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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

Report of the Secretary-General

* E/CN.3/535.

Subprogramme 1: National accounts, income distribution and related statistics

The objective is to develop further and implement the system of national accounts and balances and related systems and classifications and to provide a framework for the integration of economic and social data and more comprehensive and reliable statistics on national accounts and balances and related areas, such as the distribution of income and consumption, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

1.1 Review and further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA)

(a) Technical reports on sources of data and methods of compilation of national and sector balance sheets and reconciliation accounts, household sector and subsector accounts and income distribution, as parts of the Handbook of National Accounting (1982);

(b) Sales publication: Handbook of National Accounting, which is a practical guide to work on SNA and its extensions, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries.

(i) Flow-of-funds statistics (1982);

(ii) Balance-sheet statistics (1982);

(iii) Household sector statistics and income distribution (1983);

(iv) Input-output statistics (1982);

(c) Reports to the Statistical Commission on further development of SNA, the co-ordination of national accounts work, co-ordination of work on public sector statistics, co-ordination of work on monetary statistics and co-ordination of work on balance-of-payments statistics (1982).

1.2 Promotion of linkages between economic statistics and social and demographic statistics

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on uses of integrated micro-data bases (1982);

(b) Report on country practices in applying computer techniques in compiling national accounts (1983);

(c) Report on country practices in integrating survey and administrative data into the national accounts (1983).

1.3 Linking of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on the treatment of non-material services in SNA and MPS (1982);

(b) Report to the Statistical Commission, supplementing and updating the comparative statistics presented in Comparisons of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy (Series F, No. 20, Part Two) (1982).

1.4 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications

(a) Sales publication: Third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) (1983);

(b) Report to the Statistical Commission on the harmonization of ISIC and activity classifications of organizations outside the United Nations system (1982);

(c) Report to the Statistical Commission on the harmonization of activity and goods classifications (1982);

(d) Expert group meeting on the harmonization of activity and goods classifications (1983);

(e) Technical report on the feasibility of producing a single goods classification for trade and production statistics (1982).

1.5 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics

(a) Sales publication: Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics (vol. I, Individual Country Data; vol. II, International Tables) (1982-1983);

(b) Sales publication: Yearbook of Public Finance Statistics - a newly initiated yearbook (1982 and 1983);

(c) Special tables on national accounts statistics for the Statistical Yearbook (1982-1983) and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1982-1983);

(d) Special tables on public finance statistics for the Statistical Yearbook (1982-1983).

1.6 Statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation

(a) Sales publication: A second publication in a series entitled A Survey of National Sources of Income Distribution Statistics (1982);

(b) Sales publication: A Comparative Study of Household Income in National Accounts and Income Distribution Statistics (1982).

Subprogramme 2: International trade, industry, natural resources and energy

The objective is to provide more comprehensive, reliable and timely statistics on international trade, natural resources, energy, industry, transport and related areas, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

2.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics - recurrent publications

(a) Sales publication: Yearbook of Industrial Statistics (vol. I, General Industrial Statistics; vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics) (1982 and 1983);

(b) Sales publication: Yearbook of Construction Statistics (1982 and 1983);

(c) Preparation of tables on industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1982-1983) and the Statistical Yearbook (1982-1983);

2.2 Standards and methods of industrial, construction and distributive trades

(a) Instruction materials for regional training workshops in preparation for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics (1983);

(b) Organization and participation in six regional training workshops (1982-1983);

(c) Work on the expansion of data collection on distributive-trade statistics and dissemination (1982);

(d) Work on the extension of the collection of industrial statistics (value of production, stocks and prices of selected commodities) (1982-1983);

(e) Work on the construction of balances (production, stock, trade and consumption) of major industrial non-energy commodities (1982-1983).

2.3 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade statistics

(a) Sales publication: Commodity Trade Statistics (1982-1983)

(b) Sales publication: Yearbook of International Trade Statistics (vol. I, Trade by Country; vol. II, Trade by Commodity - Commodity Matrix Tables); (1982 and 1983);

(c) Sales publication: World Trade Annual (1982 and 1983);

(d) Sales publication: Supplement to the World Trade Annual (1982 and 1983);

(e) Preparation of regular and special trade tables for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1982-1983) and the Statistical Yearbook (1982-1983);

(f) Special statistical tables, computer tapes and microfiches, on request (1982-1983).

2.4 Standards, methods and classifications of international trade statistics

(a) Preparation of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (1982-1983);

(b) Technical report for the expert group on the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (1982);

(c) Expert group meeting on the preparation of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (1982).

2.5 Recurrent publications and standards, methods and classification of energy statistics

(a) Sales publication: Yearbook of World Energy Statistics (1982 and 1983);

(b) Sales publication: National energy balances for selected countries (1982-1983);

(c) Sales publication: International Classification of Energy (1983);

(d) Report to the Statistical Commission on the International Classification of Energy (1982);

(e) Special statistical tables and computer tapes, on request (1982-1983);

(f) Regular and special tables on energy statistics for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1982-1983) and the Statistical Yearbook (1982-1983);

(g) Compilation and publication of analytical data, for example, indexes, shares (1982-1983);

(h) Technical report for the expert group on energy balances (1982).

2.6 Transport statistics

(a) Sales publication: Economic Statistics on Shipping (1982-1983);

(b) Sales publication: International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics (1983);

(c) Sales publication: Manual on the Establishment of a System for the Collection of Economic Statistics on Shipping (1983);

(d) Report to the Statistical Commission on international standard definitions for transport statistics (1982).

Subprogramme 3: Price statistics and related areas

The objective is to develop further the methodology and collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on prices and related areas.

3.1 International comparisons of purchasing powers

(a) Establishment of a final data base on tape for participating countries (1983);

(b) Provisional processing and listing of the provisional results, providing comparisons of the real value of the gross domestic product (GDP) and of its main components (1983);

(c) Establishment of the methodology for implementing and processing the reduced-information operation and for including the countries participating in it with those participating in the full-scale operation (1983);

(d) Establishment of the methodology for updating the results to years between two benchmark operations (1983).

(e) Design, establishment and financing of a permanent organization for carrying out the work in the United Nations Statistical Office, the regional commissions and the countries after 1984 (1983);

(f) Elaboration of provisional detailed written instructions for the participants in the International Comparison Project (ICP), for breaking down the expenditures on GDP, for implementing special surveys. These instructions will be sent to the countries for comments and will be finalized in 1984 (1983);

(g) Preparation of proposed item specifications for phase V, 1985-1989 (1983).

3.2 Price statistics for commodities entering international trade

(a) Special tables on prices and indexes of prices of goods entering international trade (1982-1983);

(b) Special statistical tables on price statistics for commodities entering international trade for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1982-1983), the Statistical Yearbook and the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics (1982-1983).

3.3 Methodological development of price and related statistics and co-ordination of related international activities

- (a) Sales publication: Prices Indexes for Inflation Accounting and Indexation (1983);
- (b) Sales publication: Manual on Measurement of Factor Input (1982);
- (c) Sales publication: World Price Trends Annual (1982 and 1983);
- (d) Report to the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) on the price statistics programme (1982-1983);
- (e) Technical report on measurement of factor input and real income (1982).

Subprogramme 4: Social and demographic statistics

The objective is to develop further, systemize, integrate and disseminate statistics in the social, demographic and environmental areas, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

4.1 Integration and improvement of social and demographic statistics

- (a) Sales publication: Technical report on small-area statistics (1982);
- (b) Sales publication: Technical report on improving statistics on the role and status of women (1983);
- (c) Sales publication: Technical report on survey instruments for obtaining data on the status of women (1983);
- (d) Sales publication: Fifteenth report in the series entitled Sample Surveys of Current Interest (in economic, demographic and social statistics) (1983);
- (e) Sales publication: Guidelines for the classification of age (1982);
- (f) Sales publication: Guidelines for the classification of locality by size and type (1982);
- (g) Report to the Statistical Commission on links among social and demographic statistics (1982);
- (h) Report to the Statistical Commission on review of national practices in the development of statistics and indicators of crime, crime trends and justice (1982);

(i) Progress report to the Statistical Commission on national and international work on social indicators (1982);

(j) Progress report to the Statistical Commission on improving statistics on the role and status of women (1982);

(k) Report to the Statistical Commission on the classification of households and related concepts (1982);

(l) Draft of technical report on statistics and indicators of crime, crime trends and justice (1983);

(m) Technical report on links among social and demographic statistics (1983);

(n) Expert group meeting on improving statistics on the role and status of women (1983);

(o) Technical report on links among social, economic and demographic statistics, including proposals on the direction and methodology for future work (1983).

4.2 Development and use of statistics for services for children and youth

(a) Support for the improvement of social statistics - 10 additional countries (1982-1983);

(b) Expansion of the UNICEF-funded social statistics improvement programmes to an additional six developing countries (1982) and an additional four developing countries (1983);

(c) Preparation of an information manual aimed at improving the collection and analysis of social statistics and their exploitation by programme offices, with particular reference to statistics concerning the needs of children and youth (1982).

4.3 Demographic statistics methods

(a) Sales publication: Technical report on the improvement of international migration statistics (1983);

(b) Sales publication: Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, revision of Part IV (1982);

(c) Sales publication: Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods (1983);

(d) Sales publication: Technical report on the follow-up method in demographic sample surveys (1982);

(e) Progress report to the Statistical Commission on the improvement of international migration statistics (1982);

(f) Development of immigrant stock data base and servicing ad hoc requests (1982-1983);

(g) Technical report on emerging issues in census methodology (1983);

(h) Report on national experiences and emerging issues in population and housing censuses (1983);

(i) Technical report on preparation of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods (1983);

(j) Expert group meeting to review the draft of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods, Part I (1983).

4.4 Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics

(a) Sales publication: Demographic Yearbook (1982 and 1983);

(b) Sales publication: Population and Vital Statistics Report (1982-1983);

(c) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations and other types of information in response to ad hoc user requests (1982-1983);

(d) Maintenance of demographic statistics data base (1982-1983).

4.5 Housing statistics methods

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on methods of estimating housing needs (1982-1983);

(b) Report on national experiences and emerging issues in population and housing censuses (1982 and 1983).

4.6 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social and housing statistics

(a) Sales publication: Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics (1983);

(b) Activities related to data base on statistics of housing and human settlements (1982-1983);

(c) Activities related to data base on statistics used in compiling the Compendium of Social Statistics (1982-1983);

(d) Updating of social statistics in collaboration with specialized agencies (1982-1983).

4.7 Statistics of the environment

(a) First series of training programmes on environment statistics (1982-1983);

(b) First revision of the Directory of Country Practices in the Field of Environment Statistics (1983);

(c) Establishment and operation of a network for a continuous updating of the Directory of Country Practices in the Field of Environment Statistics (1982-1983);

(d) Preparation of technical reports on core areas; first draft of an elaborated over-all framework ready for comments by experts (1982-1983);

(e) Establishment of a series of workshops and pilot studies to test the framework and technical reports (1982-1983);

(f) Identification of sources of data and establishment of a collection network with a view to the publication of compendiums of environment statistics (1982-1983);

(g) Initial data entry in a computerized system for storage and retrieval of environment statistics (1982-1983).

Subprogramme 5: Improved dissemination of statistics

The objective is to improve the variety, timeliness and quality of the statistical data disseminated by the United Nations, including general statistical compendiums and special tabulations, and to give them wider distribution.

5.1 Compendiums of economic and social statistics

(a) Sales publication: Statistical Yearbook (1982 and 1983);

(b) Sales publication: Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1982 and 1983);

(c) Sales publication: Statistical Pocketbook: World Statistics in Brief (1982 and 1983).

5.2 Improved computerization of statistics

(a) Continued extension and improvement of the facilities to store, manage and retrieve statistical data and text for publication, and codes and classifications (1982-1983);

(b) Further enhancement of data manipulation facilities such as automatic application of conversion factors (1982-1983);

(c) Extension and improvement of facilities to photocompose material for publication (1982-1983);

(d) Transfer of conventional program systems to the United Nations Statistical Information System (UNSIIS) in energy, national accounts and industrial statistics (1982-1983);

(e) By 1983, UNSIIS will be outdated by technical advances in data processing and will be too expensive to maintain. A study will be carried out to identify an appropriate replacement system (1982).

5.3 Review and co-ordination of statistical publications and assessment of the consistency and quality of data

(a) Review on a publication-by-publication basis of the publications of the Statistical Office, regional commissions and specialized agencies to assess the consistency, quality and coverage of the data (1982-1983);

(b) Improved co-ordination and complementarity of the statistical publications (1982-1983).

Subprogramme 6: Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

The objective is to promote co-ordination of the international statistical system, including technical co-operation activities, and to provide statistical services to other units within the Secretariat and to other United Nations bodies. The Statistical Office serves as a focal point for the international system.

6.1 Co-ordination of the statistical programme of the United Nations

(a) Substantive servicing of the twenty-second session of the Statistical Commission (1983);

(b) Substantive servicing of the tenth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination of the Statistical Commission (1983);

(c) Reports to the Statistical Commission:

(i) progress report on statistical activities of the United Nations system (1982);

(ii) future plans for statistical activities of the United Nations system (1982);

(iii) report of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group (1982);

- (iv) other reports on co-ordination which may be requested by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session, January 1981 (1982);
- (d) Reports to the Statistical Commission's Working Group:
 - (i) inventory of statistical data-collection activities (1983);
 - (ii) other reports which may be requested by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-second session (1983);
- (e) Improved co-ordination among the international organizations, including the regional commissions, in the field of statistics and including servicing of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities (1982-1983);
- (f) Issuance and maintenance of up-to-date standard country nomenclature for statistical use (1982-1983);
- (g) Further interagency studies to ensure continued comparability, consistency and usefulness of published statistics (1982-1983).

6.2 Construction of catalogues of economic and social statistics

- (a) Maintain, improve and expand the Directory of International Statistics for publication in 1984 (1982-1983);
- (b) Revise and update the classifications of statistical series (1982-1983);
- (c) Issue interim extracts for review by the specialized agencies (1982-1983).

6.3 Statistical services provided to General Assembly organs and other bodies, on request

- (a) Provision of data and of statistical documents on national income, exchange rates, population and related subjects to the Committee on Contributions, on request (1982-1983);
- (b) Provision of substantive services and statistical expertise to various units of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, on request (1982-1983).

Subprogramme 7: Support of technical co-operation

The objective is to assist developing countries through the relevant outputs described in subprogrammes 1 to 6 and, through advisory and technical co-operation activities, to develop further their statistical capability and the required statistics for monitoring and directing their economic and social development.

7.1 Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries

(a) Responses to developing governments' requests for assistance in developing, expanding or strengthening the capacities and capabilities of their statistical services (1982-1983);

(b) Technical co-operation activities in statistics relating to projects for the conduct of population and housing censuses, improvement and expansion of civil registration systems, establishment or improvement of national accounts estimates, establishment of national household survey capability programmes for obtaining basic statistical series and the improvement of the structure of the statistical services of developing countries (1982-1983).

7.2 Improvement of statistical data processing capabilities of developing countries

(a) Responses to developing governments' requests for assistance in developing, expanding or strengthening the capacities and capabilities of their statistical data processing services (1982-1983);

(b) Projects to expand and strengthen the data processing hardware and software capabilities to edit and process raw data from different statistical areas so as to obtain a variety of reliable and comprehensive statistics required for establishing and monitoring the country's economic, demographic, social and other development progress (1982-1983).
