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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present document is a progress report, presented for the information of the Commission, on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations since the eighteenth session of the Commission, in October 1974. It covers the work of the Office of the Director (paras. 3-8), the External Relations and Dissemination Branch (paras. 9-26), the Systems and Standards Branch (paras. 27-45), the Economic Statistics and Special Projects Branch (paras. 46-71), the International Trade and Related Statistics Branch (paras. 72-95) and the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch (paras. 96-111).

## INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighteenth session, the Commission considered a progress report on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations (E/CN.3/463). The present document covers the progress made since the eighteenth session. Another document, entitled "Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1977-1981, and work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/499), is also before the Commission. In addition, a progress report on the statistical work of the regional commissions and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (E/CN.3/496 and Add.1) and a report on the statistical work of the specialized agencies (E/CN.3/497) are before the Commission.

2. The following documents before the Commission at its nineteenth session contain supplementary information on the work of the Statistical Office: E/CN.3/471 (international statistical programmes), E/CN.3/474 (international technical assistance in statistics), E/CN.3/475 (draft guidelines on a system of price and quantity statistics), E/CN.3/476 (towards a system of integrated energy statistics), E/CN.3/477 (welfare-oriented measures to complement the national accounts and balances), E/CN.3/478 (reconciliation of the United Nations draft manual on public sector statistics and the International Monetary Fund draft manual on government finance statistics), E/CN.3/479 (draft detailing of the classification of the purposes of government), E/CN.3/480 (1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme), E/CN.3/482 (promoting the improvement of social statistics in developing countries), E/CN.3/483 (draft recommendations on statistics of international migration), E/CN.3/484 (statistics of internal migration), E/CN.3/485 (improvement of statistics on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries), E/CN.3/486 (draft guidelines on statistics of international tourism), E/CN.3/488 (draft guidelines on social indicators), E/CN.3/489 (strategy for further work on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics), E/CN.3/490 (draft framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics for developing countries), E/CN.3/491 (co-ordination of environment statistics), E/CN.3/492 (draft guidelines on statistics of materials/energy balances), E/CN.3/493 (draft International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services) and E/CN.3/495 (organization of national statistical services).

## I. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

3. Two central staffs are attached to the Office of the Director, namely an internal integration and regional liaison staff and a computer systems development and programming staff.

### A. Internal integration and regional liaison staff

4. This staff is responsible for several central functions in addition to the review of recurrent publications with a view to improving them, the preparation of the publications programme, the preparation of the medium-term plan and budget documents and the co-ordination of personnel and over-all administrative matters. A central-registers function was established recently with a view to developing uniform definitions and classifications. The first step is the development of a country register, the units of which represent specific geographic areas for statistical purposes. This register is a prerequisite for the integrated computer storage and retrieval system which is being constructed. Other registers, to be developed, are a register of statistical organizations that report data to the Statistical Office and a register of commodities, services and other classifications.

5. A central liaison function with the regional commissions has been established to promote closer collaboration on programmes and activities, including collection and publication of statistics and technical assistance to developing countries. The co-ordination of technical co-operation is also carried out by this staff, providing liaison between the substantive branches of the Statistical Office and the administrative and operational divisions responsible for implementing the projects. The Statistical Office has continued to furnish assistance in planning, organizing and administering national statistical systems and services. Work has been done to improve the backstopping of experts assigned to countries and the development of training programmes. Work has continued on the review and evaluation of experts and fellows and on the monitoring of technical co-operation activities in all the substantive areas of the Office. For more detail on present and prospective technical assistance activities, see E/CN.3/474, also before the Commission.

### B. Computer systems development and programming staff

6. Recruitment of the staff was completed during 1975 and the staff is now in full operation. It provides service to the Statistical Office in computer-related matters. The main thrust of the work has been concentrated on modernizing computer programmes and file structures to allow for quick retrieval of both pre-planned and unanticipated statistical tabulations.

7. Substantial progress has been made in upgrading existing systems in the national accounts, energy, demographic and trade statistics areas. New systems within national accounts statistics permit tailor-made, pre-filled questionnaires to be sent to the countries and calculations of implicit price deflators to be

published. The Directory of International Statistics 1/ and the Statistical Pocketbook 2/ have been produced using a terminal system.

8. A major effort is being made in implementing an integrated system for storage and processing of most of the Statistical Office data series. As one of the first steps in this work, a central register of countries has been established (see para. 4 above). A central system for direct-access storage and possibilities for interactive processing of the statistical series is under development. In order to improve the usefulness of existing programmes and files, a central documentation of files and a central programme library have been established. Special attention has been given to ensure maximum compatibility with other international and national statistical data processing systems in order to facilitate data and programme exchange.

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1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.11.

2/ To be issued as a United Nations publication (Statistical Papers, Series V, No. 1).

*Sept. '76*

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## II. EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DISSEMINATION BRANCH

### A. Co-ordination of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system

9. Because of the decentralized nature of the international statistical system and the limited resources available for statistics, this activity is designed to promote a co-ordinated and integrated international statistical programme to assist national statistical systems in both developing and developed countries. Efforts have continued to broaden the co-ordination and integration of statistical programmes through the extended and more systematic involvement of both the regional commissions and organizations outside the United Nations system, for example, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI). These organizations are regularly invited to the annual meetings of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and contribute to the joint planning documents on regular programmes (E/CN.3/471) and technical assistance (E/CN.3/474), as well as to other reports before the Commission.

10. In this regard, it should be mentioned that the ACC has expressed satisfaction with the work of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities (see E/CN.3/470, para. 6). In particular, it felt that the Sub-Committee has been responding effectively to requests by intergovernmental organs with regard to joint planning and programming of future activities in many programme sectors in the economic and social area. In addition, it may be noted that two special consultations are planned for 4 and 5 November 1976 at New Delhi: (a) of the chief statisticians of the United Nations; and (b) between the chief statisticians of the United Nations and the specialized and other agencies in order to discuss common programmes and objectives.

11. As part of its co-ordinating function, the Branch has over-all responsibility for the documentation and servicing of the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. In addition, the Branch prepared 9 of the 31 documents for the nineteenth session of the Commission, five of the six documents for the sixth session of the Working Group and 15 of the 31 documents for the ninth and tenth sessions of the Sub-Committee.

12. The United Nations Standard Country or Area Code for Statistical Use <sup>3/</sup> was issued in October 1975; this is a revision of the 1970 United Nations Standard Country Code. <sup>4/</sup> The new publication contains an alphabetical list of countries or areas (names in use on 1 July 1975), showing the United Nations three-digit

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<sup>3/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.8.

<sup>4/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.13.

numerical codes and 8- and 12-character abbreviations, as well as two- and three-letter alphabetical codes (Alpha-2 and Alpha-3) proposed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and supported by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Each three-digit numerical code, designed for international use, uniquely identifies one country or area of the world. Adoption of this code would represent an important step in the standardization of material for data processing and in the transmission of information.

13. In the report on the work of the Statistical Office submitted to the Commission at its eighteenth session (E/CN.3/463), it was indicated (para. 52) that the Office had agreed to serve as the focal point for the editing of an International Statistical Reporter (ISR), that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) had agreed to publish and distribute the English version and that IASI had agreed to translate and publish the first two issues in Spanish on an experimental basis. Unfortunately, owing to the pressure of other projects and the lack of adequate staff, the Statistical Office has not been able to begin work on the first issue of ISR.

14. The first edition of a major publication, the Directory of International Statistics 5/ was published in 1975. This publication provides detailed information on the international statistical system and has been prepared, inter alia, in order to assist the Statistical Commission, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1306 (XLIV), in promoting arrangements to ensure the development of an integrated and co-ordinated international statistical programme. The Directory consists of four parts:

(a) A description of international statistical services, including those of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and selected international organizations outside the United Nations system; co-ordination arrangements and technical assistance activities in statistics;

(b) A comprehensive, computerized classification and list of international statistical series collected by the United Nations system, including references to, and a bibliography of, the publications in which they can be found;

(c) A list of items for which international statistical definitions, recommendations and classifications are in existence and a bibliography and description of the relevant methodological publications;

(d) An inventory of data bases of economic and social statistics by subject and by organization, including information on the type of economic and social statistics contained in them and technical descriptions of the computer files. The information is linked via subject codes and data base identification numbers to the statistical series collected (see (b) above).

15. Work is currently under way to expand and improve the Directory so as to provide even more comprehensive coverage of international statistical activities.

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5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.11.

B. Statistical organization

16. Work began on a new edition of the 1954 Handbook of Statistical Organization, <sup>6/</sup> which will be based, in part, on the papers and the report of the Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization. <sup>7/</sup> The results of a survey carried out during 1975 to assess the current status of national statistical services, along with additional materials contributed by countries, will also be used. A consultant is being sought to complete the Handbook. Meanwhile, a paper entitled "The organization of national statistical services: a review of major issues" (E/CN.3/495) has been prepared and is before the Commission.

17. The Statistical Office is also co-operating with the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries in the preparations for a seminar on statistical organization, to be held in 1977.

C. Collection and dissemination of data in general statistical compendiums

1. Statistical Yearbook

18. The Statistical Office has been endeavouring to make improvements in the contents of the Statistical Yearbook. Following the recommendations resulting from a study of the contents of the statistical publications of the Office, new tables were added to the 1975 issue, namely a table on the economically active population and a number of tables on external trade. These trade tables give information on the structure of world trade by regions and important commodity classes, on external trade conversion factors, on quantum, unit value and terms of trade indexes and on average annual rates of growth by commodity classes and by regions and countries. The table on world trade by provenance and destination has been substantially enlarged by the addition of information on trade by commodity classes.

2. Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

19. The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics is in its thirtieth year of publication. It shows data for seven years and 18 current months in 73 tables for about 200 countries. Various aggregates of geographic regions and economic groupings of the world are shown in 26 additional non-monthly tables.

3. Statistical Pocketbook

20. The first issue of an annual Statistical Pocketbook was prepared in 1976. <sup>8/</sup>

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<sup>6/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. 1954.XVII.7.

<sup>7/</sup> Report and Proceedings of the United Nations Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization, Ottawa, Canada, 3-12 October 1973.

<sup>8/</sup> To be issued as a United Nations publication (Statistical Papers, Series V, No. 1).

The Pocketbook contains demographic, economic and social statistics for the world as a whole, regions and countries and will serve as a vehicle for disseminating important basic facts in compact form to a wide range of people.

D. Collection and analysis of price and expenditure data

1. Post-adjustment measurement

21. The Statistical Office has continued to carry out cost-of-living surveys on behalf of the newly established International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for post-adjustment classification purposes. Post-adjustment indexes are calculated for the purpose of preserving equivalent standards of living at various duty stations where international civil servants are assigned.

22. The Statistical Office has also provided substantive statistical servicing for the Ad Hoc Meeting of Consultants on Post Adjustments convened at the request of ICSC to review the methods used in calculating post-adjustment indexes and to give guidance in the conduct of cost-of-living surveys.

23. Place-to-place studies were carried out in approximately 25 duty stations; these studies involve collecting price and family expenditure data, establishing consumption patterns for weighting purposes and computing post-adjustment indexes. Where no suitable local consumer price indexes were available (for about 80 cities), time-to-time comparisons were made in order to bring up to date the place-to-place results based on current price data.

24. In addition, comprehensive reviews are carried out for approximately 140 duty stations in April, August and December of each year, based on the results of recent surveys, official consumer price indexes and other estimates.

25. The Cost-of-Living Section continued to present in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics a special table on "Retail price indexes relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials" in about 115 duty stations.

2. International Comparison Project

26. During the period under review, the second phase of the International Comparison Project (ICP), which is a joint undertaking of the United Nations Statistical Office, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the University of Pennsylvania, was successfully concluded. In this phase, the earlier comparisons for the year 1970 were extended from 10 to 16 countries and updated to 1973 in summary form. Work began on the third phase with the aim of expanding the coverage to between 30 and 35 countries and providing bench-mark results for those countries for the reference year 1975. A full report on the phase I comparisons was published in June 1975. <sup>9/</sup>

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<sup>9/</sup> I. B. Kravis and others, A System of International Comparisons of Gross Product and Purchasing Power (Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975).



### III. SYSTEMS AND STANDARDS BRANCH

#### A. Systems of national accounts and balances

##### 1. Review of the System of National Accounts (SNA)

27. The revised System of National Accounts 10/ was approved by the Commission in 1968 (resolution 1 (XV)), and sufficient experience has now accumulated in its use to warrant a review. The process of gathering information and preparing documentation for this review has begun. The Interregional Seminar on the Revised System of National Accounts, held at Caracas in December 1975 and attended by representatives of some 40 countries, provided a very valuable opportunity for the exchange of views, and did much to identify areas where clarification, reconciliation, and further development are needed. The documentation prepared for the seminar reflects the experience of countries in the various regions, and consideration of the discussion papers prepared by a number of experts highlighted common problems.

28. Along with the work on the review of the SNA, work has continued on assisting countries to implement it. This is the objective of much of the technical assistance back-stopping performed by the Branch, and it was the primary objective of the Caracas seminar and of the Seminar on External Transactions, held at Kampala in 1975. Work has continued on the preparation of handbooks and manuals on specific aspects of SNA. The handbook on national accounting, in two parts, dealing respectively with the production accounts and the income and outlay accounts, was further developed and widely discussed. A first draft of guidelines on statistics of tangible assets has been prepared, as have guidelines and manuals on other aspects as noted separately below.

##### 2. Links between the SNA and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

29. During the past two years, work has continued on two aspects of the linkage between the SNA and the MPS. In conceptual terms, earlier work was extended to linkage of institutional sectors; this effort is still at an early stage. In terms of implementation, a number of studies have been made of the possibility of converting country data expressed in the form of the SNA to the MPS and vice-versa. Two interim reports, one on conceptual aspects and one on statistical implementation, will be issued in 1976. As a continuation of the conceptual work, the structural relationships between the two systems will be explored through the construction of a detailed matrix containing the union of the flows entering into the two systems. To the extent possible, common subaggregates will be developed. Compilation of data will continue through the addition of new countries, and through the development of methods of approximation of relationships for periods and countries where input-output data are not available.

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10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.69.XVII.3.

3. Distribution of income, consumption and accumulation

30. Draft guidelines on a complementary system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation and provisional draft guidelines for the use of developing countries were adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, respectively. <sup>11/</sup> Owing to lack of staff, it has not yet been possible to prepare the final versions for publication; this is an area of highest priority for the immediate future. In addition, work has commenced upon a new programme of preparation of standards, including a technical manual (see also para. 54 below).

4. Public sector statistics

31. A substantial amount of work during the past two years has gone into the development of statistics for the public sector of the economy. Although the component elements of the public sector can be found in A System of National Accounts, it is only in chapter IX relating to the abridged system for developing countries that all of the elements of the public sector are brought together. Furthermore, the treatment in SNA is in many respects less detailed than would be desirable. For this reason, a separate "Draft manual on public sector statistics" (ST/ESA/STAT/85) has been prepared, which is designed, in addition to presenting the system, to discuss sources of data and methods of estimation.

32. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has prepared a draft "Manual on government finance statistics". Because they are designed to serve different purposes, the IMF and United Nations manuals differ in a number of respects. The coverage of the IMF manual is much more limited, in terms of both transactors and transactions, since it does not include public financial institutions. Furthermore, it deals only with cash accounts. But it is intended that the coverage of the transactors and transactions included in both should agree. A great deal of time and effort have been devoted over the past two years to the working out, with the staff of the IMF Bureau of Statistics, of methods for achieving such agreement. The joint proposal of the IMF Bureau of Statistics and the United Nations Statistical Office is before the Commission (E/CN.3/478); it involves a revision of both manuals to bring them into harmony. The proposed revision will be considered by a working party of the Conference of European Statisticians in July 1976.

33. A second phase of the work on public sector statistics during the past two years has involved the preparation of a detailed classification of the purposes of general government expenditure. Such a detailed functional classification is required if linkages are to be made with social and demographic data, as well as for the analysis of the impact of government expenditure. The draft classification (ST/ESA/STAT/82) has been circulated to countries and interested international organizations for comment. It is before the Commission together with a summary of the comments received (E/CN.3/479).

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<sup>11/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), para. 85; *ibid.*, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 149.

5. Enterprise statistics

34. During the past two years, work has continued on the comparative study of national practices in the collection, compilation and use of statistics of the structure and the financial operations and holdings of enterprises. A draft of this study has been completed and is being prepared for circulation to countries for their comments. When the final study is completed, it will be used as a basis upon which to formulate guidelines in this area.

B. Framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics

1. System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS)

35. Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics <sup>12/</sup> was published in 1975 in order to bring together work on this subject which had been available only in scattered form. The report was designed to serve as a focal point for further national experimentation on the usefulness and feasibility of the proposals made in it.

2. A framework for developing countries

36. The Commission at its seventeenth session requested the preparation of a version of SSDS adapted to the needs of developing countries, <sup>13/</sup> and work on the preparation of a report on this subject was initiated with the assistance of a consultant. The Commission's interest was reiterated at its eighteenth session, and it was proposed that an expert group be convened to consider the consultant's report. <sup>14/</sup> A draft report was circulated during 1975, and an expert group was convened in November 1975 to consider the report together with a Secretariat paper on promoting the improvement of social statistics in developing countries. The report, revised in accordance with the recommendations of the expert group, is before the Commission (E/CN.3/490). The Secretariat paper is also before the Commission (E/CN.3/482).

3. Social indicators

37. Draft guidelines on social indicators were prepared for the eighteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/450). On the basis of comments received on that draft, a revised version was prepared and circulated to countries in mid-1975. This, in turn, was revised and was considered at the sixth session of the Working Party

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<sup>12/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.XVII.8.

<sup>13/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), para. 117 (iii).

<sup>14/</sup> Ibid., Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 85.

on an SSDS of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, May 1976). This version is before the Commission (E/CN.3/488).

#### 4. Strategy for further work on SSDS

38. At its eighteenth session, the Statistical Commission considered a paper on the potential uses and usefulness of a system of social and demographic statistics prepared by a consultant (E/CN.3/449). The Commission commended the report for clarifying the basic nature of the SSDS and its potential uses. At the same time, the Commission considered that the content and direction of this work should be reviewed from an over-all perspective, and clear priorities and goals should be established. Such a review was undertaken and is before the Commission (E/CN.3/489). It surveys the developments to date and the work that is now under way in the context of national and international efforts in this and related fields, and explores the directions future work might take.

#### C. Welfare-oriented measures to supplement the national accounts and other indicators of levels of living

39. At its eighteenth session, the Commission considered a document (E/CN.3/459) dealing with the various proposals that have been made for improving the measures of welfare in the national accounts, and recommended that an expert group be convened to consider this question. <sup>15/</sup> Such an expert group was convened at United Nations Headquarters in March 1976. The group had before it a report prepared by a consultant on the feasibility of welfare-oriented measures to complement the national accounts and balances (before the Commission as E/CN.3/477), together with a paper on non-monetary social indicators to measure levels of living and a background paper on national practices and plans in reporting statistics of levels of living. The expert group broadly endorsed the recommendations in the first two documents, and suggested that the third be circulated to countries for comment.

#### D. Price statistics

40. Work on price and quantity statistics has been under way for many years. During the past two years, a technical report entitled "A system of price and quantity statistics" was prepared by the Economic Commission for Europe. This document was circulated to national statistical offices for comment, and was considered by an expert group which met at United Nations Headquarters in June 1975. The expert group also had available two additional documents surveying national practices in price and quantity statistics and in national accounting at constant prices. On the basis of the recommendations of the expert group and the comments received from countries, draft guidelines on price and quantity statistics were prepared; these are before the Commission (E/CN.3/475).

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<sup>15/</sup> Ibid., para. 137 (e).

#### E. Standard classifications

41. During the period under review, a substantial effort has been directed towards the harmonization of statistical classifications. An expert group met at United Nations Headquarters over a period of three months, September-November 1974. Its report (ST/ESA/STAT/78) reviews the current position in the field of classifications but concentrates chiefly on recommendations to improve the relationship between activity and commodity classifications. In the long term, it calls for the development of new classification structures centred around a multipurpose international standard commodity classification. The report was circulated to countries and interested international organizations for comment, and a summary of the comments is before the Commission (E/CN.3/494).

42. A revised draft of the International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS) is before the Commission (E/CN.3/493). The classification is intended for the collection and organization of commodity data by industrial origin. Such data have many uses in the analysis of supply and demand, studies of interindustry relations, and other national uses, and for reporting commodity data on an internationally comparable basis. The previous draft had been circulated for comment, and was discussed at a meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians at Geneva in February 1975.

43. A draft classification of outlays of industries by purpose was completed. It is intended for the collection and organization of data on expenditures by industries, and is designed to fit into the framework of the SNA and MPS. It represents a further step in integrating economic statistics by means of the national accounts and balances. The draft will be circulated for comment.

#### F. Statistics of the environment

44. Work continued on statistics of materials/energy balances, a part of the programme of environmental statistics considered by the Commission at its eighteenth session. Draft guidelines were prepared with the assistance of a consultant, and are before the Commission (E/CN.3/492). The guidelines proposed are compatible with the SNA, and with the system of integrated energy statistics proposed in E/CN.3/476, also before the Commission. The latter is focused on short-run possibilities and objectives, the former on a longer run statistical programme, which may be thought of as an objective towards which to aim, rather than a project for immediate implementation.

#### G. Statistics of tourism

45. The Commission at its eighteenth session requested the preparation of draft international guidelines on statistics of tourism. <sup>16/</sup> In accordance with that request, draft guidelines were prepared with the assistance of a consultant, and

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<sup>16/</sup> Ibid., annex I, project 2.6.

are before the Commission (E/CN.3/486). The document was circulated to national statistical offices and interested international organizations for comment and a summary of the comments received is also before the Commission (E/CN.3/487). The draft guidelines were also considered by a working party of the Conference of European Statisticians in April 1976. The guidelines concentrate on the concepts and definitions, classifications and tabulations of statistics on non-resident visitors to a country and on residents of a country visiting abroad. They also deal briefly with the sources and methods of gathering and compiling the data. In order to keep the proposed programme simple, a number of aspects of such statistics are not covered, and in order to adapt the programme to the countries' possibilities of implementation, four phases of increasing difficulty are suggested.

#### IV. ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS BRANCH

##### A. Collection and dissemination of national accounts data

46. National accounts data have been collected from 154 countries through questionnaires and other sources. These were processed on the computer at the United Nations and stored on magnetic tape. This tape has increasingly become the main source of basic national accounts data for anyone interested in undertaking analyses for a large number of countries for which such data are available. A number of units of the United Nations (for example, the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies and the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport), some specialized agencies and other international organizations have depended heavily on the data contained on this tape.

47. The Statistical Office continued its publication programme in the field of national accounts statistics. As a result of the increased response to the National Accounts Questionnaire and the Material Product Balances Questionnaire, the 1974 edition of the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics now shows in volumes I and II, "Individual Country Data", detailed national accounts estimates for 122 countries; volume III, "International Tables", contains data for 154 countries. A new table on implicit price deflator index numbers will be included in volume III in the 1975 edition of the Yearbook.

48. The increasing coverage of the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics was also reflected in the other Statistical Office publications which carry national accounts tables, namely the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook, the Compendium of Housing Statistics, the Compendium of Social Statistics, as well as in the ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics.

49. The Office continued to publish the public finance chapter in the Statistical Yearbook. A total of 91 countries were covered.

50. A national accounts reliability questionnaire was completed in agreement with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies. The purpose is to survey and assess the sources and methods used by the developing countries in constructing their national accounts estimates with a view to obtaining as much relevant description as possible. The questionnaire concentrates on value-added statistics by kind-of-economic activity of gross domestic product; emphasis is on current price data. Information is also being collected on elements of the expenditure and income approaches. In July 1975, the questionnaire was sent to the regional commissions for completion by United Nations experts and regional advisers in co-operation with relevant government agencies. It is expected that the questionnaire will be revised substantially in the light of the replies received in 1976.

##### B. Methodology of sample surveys

51. A first draft of A Short Manual on Sampling, vol. III, The Operational Aspects of Sample Surveys has been prepared. It is expected that the publication will be issued some time in 1977.

C. Servicing the Committee on Contributions and other United Nations bodies

52. With the growing tendency among the units of the United Nations and other international agencies to use statistics as a basis for administrative and other decisions, the Statistical Office has provided substantive statistical servicing for the General Assembly and its Committee on Contributions, the Offices of the Secretary-General, the Office of Financial Services, the Office of Personnel Services, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the Department of Administration and Management, the United Nations Sahelian Office, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies.

53. For the work on the Committee on Contributions, the Statistical Office in 1975 and 1976 provided for each Member State national accounts data and estimates, population estimates, exchange rates, prices and data on the amortization of external public debt. The Statistical Office also prepared tables concerning the geographical distribution of staff at the professional and higher categories for the Office of Personnel Services.

D. Data on the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation

54. In view of the needs of developing countries in the Second United Nations Development Decade, particularly as expressed in the International Development Strategy, the Statistical Office is engaged in activities designed to increase the knowledge of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation among households. Work has continued on the compilation of data on the distribution of income. Some 80 publications have already been reviewed and data have been extracted. The immediate objective is to complete an annotated inventory of statistics on income distribution for all countries for which such data are available. The long-term objective is to publish these data in an internationally comparable format. There remain, however, serious deficiencies and gaps in this field of statistics and work of a fundamental nature will need to be undertaken. The main objective will be to encourage countries to implement the guidelines adopted by the Commission (see para. 30 above). The Branch is preparing tables on the distribution of income for the Compendium of Social Statistics (see paras. 98-101) and will contribute to the planned revision of the interagency Handbook of Household Surveys. 17/ All these activities are being carried out in collaboration with the regional commissions and the interested specialized agencies.

E. Collection and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics

55. The collection and compilation of data on industrial production, construction

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17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 64.XVII.13.



and distributive trades for publication in the Yearbook of Industrial Statistics (formerly called The Growth of World Industry), the Yearbook of Construction Statistics, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook are done on a continuing basis.

#### 1. General industrial statistics

56. During 1975, the 1973 edition of volume I of The Growth of World Industry was published. <sup>18/</sup> It contained annual data up to 1972 on major indicators of industrial activity for 97 countries and indexes of industrial production and employment for the world and regions. The 1974 edition will be issued in 1976 under the new title of Yearbook of Industrial Statistics. It will include general data up to 1973 on the industrial activity of 101 countries.

57. Computerization of the processing of general industrial statistics was completed during 1974 and since then, volume I has been photo-offset from computer printouts. As part of the computerization process, a data bank covering data from 1963 onwards for countries included in the Yearbook of Industrial Statistics became operational during 1974. It is contemplated that the coverage of the data bank will be gradually expanded to include data prior to 1963. Blank questionnaires were changed to a pre-filled, computerized basis. During 1975, the content of the data bank of each reporting country was sent to that country for checking.

#### 2. Commodity production statistics

58. During 1975, the 1973 edition of volume II of The Growth of World Industry was published. <sup>19/</sup> It contained annual commodity detail from 1964 up to 1973 on about 500 industrial commodities for 199 countries. The 1974 edition will be issued in 1976 under the new title of Yearbook of Industrial Statistics. It will include commodity detail up to 1974 for 527 industrial commodities for 200 countries. This information at the commodity level supplements the information presented on an industry basis in volume I and provides a more specific indication of the nature and importance of the industrial activities undertaken in each country.

59. The preparation of pre-filled questionnaires, the processing of data and preparation of tables for publication are computerized. Annual commodity series starting in 1958 are stored in a data bank which is constantly being corrected and brought up to date.

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<sup>18/</sup> The Growth of World Industry, 1973 Edition, vol. I, General Industrial Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.3).

<sup>19/</sup> The Growth of World Industry, 1973 Edition, vol. II, Commodity Production Data (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.4).

3. Indexes of production and employment

60. Monthly, quarterly and annual indexes of industrial production and annual indexes of industrial employment and labour productivity for the world, regions, country groupings and selected countries are compiled on a continuing basis. Value added and employment estimates for 1970, completed during 1974 for 150 countries, are utilized as weights for the indexes.

61. Basic data for the compilation of production indexes are collected from 111 countries through computerized pre-filled questionnaires, of which data for 76 countries are reported in index form and the rest in the form of quantum indicators. In addition, production figures for some 12 countries are also used to supplement the data from questionnaires.

62. Calculation of production indexes in their final form is computerized. However, manual calculation is required, particularly for estimates from incomplete and outdated national data.

63. The publication of indexes of industrial production and employment in volume I of the Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook and the February, May, August and November issues of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics continued during 1975-1976.

4. Construction statistics

64. The first issue of the Yearbook of Construction Statistics was published in 1974. <sup>20/</sup> It contained annual data from 1963 to 1972 on major indicators of construction activity for more than 100 countries. The second issue was published in 1975 and contained 1964-1973 data for 105 countries. <sup>21/</sup> The third issue, containing 1965-1974 data for 109 countries, will be issued in 1976.

65. The information presented in the yearbooks is prepared from replies received from countries in response to the Questionnaire on Construction Statistics and supplemented by data from national publications.

66. It is expected that the eventual computerization of the processing and storage of the data will contribute to a better assessment of the quality and comparability of the data and will facilitate the retrieval of information for outside users.

5. Distributive-trade statistics

67. The compilation and publication of distributive-trade and service statistics

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<sup>20/</sup> Yearbook of Construction Statistics, 1963-1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.XVII.9).

<sup>21/</sup> Yearbook of Construction Statistics, 1964-1973 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.10).

continued on a limited basis during 1975-1976. A few items of data were compiled for a number of countries on the wholesale, retail and service trades. No plans for major expansions are contemplated; however, it is hoped that with the approval of the revised international recommendations in this field by the Commission at its eighteenth session, 22/ countries, particularly developing ones, will expand their own surveys and the international compilation would accordingly be expanded.

F. Development of methods and guidelines for the organization and improvement of statistics

68. At the request of the Commission, the publication International Recommendations on Statistics of the Distributive Trades and Services was issued in 1975. 23/ It constitutes an expanded and updated version of the recommendations first published in 1958.

69. A manual on the organization and conduct of surveys of distributive trades and services will be published during 1976; 24/ the manual will be based on a draft prepared in 1975 by a consultant. The manual will cover the practical aspects of undertaking inquiries in this field, from the planning phase to the publication of the final tables and the evaluation of the results. F/19

70. The fourth revision of the Bibliography of Industrial and Distributive-trade Statistics was published in 1975. 25/ The bibliography presents an annotated list of recent national inquiries taken and statistics compiled in relation to the industrial and distributive-trade sectors in 156 countries. M/36/Rev 4

71. A questionnaire on participation in the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics was distributed to national statistical offices early in 1976. The results of the survey will be used to assess the feasibility of publishing the results of the World Programme not later than in 1978, as indicated in the Recommendations for the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. 26/

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22/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 97 (a).

23/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.9.

24/ To be issued as a United Nations publication (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 57/Add.1).

25/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.7.

26/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.XVII.13, part I, General Statistical Objectives, para. 39.

V. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND RELATED STATISTICS BRANCH

A. Collection and dissemination of external trade statistics

72. The collection and compilation of international trade data for publication in Commodity Trade Statistics, the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, the World Trade Annual and Supplement, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook are done on a continuing basis.

1. Commodity Trade Statistics

73. The unit of the United Nations Statistical Office based in Geneva continued to improve its efficiency in the processing of the Commodity Trade Statistics (Statistical Papers, Series D). As a result of steady improvement, the output is higher than ever before. During the year 1975, the number of country/years processed was 130; this figure was 96 for 1974 and 87 for 1973. This increase in productivity provided the possibility:

(a) Of putting emphasis on the collection of data from developing countries - 102 country/periods relating to the developing countries were entered into the data bank in 1975 versus a yearly average of 75 during the period 1970-1974 and 43 during the period 1963-1970;

(b) Of improving the timeliness of the series. For instance, as of 1 March 1976, data for the year 1974 (a gap of one year and two months) were completed for 43 countries. Under similar time-lapse conditions, as of 1 March 1974, 39 had been completed for 1972 and as of 1 March 1973, 31 for the year 1971 had been completed.

74. In sharp contrast to these improvements, the publication of Series D continued to suffer longer and longer delays resulting from priority commitments imposed upon the Printing Service. The gains in compactness resulting from the photo-composition introduced in 1975 (thus, theoretically speeding up the issuance of the publication, since fewer fascicles were necessary to provide the same amount of information) have been completely offset by the increasing volume of documents to be printed to serve the needs of the special sessions of the General Assembly, which had a higher priority in the programme of work of the Printing Service than did the Statistical Office publications.

75. In order to achieve a timelier issuance of Series D, it has been decided to publish, for 1975 data onward, only the full-year statistics and to issue both the quarterly and the yearly series on microfiches. The microfiches will provide information at the five-digit level of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) instead of at the four-digit level at present. The cut-off value of the data to be published will be \$US 1,000 instead of \$US 100,000 as at present. The gain in timeliness by using the microfiches system will be about seven or eight months over the present publication system.

76. Owing to the expansion of Series D, compilation by manual extraction from national publications of all information not available on magnetic tapes has been reduced and, consequently, as foreseen, the non-D series which was created to fill the gaps in Series D, is disappearing. As of 30 April 1974, 350,000 entries had been collected and compiled in the non-D series. Since the coverage and the timeliness of Series D for the developing countries have permitted the replacement of much of the non-D series data by more detailed information, the number of entries has been reduced. As of 30 April 1976, only about 280,000 entries have been maintained in the non-D series, despite the introduction of new data for updating 1974 onward.

## 2. Yearbook of International Trade Statistics

77. The Yearbook of International Trade Statistics has benefited from the timeliness of Series D and the publications issued in 1974 and 1975 had a gain of 12/14 months compared with the situation prevailing in 1965-1970.

78. The content of the Yearbook has also been greatly increased. The Yearbook issued in 1971 comprised 290,000 entries, of which 70,000 (24 per cent) were new; in 1974, 580,000 entries, of which 310,000 (53 per cent) were new; in 1975, 915,000 entries, of which 569,000 (62 per cent) were new.

79. The 1974 Yearbook issued in 1975 had to be split into two volumes, one containing data by countries and the other data by commodities. For the first time, a large number of tables provided a matrix of the trade for all commodities at the three-digit level of the SITC, Rev.1.

80. The 1975 Yearbook, scheduled to be issued in ~~October~~ <sup>issued in Dec. '76</sup> 1976, will be comparable in size to that of 1974 but the data contained therein will provide more elaborate information; for instance, besides the value of trade, the share in percentage of the countries will be given.

## 3. Indexes of world trade

81. The work of rebasing the various indexes pertaining to foreign trade was completed during 1975. Indexes on world trade with base 1970=100 have begun to appear in various publications starting in September 1974. By April 1976, all indexes on external trade were published with the base 1970=100.

82. The price indexes for the exports of primary commodities and the unit value and quantum indexes by commodity classes and by regions have been computerized. The table on the export price index of primary commodities which appears quarterly in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics has been expanded from 21 series to 91 series.

83. Coverage of the indexes on exports of manufactured goods has been increased to include all the countries with developed market economies. Work pertaining to the construction of similar indexes for the developing market economy countries is

well advanced. The table on the indexes of exports of manufactured goods which appears quarterly in the Bulletin offers nine new series (four additional countries and five economic regions). Furthermore, the unit value indexes of the 10 most important exporting countries of manufactured goods are published in terms of national currencies in addition to the corresponding series in terms of United States dollars since September 1975.

84. At the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a study is being undertaken aimed at constructing import price indexes of developing countries using manufactured goods export prices of developed countries. As a preliminary step, the statistical offices of 11 industrialized countries have been contacted for the basic material.

#### B. Standard International Trade Classification

85. The SITC, Rev.2, which was approved by the Commission at its eighteenth session, 27/ has been published. 28/ Many countries have advised the Statistical Office that, as recommended by the Commission, they would, when reporting at the international level, begin to compile their external trade statistics according to the SITC, Rev.2 as soon as possible; several of those countries have indicated that they would do so beginning with data for 1976.

86. Work has begun on an alphabetic index for the SITC, Rev.2, a joint effort of the Statistical Office and the Customs Co-operation Council.

#### C. Collection and dissemination of energy and transport statistics

##### 1. Energy statistics

87. The compilation and dissemination of data on the energy fuels produced and consumed in individual countries and on a global basis have been assigned a high priority in the work of the Statistical Office. The publication of the annual World Energy Supplies (Statistical Papers, Series J) received concentrated attention.

88. In response to the request of the Statistical Commission to include energy statistics in the agenda for its nineteenth session, a paper entitled "Towards a system of integrated energy statistics" (E/CN.3/476) was prepared describing the programme of the Statistical Office in the compilation of energy balances.

89. A paper entitled "General energy statistics" (CES/AC.32/10) was completed by the Statistical Office for a meeting on general energy statistics of the Conference of European Statisticians to be held in 1976. The purpose of the meeting is to

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27/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 113.

28/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.6.

elaborate a system of energy statistics serving as a framework for the development and improvement of statistics on energy needed for national and international purposes.

90. A 400-page presentation entitled "An extract of global energy statistics", as well as the 900-page study World Energy Supplies, 1950-1974 29/ offering an overview of the main trends of the global energy economy over a 25-year period were submitted by the Statistical Office to the Commission on Energy of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation during the March and April 1976 meetings.

91. A new computerized system was designed and developed and, at present, the statistical files covering the 25 consecutive years 1950-1974 are available for retrieval. World Energy Supplies, 1950-1974 was released in April 1976, with a five-month gain in timeliness. It contains a comprehensive compendium of data sources and provides quantitative annual data on the production, imports, exports and gross consumption of solid fuels, petroleum and its secondary energy and non-energy refined products, gases (both natural and manufactured) and electricity (differentiated by thermal, hydro, geothermal and nuclear types) for 200 countries on a per capita basis with subregional, regional and global totals. In addition, special tables in matrix form showing the flows of trade in crude petroleum, natural gas, electricity and solid fuels between regions and between principal exporting and importing countries are also available. Separate data on bunkers for foreign-bound ships and aircraft are also compiled, as well as end-of-year capacity figures for industrial and public electric generating plants and crude petroleum refineries.

92. Currently, the data file in addition to containing information for the 25-year period 1950-1974 also contains 1975 preliminary production data of the primary fossil fuels. The number of logical records in the file are currently 233,100, an increase of 9 per cent over the previous period. This energy data file is reviewed and brought up to date periodically.

93. The collection and compilation of energy statistics on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis for publication in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook are done on a continuing basis.

## 2. External trade statistics by mode of transport

94. In the report prepared for the eighteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/463), certain progress was reported on the project of compiling the network of goods movement in maritime transport as a part of a mode-of-transport study. Only very limited resources could be assigned to this work. For this and other reasons, the project suffered several delays. However, the compilation of the data base covering the years 1966-1968 in terms of tonnage and ton-miles of commodity flows at the three-digit SITC level has been completed. Some typical matrices of aggregation of 29 by 29 geographical regions, analysed by 35 basic commodity

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29/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XVII.5.

categories classified according to the characteristics of their ocean carriage, have been produced. These matrices together with some other meaningful statistical tables amounting to about 1,500 tabulations will be published; the publication will contain about 500 pages. The continuation of this work is contingent upon acquisition of outside financing.

D. Special studies

95. The work undertaken at the request of the Security Council committee established in pursuance of resolution 253 (1968) concerning the question of Southern Rhodesia is being continued. A note containing a short analysis of Southern Rhodesian trade, together with statistical data, is provided to the committee once or twice annually.



## VI. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS BRANCH

A. Collection and dissemination of demographic and social statistics1. Recurrent publications

96. The 1974 Demographic Yearbook was the first issue to utilize computer printouts for presentation of all tables relating to the special topic (mortality). Resultant savings permitted the incorporation into a single issue of all the special-topic tables previously requiring two consecutive issues. Current plans envisage the early introduction of photo-composition for production of demographic statistics publications leading to improved readability of the Yearbook and to the opportunity of revising the quarterly Population and Vital Statistics Report to present up-to-date statistics on a greater variety of topics in the course of each year than is now possible. Other improvements in the 1974 Yearbook or to be introduced in the 1975 issue include a table presenting population estimates and percentage distributions, by age and sex, for the world, macro-regions and regions and a table of derived measures for the special topic of each issue.

97. The second issue of the Compendium of Housing Statistics, containing data for the years 1972-1974, will be available in 1976. It includes a list of countries that carried out national housing censuses during the decade 1965-1974 and an annex showing, for 110 countries, the topics collected in housing censuses and the extent to which sampling was used in the enumeration. N/2

2. Compendium of Social Statistics

98. Work on the third issue of the Compendium of Social Statistics is proceeding in accordance with the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its ninth session, in February 1975. The Sub-Committee dealt in some detail with the contents of the Compendium. It proposed that tabular material be divided into three parts: the first, a section of aggregates for the world and major regions; the second, a section presenting a few key series from each subject-matter field, by country; and the third, a section with detailed tables by country. It stressed the importance of including measures of distribution or intracountry variability to the extent possible. K/4?

99. Following initial consultation with the principal contributors to the second (1967) issue of the Compendium, a request for comments and suggestions for planning and preparation of the third (1977) issue was widely circulated. Outlines of tables to be included were agreed upon with the principal contributors (ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and, within the United Nations, the Population Division and the Statistical Office).

100. The bulk of the material was received by May 1976. Preparation and/or review

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of tables is now under way. In accordance with the time-table approved by the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, most of the manuscript should be completed by the end of 1976, with final up-dating carried out during the early part of 1977 and publication, later in 1977. Although, within the Statistical Office, the bulk of the work on the Compendium is being carried out by the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, the Systems and Standards Branch and the Economic Statistics and Special Projects Branch have made important contributions to this work.

101. In view of the interest expressed in the forthcoming 1977 issue, it is planned to undertake consultations with the relevant specialized agencies on the possibility of regular, rather than ad hoc, publication of the Compendium in the future.

### 3. HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

102. The contribution of the Branch to HABITAT has been described in paragraph 8 of E/CN.3/491, also before the Commission. It may be noted that material from the Compendium of Housing Statistics, 1972-1974, was utilized in manuscript form in connexion with the collaboration of the Statistical Office with the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning on the statistical aspects of the Global Review of Human Settlements.

### 4. Data for urban agglomerations

103. In response to the increased interest in the state and condition of human settlements, an effort is being made as of the current year to collect data in co-ordination with the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning on housing conditions, land use and activities related to the measurement and control of pollution in urban agglomerations. It is proposed to include the information received, if it is suitable, in the 1977 Compendium of Social Statistics and in the issue of the Compendium of Housing Statistics which will contain data for 1975-1977.

#### B. Development of recommendations and handbooks on the collection and processing of data on demographic and social conditions

##### 1. Improvement of migration statistics

104. The Commission has before it draft recommendations on statistics of international migration (E/CN.3/483), a document on statistics of internal migration (E/CN.3/484) and a document on the improvement of statistics on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries (E/CN.3/485).

105. In preparation for the first two documents, studies were undertaken of national practices in connexion with international and internal migration

statistics. Provisional results of the studies 30/ were circulated to national statistical offices for corrections and additions prior to their possible issuance in final form. Suggested changes received from national offices up to November 1975 were taken into account in the preparation of the revised draft recommendations on statistics of international migration, but delays in the circulation of the paper containing the provisional results of the study of internal migration statistics necessitated relying entirely on the uncorrected provisional results in the preparation of the document on statistics of internal migration.

## 2. Improvement of vital statistics

106. An increase in technical co-operation support activities in the establishment or improvement of national vital statistics systems curtailed the availability of staff to work on a revision of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods 31/ that had been anticipated for the period under review. Nevertheless, a draft questionnaire on national vital statistics procedures was circulated for comment to the regional commissions and a few experts. The questionnaire has been revised on the basis of the comments received and will be sent to national statistical offices in the latter part of 1976 or early 1977. The information collected will be used in the preparation of the revised Handbook and in the interpretation and evaluation of project proposals for technical assistance in the improvement of national vital statistics systems.

## 3. Improvement of population and housing census statistics

107. A progress report on the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme (E/CN.3/480) and a document on cartography in the work of a national statistical office (E/CN.3/481) are before the Commission.

## 4. Improvement of social statistics

108. Several papers on this topic are before the Commission (E/CN.3/482, E/CN.3/488, E/CN.3/489 and E/CN.3/490). In line with the increasingly practical orientation of the work of the Statistical Office in this area, the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch participated in the preparation of these documents, particularly E/CN.3/482, "Promoting the improvement of social statistics in developing countries".

109. An important instrument for improving and integrating social statistics is the existence of national capabilities for conducting continuing household sample surveys. To this end, considerable support was given to the Economic Commission

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30/ "National practices in the definition, collection and compilation of statistics of international migration" (ST/ESA/STAT/80) and "National practices in the definition, collection, compilation and uses of internal migration statistics" (ST/ESA/STAT/88).

31/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 1955.XVII.1.

for Africa (ECA) in the development work on the "African household survey capability programme" (E/CN.3/473) and plans are being developed, in the context of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, to revise the interagency Handbook of Household Surveys. 32/

110. In an effort to assist developing countries in collecting and compiling integrated statistical information for planning, monitoring and evaluating services for children and youth, a project on social statistics with particular reference to children and youth was initiated in 1974 in collaboration with UNICEF. The project consists of two parallel activities. First, the preparation of country guidelines outlining the essential elements for an integrated national programme in such statistics. It is expected that draft guidelines will be issued late in 1976 and revised and elaborated later on the basis of subsequent experience. The second aspect of the project consists of a series of country demonstration projects designed to assist countries to develop needed statistics in this field. Country projects, undertaken with UNICEF financing, have been established in Bolivia, Kenya and Thailand and are under negotiation with Peru, the Philippines, the Sudan, the Upper Volta and several other countries. It is intended to use the experience from these demonstration projects in the construction of a series of models of programmes for countries in different parts of the world.

#### C. Technical co-operation activities

111. In co-operation with ECA, the Office of Technical Co-operation and the Population Division, support activities under the African Census Programme are continuing. As of May 1976, census enumeration was completed in 15 of the original 22 countries taking part in the Programme, including eight countries that had never taken a full population census. An additional eight countries have been included in the Programme in respect of censuses to be held during the 1980 census round, with enumeration already completed in two of the countries and expected to be completed in three more by the end of 1976. Outside of Africa, support for census projects was rendered to 23 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Western Asia. Support activities in connexion with the introduction or improvement of vital statistics systems have been carried out with respect to 10 countries.

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