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INDUSTRIAL, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS:  
 INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Draft international recommendations on the 1983 World Programme  
 of Industrial Statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. At its twentieth session, in 1979, the Statistical Commission endorsed the undertaking of a 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and requested that a set of draft recommendations for the Programme be prepared for consideration at its twenty-first session. 1/
2. The draft recommendations were prepared by the Statistical Office and circulated early in 1980 to the regional commissions, interested international organizations, national statistical offices and individual experts. The comments and suggestions received were used in the preparation of the final draft of a future publication entitled Recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 71, parts I and II); this final draft, issued in a limited number of copies, will be sent to Commission members and participants.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The recommendations for the 1983 World Programme consist of two parts. Part I (General Statistical Objectives) outlines the nature and content of a programme of national industrial inquiries developed from the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics. 2/ Part II (Organization and Conduct of

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), para. 13.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.10.

Industrial Surveys) deals with the practical aspects of undertaking the inquiry from the planning and preparatory phases through the review of tabulated data and publication of the results. A summary of the contents of parts I and II is included in paragraphs 4-10.

## II. GENERAL STATISTICAL OBJECTIVES

4. The primary objective of the 1983 Programme is to obtain an over-all perspective of world-wide industrial activity within the framework of an organized industrial statistics programme. This requires the establishment of satisfactory estimates for key indicators on the total industrial activity of each country. In order to permit countries with varying degrees of expertise in industrial census-taking to participate in the Programme, the recommendations are presented with three sets of options for the items of data to be compiled.

5. The first option constitutes a minimum, which all countries are urged to complete. The minimum programme was designed to facilitate the work of countries initiating a programme and involves the compilation of indicators, classified by industry, on only a few aspects of industrial activity. The coverage under this option should be exhaustive, permitting the establishment of a framework for the development of a system of continuous and more extensive inquiries.

6. The indicators included in the minimum programme cover information on the establishment, employment and earnings and gross output.

7. The second and third options are presented in a complete programme, which covers an expanded list of items of data, developed from the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics. Each item has an indication of the priority to be accorded in the collection of information by countries with developed industrial statistics and by countries in the process of developing them.

8. The information to be gathered, tabulated and published under the complete programme falls within the following seven areas:

Section 1. Identification and classification information;

Section 2. Employment and earnings;

Section 3. Stocks;

Section 4. Fixed capital formation;

Section 5. Input costs, including detailed materials and energy consumption;

Section 6. Gross output, including detailed products;

Section 7. Value added measures.

9. Value added (sect. 7) is not collected directly, but is calculated by the statistical agency from reported input and output information. In the final draft

of the recommendations, there is a discussion of the value added concept used for national accounting purposes in addition to the "census value added" concept derived from the information normally collected.

### III. ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF INDUSTRIAL SURVEYS

10. Part II discusses the steps that should be taken in planning and conducting an industrial statistics inquiry. It describes the major considerations involved in the selection and organization of the inquiry. Particular attention is paid to problems in connexion with industrial directories, small establishments and household units and sampling. The design of the questionnaire and related instructions are discussed and sample questionnaires are included in an annex. Methods and problems of data collection are dealt with, as are the steps associated with data processing, tabulation review and correction and the publication of preliminary and final results. A detailed discussion of practical sampling techniques used in industrial-type inquiries is provided in an annex.

### IV. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

11. The Commission may wish to review the final draft of the recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and request that they be published and distributed to countries.

12. The Commission may also wish to recommend and emphasize, to both the Statistical Office and regional commissions, the need for organizing and conducting regional meetings during 1981-1982 at which the recommendations for the 1983 World Programme would be discussed as a means to promote their implementation at the country level.

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