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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-first session
12-21 January 1981
Item 11 (c) of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Proposed draft medium-term plan of the Statistical Office of the
United Nations, 1984-1989

Report of the Secretary-General

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Major Programme: STATISTICS

Programme: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

A. Introduction

1. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade has broad implications for statistical development and application at the national, regional, global and sectoral levels.

2. The Strategy calls for the setting of goals, objectives and targets for growth and change at the national, regional, global and sectoral levels - all aimed at the accelerated development of developing countries. A realistic setting of goals and objectives within the context of the Strategy requires, inter alia, an information base that includes statistics on resources, economic activities, development, including population and social development, and interrelationships within countries and internationally.

3. The process of reviewing and appraising the implementation of the International Development Strategy forms an integral part of the Strategy. Its aim will be to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy and to strengthen it as an instrument of policy. A statistical base will be an indispensable element of review and appraisal at the national, regional, global and sectoral levels. The Strategy specifically requires that, where necessary, the evaluation capacity, comprising also the statistical capability, of the countries concerned should be strengthened.

4. The ongoing work of the statistics programme is supportive of the requirements of the International Development Strategy. The programme contributes to the development, expansion, improvement and maintenance of the stock of statistical data required for the setting of goals and objectives and review and appraisal at the national, regional, global and sectoral levels. The programme is active in developing statistics on international trade, raw materials, industry, finance and prices, energy, transport, environment, human settlements and social development, all of which are of special concern in the new International Development Strategy. Statistics are compiled for the widest possible range of countries and areas, including the least developed countries, to show the economic and social situation of these countries and their development.

5. The programme provides technical co-operation to countries to strengthen their statistical capability. It also provides guide-lines, classification schemes and technical manuals on the collection, processing and arrangement of statistical data, for use by countries in the development of the statistics they need for their own planning and monitoring purposes. The technical co-operation effort includes development of methodological materials suitable for the statistically least developed countries and the provision of assistance in implementing statistical programmes to develop their statistical capability. Such a statistical capability, and sets of statistics, are a basic requirement for national planning generally and for national action consistent with the requirements of the new International Development Strategy.

6. The programme takes national statistics relevant to most sectors of economic and social activity, standardizes, processes and publishes them for most countries and areas of the world and disseminates them to Governments. The experience of countries recorded in the statistics is of value to other countries. By putting its own data into an international context, each country can obtain perspectives that cannot be obtained in any other way. The programme provides for improvements in and expansion of the compilations of statistics and expansion of their dissemination in the various fields, including national accounts, prices, public finance, trade, transport, industry, energy and social and demographic fields; it will aid in the establishment of more effective policies and programmes at the country level and provide essential data for the design and operation of global development models initiated in the United Nations system for planning and monitoring.

B. General orientation of the programme

7. The Economic and Social Council defined the basic framework and orientation of the statistics programme when, in its resolutions 8 (I) of 16 February 1946, 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, 1306 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971, it set out the terms of reference of the Statistical Commission and indicated the way in which the United Nations Statistical Office should be developed.

8. The legislative authority requires the statistics programme to be involved in: (a) promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability; (b) co-ordinating the statistical work of specialized agencies; (c) developing the central statistical services of the Secretariat; (d) advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, interpretation and dissemination of statistical information; (e) promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally; (f) collecting, analysing and evaluating statistics from Member States, specialized agencies and other sources; (g) publishing statistics; (h) maintaining close contact and co-ordination with Governments on programmes of statistical research, the submission of statistical data, analysis and publication, and the data-processing of statistics.

9. Other legislative authority has subsequently been established by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Statistical Commission and other bodies, further defining the operations and emphasis of the statistics programme within the over-all framework set by the Council. For the present decade, there is a need to ensure that the statistics programme is consistent with and supportive of the requirements of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. These requirements have been elaborated in recent years at a number of international conferences on such topics as crime and criminal justice, desertification, environment, human settlements, population and women.

10. The statistics programme is an integrated one, which services the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, other units within the United Nations and the system

as a whole. The subprogramme objectives for the statistics programme cover the activities designated in the legislative authority for the programme and fields identified as significant for the International Development Strategy.

11. Within the framework set out above, the orientation of the statistics programme during the period 1984-1989 will have a number of important aspects.

1. Development of concepts and methods

12. Methodological publications, including manuals, guide-lines, recommendations, classification systems, technical reports on current country practices in various fields of statistics etc., represent an essential aid to countries at all levels of development in meeting their statistical needs. The efforts of the Statistical Office will be especially directed towards ensuring that the methodological publications are prepared in such a way as to meet the needs of countries at various levels of development, including the least developed.

2. Application of advanced computer and related techniques for improved statistical operations

13. To meet the increasing requirements of relevance, integrity, reliability, timeliness, presentation and efficiency of the statistics produced, each statistical office, national as well as international, will have continuously to review and maintain its own operations to take account of conceptual methodological, technological and operative advances.

14. Regional and global information networks based on telecomputer technology are now being planned, developed, established and used in several fields. If the international statistical system is to continue to play its role as a major decision-support system, based on well-founded statistical methodology for national and international policy-makers and decision-makers, the international statistical system needs to be transformed into a global telecomputer-based network for efficient communication between data suppliers, producers and users. The application of techniques for a more efficient exchange of information will be an important orientation of the programme in the 1980s and will promote the dissemination of statistics by making them more readily accessible to users.

3. Support of technical co-operation

15. The Statistical Office has played an important role in technical co-operation in statistics and considers this one of its main orientations for the present decade. Statistical information and the capability to produce it are pre-requisites for the development planning, monitoring and evaluation required by countries and in relation to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The Statistical Office will, therefore, make great efforts to promote and contribute to statistical co-operation through training, the provision of technical advice to the national statistical offices of developing countries in introducing, building up and maintaining their statistical capabilities, statistical data-processing capabilities and household survey capabilities.

4. Collection, processing and publication of statistics

16. More than half the resources of the statistics programme are involved in collecting, compiling, evaluating and disseminating statistics. Over a period of time, the collection activities must be modified to be responsive to evolving needs with respect to special population groups such as those living in sub-standard housing, children and youth, women etc. or to special areas of policy concern such as crime and criminal justice while at the same time serving continuing needs for basic economic and social statistics. As far as possible, this will be done within resource limitations for elements emphasized in the Strategy, while work will continue on building up the time series on basic data which is essential for analysis of long-term economic and social change in countries, regions and the world and for identification of short-term developments.

5. Co-ordination of the international statistical system

17. The development and implementation of a balanced world-wide statistical system that is conceptually consistent and technically integrated require a continued strong co-ordinating effort. The Statistical Office considers this one of its main responsibilities and expects to pay increased attention to the co-ordination task during this decade.

18. In line with the Strategy and the substantive guide-lines issued for the preparation of the medium-term plan by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the following substantive areas of work, among others, will receive special emphasis in 1984-1989:

(a) Improvement of price statistics for the analysis of inflation and other purposes by developing and promoting a unified methodology for prices statistics and a central facility in the United Nations system for maintaining a prices data base accessible to all international agencies. This represents a significant new development in the work of the Statistical Office in the field of prices.

(b) Methodological and compilation activities in the broad field of social statistics will be strengthened substantially so as to enable the national statistical services of Member States and the United Nations system to prepare for and be more responsive to new international initiatives directed towards such special population groups as the disabled, the rural poor, the elderly etc. or towards areas of policy concern such as crime and criminal justice, equality of access to social services and facilities, income distribution etc. The main emphasis of these activities will be on the need for integrated statistics to serve integrated development policies and programmes. This represents a significant new level of development in the work of the Statistical Office.

(c) Energy statistics will be further expanded by the publication of individual country energy balances and of national and international energy data sources, the development of new series on prices, values, investment etc., which will complement the present series which deal mainly in physical quantities, and the development of improved statistics on non-commercial energy. This represents a significant development and expansion.

(d) The development of environment statistics will be further promoted as a support for environmental management at the national, regional and global levels and will continue to be closely co-ordinated with work in energy and human settlements.

C. Subprogramme narratives

Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

(a) Legislative authority

19. The legislative authority for work on the development of statistical concepts and methods is based on General Assembly resolutions 2542 (XXIV), 2997 (XXVII), 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3362 (S-VII) and 3409 (XXX); Economic and Social Council resolutions 1307 (XLIV), 1564 (L), 1947 (LVIII), 2061 (LXII) and 1979/5; the recommendations of the Statistical Commission at its seventeenth, 1/ eighteenth, 2/ nineteenth, 3/ and twentieth 4/ sessions, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council; resolutions 6, 8, 22 and 39 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women; 5/ resolutions 1 and 2 and decision 3 of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; 6/ and decisions 48/IV 7/ and 7/3 8/ of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

(b) Objectives

20. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective:

To promote the development and improvement of national and international statistics, the improvement of their comparability and improvement in statistical methods generally;

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat:

The objective of the subprogramme is to promote the further development and improvement of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics at the national and international levels, in terms of their

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), paras. 53 (e), 85-90 and 195.

2/ Ibid., Fifty-eighth session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), paras. 56-62, 74, 83-84, 85 (a), 143 and 149.

3/ Ibid., Sixty-second session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5910), paras. 10 (b), 23-36, 75-82, 84-98, 102, 105 (c), 116-128 and 201.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), paras. 4-143 and 238-245 and annex III.

5/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14 to 30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3), chap. I, sect. B.

6/ Report of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Part One (A/CONF.87/14), chap. I.

7/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/31/25), annex I.

8/ Ibid., Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25), annex I.

timeliness, quality, scope and coverage, usefulness and comparability, through the articulation of integrated and co-ordinated conceptual frameworks, including work on international statistical concepts and classifications, and the development of technical guidelines and information on the organization of effective, efficient and integrated national statistical services and operations and, in particular, on the planning, management, content, processing and evaluation of censuses, sample surveys and statistical systems based on administrative records.

(c) Problem addressed

21. Statistical deficiencies at the national level arise from a number of interrelated problems. The present subprogramme is primarily addressed to four of these: (i) the often fragmentary and unco-ordinated nature of statistics and statistical activities; (ii) the use of methods for the collection, compilation, processing, storage, evaluation and dissemination of statistics that fail to meet the evolving needs and circumstances of each country; (iii) gaps in communication between users and producers of statistics; and (iv) insufficient awareness among statistical personnel of methods used in other countries to meet similar problems. The impact of each of these problems is felt most acutely in the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. These and related problems have hampered the development of statistics at the national and international levels in a number of high-priority areas, such as energy statistics, price statistics, income distribution statistics and the measurement of levels of living.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

22. Work on the expanded system of national accounts and balances will reach the stage where the main supplements to the 1968 recommendations will be completed and a comprehensive reference manual for practical work will be available in the Handbook of National Accounting. Necessary modifications to the system of national accounts and balances, industrial and transport statistics and their related classifications in order to obtain more detail on natural resources and energy sectors will have been identified. There will have been further development of the work on links among economic, social and demographic statistics, including common classifications designed to promote a coherent framework.

23. A series of manuals on special areas of price statistics will have been prepared and efforts will be directed towards the consolidation of the recommendations in this field and their implementation at the national and international levels. The methodology and administrative organization for future work on international comparisons will be agreed upon.

24. New systems of concepts, definitions and classifications for international trade statistics, transport statistics, energy statistics and mineral production and consumption, including secondary recovery of metals, will have been introduced, including the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the Customs

Co-operation Council. Comprehensive recommendations will have been distributed for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. Guidelines for industrial statistics will also be available. A report on country practices in distributive-trade statistics and studies for the construction of balances of stock, production, trade and consumption, as well as prices of major non-energy commodities, will be available.

25. As part of the continuing effort to provide guidance to countries within the framework for integration of demographic and social statistics, technical studies will have been issued on national and international work on social indicators, methods of integration, statistics on women, statistics on children and youth, small-area statistics and current sample surveys. Work will have been initiated on conceptual and methodological problems in statistics on crime and criminal justice, identified at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Caracas from 25 August to 5 September 1980. Documentation will also have been issued providing technical information to countries on the improvement of international migration statistics and on national practices in civil registration and vital statistics. Improved methods for organizing these statistical programmes in developing countries will be emphasized.

26. The first series of training programmes on environment statistics will be concluded and an expert group will have been convened to examine the recommendations for technical reports in specific areas of environmental concern.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

27. Work on national accounts will emphasize the completion of the expanded SNA/MPS framework envisaged in 1968, the consolidation of the additions to the basic recommendations into a well-articulated system, further clarification of the concepts, definitions and classifications of the expanded system, further supplementation of the system to meet new needs in such areas as energy and natural resources, the measurement of levels of living and the financing and distribution of social services, promotion of the full implementation of the expanded system and the initiation of studies of the system's adequacy as a basis for dealing with the problems dealt with.

28. The consolidation of additions to the SNA/MPS framework will extend over several years and will involve a comprehensive appraisal of the adequacy and relevance of the recommendations in each case. While the implications of the basic system for the development of input-output work, flow-of-funds analysis and the compilation of balance sheets and income distribution statistics have been elaborated in considerable detail, their integration within the basic framework has been largely formal and additional work founded on recent experience is needed to give it practical content. Further supplementation of the system is also needed to meet emerging needs in such areas as regional accounting, quarterly accounting and productivity measurement. Stress will be laid on the appropriateness of the system design for its intended purposes and on definition of the nature of the adaptations of the basic framework that may be required for specific analytical and policy-making uses.

29. Work on economic classifications will involve the completion of indexes for the revised ISIC, the development of a combined trade/production classification and the updating and revision of existing classifications. Other work on classifications will be required in connexion with the further development, clarification and integration of the SNA/MPS systems and in connexion with the development of links between economic, social and demographic statistics. The Statistical Office will act as a central co-ordinating agency in this work and will provide advisory services to other agencies and Governments.

30. In price statistics, the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of recommendations and their articulation within the SNA/MPS framework, the clarification of concepts, definitions and classifications forming part of these recommendations, the promotion of the implementation of the recommendations at national and international levels and the study of the adequacy of the overall system in meeting current needs. Some additions to the system may be required to take account of gaps uncovered by new directions in economic analysis, planning and policy-making and by emerging economic problems. In international comparisons work, activity will concentrate on the further development of efficient methods of estimation and on alternative ways of preparing and presenting the results. Participating countries and the regional commissions will be closely associated with the Statistical Office in devising improved methods of data collection and processing and with the integration of these activities into the basic work on prices and national accounts.

31. With regard to work on the framework for the integration and improvement of social and demographic statistics, specialized studies will be prepared on such topics as methods for the collection and dissemination of statistics in individual special fields of social and related statistics assigned high priority by Governments, the development and use of national data bases in the compilation and dissemination of social indicators, the development and application of integrated socio-economic classifications and general data bases using data from population and housing censuses, household surveys and civil registration systems and the development of integrated statistics on small areas.

32. Further technical documentation will be prepared on the collection of data on levels of living, including income distribution statistics, through household sample surveys and links between these data and related data obtained from administrative records. In addition, the scope and coverage of the series Sample Surveys of Current Interest will be reviewed with users in order to identify priority topics and information to be included and to ensure more complete and uniform country coverage. The scope of this and related work on sample surveys is expected to expand as more developing countries receive assistance for the establishment of continuing survey programmes through the National Household Survey Capability Programme.

33. In co-operation with UNICEF, particular attention will be given to assisting developing countries, through the adoption of methodological guidelines, in collecting and analysing integrated statistical information for planning, monitoring and evaluating services benefiting children and youth. Similar attention will also be given to special statistical requirements for other population groups, such as the disabled and elderly.

34. In close collaboration with the Population Division and the regional commissions and regional statistical training institutes, training materials and technical studies on population and housing census methods will continue to be developed for national and international use. In particular, a review of emerging issues and trends in population and housing censuses will be prepared on the basis of experience in the 1975-1984 census decade. New and updated specialized reports will be prepared on the planning, organization and administration of population and housing censuses, methods of evaluating population and housing censuses and the uses of censuses to establish national data bases, in order to promote the participation of all countries in the 1985-1994 census decade. Further guidelines and technical reports on methods of compiling international migration statistics at national and international levels will be prepared. In other key fields of demographic data collection, a version of Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, directed towards policy-makers, and one or more technical reports on population registers will be prepared.

35. To assist countries in improving their collection and use of housing statistics, a revised handbook covering the content of housing censuses will be completed, and a technical report on methods of estimating housing needs will be issued.

36. To promote the provision of comparable environment data for purposes of national environmental management at the national, regional and global levels, a Directory of Country Practices in the Field of Environment Statistics will be issued and updated on a continuous basis and a number of technical reports on statistical methodology in specific areas of environmental concern will be published.

(e) Evaluation

37. The effectiveness of the work on concepts and methods, including work on the design, development and maintenance of statistical classifications, will be gauged by the response from Governments and from interested international agencies to the recommendations and other technical material made available. This evaluation will be carried out through the receipt of comments on draft documents, through an exchange of correspondence on specific issues, through the comments and decisions of the Statistical Commission and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, through comments and conclusions of the competent regional statistical bodies, through the views of meetings of experts and other meetings at the technical level, through a study of the experience of technical co-operation experts and through direct monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations and guidelines and the use of the technical reports on methods at both the national and international levels.

Subprogramme 2. Application of advanced computer and related techniques for improved statistical operations

(a) Legislative authority

38. The principal authority for this subprogramme is found in Economic and Social Council resolution 1566 (L) and in the reports of the Statistical Commission on its seventeenth (para. 42), eighteenth (paras. 28-32), and nineteenth sessions (para. 201 g). 9/

(b) Objectives

39. The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(i) General objective of the Secretariat:

The application of more efficient and effective means of managing statistical data on-line, establishment of a system for an integrated data base, providing direct access to an information network for provision of data, more efficient production and storage of data and improved dissemination of all outputs, including response to ad hoc inquiries.

(ii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the Secretariat:

- (a) Establishment of a new system for data-base management by the end of 1983.
- (b) Transfer of all recurrent publications to in-house photocomposition by the end of 1984.
- (c) Provision by the end of 1987 of direct access to on-line data base for users, including those within the United Nations and Governments, as well as many non-governmental users.

(c) Problem addressed

40. Computer systems to compile, maintain, use and process data, to develop the Statistical Office publications and to disseminate the statistics are not as effective and efficient as they could be and do not take full advantage of the latest techniques. The statistics held in machine-readable form are not as accessible and amenable to analysis as they could be. Sales of publications are considered to be a small percentage of the potential market and are in general not increasing.

9/ See foot-notes 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

41. By the end of 1983, the Office should have a flexible and generalized computer system enabling the efficient processing and management of data and photocomposition of publications. The software developed in-house for these purposes is proposed to be replaced by more reliable and manageable software acquired from outside the United Nations. Direct access to the data bank by international and regional agencies will have been made possible. The various recurrent publications will continue to be published throughout the period and be completely photocomposed in-house - with marked improvements in efficiency and timeliness. An analysis of the potential and actual market for United Nations statistical publications will be undertaken.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

42. By 1989, it is planned that the Office will be participating in international information systems carried over a communications network for the exchange of data between Governments and international agencies. By the end of the 1980s, it is planned to extend and enhance through computer methods the content and presentation of Statistical Office publications, microfiches, machine-readable statistics and information systems. Continued improvements in dissemination and content will be introduced as a follow-up to the market analysis.

(e) Evaluation

43. The purpose will be to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of computer systems, identify and assess the content of disseminated statistics which best meets the needs of users and assess the effectiveness of efforts to improve the dissemination of international statistics.

44. The evaluation of achievement will require evaluation of computer systems by a consultant, discussion with and questionnaires to national statistical agencies and a survey of the market for statistical publications. Performance indicators will come from the qualitative evaluation provided by Governments and by the consultant, and indicators of statistical coverage, adherence to standards, number of copies of publications disseminated and statistics of computer usage.

45. Data required for the evaluation process will be determined by questionnaires, market survey, readers' response cards and statistics on sales and on computer resource usage.

Subprogramme 3. Support of technical co-operation

(a) Legislative authority

46. The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives principally from Economic and Social Council resolutions 1566 (L), 1903 (LVII), 1947 (LVIII) and 2036 (LXI); General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII); and reports of the Statistical Commission on its eighteenth (para. 55) and nineteenth sessions (paras. 143-174). 10/

(b) Objectives

47. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective:

To develop statistics and statistical capability needed by countries for planning, monitoring and directing their economic and social development;

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat:

To assist countries to develop their statistical capability, including application of modern computer technology for processing statistical data, through projects providing direct advisory services, fellowships, supplies and equipment, as well as methodological material issued by the Statistical Office in all the fields of statistics for which the Office is responsible;

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the Secretariat:

To provide substantive support and monitoring throughout the period of the projects.

(c) Problems addressed

48. In many developing countries, the capacity and capability of the statistical system are very limited and weak and cannot provide the reliable data required by policy-makers, administrators or planners at either the national or the international level. These weaknesses and limitations not only cover basic statistical series obtained from surveys but also include national accounts estimates and, in some cases, statistics generated by administrative records. Aside from the basic weaknesses, there are also problems of processing, analysing and disseminating such statistics. The statistics which become available are frequently late, reducing their usefulness for policy and planning purposes. One of the problems being taken up by the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) is the building of enduring capabilities in developing countries

10/ See foot-notes 2 and 3, respectively.

to obtain through household surveys continuing data essential for development plans and programmes. Other problems to be tackled are further capability-building in census-taking and the use of administrative data for the preparation of statistics. In addition, modern data-processing technology needs to be made more broadly available; at the same time, closer co-ordination is required between statisticians and data-processing personnel in the development of editing and data-processing software programs for censuses and surveys.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

49. By the end of 1983, it is expected that there would have been some improvement in the capacity and capability of some statistical services of developing countries to provide some basic statistical data required by policy-makers and others. Some 60 developing countries will be participating in technical co-operation programmes in statistics at a level of financial assistance of about \$40 million. From 15 to 20 countries are expected to participate in NHSCP.

50. By the end of 1983, it is expected that statistical edit and data-processing software would have been installed in some 70 developing countries. These would be capable of exploiting the increasing quantity and quality of statistical information available in computer machine-readable form. Important statistical data-processing and information-systems manuals, capable of simplifying the editing and data-processing processes for a large quantity of data, will have been successfully developed, tested and made available to a large number of developing countries.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

51. The strategy for supporting technical co-operation activities in general has been developed with the guidance of the Statistical Commission, regional statistical conferences and in co-ordination with related technical co-operation activities of the regional commissions and specialized agencies. The strategy draws on various elements of the statistical programme and on the total know-how and experience available in the Statistical Office. Technical co-operation projects will assist developing countries, through the provision of advisory services from Headquarters, the posting of long-term international experts and short-term consultants on specific statistical fields in concerned developing countries to transfer knowledge and expertise to local professional counterparts, and the provision of equipment, including computer hardware and software technology, to establish and improve their statistical capacity and capability. In connexion with NHSCP, the main thrust will be to leave behind self-sustaining infrastructure and skills to enable the countries to carry out their statistical activities systematically and to generate a regular flow of information for policy and planning needs. A similar strategy will be followed for capability-building in census-taking and in the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

52. It is expected that there will be a considerable increase in the number of country projects in various fields during the medium-term plan period, particularly

projects related to population, housing and industrial censuses, expansion of civil registration systems and development of vital statistics, and household surveys. An important component of many of the projects will be the improvement of data-processing technology.

53. Within the context of transfer of technical expertise to developing countries, instructional manuals, technical manuals and international classifications systems adapted to the needs of statistical offices of developing countries to collect data in a variety of statistical fields would have been developed in the Statistical Office and tested, and would be in the process of being implemented by developing countries.

54. It is also expected that countries would be able to have developed forms of technical co-operation in statistics among themselves.

(e) Evaluation

55. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of each project and, to this end, to ascertain whether the desired objectives are attainable, whether the proposed programme of work is being carried out and what its prospects are for continuation after the United Nations inputs have been phased out.

56. Evaluation is a continuous process, carried out throughout the life of a project, addressing itself to technical problems as they arise as well as administrative matters affecting over-all implementation. Performance and impact indicators would include the rate of implementation of the various components of the project within the period of the project; the availability of a strong and experienced field survey capability for securing the required data in an organized and systematic manner; the availability of meaningful series of statistical indicators of various facets of the economy and society; and the timeliness of such data.

57. Information would be collected through reports of field personnel and on-the-spot project reviews by technical advisers.

Subprogramme 4. National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics

(a) Legislative authority

58. The principal legislative authority is in the reports of the Statistical Commission on its seventeenth (paras. 80-90, 195, 197 and 198), eighteenth (paras. 98-104 and 132-149), nineteenth (paras. 22-36) and twentieth sessions (paras. 4-13, 24-67 and 238-240 and annex III), 11/ as well as in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI) and 3362 (S-VII).

(b) Objectives

59. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective

To improve national and international statistical programmes and statistics as a basis for national and international policy formulation and decision-making.

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat

To collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate more comprehensive, reliable, useful and timely national accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics that are as comparable as possible, to serve the needs of national and international users.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary intergovernmental objectives

(a) To initiate a national integrated set of industrial statistics starting with an establishment census for 1983;

(b) To implement gradually a system of industrial surveys during the period 1983-1993, which would be fully in effect by 1989; the annual and more frequent inquiries would continue up to 1993, when there would be another decennial census of industrial activity;

(c) To implement in 1985 the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the Customs Co-operation Council and the correlated Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3.

(iv) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the Secretariat

(a) New activities will be initiated in 1984 in the field of income distribution, input-output tables, balance sheets, distributive trades and inland transport statistics, resulting by the end of the medium-term plan period in recurrent publications.

11/ See foot-notes 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

- (b) The collection of data on international trade according to the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3, will begin in 1985.

(c) Problem addressed

60. Data on the structure of the economy and its economic activity including activities of the industrial sector are, in a number of developing countries, non-existent, incomplete or out of date. As a consequence, policy-makers are not provided with essential information for the formulation of economic development plans and policies at the national level and for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

61. More adequate instruments are needed for decision-making and the formulation and monitoring of policy, including actions taken in the context of the new International Development Strategy, both at the national and international levels, with special emphasis on national accounting data, industrialization, trade and transport.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

62. The recurrent statistical publications on national accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics will have been issued. The compilation of income-distribution data, input-output tables and information on balance sheets will have started. Reconciliation will have been achieved between the present data series on national accounts and public finance and similar ones published by IMF and other international agencies.

63. Publications describing the purposes, content and methodology of the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be available and supporting guidelines for industrial statistics will also be available, providing a basis for improving industrial statistics. A number of developing countries will be organizing or conducting industrial censuses as part of the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics, thus adding to the data in this field.

64. A small number of countries will be issuing statistics on trade and transport based on the new systems of concepts, definitions and classification of trade and transport prepared during the period 1980-1983.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

65. International data series will be established on income distribution, input-output tables and balance-sheet statistics, resulting in two documents at five-year intervals on each of the three subjects. Reconciliation will be achieved between the national accounts data series of countries with market economies and those with centrally planned economies. Gradual improvement of present national accounts and public finance data will be continued, resulting at the end of the plan period

in enlarged and improved national coverage of selected statistical tables that are essential for international comparative analysis.

66. An increasing number of developing countries will be conducting censuses and surveys of industry, construction and distributive trades in a systematic fashion as a result of, and in accordance with, international standards, and will be making the data available to the Statistical Office for publication. Improvements in the quality and timeliness of data on industry, construction and distributive trades will result by the end of the period. Better coverage of countries and an expanded amount of comparable data will result and will be available in the data bases for dissemination and recurrent publications. A new series on more-frequent-than-annual industrial inquiries will be introduced. A compilation of industrial statistics covering the participation of countries in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be published in 1988. Value added and employment estimates for all countries for 1980 at the group level of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) will be available in 1984 and global, regional and country indexes of industrial production, employment and productivity will be compiled using 1980 as a base year. Special studies on balances and prices of important individual non-energy primary commodities will be available.

67. A Yearbook of Distributive-Trade Statistics will be added to the list of recurrent publications within the 1984-1985 biennium.

68. The Statistical Office will develop new statistical series based on the new methodologies and definitions described in subprogramme 1. The target date for the implementation of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the Customs Co-operation Council and the correlated Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3, is 1 January 1985 and this will make it possible to publish statistics on this basis commencing in 1985. The international trade statistics computerized data bank will be maintained and data made available on demand, including statistics on primary commodities at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, for the use of developing countries in developing their trade. In close co-operation with the regional commissions, regular annual series of maritime transport statistics will be published from 1984 onwards, including statistics on transport between developing countries. Statistics on transport by road, inland water and railways will be developed and will be published regularly from 1986 onwards.

(e) Evaluation

69. National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination activities will be evaluated by assessing the scope, quality, availability and conformity to the international guidelines of the internationally collected series in general and their international uses. International uses will be assessed through a review of international publications drawing on these statistics and direct contact with the organizations concerned and with private individuals. In addition, these activities are periodically the subject of review and evaluation by the Statistical Commission, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies.

Subprogramme 5: Energy and related statistics

(a) Legislative authority

70. The principal legislative authority is to be found in the reports of the Statistical Commission on its nineteenth (paras. 11-21) and twentieth sessions (paras. 14-23 and 238-240, annex III), ^{12/} in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1954 B (LIX), 2014 (LXI) and 1979/72, as well as in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3362 (S-VII) and 33/148.

(b) Objectives

71. The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective:

To improve national and international statistical programmes and statistics as a basis for national and international policy formulation and decision making;

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat:

To collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate more comprehensive, reliable, useful and timely energy and related statistics which are as comparable as possible to serve the needs of national and international users.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the Secretariat:

(a) To compile by 1989 more detailed statistics in energy and related fields, including natural resources, which would constitute a significant development and expansion of work in energy statistics; amendments to methodology of parts of the national accounting, industry and transport statistical systems and classifications are a prerequisite to this development.

(b) To initiate in 1984 compilation of data on non-commercial or renewable sources of energy.

(c) Problem addressed

72. Most of the statistical information on energy now available is in physical units. As a consequence, it is not possible for policy-makers to have comprehensive, reliable and internationally comparable statistics on value added, gross output, gross capital formation, wholesale and retail prices and other information basic to the formulation of both national and global energy policies.

^{12/} See foot-notes 3 and 4, respectively.

73. More adequate instruments are needed for decision-making and policy formulation and monitoring, including actions taken in the context of the new International Development Strategy both at the country and international level, with special emphasis on energy and natural resources.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

74. Besides the regular series on energy statistics in physical units (production, trade, stock, total availability), the great majority of the countries will be able to produce energy balances providing a more complete picture of consumption. Some countries will have begun to implement the energy classification that will have been adopted by the Statistical Commission. The publication of statistics relating to natural resources will continue.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

75. It is expected that, progressively, all countries will be able to prepare energy balances. During 1984-1985, the compilation of more detailed data will start in the general statistical systems of national accounts, industry and transport and it will then be possible to isolate the energy sector and the data related to natural resources which presently cannot be obtained. New series on energy statistics will be completed, for instance, sales of petroleum products, networks of distribution, wholesale and retail prices of electricity, coal, natural gas, fuel, gasoline, production or consumption of non-commercial energy as bio gas, crop residues, bagasses, dung, fuelwood, number of petroleum and natural gas exploratory wells drilled etc.

76. Collection and publication of data on non-energy minerals and raw materials, production, consumption and prices will be started. Expansion in other areas of natural resources will be considered according to the needs of the users of the data.

(e) Evaluation

77. Energy and related statistics collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination activities will be evaluated through assessing the scope, quality, availability and conformity to the international guidelines of the internationally collected series in general and their international uses. International uses will be assessed through review of international publications drawing on these statistics and direct contact with the concerned organizations and private individuals. In addition, these activities are periodically reviewed and evaluated by the Statistical Commission, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies.

Subprogramme 6: Price statistics and related areas

(a) Legislative authority

78. The principal legislative authority for activities in this subprogramme is to be found in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI) and 3362 (S-VII); the reports of the Statistical Commission on its nineteenth (paras. 3-10, 198, 201 and 202 and annex II) and twentieth sessions (para. 77 and annex III). 13/

(b) Objectives

79. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective:

To improve national and international statistical programmes and statistics as a basis for national and international policy formulation and decision making.

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat

To develop and promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to the collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination of price statistics; to collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate price statistics and related data, including comprehensive and comparable data on purchasing power parities and real product for all countries.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the Secretariat:

(a) To complete the first phase of development of a central facility for the provision of information on prices to the international community, including international trade and energy prices;

(b) To complete phase IV of the International Comparison Project (ICP) by 1985 and extension of related comparisons of purchasing power and real product to a global system by 1989.

(c) Problem addressed

80. The price data available internationally are inadequate in quality, comprehensiveness and organization for the analysis of world-wide inflation and the effective monitoring of global, regional and sectoral price developments. They are also inadequate for the detailed comparisons of purchasing power needed to establish the estimates of real income and product required for the more precise measurement of the economic position of countries and their patterns of resource use. This is regarded as a primary requirement both for the proper

13/ See foot-notes 3 and 4 respectively.

understanding of economic growth and development and for the effective formulation, application and monitoring of national and international development policies. ^{14/} A systematic effort is required to promote price statistics work at all levels of collection and compilation and to develop an integrated international price statistics data base to meet both the general needs of the international community for this type of information and the specific requirements of sectoral studies and analyses.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

81. Work will be in progress on the establishment of a central facility for the collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination of international price data, and an annual publication on world price trends will have been introduced as a focal point for the efforts of the international agencies in this field. The collection of price and expenditure data in connexion with phase IV of ICP will be largely completed and the compilation of comparative estimates of purchasing power and real product for participating countries will be initiated.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

82. The main emphasis will be on developing further the central facility for the provision of information on prices to the international community. This facility will include a comprehensive data base with links to the related data bases of the agencies and will be designed to co-ordinate the development of work on price statistics generally, to reduce or eliminate overlapping in the collection and compilation of data and to provide ready access to an expanded data collection for all agency users. The general-purpose annual publication on price trends which is envisaged will provide summary information from these data bases in SNA-structured form and serve as a guide to national and international sources of supplementary information as well as to the methodology employed.

83. Sectoral work will be concentrated on international trade and energy. A major effort will be made to extend the coverage of specification price indexes for international trade flows and to integrate them with related indexes for domestic commodity flows. Special attention will be given to improving the scope, structure and organization of the information available on prices of international commodities, particularly those included in the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities. For energy, price information will be developed as an integral part of a comprehensive statistical information system.

84. Work on international comparisons will be directed to the extension of geographical coverage and to the expansion of the scope of the purchasing power and real product estimates towards a general system of spatial indexes.

^{14/} See Wassily Leontief et al., The Future of the World Economy; a United Nations Study (New York, Oxford University Press, 1977), pp. 120-121.

Co-ordination of this work will be undertaken in the regions by the regional commissions; the Statistical Office will ensure general co-ordination among regions and will be responsible for the final processing and publication of the results.

(e) Evaluation

85. A continuing evaluation of the general effectiveness of the work on the organization and development of the international programme as a whole will be made by the Statistical Office, largely through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, through direct exchanges with the agencies themselves and through ad hoc technical meetings arranged for this purpose. Indications from these sources will be supplemented by the general response of users to the information compiled and disseminated, as reflected in inquiries and comments, by ad hoc user surveys and by the interest shown by countries in co-operating with the Statistical Office and in participating in the various aspects of the work. These formal and informal assessments will be regarded as important contributions towards determining the scope, structure, content and organization of future work in this field.

Subprogramme 7: Social, demographic and environment statistics

(a) Legislative authority

86. The legislative authority for this subprogramme is based on General Assembly resolutions 2542 (XXIV) and 2997 (XXVIII); Economic and Social Council resolutions 1307 (XLIV), 1564 (L), 1947 (LVIII), 2061 (LXII) and 1979/5; the recommendations of the Statistical Commission at its twentieth session; 15/ recommendation C.3 (a) of the World Population Plan of Action; 16/ the Declaration of Principles and resolution 1 of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements; 17/ resolutions 6, 8, 22 and 39 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women; 18/ and decisions 48/IV and 7/3 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. 19/

(b) Objectives

87. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective:

To improve national and international statistical programmes and statistics as a basis for national and international policy formulation and decision making;

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat:

To collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate more comprehensive, reliable, useful and timely social, demographic and environment statistics which are as comparable as possible to serve the needs of national and international users.

(c) Problem addressed

88. Policy-makers at the national and international levels, reflecting the concerns expressed at a variety of recent international conferences and recent sessions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as concerns and issues embodied in the International Development Strategy, are asking

15/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), paras. 91-143.

16/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council.

17/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and Corrigendum) as endorsed by the General Assembly.

18/ See foot-note 5.

19/ See foot-notes 7 and 8, respectively.

for more extensive, timely and relevant statistics on social, demographic and environmental topics. Moreover, during the period 1984-1989 several world conferences are being planned under United Nations auspices on important issues of social concern, such as crime and criminal justice, youth and women, and special statistical reports will need to be compiled in preparation for each conference. Similar needs for data are expressed by the technical services of national and international agencies, as well as by a wide range of research institutions and other organizations and individuals throughout the world. All these users share a common concern for data that are as authoritative and reliable as possible, although the specific data series required differ among users.

89. Regardless of the form and method of dissemination of these statistics, considerable effort is required to collect, compile, evaluate and properly annotate the disparate national statistics on these topics so that they will meet the standards of comparability and reliability expected by users. In particular, as the Statistical Office data base is extended to cover more and more developing countries, including the least developed among them, a variety of special procedures have to be used to overcome weaknesses in timeliness, quality and comprehensiveness that adversely affect the national data systems of these countries.

90. In the area of the environment, a number of special problems exist. Data vital for monitoring, assessment and management purposes are not yet available in most countries, nor at the international level. Existing data which could be applied to environmental questions by and large have not been adequately reoriented or compiled in appropriate formats, and many of the necessary series of basic data have not been gathered.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

91. The data base for the Demographic Yearbook and the Population and Vital Statistics Report will have been fully automated to respond in a timely and cost-effective manner to ad hoc specialized requests, to provide flexible access and tabulation capabilities for specialized inquiries and studies and other international publications, to pool information more effectively in the international statistical service and to respond to new statistical requirements established by international legislative bodies. Immigrant stock data from the censuses around 1980 will have begun to be collected for the first time from selected countries under the new international co-operative programme aimed at the collection and exchange of population statistics on the foreign-born in national censuses.

92. The first issue of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics will have been issued. The planning and collection of data for the 1984 Compendium of Social Statistics will have been initiated.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

93. The Demographic Yearbook and the Population and Vital Statistics Report will continue to be issued. The automation of this data base will be further developed. Clearer and more extensive indications of the reliability of published data will be provided to aid users, and procedures for responding to ad hoc requests for data will be further strengthened. The international co-operative programme for the collection and exchange of statistics on foreign-born population will be extended to all interested countries, and these data will be made available to users through an enlargement of the data base developed for this undertaking.

94. Demands for social statistics for socio-economic development planning, assessment and management in general and in a variety of specialized applications are expected to increase substantially, including demands for the collection and dissemination of statistics related to socio-economic fields for which no other source has been established in the United Nations system. Special statistical publications will need to be planned and prepared in collaboration with the secretariats of the various United Nations world conferences that will be held. The 1984 Compendium of Social Statistics will be issued and preparation of the 1989 Compendium will begin. Emphasis will be placed on assembling data that will meet user needs for integrated social statistics that encompass all the major aspects of levels of living and the quality of life.

95. The second Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics will be issued in 1986 and its coverage expanded as new national data in this emerging field become available. Preparation of the 1990 Compendium will begin.

96. To promote the provision of comparable environmental data for purposes of national environmental management at the national, regional and global levels, a computerized system for storage and retrieval of environment statistics will be in operation; compendiums on environment statistics, on both the regional and global levels, will be published and special-purpose environmental data packages will be prepared.

(e) Evaluation

97. The collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination of social, demographic and environment statistics will be evaluated by assessing the scope, quality, availability and conformity to the international guide-lines of the internationally collected series in general and their international uses. The international uses will be assessed through a review of the international publications drawing on these statistics and direct contact with the concerned organizations and private individuals. In addition, these activities are periodically the subject of review and evaluation by the Statistical Commission, other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies.

Subprogramme 8. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

(a) Legislative authority

98. The principal legislative authority for these activities is to be found in Economic and Social Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II), 23 (III), 1306 (XLIV) and 1566 (L); General Assembly resolutions 238 A (III) and 2626 (XXV), paragraph 84; and reports of the Statistical Commission, including that of the twentieth session (para. 245). 20/

(b) Objectives

99. The objectives of this subprogramme are:


(i) Intergovernmental objective:

To promote the co-ordination of international statistical work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in order to achieve an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics;

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat:

To promote co-ordination of the international statistical system, including technical co-operation activities, and to provide statistical services to intergovernmental bodies, units within the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, thus serving ~~as a~~ ^{the Statistical Office} focal point for the international statistical system.

(iii) Time-limited subsidiary objectives of the Secretariat

To issue a series of reports  designed to evaluate and promote co-ordination in the international statistical system.

(c) Problem addressed

100. International statistical work is carried out by a large number of organizations, both national and international. Each organization has its own objectives, priorities and methods but also shares a number of common concerns. Efficient and effective use of the resources of these organizations requires that serious and continuous effort be applied to the co-ordination of programmes, including methodological development, so that a cohesive, integrated and co-ordinated international effort is mobilized for the benefit of countries.

101. The International Development Strategy for the 1980s will have implications at the national, regional and world levels. The international statistical system will need to respond in a system-wide co-ordinated way.

20/ See foot-note 4.

102. Statistical services are required by the Committee on Contributions, other intergovernmental bodies, organizational units in the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations bodies.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

(i) The situation at the end of 1983

103. By the end of 1983, documents will have been prepared for the twenty-second session of the Statistical Commission, the ninth and tenth sessions of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination and the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. Implementation of decisions will have been completed or will be under way. Statistical services will have been provided to the Committee on Contributions and to ad hoc requests from other United Nations bodies.

104. Newly developed reporting systems will be introduced by the Statistical Office, regional commissions, specialized agencies and other international organizations aimed at promoting better co-ordination, better reporting to the Statistical Commission and improved information to the national statistical services concerning data collection and exchange among the international organizations.

105. Country nomenclature for statistical use will have been kept up to date. The various issues of the Directory of International Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics; the Supplement to the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Pocketbook: World Statistics in Brief - all the result of co-ordinated interagency effort - will have been published.

(ii) The period 1984-1989

106. Substantive servicing of the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and implementation of decisions made at their sessions will continue.

107. In line with further decentralization of activities, continued close relationships will be maintained with the regional commissions, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national statistical services through attendance at meetings and preparation and review of reports on matters such as questionnaires, data banks, exchange of data and concepts, definitions and classifications in use. New modes of co-ordination will be introduced, as necessary, in the light of developments.

108. A group of publications reflecting close co-ordination will be maintained, updated and expanded, namely the Directory of International Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Pocketbook: World Statistics in Brief.

109. Also, following a publication-by-publication approach there will be a continuation of interagency efforts to enhance the comparability, coverage, consistency, complementarity and usefulness of international statistics for planning, monitoring and review purposes, with special reference to the requirements of the new International Development Strategy.

110. Statistical services will continue to be provided to the General Assembly organs and other bodies on request, including the provision of data on national income, exchange rates, population etc. to the Committee on Contributions, and the provision of substantive services and statistical expertise to various units of the United Nations Secretariat or other United Nations bodies.

(e) Evaluation

111. Evaluation will determine the effectiveness of resources applied to co-ordination. It will identify duplication and overlapping with a view to minimizing these, and will identify gaps and complementarities in the work with a view to filling gaps and ensuring complementarity. The purpose is also to reduce to a minimum the burdens on countries.

112. This subprogramme will be evaluated by the Statistical Commission and its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination. These bodies meet every two years and evaluate co-ordination over-all and in selected fields of statistics and selected activities such as data collection and methodological development. An evaluation report on the co-ordination of data collection activities is prepared every two years by the Statistical Office in co-operation with the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other international organizations.

D. Organization

1. Intergovernmental review

113. The work of the Secretariat in this programme is reviewed by the Statistical Commission, which meets every two years. The last session was held 20 February-2 March 1979. This plan has not yet been reviewed by this body.

2. Secretariat

114. The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme is the Statistical Office, in which there were 97 professional posts authorized as of 1 January 1981. 21/ The Office had the following organizational units as of 1 January 1981:

21/ Excluding "project" personnel.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Professional posts</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary sources</u>	
International Trade and Related Statistics Branch	12	4	16
Economic Statistics and Special Projects Branch	18	1	19
Demographic and Social Statistics Branch	10	3	13
Statistical Systems and Standards Branch	10	9	19
Statistical Services Branch	14	1	15
Office of the Director	8	7	15
Total	72	25	97

3. Divergencies between current administrative structure and proposed programme structure

115. The proposed programme structure for the 1984-1989 medium-term plan is different from that used in the 1980-1983 plan. The subprogramme structure differs from the administrative structure of the Statistical Office. The combination of programme elements in each subprogramme reflects the interdependence among the related statistical subject-matter fields. The administrative structure provides for operative effectiveness. It does not impede the implementation of the various elements of the subprogramme. The principal divergence relates to subprogramme 1 (Development of concepts and methods), which includes all statistical methodological work carried out in the various units of the Office. Also the work under subprogramme 3 (Support of technical co-operation) is carried out by staff on regular and extrabudgetary funds in the various units of the Office.

E. Co-ordination

1. Needed intergovernmental co-ordination

116. There are no special needs for additional intergovernmental co-ordination.

2. Formal co-ordination within the Secretariat

117. The statistics programme is an integrated one, which provides servicing to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, other organs within the United Nations and the United Nations system as a whole.

118. The Statistical Office, in collaboration with the statistics divisions of the regional commissions, is responsible for collecting, compiling, evaluating and providing statistical data to many units of the Secretariat and for statistical standards and methodology in all economic, demographic and social fields not covered by the specialized agencies. The Statistical Office provides substantive advice to developing countries and supports technical co-operation personnel in these countries.

119. A special relationship exists between the Statistical Office and the statistical divisions of the regional commissions, since together they form an integrated statistical service of the United Nations. The Statistical Office and the statistical divisions of the regional commissions work closely on all important aspects of their programmes which are of mutual concern and are in frequent communication on substantive and administrative issues, in full recognition of the complementary and interdependent nature of their work.

120. A division of labour, which is adapted to changing circumstances, has existed for some years, drawing on the strengths of the regional commissions and the Statistical Office with a view to maximizing benefits to countries. Thus, in developing global standards and classifications, the Statistical Office draws on the experience of countries from all regions. To an increasing extent, the regional commissions ensure that individual regional considerations and needs are fully taken into account. In the implementation of standards and classifications by countries, the regional commissions play the primary role. More recently, when feasible, the regional commissions have been requested to initiate development of regional standards.

121. In carrying out its responsibilities for global publications, such as the Statistical Yearbook, the Demographic Yearbook, the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, the Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, the Yearbook of Construction Statistics and the Yearbook of World Energy Statistics, the Statistical Office collects and processes country data. As required, the regional commissions assist in the collection process and it is anticipated that, in certain areas, such as environment statistics, some of the regional commissions will play the major collection role within an over-all centrally developed framework. The Statistical Office sends photocopies of the replies to all questionnaires and, on request, computer tapes to the respective regions. The regional commissions use the data for internal purposes or for their publications and collect additional detail as needed, for example, for the preparation of regional economic surveys. When a regional commission collects data that can also be used in global publications, the data are made available to the Statistical Office.

3. Formal co-ordination within the United Nations system

122. There is an explicit and carefully planned division of labour between the specialized agencies and the United Nations, which is closely adhered to. The specialized agencies collect, compile and disseminate statistics, publish methodological reports and provide technical co-operation in their own fields. The United Nations statistics programme (a) works in the fields other than those covered by the specialized agencies, (b) issues compendiums that include statistical data

provided by the specialized agencies and (c) ensures the over-all co-ordination of the system and the integration of the statistical programmes. When appropriate, joint projects are carried out with specialized agencies or other international organizations (for example, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Economic Community (EEC), the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)).

123. The co-ordination of statistical activities and programmes within the United Nations system is carried out through the Statistical Commission, its Working Group, the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the prevailing close working relations with the chief statisticians of the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the regional commissions. Continuing efforts are made to maintain a clear division of labour, to avoid duplication and to harmonize concepts and classifications, outputs and technical co-operation.

4. Units with which significant joint activities are expected during the period 1984-1989

124. Examples of anticipated significant activities during the period 1984-1989 are listed below:

(a) UNEP, on the formulation of guidelines on the concepts, contents and methodologies of environment statistics and compilation of environment statistics in co-operation with the regional commissions and interested specialized agencies;

(b) ICAO, UNCTAD and the regional commissions, on the development of transport statistics;

(c) IMF, the World Bank, FAO, the ILO, UNESCO, OECD and the regional commissions, on an integrated price statistics programme;

(d) ECLA, ESCAP, ECA, ECE, the World Bank, the ILO and other organizations, on income distribution and related statistics;

(e) UNDP, UNFPA, the World Bank, UNICEF, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions and interested specialized agencies, in establishing and developing a National Household Survey Capability Programme in developing countries;

(f) Customs Co-operation Council, EEC, CMEA and regional commissions, on international standard classifications;

(g) ECE and CMEA, on the links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS);

(h) The World Bank, EEC, CMEA and regional commissions, on the International Comparison Project;

(i) UNCTAD, the World Bank, IMF, GATT, OECD, other international agencies and the regional commissions, on further development of international trade statistics;

(j) The World Bank, IAEA, EEC, CMEA, OPEC, OECD and regional commissions, on energy statistics;

(k) UNICEF, the regional commissions and interested specialized agencies, on statistics needed to help in the improvement of services for the well-being of children and youth;

(l) UNIDO, UNCTAD, OECD and the regional commissions, on further development of industrial statistics and recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics;

(m) IMF, on public sector statistics;

(n) OECD and regional commissions on bringing SNA up to date;

(o) The ILO, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, the World Bank and the regional commissions, on the implementation of various aspects of the framework for the integration of demographic and social statistics, including work on social indicators;

(p) FAO, on population and housing census recommendations and agricultural census recommendations;

(q) All the major agencies, interested governmental and non-governmental organizations and regional commissions, on further developing an integrated international statistical programme and an integrated programme of technical co-operation in statistics, including statistical data processing, further co-ordination of international statistical questionnaires and joint use and exchange of data among international organizations.
