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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Proposed draft work programme of the Statistical Office of
the United Nations, 1982-1983, and medium-term plan,
1984-1989

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Statistical Commission will have available, during the session, the proposed draft work programme for 1982-1983 and the draft medium-term plan of the Statistical Office for 1984-1989 (documents E/CN.3/XXI/CRP.1 and E/CN.3/XXI.CRP.2, respectively). Changes recommended by the Commission will be taken into account in revising the proposals to produce the draft work programme, budget and medium-term plan to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

2. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twentieth session requested a/ that the attention of intergovernmental bodies reviewing the draft plans should be drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 in which the Assembly:

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to take measures to involve more closely the sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process;

"6. Urges those organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless

* E/CN.3/535.

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38), para. 320.

a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly".

The Committee also requested the Secretary-General to ensure compliance with the planning and programme-budgeting procedure set forth in the resolution.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to paragraph 2 (p) of resolution 34/224 of 20 December 1979 by which the General Assembly, establishing guidelines for medium-term planning in the United Nations stated that "the planning process should ... make it possible to identify ... activities of marginal utility".

4. The Secretary-General also wishes to recall General Assembly resolution 32/206 of 21 December 1977 which in paragraph 3:

"Requests such bodies [functional, sectoral and regional] to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence".

5. The proposals of the Statistical Commission on these priorities will be transmitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

6. As is the case with the programme budget, the approval of the medium-term plan is a prerogative of the General Assembly.

7. The proposed work programme, contained in document E/CN.3/XXI/CRP.1, is based on the 1982-1983 proposed programme budget for the statistical programmes, which will be submitted through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. Each subprogramme is described separately, following a statement of its objective.

8. The proposed medium-term plan, contained in document E/CN.3/XXI/CRP.2, will be submitted through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1982.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

9. The Commission may wish:

(a) To comment on the proposed draft work programme for 1982-1983 and the medium-term plan for 1984-1989;

(b) To identify any activities that may be obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective and;

(c) To propose priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes.
