will be gained. Experience indicates that, in situations of growing complexity, detailed administrative planning may not only be questionable in its effects, but can also be costly, cumbersome and time-consuming.

9. The Commission may wish to consider whether more will be achieved by concentrating on statistical policy issues instead of pursuing a mere elaboration of tentative administrative arrangements for co-ordination coupled with increasing the already detailed documentation of hundreds of elements in the individual statistical programmes.

#### C. The statistical policy review approach

10. The applicability of the statistical policy approach to long-term statistical planning may be considered from two angles:

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<sup>5/</sup> The document submitted to the fifteenth session of the Commission, (E/CN.3/373) consisted of 107 pages (English version). It described 446 separate activities. In most cases, the description included a number of different aspects of each activity; consequently, by using a different criterion for defining an "activity", the total could well be in the thousands rather than hundreds.

- (a) The effectiveness of concentrating on evaluating major policy alternatives for subsequent use in the planning of international statistical activities.
- (b) Requirements in terms of the necessary preparatory work if such an approach were accepted by the Commission.

11. In viewing the possible effectiveness on long-term plans of concentrating on policy issues rather than the involvement in detailed administrative long-term planning, the Commission may wish to consider the following advantages:

- (a) The Commission may, for reasons of principle and also through lack of time, prefer to confine its deliberations to the significant and decisive issues of planning.
- (b) It is expected that the influence of the Commission on future statistical development is likely to be optimised if it confines its review, comment and advice to the major issues in the sphere of long-term statistical planning. The alternative is to get "bogged-down" in the details of hundreds of separate elements involved in the implementation of long-term plans.
- (c) The Commission may wish to pursue such long-term planning as will not involve it in a jurisdictional tangle about the problems of legal authority and formal questions of planning and budgeting of individual organizations. It is considered that the Commission neither wishes to infringe upon the independence of each agency nor intrude into the administrative work of the secretariats.

12. Any approach to long-term statistical planning involving an evaluation of major policy alternatives would require:

- (a) A fair amount of information on the organization, responsibility and functioning of each agency within the United Nations system, particularly with regard to their statistical activities. While this information is already available, it is scattered throughout a wide variety of documents generally prepared for non-statistical

purposes. The presentation of all the pertinent information in one document focussed on the relevance of the arrangements for statistical purposes should encourage the evaluation of broad policy alternatives for long-term statistical plans in the light of the complexity of the situation as it exists.

- (b) Questions of future policy changes cannot effectively be discussed in isolation from an analysis of the current output of international statistics in terms of: (i) the statistical series compiled by each individual organization, and (ii) the statistical standards adopted.

13. This involves a thorough review of the existing inventory of statistical series produced by the members of the United Nations system. The magnitude of this task necessitates a computer operation, first to establish a new inventory and then to maintain it on a continuous basis.

14. The preparation of a new inventory of international statistical standards is a less voluminous task but must involve a great deal of conceptual work if it goes beyond a simple listing of the standards, that is, for example, if the idea is to show interrelationships or possible contradictions.

15. A detailed Directory of International Statistics, if prepared, could include these two important inventories without which the preparation of general reviews and policy recommendations cannot be envisaged. The proposed outline of such a comprehensive Directory is as follows:

Part One. The Statistical Services of the United Nations System

- (a) The responsibilities of each organization in international statistical activities; the structure of each statistical office; its place within the organization; budget, staff and other information.
- (b) Co-ordination between the various statistical departments.
- (c) Computer operations.
- (d) Basic publications.



- (e) The integrated five-year programme of statistical activities of the organizations concerned.

Part Two. Statistical Services of Organizations outside the United Nations System

This part of the Directory could contain data presented along somewhat similar lines to those contained in Part 1 of the Directory.

Part Three. List of International Statistical Series

This list would cover series compiled by organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

Part Four. List of International Standards for Statistics

In addition to statistical standards, this part should include a bibliography of methodological publications.

16. Because of the complexity and magnitude of the task, the preparation of such a Directory cannot be contemplated before the seventeenth session, in 1972, of the Commission. But, the Statistical Office of the United Nations has a working draft of part 1 of the Directory (English version only) which can be made available to interested members of the Commission for review and comment. Similarly, outlines of parts 3 and 4 can also be examined.

17. The detailed evaluation of the problems involved in the improved planning of international statistics leads to the following two basic recommendations:

- (a) The documents prepared for the Commission dealing with international statistical programmes for a subsequent five-year period should be shortened rather than lengthened. Instead of listing hundreds of various activities presenting all manner of related information, a more concise policy-oriented paper is required. This paper should avoid all unnecessary detail and concentrate on the decisive elements of the international statistical programme as a whole. This has been attempted for the period of 1971-1975 in sections II through IV of the present document and the Commission is invited to consider whether this material, in combination with

the proposed Directory discussed above, would enable it to discharge its function in determining the main lines of international statistical policy for the organizations involved.

- (b) For such a paper to be effective, a substantially greater amount of background information, lists of statistical series and standards, etc. should be available to the Commission. Consequently, the preparation and review of policy papers requires the compilation of a Directory of International Statistics.<sup>6/</sup>

18. The Commission may wish to consider the view that the impact of the expertise and experience of the Commission members will be maximized if the Commission used the time which it can devote to the problems of long-term planning of international statistical programmes mainly for an analysis of the statistical policy issues rather than an examination of detailed project schedules.

19. On the assumption that the Commission may wish to consider the suggestions presented in the preceding paragraphs, the following sections indicate the statistical policy issues contained in the programmes proposed for the period 1971-1975, which are subject to review by the Commission at its present session.

## SECTION II. TENDENCIES IN STATISTICAL POLICIES, 1971-1975

20. Taking the individual plans of the specialized agencies as a basis, this section attempts to set forth the broad areas in which statistical policies are likely to develop during the period 1971-1975.

Two general comments can be made at the outset:

- (a) The programmes for the period 1971-1975 generally envisage a continuation of almost all programmes of a recurrent nature.

As in national statistics, the pressures for new programmes and

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<sup>6/</sup> There appears to be no reason why the Directory, as a guide-book to international statistics, could not be published and made available for a wider readership.

for the expansion of existing ones are considerable, but the pressure for continuing existing series is even greater.

Opportunities to discontinue any recurrent series are rare.

- (b) Budget constraints will limit the introduction of new statistical programmes. A considerable proportion of any possible increase in the allocated budgets is likely to be consumed by recurrent statistical activities. The possibility for either expanding the existing programme or for introducing entirely new programmes will, therefore, be limited. There is, however, one positive factor, namely the growing application of computer technology which may well increase the efficiency of the international statistical system. Hence, despite the existing financial constraints, expansion of the programme may be possible. To maximize this potential, computer facilities within the system must be utilized in a planned and co-ordinated manner.

21. Bearing in mind these two general comments, the main broad areas in which international statistics is likely to develop during the period 1971-1975 are:

A. Continuation of existing recurrent statistical activities

The implications of this requirement are clear and require little further elucidation other than to state that no significant shift is expected in the relative share of resources vis-à-vis the various branches of statistics for example, as between health, agriculture or industrial statistics.

B. Greater emphasis on social statistics

While the second half of the 1960's witnessed the emergence of more complex forms of economic statistics such as the System of National Accounts, it is anticipated that in the first half of the 1970's efforts to improve social statistics in general and social accounts in particular will be the prime innovation.

C. Statistical activities related to developing countries

Work in this area has a number of facets: (a) the production of manuals

and other materials specifically designed to meet the requirements of the statistical services of developing nations; (b) an expansion of training facilities for statisticians of those nations; (c) a further growth in regional statistical activities through the regional conferences of statisticians, the regional secretariats, etc.

#### D. Growing use of computer technology

The application of computers to international statistical programmes grew rapidly during the decade of the sixties, and it is envisaged that this development will continue into the seventies. With the increased sophistication in the use of these machines resulting from the accumulation of experience gained over a number of years, it is anticipated that the expected gains in statistical efficiency attributable to computer technology may significantly exceed the benefits per unit cost experienced in preceding years. Assuming these advantages can be coupled with increased international co-ordination in the use of computer facilities (both in terms of hardware and software), such a development can have important positive effects for the over-all growth of statistical services during the period of 1971-1975.

#### E. Increased international co-ordination and co-operation

By 1975, the planning of international statistical activities within the United Nations system will be much more integrated than at the beginning of the decade. It is hoped that the preparation of the Directory of International Statistics, the compilation of the computerized inventories of international statistical series and international statistical standards, together with the creation and expansion of an inter-agency computer centre at Geneva will both encourage and facilitate co-ordination and co-operation within the system.

22. These major policy trends are intended to serve as a basis for discussion: opinions concerning their significance may vary and the aptness of the five groups presented is subject to debate. Indeed, their presentation may well provoke a discussion from which more relevant policy headings may emerge. The Commission may well agree that a consensus on some set of policy trends for the reference period, and the priorities to be attached

to each, is a crucial element in the formulation and evaluation of international statistical programmes.

SECTION III. BROAD POLICY TRENDS IN TERMS OF SELECTED INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES, 1971-1975

23. To facilitate the Commission's review of the statistical programmes of the organizations within the United Nations system, illustrative elements of the individual programmes are presented in this section. This is done within the framework of the broad policy trends discussed in section II. This is an alternative to reviewing the individual programmes using the subject-matter classification adopted for use at earlier sessions of the Commission.<sup>7/</sup> While the subject classification may facilitate a review of each individual item in each programme, it can hardly be adapted as a basis on which to examine policy trends as distinct from detailed projects.

24. The Commission, however, may wish to give thought to the possibility of using, in the future, the System of National Accounts (SNA) together with a system of social accounts as an analytical framework within which the individual projects of the various programmes may be considered.

25. The specific activities presented in this section are a small illustrative sample of those contained in the programme of each organization. An exhaustive listing would defeat the purpose of the exercise, which is to initiate debate on what is regarded as the decisive planning aspect, namely discussion of the broad priorities for the period under review. Inclusion or exclusion of a particular programme element in this section of the report is no indication of the priority of that project. Those listed are merely presented to indicate the type of activity which falls into each of the five broad categories. The highest priority programmes of the organizations concerned are given by each agency separately in section IV of the present report.

A. Continuation of existing recurrent statistical activities

26. In terms of potential resources available for statistical purposes

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<sup>7/</sup> The classification is presented in the annex to this document.

during the period, this aspect of the international statistical programme is the most important. Three distinct operations are illustrated, namely the provision of statistical data, methodological studies and conference services.

27. Selected programme elements

(a) Continuing the provision of statistical data. The working draft of part 1 of the Directory of International Statistics, which is available for inspection on request, lists the publications of each organization. This gives some indication of the programme elements, with all the implications for data collection, compilation, processing, etc. In the future, this information will be available in the proposed inventory of statistical series.

(b) Continuation of work on methodological issues initiated at an earlier date. Four examples of this type of work may be cited.

- (i) Preparation and publication of technical manuals devoted to particular aspects of the new SNA: (a) production, income and outlay and capital finance accounts including, if feasible without undue delay, flow-of-funds statistics; (b) national accounting series at constant prices; (c) input-output tables and analysis; (d) balance-sheet accounts and flow-of-funds statistics; (e) the public sector. (UNSO<sup>8/</sup>).
- (ii) Following the publication of the 1966 revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, there is need for continuing work in preparing a further revision of the classification for the 1980 round of censuses. This new revision would take into account changes in occupations resulting from technological development as well as the evolution in methods of collecting, analysing and utilizing occupational information (ILO).
- (iii) The ninth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) will take place throughout the period 1971 to 1974. Two types of revision proposals will be considered. First, changes in the substance of the Classification itself, arising from advances in

medical knowledge and the introduction of new areas of classification. Secondly, changes in the structure and numbering system, to meet the different uses to which the ICD is now being put. (WHO).

(iv) A document on the Methodology of Index Number Construction for Agricultural Production will be prepared to include a description of methods used in the construction of a new index number series computed during 1968-1969 with the 1961-65 average as the base period.

(c) Conference services. Many of the recurrent activities of the statistical division of international organizations are connected with the preparation of documents for conferences etc. such as:

- (a) Statistical Commission, 1972, 1974 (UN)
- (b) Conference of regional statisticians (ECE; ECA and ECAFE)
- (c) Twelfth Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1971 (ILO)
- (d) Expert Committee on Health Statistics, 1972 and 1974 (WHO)
- (e) Fifth session of the Statistics Advisory Committee, 1971 (FAO)
- (f) Meeting of experts on the methodology of science statistics, 1974 (UNESCO)

B. Greater emphasis on social statistics

28. In accordance with the growing awareness at national level of social problems, a greater emphasis will be placed on social statistics at the international level. The period 1971-1975 will be rather a crucial one in the development of a systematic, coherent approach to social statistics. This will involve all the traditional sectors of statistical activities such as health, education and labour.

29. Selected programme elements

(a) An important element in the development of social statistics is the work being done in the Statistical Office of the United Nations which aims at the development of international guidelines in respect of an integrated system of demographic, manpower, education, level-of-living and other social statistics co-ordinated with the systems of national accounts and balances. Related to

this programme, though strictly speaking outside the sphere of social statistics, is the development of statistics of income distribution planned for the period 1971-1975. (UNSO).

(b) Although many of the developments envisaged by the statistical departments of the various agencies lie within their own area of statistics, they can, nevertheless, have significant impact on the development of a systematic approach to social statistics. For example, WHO is tentatively planning to establish two reference centres to explore the development of health expenditure statistics. One centre will be in a country using the system of national accounts (SNA) and the other in a country using the material products system (MPS). WHO may also join with ILO and UNESCO in an attempt to improve data on health manpower. UNESCO is drawing up an International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) designed to facilitate the analysis of data on education and is in the process of producing this classification to the third-digit level, comprising some 800 categories of education. This classification will be of paramount importance in any systematic approach to the problems of social statistics. ILO's planned work on wage statistics, including a study of the statistical problems associated with payment in kind; the work of FAO on the methodology of food consumption surveys and on the statistical aspects of population and food supply together with the inter-agency plans focussed on improving vital statistics all have social connotations. A salient point is that the development of a coherent system of social statistics must involve the active participation of all specialized agencies.

C. Statistical activities related to the developing countries

30. The development of national statistical systems must take place within a framework of international comparability. To facilitate this, the international statistical offices devise and disseminate appropriate methodological concepts. The preparation of technical manuals is, therefore, an important function of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the statistical departments of the specialized agencies. This function, coupled with the provision of training facilities, comprise a contribution



which the international statistical units can provide in this sphere. While most statistical work takes final form in statistical publications, the International Monetary Fund has undertaken to help countries establish or improve Central Bank bulletins which are, for most countries, the counterpart on the national level to the statistical publications of the Fund.

### 31. Selected programme elements

(a) During the early years of the reference period, the Statistical Office of the United Nations plans to produce manuals on such diverse topics as industrial censuses, the construction of index numbers in international trade and sample surveys of statistics on tourism. WHO will prepare a manual on teaching statistics to intermediate-level personnel. ILO plans to prepare a document which will set out the broad framework of a comprehensive and coherent system of labour statistics covering employment, unemployment, wages, hours of work, etc., emphasizing the minimum standards which should be adhered to in preparing these basic statistics. FAO will publish a manual on the application of sampling techniques to fishery statistics, as well as one on the design of fishery census surveys. These are merely a selection of the methodological output planned for the period 1971-1975.

(b) During the period 1971-1975, major developments are expected in the training of statisticians. In January 1969, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approved the establishment of an Asian Statistical Institute at Tokyo, Japan and an Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at Kampala, Uganda as well as the conversion of the Centre international de formation statistique at Yaoundé, Cameroon, into a Statistics Training Institute. The Executing Agency for the UNDP for these institutes is the United Nations in association with UNESCO and FAO. Other specialized agencies will also be closely associated with these projects.

(i) The Asian Statistical Institute will train official statisticians of the ECAFE region. It will run a ten-month general course each year to train thirty statisticians for government statistical service: it will offer an advanced course lasting from four to six weeks in specialized fields for senior statisticians: it will prepare teaching manuals, organize and conduct applied research and generally assist in establishing and improving training facilities at all levels in the countries of the ECAFE region. In addition, it will organize advanced seminars of six to eight weeks duration for senior statisticians in government service. These will

be held in different countries of the region. For the first five and a half years, the Institute will be financed jointly by twenty governments and the UNDP; thereafter, it will continue to function without support from the international organizations. Initially, UNDP will provide a Project Manager/Director, a Deputy Director, lecturers, equipment and fellowships. The Government of Japan will provide lands and buildings, equipment, a Deputy Director, part-time lecturers and fellowships.

The other : nineteen governments will make cash contributions to UNDP. In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the USSR have pledged contributions in kind (lecturers, fellowships and training material).

(ii) The Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at Kampala will provide a five-year course in statistics and its economic applications, leading to a B.Sc. degree in the Faculty of Science of Makerere University College. In addition, short courses will be provided for graduates of related disciplines and eventually post-graduate courses in specific fields of statistics will be provided. If required, special short-term courses will be organized either at the Institute or elsewhere in the region. The undergraduate degree course is expected to have between thirty and forty students with about a further twenty in the short-term and post-graduate courses. The Institute will be financed by the Government of Uganda and UNDP but UNDP participation is expected to cease at the end of five years. Included in UNDP's contribution are six fellowships for Ugandans to study abroad. These fellows will, on their return, take over from the expatriate staff at the Institute.

(iii) The Statistics Training Institute at Yaoundé will provide training for junior personnel in the government statistical services of the French-speaking countries of Africa. The Institute will offer two courses: a one-year "agent technique" (statistical technician) course for about twenty-five to thirty trainees and a two-year "adjoint technique" (statistical assistant) course for about forty to forty-five trainees. In addition, special seminars and short-term training courses will be organized whenever needed and feasible. The Institute will be financed by the Government of Cameroon and UNDP. Part of the UNDP contribution will finance fellowships for six Cameroonians to

study abroad in order to take over from the international staff of the Institute on their return. A considerable amount of French bilateral aid is also expected to be given to the Institute. UNDP participation is likely to continue for three years.

(iv) Another development along similar lines is the intention of WHO to discontinue its provision of ad hoc training courses and instead to establish a regular health statistics training centre for intermediate-level personnel.

(c) The activities of the regional statisticians of the United Nations and the specialized agencies are expected to increase during the period. At the same time, technical assistance rendered by the United Nations and the agencies through regional and inter-regional statistical advisers and experts will also expand.

#### D. Growing use of computer technology

32. In view of the rapid growth of computer applications coupled with the increased sophistication of the users of this technology, considerable advances are anticipated towards the middle of the decade. An important possibility not yet incorporated into many aspects of the statistical programmes is that the new methods will enable an ever-growing proportion of statistical publications to be computerized. However, in certain respects, development in comparative costs will necessarily influence the adoption of the new processes. This is particularly true in the case of computer type-setting of statistical tables.

#### 33. Selected programme elements

(a) UNSO. During the period 1971-1975, a continuing increase in the use of the data bases of the International Computing Centre is anticipated. The existing parts of the data bank are:

- (i) International trade data base
- (ii) Demographic data base
- (iii) National accounts data base
- (iv) Industrial commodity production data base
- (v) Industrial production indexes and employment data base
- (vi) World energy statistics data base

The expected growth in the use of these data bases will be facilitated both by further technological improvements in the equipment and associated "soft-ware" and by the efforts made to extend the country and content coverage within each data base.

(b) ILO. Labour force projections will be computerized in conjunction with the computerization of United Nations population projections. It is also hoped to create a labour statistics data bank.

(c) FAO. FAO has numerous plans to increase the use being made of their new computer. These plans include:

- (i) Linking programmes for production and trade statistics to provide integrated tables on commodity balances.
- (ii) A programme regarding an econometric model relating world and national market prices.
- (iii) A programme for the analysis of time series.
- (iv) A programme for storing, processing and printing, in matrix form, trade data on selected agricultural commodities.

(d) WHO. During the period 1971-1975, the computer facilities at WHO headquarters will perform three types of functions:

- (i) Analysing the data emerging from WHO's medical research programme.
- (ii) Analysing public health data.
- (iii) Participating in theoretical studies such as the simulation of disease transmission and other forms of operations research.

(e) IBRD. During 1971-1975, the computer facilities at IBRD will be used for:

- (i) International debt statistics data bank: consolidation and expansion.
- (ii) Macro-economic data bank: bringing these data into operation for country economic analyses.
- (iii) Maintenance and development of various statistical computer programmes, econometric models and systems for analytical work.

(f) UNESCO.

- (i) UNESCO is using computer facilities to work out a series of age-specific school enrolment ratios and various transition rates in wastage studies concerning the internal efficiency of education systems.
- (ii) A data bank, containing all educational statistical data, is being established.

E. Increased international co-ordination and co-operation

34. It is intended that by 1975 the planning of international statistical activities within the United Nations system will be much more integrated than at the commencement of the period. It is hoped that the quality of the long-term plans submitted to the Commission in 1972 and 1974 will be improved.

35. Selected programme element

(a) The computerized inventory of statistical series will be operational by the time the long-term plan to be submitted to the 1972 session of the Commission is formulated. This new inventory will permit a complex analysis to be made of the then existing international statistical series. It will indicate any spheres of duplication or lack of information, thus emphasizing the areas in which further co-operation and co-ordination can take place. A similar effect is expected from the publication of the list of statistical standards. The assessment of future directions of methodological work will be facilitated by the availability of this inventory, which will contain references to the inter-relationship and lack of co-ordination between the standards. The Commission will undoubtedly agree that neither inventory is an end in itself: both are means towards greater co-ordination and co-operation in the statistical services of the United Nations system. This co-operation will inevitably be assisted by the computer developments expected in the early years of the reference period.

(b) Progress is expected in co-ordination and co-operation with the organizations outside the United Nations system. An important step in this direction should follow the preparation of the second part of the Directory of International Statistics, which will contain information pertaining to these organizations similar to that provided for the United Nations family in the first part of the Directory.

#### SECTION IV. MAJOR PROGRAMMES OF EACH ORGANIZATION, 1971-1975

36. In the preceding section, the broad policy trends in the international statistical programme for the period 1971-1975 were illustrated by certain specific elements of the statistical programmes of the organizations belonging to the United Nations system. In this section, the highest priority components of each agency's programme are presented on an agency basis. It should, however, be pointed out that in some instances these programmes are still tentative and, therefore, subject to change. The high priority programmes are numbered consecutively throughout this section, but this does not imply priority listing.

##### A. United Nations

##### (1) Statistical Office

##### Programme 1. Integrated system of demographic, manpower and social statistics

The aim of this comprehensive methodological project is to develop international guidelines in respect of a coherent, integrated system of demographic, manpower and social statistics co-ordinated with the System of National Accounts (SNA).

The project involves the establishment and application of an appropriate framework capable of linking and/or integrating various sub-systems, some of which may be formed as active sequences.

Elaboration of the social service accounts, already an integral part of the SNA, is an essential feature of the new integrated system since these accounts provide the cost data for the different sub-systems. Problems relating to data, boundaries and classifications which are yet to be solved, involve the use of information at present outside the traditional part of the statistical reporting system.

Programme 2. Implementation of the revised system of national accounts

The implementation of the revised SNA requires extensive work during the period 1971-1975. This will involve: the completion of the preparation of technical manuals on various aspects of the SNA (data in current prices; the public sector; input-output; regional accounting); the convening of seminars and workshops; the provision of technical assistance to the developing nations; reviewing the progress made by countries in applying the new system; the elaboration of the purpose and activity classifications of the SNA in respect of the government and private non-profit bodies serving households, etc.

Programme 3. Co-ordination of international statistics

A higher stage of co-ordination of international statistics should emerge from the practice of jointly preparing, with the statistical services of the specialized agencies, integrated long-term statistical programmes. These programmes will be prepared biennially in terms of the long-run statistical policy goals reviewed by the Commission. They will be based on the computerized inventory of international statistical series, together with the list of up-dated statistical standards. The movement towards greater integration will be accentuated by the co-ordinated computer applications among the organizations.

Programme 4. Development of the statistical data bank

Within the United Nations statistical information system, a significantly increased role will be played by the statistical data bank developed by the International Computing Centre. At the present time, there are six data bases in the bank (international trade statistics; national accounts statistics; industrial commodity statistics; industrial production statistics; world energy statistics; demographic statistics). There will inevitably be an increase in the number of specific subject data bases. Consideration should also be given to the establishment of multi-subject data bases such as encompassing the body of data regularly available for and presented in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. The development of the data bank of the Statistical Office will be co-ordinated with the corresponding data banks of the specialized agencies in their fields of activity.

Programme 5. Computerization of statistics for development planning

Computerization of the increasing amount of statistical information becoming available on the developing nations will accentuate the use made of statistics for economic and social development purposes. In view of the quite substantial difference between the least developed and the more advanced of these nations, supplementary computer applications should be planned for the least developed countries which cannot always be expected to benefit automatically from applications planned for developing countries generally.

Programme 6. Development of industrial statistics

The implementation of the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics is aimed at a significant improvement in the flow of information on industrial activity and structure as a means of accelerating economic and social development. Such information is required at the national level both in terms of arrays of national data and in terms of compilations of comparative data for other countries.

The implementation of this Programme should also meet the needs of various regional and interregional organizations concerned with general economic planning and development as well as the requirements of those involved more directly with the industrial sector (like the United Nations Development Programme in the former and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the latter category).

Programme 7. Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

In view of the increasing volume and complexity of international trade and in order to ensure the optimal utilization of international statistics available in this area, a general revision of SITC should be implemented. This has to be undertaken in consultation with the Customs Co-operation Council and other interested organizations. The main objective of the revision is to provide an improved classification reflecting the current commodity pattern of international trade. It is, however, essential to retain a correlation with the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN) as well as to preserve continuity with the past. A further objective is to provide a statistical classification useful for a variety of analytical purposes. It



must be capable of linking with other classifications, such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the classification of external trade statistics by Broad Economic Categories (BEC).

Programme 8. Statistics on current problems of international economic relations

In order to facilitate the understanding of the inter-relationship between economic development and international trade among groups of countries of varying levels of development, further improvements are essential in two major areas of international trade statistics:

- (a) The provision of more disaggregated data. This is needed to reflect the export potential and problems of the developing countries in general and those of the least developed ones in particular. These data are particularly needed in respect of exports of manufactured goods to the more developed countries.
- (b) An improvement in the measurement of average prices for goods belonging to key commodity classes which are traded between various geographical regions of the world.

Programme 9. International comparisons of national accounts

In the sphere of national product, income and expenditure statistics, the methodological developments introduced in the nineteen sixties are now resulting in increased international comparability. However, official exchange rates are generally inadequate to convert the improved estimates to a common valuation. The aim of this project is to develop an inter-country matrix of real product and purchasing power comparisons. Comparisons have to be performed for a selected number of countries and techniques capable of general application should be developed and tested.

Programme 10. Improvement of measures of population increase and housing

Emphasis will be placed on the improvement of measures of natural increase and of internal and international migration. For the former, particular stress will be given to the World Programme for the Improvement of Vital Statistics, including the revision of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods and the provision of technical assistance in the form of

seminars and ad hoc training centres. The work in migration statistics will aim at the promulgation of revised United Nations standards. Correlated efforts in housing statistics will be directed towards the development of a statistical base for periodic world housing surveys, of statistical series required for urban planning and of sample survey methods for collecting housing statistics and towards an expanded publication programme of housing information.

(ii) Statistical divisions of the regional economic commissions

(a) Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Programme 11. Preparation of a system of demographic and social statistics

This project is carried out within the framework of the preparation of such a system at the world level under the auspices of the Commission. The programme of work provides for several meetings on the general aspects of the system - concepts, definitions and classifications and social indicators - and for meetings in particular fields of social and demographic statistics related to the system, for example, statistics of education, health statistics, demographic statistics, etc.

Programme 12. Existing current activities

Statistics relating to the four priority items in the programme of work of ECE, namely promotion of external trade, especially east-west trade; science and technology; environmental problems; and long-term planning and projections. In each of these fields, it is planned to contribute to the development and improvement of the necessary statistics; in particular, meetings will be convened on statistics of science and technology, statistics for studies and policies on environmental problems, and on the establishment of a conversion key between the SITC and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) classification of commodities in external trade. In practically all fields covered by the Conference of European Statisticians, due attention is given to the statistical requirements for economic model building and planning.

Programme 13. Exchange of experience on the use of electronic computers for statistical purposes.

Annual meetings will be held for the study of major problems in this area and for the review of national reports on selected aspects of the use of computers for statistics. In this connexion, the activities of the Computing Research Centre (Bratislava, Czechoslovakia), a UNDP project in respect of which the ECE Statistical Division is responsible for substantive aspects must be mentioned. The Statistical Division co-operates with the CRC, notably in a project of the Conference (in which several national statistical offices are collaborating) to develop an integrated statistical information system including the related programming language(s).

(b) Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)

Programme 14. Development of national accounts

In continuation of the series of working groups organized so far to discuss the various facets of the revised System of National Accounts, it is proposed to organize, during the next five years, further meetings to discuss aspects such as sub-national accounts (1971), flows of funds (1973), statistics of income and wealth (1974), international and inter-regional comparisons (1975), etc. A workshop is planned for 1972 to discuss in detail the problems of implementation of the revised System of National Accounts. Among the related projects of specific interest to the development of national accounts envisaged for the next five years are working groups on the 1973 basic industrial inquiries (1971), statistics of distributive trades (1972), statistics of producer prices (1973), statistics of consumer prices (1974) and statistics of small-scale and household industries (1975). A regional adviser on national accounts has recently been appointed to assist in this programme at the country level.

Programme 15. Development of social statistics

In view of the emphasis on social justice, better social services and greater employment opportunities proposed in the guidelines for the Second Development Decade, it is proposed to pay special attention to the development of social statistics during the next five years. In continuation of the

substantial work already done to develop statistics on children and youth (including the publication of Statistics on Children and Youth as a supplement to the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Far East and the preparation of guidelines for statistics on children and youth) it is proposed to publish a handbook on statistics of children and youth. It is also proposed to organize during the next five years a series of working groups and seminars on various aspects of social statistics. The working group on social statistics, planned for 1971, will be followed by working groups on manpower and labour statistics (1971), migration statistics (1972), statistics of social welfare (1974) and statistics of crime and delinquency (1975). Seminars on household sample surveys on levels of living (1972) and the integrated system of demographic, manpower and social statistics (1973) are also planned. It is proposed to establish a post of regional adviser on social statistics to assist countries in this programme.

Programme 16. Training in data processing

A proposal to set up a regional data processing centre has been engaging the attention of the ECAFE secretariat for some time. The report of the Expert Group on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Data Processing Centre was discussed by the Conference of Asian Statisticians at its ninth session, in 1969. In pursuance of its recommendation, a committee of experts was set up to consider the proposal further, and its report, recommending establishment of a regional institute for applied data processing to provide training facilities in the use of computers, was submitted to ECAFE at its 26th session, in June 1970. The Commission's resolution requesting steps to initiate training arrangements in the use of computers is being pursued further in consultation with the countries of the region. It is hoped that suitable arrangements will be made for training programmers and systems analysts in adequate numbers to meet the growing needs of the developing countries of the region.

(c) Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

Programme 17. Statistical requirements for planning in developing countries

Emphasis is placed on the necessity for improvements in organizing,

collecting and presenting statistical information for use in planning as well as in the evaluation of economic and social policy. A conference on planning and statistics is envisaged in which the interrelations between the information required and the production of basic and derived statistics will be investigated.

Programme 18. Social statistics

Greater emphasis will be laid on social statistics, by assisting countries with their population and housing censuses and promoting household sample surveys. For this purpose additional resources are requested from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The increased interest in population questions and social policy makes it imperative to have the appropriate statistical information.

(d) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Programme 19. Development of statistical methodology and programmes

The ECA statistical programme has been in operation for ten years and has two main components: (1) the organization of working groups, seminars, etc. on methodology in the principal statistical fields and on statistical organization and programming, and (2) the provision of regional advisory services. The general aim is to encourage the development of national statistical programmes on the basis of standardized methodology and definitions.

During the period 1971-1975, the principal task will be to ensure a better understanding of the revised System of National Accounts and its implementation in the light of regional conditions. The SNA is now regarded as the central point of most African statistical programmes. There will be related activities in connexion with the improvement of trade, price and industrial statistics. As soon as the greater part of the work on the 1970 World Population Census Programme is completed, it is expected that there will be an increasing demand from countries for assistance in developing civil registration systems.

An important factor which has to be taken more fully into account in this programme is the need to ensure that African statistical services are developed in the light of planning requirements. The question is important

because it is only in the developing countries that there is any serious attempt to use direct planning methods in the context of mixed economies. The SNA provides an indication of the general approach in this connexion, but there is still the problem of establishing priorities in the light of local conditions. Some projects in the regional programme are intended to bring statisticians and planners into closer working contact.

Programme 20. Development of a regional statistical service

A centralized statistical service is of particular importance for Africa because the region consists of a large number of relatively small countries which individually find it difficult to develop rational economic policies in the absence of comprehensive information on the remainder of the region. The programme in this connexion has developed more slowly than those directed towards the improvement of national statistical services. It concentrated initially on external trade statistics, but a more general quarterly regional bulletin and yearbook have now been established on the basis of computerized data.

During the next few years, the problems will be to identify the data most useful in building up a framework of statistics at regional and sub-regional levels and in processing the available data quickly enough for the results to be useful. Bearing in mind that these data also form the basis for publications such as the annual regional economic survey and for economic analysis and projections of a general nature, it is expected that more systematic estimation procedures will have to be introduced as a means of temporarily filling data gaps arising from late arrival of official figures.

Programme 21. Statistical training

The work of the regional statistical training centres expanded continuously throughout the 1960s and will continue to do so during the first half of the 1970s.

(iii) Other United Nations bodies

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Programme 22. Statistical needs

The secretariat of UNCTAD is rarely involved in the collection and

production of statistics, but rather relies on the statistics produced by the United Nations Statistical Office, the specialized agencies and other statistical sources for its studies. The following paragraph indicates the nature of UNCTAD's potential needs during the period 1971-1975:

Statistics are needed to improve measures of the level of development and the progress of developing countries in achieving development goals (growth, employment, income distribution, relevant social measures). Others are needed to improve the evaluation of progress by developing countries towards specific UNCTAD targets and towards broader and more qualitative UNCTAD objectives. Efforts are required to improve econometric models, projections and analyses of: external capital requirements, the demand and supply conditions in particular commodity markets, the effect of preferential tariffs, the effect of the non-tariff barriers, development of other major balance-of-payments factors aside from commodity trade (e.g. freight rate indices, private investment, reverse capital movements, debt problems, private transfer payments, the transfer of technology, etc.) Further work is necessary on the "link" project for short - and medium - term projection of trade patterns in the light of particular national projections; regional integration possibilities and achievements; and financing and trade relations between socialist countries and developing countries.

B. Specialized agencies

(i) International Labour Organisation(ILO)

Programme 23. International Conference of Labour Statisticians

The twelfth International Conference of Labour Statisticians will be held in Geneva in 1971. This meeting will revise existing international recommendations, or adopt new ones, in statistical fields in which methodological research has been conducted by the ILO in the last few years, namely: (a) the scope, methods and uses of family expenditure surveys; (b) statistics of wages and employee income; (c) statistics of vocational training. The Conference will also review the progress of labour statistics in the various countries of the world from 1966 to 1971.

Programme 24. Review of the methodology of labour statistics

The aim of this ILO project is:

- (a) to expand the collection of information on the methods used to produce co-ordinated data on labour statistics in all countries;
- (b) to prepare a document which would set out, especially for the developing countries, the broad framework of a comprehensive and coherent system of labour statistics for use in economic and social planning; the document would cover at least statistics of employment, unemployment, wages, hours of work and retail prices, and would show the minimum standards which should be adhered to in the preparation of these basic statistics; and
- (c) to carry out a detailed review of the status reached by labour statistics in the world around 1975, and of the needs for, and means of, improving such data.

Programme 25. Development of labour force projections

Labour force projections by sex and age up to 1985 for all countries and regions of the world will be published in 1971 in a Bulletin on Labour Force Projections. It is intended to utilize data collected through the 1970 round of population censuses in order to (a) study the composition of, and changes in, the structure of the labour force by sex, age, industry, occupation, etc; (b) develop basic 1970 data on the labour force consistent with 1960 benchmark data; and (c) prepare revised projections of the labour force by region and country on the basis of the 1970 data.

Programme 26. Development of wage statistics

Following the studies on statistics of wages in agriculture and methods of collection of data on payments in kind, to be carried out in 1970-1971, the ILO proposes to study methods of collection of statistics of wages by occupations. The objective is to determine the definitions which should be used and the type of data to be collected to provide a good basis for national and international analyses and comparisons of the remuneration of workers in



agriculture and in various occupations. In addition, it is intended to undertake analytical studies on levels and trends of wages by sex, by occupation, by industry and by level of skill and to assemble and analyse available data from individual countries relating to labour cost and its components.

Programme 27. Measurements of employment, unemployment and underemployment

The ILO intends to convene a meeting of experts which will be asked:

- (a) to identify the priority requirements for data relevant to an adequate manpower information programme in the framework of the World Employment Programme and to define the corresponding concepts which could be applied in practical statistical work, especially in developing countries;
- (b) to describe the appropriate statistical methodology for obtaining valid and useful data pertaining to the concepts identified;
- (c) to outline a manpower statistics programme, in terms of the types of statistics needed, their periodicity, scope, coverage, classifications to be applied, tabulations to be prepared, etc.

Programme 28. Development of labour statistics in developing countries

The ILO proposes to expand its technical co-operation activities in the field of statistics, particularly labour force statistics, in the period 1971-1975. This would take the form of (a) increased provision of advice on the establishment of statistical series on employment, unemployment, wages, hours of work and consumer prices in countries where there is a reasonable prospect for organizational support needed for the success of such projects; (b) an increase in the number of fellowships awarded to labour statisticians from developing countries; (c) organization of seminars in developing countries on the preparation of labour force projections, on the practical development of occupational classifications for national use and on wage statistics; and (d) participation in local or regional training courses in statistics such as the regional statistical training institutes in Tokyo and Kampala (see paragraph 31 above).

(ii) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Programme 29. Food consumption surveys

As a necessary component of FAO's work programme on "Closing the Protein Gap", efforts will be intensified to promote food consumption surveys at the country level. The data from such surveys constitute the basic information needed for action programmes aimed at improving the levels of food consumption and nutrition. The particular need for such data arises from the fact that many nutritional problems are caused not by inadequate total food supplies but by inadequate distribution of the available supplies. The promotional efforts for the conduct of food consumption surveys will include publications summarizing the results of surveys taken, methodology of the studies and training activities. Efforts will be made to combine food consumption surveys with more general household surveys already planned.

Programme 30. Establishment of a comprehensive data compilation and processing system

Consideration is being given to the establishment of a data compilation and processing system of statistics of production, trade and utilization along with those of agricultural prices for primary and processed food and agricultural commodities. The system will consist of a unified and up-to-date set of data on a country basis which will permit the inter-linked presentation of the data in the form of commodity balances, food and feed balances, and other derived statistics required for food and agricultural development planning. In addition to providing the tabulation for FAO's statistical publications, it will service the various units of FAO and of other international organizations.

The implementation of the system involves the preparation of numerous estimates. The utilization of computers in this task is essential and steps are being taken to secure adequate access to computer services. To ensure feedback of the statistical development activities at the source, consultations will be carried out at the country level on the basis of computer print-outs of the available data.

As an integral part of the above system, the current statistical work on primary and processed fishery commodities will be further expanded to include quarterly and monthly data.

Programme 31. Integration of agricultural census and current agricultural statistics

In a number of countries, agricultural censuses are an ad hoc operation and in no way lead to an improvement in current agricultural statistics. Steps must be taken to establish the necessary links between census promotion and development of current agricultural statistics. It is, therefore, proposed to formulate and promote an integrated programme of agricultural surveys and censuses spread over a number of years. These surveys should also provide for the collection of information on farm structure and on input and output of agriculture more frequently than is available through decennial censuses of agriculture or in the existing current statistics of many countries. In its later stages, the programme could be so developed as to include information on production costs in relation to output and revenue, on measures of productivity in agriculture as well as information on the distribution of agricultural income by size and by type of farms.

Programme 32. Economic accounts for agriculture

FAO's work on economic accounts for agriculture has been largely confined to standardization of concepts and definitions. Numerical data have only been compiled on an ad hoc basis. It is now proposed to compile such data on a systematic and regular basis. The improvement of the data needed for the construction of such accounts is possible mainly through the establishment of a systematic dialogue on the subject with the countries themselves. One important consideration is that countries should use economic accounts for agriculture as a guide for identifying gaps and priorities in their respective systems of agricultural statistics.

Programme 33. Fishing effort and fish catch statistics

Current efforts in the field of fishery statistics, including detailed attention to (a) standards (classifications, definitions, methods), (b) data collection, processing and publication, and (c) co-ordination of the programmes of regional sea-area bodies, will be further intensified. These activities are considered to be an indispensable and integral element of FAO's programme towards increasingly rational utilization of international fishery resources.

Programme 34. Tropical timber trade statistics

This programme is designed to promote the exports of tropical wood and wood products from developing countries by expanding publication of trade data on these products. The programme will basically aim at an intensive coverage of the trade flow expressed in quantity and value of tropical wood products, distinguishing the commodity, species and eventually grades. To help the developing countries in their collection of systematized trade data, special efforts will be required to promote the use of detailed and harmonized sub-classifications of the Standard International Trade Classification.

Programme 35. Development of national forestry statistics

This programme will assist developing countries in establishing or improving statistical services covering the forestry sector. The aim is to promote the introduction of standard classification and statistical reporting systems that will provide more appropriate data pertaining to the forestry sector from the resource base, through production and trade to the consumption stage. This will be done through a series of regional seminars, regional and national training courses and expert assistance.

(iii) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Programme 36. Educational projections

Subject to approval of a submission to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for financial assistance, work will be started on a series of educational projections for Member States. It is essential for UNESCO and the rest of the United Nations system, as well as the Member States, to have, both for the operational activities and for the general policy during the Second Development Decade, a set of detailed educational projections for as many countries as possible. It is intended to include, as far as possible, in these projections such features as age-specific enrolment ratios, level enrolment ratios, input/output and over-all wastage rates, and literacy and educational attainment for the adult population.

Programme 37. Educational flow statistics

Particular emphasis will be given to developing "flow statistics" for the educational system as a means of carrying out analyses of the internal

efficiency of national educational systems. The objective is to achieve more meaningful and detailed types of statistical data to serve as a basis for the many calculations, projections and estimates required for the effective national planning of educational programmes. Preliminary work in this area, concentrating on the problem of "wastage", was carried out for the International Conference on Education in Geneva, July 1970. This work was limited to general education at the first and second levels. It is intended both to expand types and levels of education to be covered by the surveys and to go more deeply into the analysis of educational flow within each system. Because educational wastage is a major problem facing all countries in the world, although occurring at different levels in education according to the different stages of development of the countries, this project is considered to be one of the most important areas for analysis to be undertaken by the Office of Statistics, particularly as any assistance given to Member States in dealing with this problem will be of immediate benefit.

Programme 38. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

The project of drawing up an ISCED, already started, will continue through 1976 in order to have the complete system approved and a working manual in operation in time for the 1980 round of national population censuses. The classification will be taken to three digits, the first digit being the educational level, the second digit being area of study and the third digit being major subject. The system will be designed to classify all aspects of education, e.g. educational characteristics of individuals, educational institutions, educational expenditure, etc. It is intended that the full three-digit system will cover some 800 categories of education both within and outside the formal educational system.

Programme 39. Standardization of statistics relating to science and technology

The work on data collection, methodology and international standardization will be intensified. During 1971-1972, the emphasis will be on determining the needs of Member States, particularly the developing countries, for science statistics; the collection of data to meet these needs; and the development

of statistical data systems in the Member States to produce these data. The priority for 1973-1974 will be to improve the reliability of the data and response rates, involving methodological work, standardization of concepts and definitions and, to the extent possible, provision of technical assistance to developing countries upon their request. A meeting of governmental experts on the international standardization of statistics related to science and technology will be convened in 1974.

Programme 40. System of science statistics

Considering the newness and complexity of science statistics and the lack of experience in most developing countries in this field, it is proposed that a four-year project be established in collaboration with a science field office in 1973, to assist preferably the host country of that office in designing, developing and improving a system of science statistics data collection. This project has a triple purpose: to help the country in setting up its national statistical service in this field, to test methodologies so far established and to stimulate similar technical assistance projects within the UNDP framework. The results from this "demonstration project" could then be applied to the situation in other countries. This iterative process of learning and application of results should eventually result in a tried and tested statistical system for science and technology which could be "packaged" and thus utilized, with adjustments as required, by all of the less developed countries of the world.

Programme 41. Statistics of culture and communication

In these fields, where statistics both at the national and international levels leave very much to be desired, the present activities will be pursued and a major effort will be made towards improvement and expansion of the data collection in order to arrive eventually at an adequate basis for policy and planning in the areas of culture and information. Special attention will be given to designing statistical data collection systems which can provide reliable and meaningful data not only on national infrastructure in the fields concerned, but also on other quantifiable aspects of cultural activities, and on the content of mass communication programmes and their impact upon their audiences.

Programme 42. University teaching of statistics

A new activity is foreseen in the field of university teaching of statistics. As African countries wish to develop their governmental statistical services, they are facing a most serious problem with respect to the demand for an increasing number of adequately trained statisticians. Accordingly, it is proposed that a four-year project, financed under UNESCO's Regular Programme, be established in collaboration with a university in one of the least developed areas in Africa, starting in 1973. This project will improve the university teaching of statistics, based upon the specific requirements of the countries in the region. As curricula are developed in one country, first in the country of the host university, the usable results in the form of manuals and teaching methods could be applied to other countries with different sets of requirements and with different levels of pre-university educational inputs. This should eventually result in a set of teaching methods and curricula that could be used, with possible modifications, by all of the developing countries of the world. It is hoped that upon the successful conclusion of this first phase of the project, the national authorities will continue and expand the statistics "faculty" as part of an ordinary technical assistance programme, at the country or regional level, financed out of UNDP funds.

(iv) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Programme 43. International debt statistics

IBRD will continue collecting and processing information on external debt and lending from debtor and creditor countries. In addition, the Bank will also collect data on foreign and international bonds. Coverage of data will be expanded, and the processing and tabulation will be computerized.

In co-operation with the International Monetary Fund, progress is being made in reconciling debt statistics with balance-of-payments definitions. Although the details of these projects may be confidential, it is hoped that summaries and aggregates will constitute reliable and useful information for measuring international capital flows.

(v) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

Programme 44. Tariff trade data bank

In the course of the last two years, the secretariat has assembled on magnetic tape data on customs duties and imports by countries of provenance in the detail of national customs tariffs of sixteen large industrial countries. This will be extended during the forthcoming years to include other member countries. The project provides for up-dating the existing files in 1971 or 1972 in order to assess the effects of the tariff concessions resulting from the Kennedy Round.

Programme 45. Statistics concerning cotton textiles

Within the framework of the Long-Term Arrangement on Cotton Textiles, the secretariat has been regularly collecting data on production and trade in cotton textiles of the countries participating in the Arrangement. Provided that the Arrangement is renewed, this data collection and circulation to other member countries will continue.

(vi) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Programme 46. Publication of data

IMF's main statistical publication, International Financial Statistics, will continuously be improved, both in quantity and quality. Efforts are directed to expand its contents by: (a) incorporating statistics for new member countries; (b) obtaining and introducing data on new topics; and (c) improving the accuracy, completeness and currentness of published data. The presentation of additional data will have to follow the agency's standards of inter-country comparability; deviations between these and national source presentations should be fully reconciled. Further refinement and standardization of data collection, the growing use of computer facilities and the participation in technical assistance to developing member countries will contribute to the improvement of the publication.

Programme 47. Computerization

The contents of IMF's data bank will be considerably expanded both in the number and length of time series. Programmes of the existing automatic up-date system will be further refined so as to reduce this work to the



necessary minimum of input data. On the other hand, the general purpose calculation routines for the transformation of any one, and for the combination of any number of time series, will be maximized to include any calculation programme developed in IMF or elsewhere. A further objective is to participate in inter-computer system dialogues with international and national data banks. Consideration is being given to the possibility of offering tapes to users on a monthly subscription basis. Efforts will also be directed towards improvement of non-tabular computer output such as charts, diagrams, regression lines, etc.

Programme 48. Participation in technical assistance

Early in 1969, the Bureau of Statistics launched a technical aid programme to developing member countries. This programme aimed either to establish new or to improve existing central bank bulletins, i.e., bulletins that report the statistics necessary for the analysis of monetary and balance-of-payments problems. Experience suggests that this programme should be continued and, if possible, expanded. The programme will not only contribute to the well-founded formulation of the monetary authorities' policies, but will also help to reduce existing dissimilarities in the collection, computation and presentation of relevant data. Where similarity in concept and data presentation cannot be fully achieved, the technical assistance work provides for proper identification and specification of the discrepancies.

Programme 49. Revision of the Balance of Payments Manual

IMF's Balance of Payments Manual contains the conceptual framework and detailed instructions for preparing balance-of-payments reports to the Fund. The Manual is revised from time to time to keep abreast of shifts in the focus of analytic interest and of developments in other international standards for related statistics. A revision of the 1961 edition is in progress. This will take into account, for example, the attention currently being given to the subject of international liquidity and the changes recently introduced in the United Nations System of National Accounts.

Programme 50. Improvement of balance-of-payments statistics

Membership in IMF explicitly entails an obligation to report information on balance-of-payments transactions. National compilers are assisted in meeting this requirement by the IMF technical staff, which seeks both to expand the coverage and improve the quality of the statistics available. Organized courses in balance-of-payments methodology, conducted in three languages, are offered regularly, and assistance is also provided through correspondence, meetings and visits to individual countries. Some 100 countries are now able to comply with at least the minimum requirements, and active efforts to achieve complete coverage and more timely and accurate statements will be continued.

ANNEX

CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

- A. PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND ORGANIZING STATISTICAL SERVICES
- B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF STATISTICAL PERSONNEL
- C. TECHNIQUES OF SAMPLING AND SURVEYS, INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS,  
QUALITY CONTROL, OPERATIONS RESEARCH AND LINEAR PROGRAMMING
- D. DATA PROCESSING METHODOLOGY (AS DISTINCT FROM OPERATIONS)
- E. METHODOLOGY, INQUIRIES, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION AND EXCHANGE  
OF INFORMATION
  - 1. Statistics of areas of countries or geographic areas
  - 2. Population statistics
  - 3. Vital statistics
  - 4. Migration statistics
  - 5. Housing statistics
  - 6. Construction statistics
  - 7. Statistics of agriculture, forestry and fisheries
  - 8. Statistics of food consumption and nutrition
  - 9. Labour statistics
  - 10. Industrial statistics
  - 11. Energy statistics
  - 12. National accounts statistics
  - 13. Statistics of government finance
  - 14. Statistics of money, banking and finance
  - 15. Statistics of prices and price indexes
  - 16. Statistics of internal trade and services
  - 17. External trade statistics
  - 18. Balance-of-payments statistics
  - 19. Transport (except air) statistics
  - 20. Civil aviation statistics
  - 21. Tourist statistics
  - 22. Communications statistics

23. Statistics of education and culture
24. Statistics of science and technology
25. Health statistics
26. Other statistics not included elsewhere