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SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

1980 WORLD POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PROGRAMME

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present document has been prepared in accordance with the Commission's decision that it receive an interim report on the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme at its nineteenth session.

The document reports on regional and global activities in the development of international recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses (paras. 6-16), sets forth interim proposals with respect to the 1980 recommendations (paras. 17-35), briefly outlines accomplished and planned technical assistance activities (paras. 36-50) and indicates other activities under the Programme (paras. 51-58).

The Commission may wish to (a) comment on the programme for developing international recommendations for the 1980 censuses and on the interim proposals with respect to these recommendations, (b) request the Secretary-General to circulate the contents of chapter III of the present report, amended to reflect the Commission's views, to Member States and (c) request the Secretary-General to convene an interregional expert group to develop draft international recommendations for the 1980 population and housing censuses. The Commission may also wish to (a) comment on other aspects of this report and (b) suggest further possibilities for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of technical assistance activities carried out in connexion with the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

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ANNEX

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES, 1975-1979,
 IN CONNEXION WITH THE 1980 WORLD POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS
 PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighteenth session, the Commission considered some general proposals dealing with the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme and approved a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, requesting the Secretary-General to proceed with the development of a 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme and recommending that Member States undertake to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 1975-1984. 1/ As adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the resolution was amended by the addition of a request to the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies "to assist, as requested, Member States, particularly developing countries, in planning and carrying out the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, including the application of computer technology in this area". 2/
2. The Commission also decided that there should be an interim report on the Programme at its nineteenth session and final consideration of draft recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses at its twentieth session. 3/
3. The present document, prepared in accordance with the Commission's decision and the suggestions of its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination (see E/CN.3/470, para. 19), is partly a progress report on activities undertaken to date under the Programme and partly proposed future activities. It also presents, for the guidance of countries now engaged in planning for their population and housing censuses, interim proposals with respect to international recommendations for the 1980 population and housing censuses based on a preliminary review of suggested additions to and changes from the 1970 census recommendations.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 1.

2/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1947 (LVIII), para. 2.

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 60.

I. ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

4. The Commission may wish to:

(a) Comment on the programme of activities aimed at the development of the recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses;

(b) Express its views on the interim proposals with respect to the recommendations for the 1980 censuses and request the Secretary-General to circulate the contents of chapter III of the present document, amended to reflect the Commission's views, to Member States for their use as interim guides in planning for their 1980 population and housing censuses;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to convene an interregional expert group to develop draft international recommendations for the 1980 population and housing censuses, drawing, as appropriate, on the 1970 world and regional recommendations, regional recommendations developed for the 1980 censuses, the views expressed by the Commission at its present session and other relevant materials, and to present the proposals of the group to the Commission for consideration at its twentieth session.

5. The Commission may also wish to:

(a) Comment on other aspects of the Programme described in the present report, including, inter alia, the steps taken to facilitate the transfer of technology between countries in relation to the application of modern data processing technology to various phases of census work and the plans to provide training to national statistical personnel in developing regions both in over-all census management and in the specialized skills required for census work;

(b) Suggest further possibilities for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of international and bilateral assistance activities carried out in response to paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1947 (LVIII), bearing in mind the Commission's comments on documents E/CN.3/472, E/CN.3/472/Add.1 and E/CN.3/474, which are also before it.

II. ACTIVITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 1980 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

A. Background and organization of work

6. The Commission agreed, at its eighteenth session, that the regional commissions should take the lead in developing recommendations on the content of the 1980 round of population and housing censuses, while the Statistical Office would concentrate its efforts on recommendations dealing with methodology and operations.

7. The division of responsibilities derives from the process used to develop the recommendations for the previous (1970) round of censuses. The United Nations

recommendations for that round, ^{4/} presented separately for population censuses and then with topics to be investigated and tabulations to be prepared. Regional variants of the parts of the recommendations pertaining to topics and tabulations were issued by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI). Hence, the final decisions on topics, tabulations and classifications to be recommended were arrived at drawing heavily on regional experience, with the United Nations recommendations aimed at setting forth the points of agreement among the regional variants so as to facilitate interregional comparability of results to the greatest extent possible. However, there were no regional variants of the parts of the recommendations on methods and operations, which were considered to be equally applicable in all regions. It seemed appropriate, therefore, that the major effort in connexion with the determination of topics, tabulations and classifications to be recommended for the 1980 round of censuses should be a regional responsibility while activities in connexion with methodology and operations of the censuses remain centred in the Statistical Office.

8. Further, it was expected that there was not likely to be a need for major changes from the 1970 United Nations recommendations in the topics to be investigated although some changes might be needed within the regional variants. (It should be recognized that the relative stability anticipated for this aspect of the international recommendations is fully consistent with individual countries introducing required changes in census content to reflect changing national priorities for data.) On the other hand, the need was felt for a greater degree of guidance on matters of methodology and operation, on which the resources of the Statistical Office might best be concentrated.

B. Regional activities

9. Regional action specifically aimed at the development of recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses was initiated at the end of 1975, when the first formal regional inquiries on the matter were addressed to national statistical offices. Between December 1975 and June 1976, the regional commissions and IASI queried the national statistical offices of their members on national experience with the 1970 round of censuses and national plans for the 1980 round of censuses and requested preliminary suggestions for changes to be made in the recommendations for the 1980 round of censuses, taking as departure points the 1970 world-wide recommendations on methodology and the appropriate regional recommendations on topics and tabulations. The results of these inquiries are not yet complete enough to provide more than tentative indications of national response but it should be noted that none of the regions has thus far reported any strong attitude in favour of major changes with respect to census content.

^{4/} Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.67.XVII.3) and Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.67.XVII.4).

10. As shown in the provisional calendar of regional and global activities (see annex), the majority of the regions anticipate adoption of regional recommendations by the end of 1977.

11. Consecutive working groups on population censuses and on housing censuses of the Conference of European Statisticians will meet in the first half of 1977 and their draft recommendations will probably be submitted to the Conference by the third quarter of the year.

12. The Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific may adopt regional recommendations in principle in December 1976. In-depth consideration of the recommendations will be undertaken by a working group of the Committee in February 1977.

13. The Sub-Committee on Demographic, Housing and Related Statistics of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) of the Inter-American Statistical Institute will meet in November 1976 to discuss regional standards, which may be adopted by COINS in the second half of 1977.

14. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) is planning an expert group meeting on census techniques in 1977, which will bring together the heads of central statistical offices in the region to discuss, among other matters, the co-ordination of national census plans and suggestions on census concepts, classifications and tabulations.

C. Global activities

15. The United Nations Statistical Office has been studying the results of the regional inquiries thus far available and has engaged in discussion with national authorities, technical assistance experts in the field and relevant specialized agencies, in order to compile as broad an indication as possible of desirable changes from the 1970 census recommendations, taking into account also the discussion at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission and at the sixth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination.

16. With the benefit of the Commission's comments on the interim proposals set forth in chapter III of the present document, together with any comments of the Population Commission at its nineteenth session, additional national proposals and the actions of the regional groups that will be meeting in 1976 and the first part of 1977, it is planned to prepare draft recommendations for the consideration of an interregional expert group in 1977. Drafts revised as necessary in accordance with the comments of the expert group will be submitted to the Commission for its approval at its twentieth session, in 1978.

III. INTERIM PROPOSALS WITH RESPECT TO RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE 1980 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

17. A review of the preliminary results of the inquiries by the regional commissions and Inter-American Statistical Institute described in paragraph 9 and of other information at the disposal of the regional commissions and the Statistical Office revealed a number of suggestions for changes in the recommendations to be used in connexion with the 1980 Programme from those used in the 1970 Programme. Suggested changes relating to census content, including topics and tabulations, are discussed first, followed by those relating to census methods and operations.

A. Census content

1. General

18. Only a few countries have suggested specific modifications of definitions, with particular reference to their national circumstances, and no national suggestions for additions or deletions of topics had come to the attention of the Statistical Office at the time the present document was prepared. However, there has been some expression of feeling among countries with little census experience that more precise definitions and concepts should be enunciated and reasons for their adoption explained through examples. It must be determined whether this need can best be met by the United Nations recommendations, the regional variants, the United Nations Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods or other means.

2. Income

19. There is some indication of increasing interest in the collection of information on income. On the other hand, because of the relative difficulty of obtaining reliable income statistics in a census operation, it may be preferable to stress the usefulness of a continuing national household survey capability (see E/CN.3/473) as a source for such data. None of the regions had recommended the inclusion of income as a topic for the 1970 censuses. Accordingly, further information on regional interest will be needed before a decision can be reached on its inclusion in the 1980 recommendations.

3. Year of arrival of immigrant stock

20. There is also an indication of interest in the investigation of year of arrival of immigrant stock. The possible need for recommending the collection of information on period of arrival of the foreign-born population and expansion of the tabulations of immigrant stock has been brought to the attention of the Commission in paragraph 10⁴ of the "Draft recommendations on statistics of international migration" (E/CN.3/483).

4. Household definition

21. There has been some expression of difficulties faced in applying the household definition recommended for the 1970 censuses. The difficulties will be very carefully examined because of the importance of the household as a unit of enumeration and of analysis in both the population and the housing census. The definition used for the 1970 censuses was based on the arrangements made by persons for providing themselves with food or other essentials for living. "A household may be either: (a) a one-person household, that is, a person who makes provision for his own food or other essentials for living without combining with any other person to form part of a multiperson household or (b) a multiperson household, that is, a group of two or more persons who make common provision for food or other essentials for living. The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a common budget to a greater or less extent; they may be related or unrelated persons or a combination of both." 5/ The possible alternative, which defines the household as all persons occupying the same set of living quarters, regardless of the arrangements they make for providing themselves with food or other living essentials, was considered and rejected when the 1970 recommendations were prepared. "If several households occupying the same set of living quarters are counted as a single household and if boarders and lodgers are counted as part of the household with which they board or lodge, the groups thus formed may exhibit, in terms of national aggregates, characteristics that are markedly different from other households. The average size will almost certainly be larger, income and expenditure patterns may be expected to differ significantly, the need for housing will be distorted and, finally, the groups will probably not be very cohesive ones." 6/

5. Educational characteristics

22. Consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has resulted in agreement on very slight modification of the recommendations relating to educational characteristics of the population, to bring them into line with, inter alia, the most recent UNESCO recommendations embodied in the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).

6. Economic characteristics

23. Consultation with the International Labour Organisation will be undertaken on the question of any possible changes in the recommendations pertaining to the economic characteristics of the population. In particular, it is necessary to

5/ Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses, para. 146.

6/ Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, part III, Topics and Tabulations for Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.6), para. 144.

explore the ramifications of an extension of the previously recommended time-reference period of not more than one week to be used in the investigation of economic characteristics. This is especially important in connexion with the identification in the census of persons engaged in agriculture either as a principal or as a secondary occupation (see para. 58).

7. Urban-rural classification, socio-economic classification and classification of households by type

24. It is felt that work already done on the framework for integration of social and demographic statistics will make it necessary in at least the ECE region to review the 1970 regional recommendations relating to the urban-rural classification, the socio-economic classification and perhaps the classification of households by type. Neither urban-rural residence, which was a recommended topic for the 1970 censuses, nor socio-economic status, which was included as a useful, although not recommended topic, was considered amenable to a single world-wide definition. Countries were urged to follow the regional recommendations on the two topics. Any changes in the classifications employed in the ECE region, would not necessarily, therefore, be applicable in other regions. The classification of households by type also appears to be more suitable to regional than to world-wide recommendations.

8. Tabulations by size of locality

25. The traditional distinction between urban and rural areas within a country is based on the assumption that urban areas, no matter how they are defined, provide a different way of life and a higher level of living than is found in rural areas. In many countries, this distinction has become blurred and the principal difference in living between urban and rural areas tends to be a matter of the degree of concentration of population. At the same time, rapid urbanization in developing countries has created a great need for information related to urban localities of different sizes. Hence, consideration is being given to recommending the tabulation of a variety of data for localities by size class in order to provide comparative information on population and housing characteristics along the continuum from the most sparsely settled rural areas to the most densely built up urban localities. The classification by size of locality could supplement the traditional urban-rural dichotomy or replace it. In the recommendations for the 1970 European censuses, for example, the urban-rural classification consisted of three categories based entirely on size of locality or of the largest population cluster within the smallest civil division. ^{7/} The possibilities of utilizing additional relevant and objective criteria, based on imagery obtained by remote sensing (see E/CN.3/481, paras. 27-31) and from other sources, to develop a more discerning classification system may also be noted.

^{7/} "European recommendations for the 1970 population censuses" (document ST/CES/13), paras. 23-24.

B. Census methods and operations

1. Processing of census data

26. There is general recognition that the sections of the recommendations devoted to data processing must be strengthened and reoriented so as to take into account recent developments in hardware (computer and related equipment) and software (computer programmes) and the opportunities these developments present for more rapid and reliable processing of census results. These developments include, inter alia (a) the availability of mini-computers, which, coupled with appropriate software, can provide to many countries an effective census processing capacity at low cost; (b) the availability of newer types of data-capture equipment (for example, key-to-diskette or key-to-tape) that eliminates the need to use punch-cards as an intermediate storage device; (c) software specifically designed for the automatic edit and imputation of census data (for example, CANEDIT developed by Statistics Canada and CONCOR developed by the Latin American Demographic Centre of ECLA); (d) software specifically designed for the tabulation of census data (for example, CENTS and COCENTS developed by the United States Bureau of the Census); (e) other software useful for tabulation of census data (for example, Table Production Language (TPL) developed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, TAB-68 developed by the National Central Bureau of Statistics of Sweden and XTALLY available from the United Nations Statistical Office); and (f) software designed to accomplish geo-coding of the census data base.

2. Census data base orientation to census output

27. Emphasis will be placed on the census data base, consisting of the edited and organized data collected, as the primary product of the census. The 1970 recommendations pointed out that not all of the processed census material need be published. Some could be provided in unpublished form for special users and some data need not even be tabulated until required at a later date. ^{8/} The almost universal use of computer technology has now opened the way to realization of the rich source of information not necessarily included in the regular publication programme but available in the data base (see para. 40).

3. Local area statistics

28. Attention will be called to the usefulness of the data base in providing local area statistics not included in the publication programme and also to the implications for the use of sampling in the enumeration if data are to become available for small areas. In this connexion, the value of establishing small-area statistical units (for example, enumeration areas, census blocks or census tracts) and identifying each census record in terms of this unit will be stressed.

^{8/} Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses, para. 91.

4. Sex-based stereotypes

29. Sex-based stereotypes often appear in census questions and instructions to enumerators, particularly in connexion with the concepts of head of household and of the economic activity of women. In accordance with the aims of paragraphs 161-169 of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and of resolution 23 of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, which were endorsed by General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX), the census recommendations will be carefully screened to ensure that they do not reflect any sex-based stereotypes that will prejudice the results and the situation will be called to the attention of the countries.

5. Confidentiality, privacy and respondent burden

30. The issue of the confidentiality of census returns has been enhanced by computer technology, which has increased the possibilities of centralization of information, the tabulation of results for very small areas (such as enumeration areas) and the supplying of samples of data collected for use outside the government. Two related issues that can also affect the extent to which the general public co-operates with the census are demonstrated by the complaints, noted in some countries, that the population census constitutes an unwarranted threat to individual privacy and that it places an unacceptable burden on respondents. It may be desirable for somewhat greater consideration to be given to these issues than was given in the 1970 recommendations.

6. Government acceptance of census results

31. Some consideration of standards for government acceptance or rejection of census results might be appropriate, particularly in the case of the first scientific census in countries having little or no experience with population or housing data collection.

7. International simultaneity

32. A particular observation emanated from the Regional Meeting of Population Census Planners, organized by the South Pacific Commission in March 1975, to the effect that holding of censuses in or about years ending in "0" imposes a strain on countries or territories of the South Pacific depending on outside expertise. The Meeting therefore favoured the staggering of censuses in the South Pacific. In fact, the 1970 United Nations recommendations have recognized this problem. While advocating that, whenever possible, censuses should be undertaken in the years ending in "0" or as near to those years as feasible, they go on to say that national, legal, administrative, financial and other considerations should be given greater weight in fixing a census date than the desirability of international simultaneity. Experience with the African Census Programme has also demonstrated the difficulties of recruiting a sufficient number of non-national experts to assist a large number of countries holding their censuses in the same year,

particularly if the countries that could supply experts are engaged in major census activity at the same time. It may be noted that Economic and Social Council resolution 1947 (LVIII), establishing the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, unlike the resolutions establishing the world census programmes in previous decades, omitted any reference to the desirability of international simultaneity.

8. Choice of enumeration period

33. A need has been expressed for additional advice on the various factors that should determine the choice of dates within the year for conducting the census enumeration. The expansion of the brief mention of the factors in the 1970 recommendations appears to be appropriate.

9. Census cartography

34. In accordance with a decision by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its sixth session, a document entitled "Cartography in the work of a national statistical office" is before the Commission (E/CN.3/481). Because of the relevance of cartographic work to population and housing censuses, that document and any comments the Commission may make on it will be taken into account in the draft census recommendations.

C. General conclusions

35. In accordance with the time-table discussed at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission and more fully elaborated in chapter II above and the annex of this report, the final draft recommendations for the 1980 population and housing censuses will not be available for adoption by the Commission until its twentieth session, in 1978. It would, therefore, be useful for the interim guidance of countries actively planning and organizing their national population and housing censuses between now and the end of 1978 if some indication of the likely contents of the 1980 recommendations could be provided. On the basis of the indications thus far available, as presented in paragraphs 18-34, there appears to be no need for changes in the broad outline of that portion of the recommendations dealing with topics and tabulations although modifications are required in details. The principles and recommendations in respect of census methods and operations require considerable expansion to increase their usefulness in view of the technological and methodological developments and of changing attitudes and awareness since the issuance of the 1970 recommendations. It is considered that chapter III of the present report, revised as necessary to accord with the Commission's comments, used in conjunction with the recommendations adopted for the 1970 census programmes can serve as an interim indication of an emerging consensus on this matter. If the Commission agrees with these conclusions, it is proposed that the revised text of chapter III of the present report be circulated to national statistical offices as quickly as possible.

IV. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Global

1. Technical Meeting on the 1980 World Population Census Programme

36. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), in co-operation with the Statistical Office, convened an Ad Hoc Technical Meeting on the 1980 World Population Census Programme at United Nations Headquarters, on 13-14 November 1975. The meeting provided an opportunity for discussion of the scope and nature of assistance to be provided to the developing countries in connexion with the 1980 Census Programme, which would be of guidance to UNFPA in reassessing various aspects of its programme. Participants included representatives of a number of the major countries contributing to UNFPA, four experts from developing countries and members of the staffs of the Office of Technical Co-operation, the Population Division, the Statistical Office and UNFPA. Discussion covered the nature and effectiveness of assistance for the 1970 round of censuses as a review of needs and proposals for assistance for the 1980 round. 9/

2. Census training workshops

37. A series of census training workshops in the various regions is envisaged to take place between 1977 and 1979. The purpose of the workshops will be to train senior national technicians who will have full-time responsibility for the over-all planning, co-ordination and direction of operations for the 1980 censuses. Although they will not provide extensive specialized training in such diverse skills as cartography, data processing or analysis of demographic or housing statistics, the workshops will be designed to make participants sufficiently knowledgeable in such areas so that they can effectively work with specialized technicians. Each workshop will be organized in conjunction with the respective regional commission and other appropriate bodies in the region. Training material will be based on the Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods (see paras. 51-54 below).

38. Funding is now being sought for the first of the workshops, for the Spanish-speaking countries, tentatively scheduled to be held in the fourth quarter of 1977. Corresponding workshops are envisaged to be conducted in the ESCAP region (in English) and in the ECWA region (in Arabic) in 1978. For the African countries, two workshops are contemplated for 1979, one in English and one in French. The possibility is now being explored for one of the two to be conducted by the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries.

39. In addition, it is envisaged that various regional statistical and demographic training centres and other international statistical training programmes will offer complementary training and orientation in such areas as census cartography, census

9/ "Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Meeting on the 1980 World Population Census Programme" (UNFPA/WPCP/9).

data processing and the analysis and utilization of census results. In this regard, discussions have already been initiated with such bodies and organizations as the regional commissions, the Regional Institute for Training and Research in Statistics at Baghdad, IASI, the International Statistical Program Center of the United States Bureau of the Census and the Munich Centre, with a view to full co-ordination of training activities and an exchange of training materials.

3. Seminar on development, maintenance and use of a computer-implemented census data base

40. Plans have been developed and funding is being sought for a one-week interregional seminar for 25 participants, to acquaint statisticians, planners and administrators with the possibilities and methods of using the computerized data base resulting from population and housing censuses (see para. 27) for special tabulations and analysis in support of planning and administration.

41. Invited papers to be prepared by statisticians, planners and data processing experts conversant with the subject fields would cover the production and maintenance of the base; its use for support of physical planning, education planning or administration, health planning and economic planning; and its use for design and administration of sample surveys and other censuses. A workshop session on maintenance and use of the base and a demonstration of products from a sample base would also be included.

4. Software development

42. Work is under way on a project for the development within the United Nations of population census data-processing software for use in developing countries where only smaller computers are available and where foreseeable data-processing applications do not justify acquisition of larger computers. The specific objective is to produce a census/survey edit support system, a cross-tabulation system, a census-data management system and census logistics support, some of which are being adapted from systems developed elsewhere. It is anticipated that completed products will be distributed for use at appropriate census-related technical assistance projects at the request of the Office of Technical Co-operation.

5. Interregional advisers

43. The interregional adviser on demographic and social statistics and the interregional adviser on computer methods will continue to be available for census-related assistance to countries.

B. Regional

1. Economic Commission for Africa

44. In connexion with the African Census Project, funding has been provided by UNFPA only through the end of 1976 for the project officer and four regional advisers (one in sampling, one in data processing and two in demographic statistics).

2. Economic Commission for Latin America

45. The regional adviser in sampling and the regional adviser in computer methods will render assistance for census activities.

3. Economic Commission for Western Asia

46. A Regional Seminar on Techniques of Collecting, Evaluating and Estimating Demographic Parameters took place at Amman, Jordan, from 27 to 31 January 1976. Senior representatives of most of the national statistical offices of the region participated in a review of problems of data collection (including census data collection) in the region. In addition, a training course on demographic data collection and analysis is planned for November 1976.

47. The UNFPA has provided funds for a regional adviser in demographic statistics, who is expected to give special attention to country needs related to census taking.

4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

48. The Asian Statistical Institute has scheduled an advanced course on population census methodology for the period 14 June-23 July 1976. A regional workshop on computer edit for censuses and surveys is planned for June 1977.

49. A recently established post of regional adviser on population census will be utilized for the census round.

C. Country projects

50. For the reasons outlined in paragraph 10 of document E/CN.3/474, which is also before the Commission, it is not possible to give a clear indication of the level and nature of direct technical assistance that will be available in the future to countries in connexion with population and housing censuses from funds provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or UNFPA. With respect to assistance from the latter source, UNFPA recently indicated that it continues to consider the taking of population censuses as one of the activities within the

"core programme" of UNFPA assistance. 10/ Nevertheless, it foresees that "support to data collection, particularly census taking, will be at a reduced level". 11/

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods

51. Plans for completion of the Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, 12/ which were described to the Commission at its eighteenth session, have not yet been implemented because of lack of financial resources. Sufficient financial support has now been obtained and work will begin shortly on a project to provide guidelines on census staffing and cost requirements and an immediate awareness of the usefulness of knowledge on these subjects to census planning and administration.

52. Work at United Nations Headquarters will consist of the compilation of detailed data on staffing and costs, based on experience in the 1970 and earlier census rounds, and the preparation of a working paper that will (a) examine the relationship between operational variation and staffing and costing patterns and (b) present guidelines on staff allocations required for various phases of census work.

53. Three case studies, to be carried out by a local consultant in one country of Africa, one of Asia and one of Latin America, will examine in detail the costing and staffing issues faced in specific developing countries.

54. It is anticipated that completion of other demographic and social statistics projects and recruitment to a temporarily vacant post before the end of 1976 will permit the acceleration of other census-related activities. These will include the analysis of national experience with other aspects of the 1970 round of population censuses, for which the collection of information is a continuous activity. Analysis of national experience with the 1970 round of housing censuses is considerably further advanced and is expected to continue at a regular pace. This analysis of national census experience will be carried out in close co-ordination with complementary work being done by the regional commissions and IASI.

10/ "United Nations Fund for Population Activities: Priorities in future allocation of UNFPA resources" (DP/186, 21 May 1976), para. 32.

11/ Ibid., para. 72.

12/ The following parts have been issued to date: part III, Topics and Tabulations for Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.6); part IV, Survey of Population and Housing Census Experience, 1955-1964, sections I and II (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.70.XVII.7 and E.70.XVII.7/Add.); part VI, Sampling in Connexion with Population and Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.9).

B. Comparability and complementarity of the 1980 round of population, housing and agriculture censuses

55. With the adoption of the Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture, at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in November 1975, substantial progress has been made towards greater comparability between the results of the agricultural census, on the one hand, and the population and housing census, on the other.

56. The definition of household in the 1980 agriculture Programme is the same as that in the 1970 population and housing census recommendations. The definition of the agricultural industry in the agriculture Programme is the same as that given in Major Group 111 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the 1970 population and housing census recommendations call for the use of the Major Group categories of ISIC in tabulations of the economically active population by industry.

57. A further step towards comparability has been the abandonment of the concept of farm population in the 1980 agriculture Programme. Demographic and economic activity characteristics are to be collected only for members of the holder's household and more reliance is to be placed on the population census for the collection of information on the agricultural population and the agricultural labour force.

58. Still under discussion between the Statistics Division of FAO and the United Nations Statistical Office are the question of what exactly constitutes employment in agriculture and the agricultural population, the questions to be used in population and housing censuses to obtain information needed to prepare frames for subsequent agricultural censuses and the need for a longer time-reference period for questions on economic activity in agriculture (see para. 23).

Annex

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES, 1975-1979, IN
CONNEXION WITH THE 1980 WORLD POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PROGRAMME

Year	Economic Commission for Africa	Economic Commission for Europe	Economic Commission for Latin America/ Inter-American Statistical Institute	Economic Commission for Western Asia	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Global
1975	Questionnaire to countries on 1980 population and housing census recommendations		Questionnaire to countries on 1980 population census recommendations (Dec.)		Questionnaire to countries on 1980 population and housing census recommendations (Dec.)	
1976		Questionnaire to countries on 1980 population and housing census recommendations (June)	Questionnaire to countries on 1980 housing census recommendations (April)	Regional seminar on techniques of collecting, evaluating and estimating demographic parameters (27-31 Jan.)	Advanced course on population census at Asian Statistical Institute (14 June-23 July)	Consideration of interim report on 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme by Statistical Commission at its 19th session (Nov.)
			III session of COINS Sub-Committee on Demographic, Housing and Related Statistics to discuss regional recommendations (Nov.)	Training course on demographic data collection and analysis (Nov.)	Possible adoption of regional recommendations in principle by ESCAP Committee on Statistics (Dec.)	
1977	Possible adoption of draft regional recommendations by working group of Conference of African Statisticians (March) Possible adoption of regional recommendations by Conference of African Statisticians (last quarter of year)	Possible adoption of draft recommendations by working groups of Conference of European Statisticians (second half of year) Possible adoption of regional recommendations by Conference of European Statisticians (third quarter of year)	Possible adoption of regional recommendations by COINS (second half of year) Census training workshop (Spanish) (fourth quarter of year) a/	Expert group meeting on census techniques	In-depth consideration of regional recommendations by working group of Committee on Statistics (Feb.) Regional workshop on computer edit of census and surveys (June)	Presentation of interim report on 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme to Population Commission at its 19th session for information and comments (Jan.) Interregional expert group on censuses

Year	Economic Commission for Africa	Economic Commission for Europe	Economic Commission for Latin America/ Inter-American Statistical Institute	Economic Commission for Western Asia	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Global
1978				Census training workshop (Arabic) <u>a/</u>	Census training workshop (English) <u>a/</u>	Consideration of draft recommendations by Statistical Commission at its 20th session Seminar on development, maintenance and use of a computer implemented census data base (timing approx.)
1979	Census training workshops (English and French) <u>b/</u>					

a/ Global activity, to be conducted in region jointly with appropriate regional bodies.

b/ Global activity. One workshop to be conducted in region jointly with ECA; one workshop tentatively planned to be conducted by Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries.
