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

Progress report on the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics
and on transport statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report, submitted to the Statistical Commission for information, describes the development, objectives and content of the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics, the extent to which countries intend to participate in the Programme and the various training activities which have been or will be carried out (chap. I). The document also describes the work done on the network of the flow of goods on world sea lanes, the promotion of the uniform system for the collection of economic statistics of shipping and the activities planned for the immediate future (chap. II).

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I. 1983 WORLD PROGRAMME OF INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

1. The present chapter of the report is organized as follows: section A contains a review of the development of the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics, and in section B, the action taken since the twenty-first session of the Statistical Commission is described. Section C contains a summary of the objectives and content of the Programme, section D a review of the situation and of the progress achieved in industrial statistics in developing countries, section E a summary of the replies from countries on their intentions with respect to participation in the Programme and the possible needs for technical co-operation and section F a description of the regional training workshops held or planned and of related technical co-operation activities.

A. Development of the Programme

2. The Statistical Commission, at its twentieth session, held in 1979, endorsed the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a complete set of draft international recommendations for submission to it at its twenty-first session. 1/

3. At its twenty-first session, held in 1981, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the draft international recommendations for the Programme (E/CN.3/537), together with the recommendations prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and presented as the final draft (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/71, parts I and II) of a future publication to be entitled Recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. The final draft incorporated the comments of the regional commissions, interested international organizations, national statistical offices and individual experts.

4. The Commission adopted the final draft as the international recommendations for the 1983 World Programme and requested the Secretary-General to publish the recommendations and to distribute them to countries. It also requested that regional commissions be encouraged to organize, in co-operation with interested national and international organizations, training workshops to discuss the proposals and their adaptation to the regional conditions. 2/

5. On the recommendation of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1981/1 of 4 May 1981, in which it, inter alia:

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

2/ Ibid., 1981, Supplement No. 2 (E/1981/12), para. 13.

"1. Reconfirms the value and importance of the principles of the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics as a means of accelerating the development of industrial statistics programmes in developing countries to provide reliable and timely information on their progress in industrialization;

"...

"3. Strongly urges that all countries should compile basic data on industry for 1983 or a year close to 1983, taking into account as far as possible the international recommendations on this subject, and recommends that developing countries should avail themselves of technical co-operation wherever necessary in order to complete the Programme successfully;"

6. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the Programme to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-second session. Chapter I of the present report was prepared in compliance with that request.

B. Action taken since the twenty-first session of the Statistical Commission

7. The recommendations for the Programme were published in English, French and Spanish. ^{3/} The English edition was distributed to countries in October 1981 and the French and Spanish editions at the beginning of 1982.

8. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, the Statistical Commission, at its twenty-first session, requested the Secretary-General to encourage regional commissions to organize, in co-operation with interested national and international organizations, training workshops to discuss the proposals and their adaptation to the regional conditions. It was thought that the workshops would be useful for developing methodological guidelines of particular significance in each region. Section F below contains a description of the regional training activities.

C. Principal objectives and content of the Programme

9. The Recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics consisted of two parts. Part One outlined the nature and content of a programme of national inquiries developed from the international recommendations for industrial statistics. Part Two dealt with the practical aspects of undertaking an inquiry, beginning with the planning and preparatory phases and continuing through to the review of tabulated data and the publication of the results.

^{3/} Recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics: part One, General Statistical Objectives; part Two, Organization and Conduct of Industrial Censuses (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.81.XVII.11 and E.81.XVII.12).

10. The primary objective of the 1983 Programme was to obtain an over-all perspective of world-wide industrial activity within the framework of an organized industrial statistics programme. This required the establishment of satisfactory estimates for key indicators on the total industrial activity of each country. In order to permit countries with varying degrees of expertise in industrial census-taking to participate in the Programme, the Recommendations contained three sets of options in respect of the data to be compiled.
11. The first option was a minimum programme which all countries were urged to undertake. The minimum programme was designed to facilitate the work of countries initiating a programme for the first time, and it involved the compilation of indicators, classified by industry, of only a few aspects of industrial activity. The coverage, however, was to be complete, permitting the establishment of a register from which a framework for the operation of a system of continuous inquiries could be maintained.
12. The indicators in the minimum programme covered information on the characteristics of the establishment, the employment and earnings, and the gross output.
13. The second and third options were presented in the complete programme, which covered an expanded list of data items. Priorities assigned to each item designated the importance to be accorded to the collection of information by countries which had developed industrial statistics and by countries which were in the process of developing them.
14. The nature of the information to be gathered, tabulated and published under the complete programme was divided into seven subject areas: (1) identification and classification information; (2) employment and earnings; (3) stocks; (4) fixed capital formation; (5) input costs, including detailed materials and energy consumption; (6) gross output, including detailed products; and (7) value-added measures.
15. Value-added was not to be collected directly but rather was to be calculated by the statistical agency from the reported input and output information. The section of the Recommendations on value-added measures included a discussion of the value-added concept used for national accounting purposes, in addition to the "census value-added" concept derived from the information normally collected from establishments.
16. Part Two of the Recommendations contained a discussion of the steps that should be taken in planning and conducting an industrial census. Particular attention was paid to problems in connexion with industrial directories, small establishments and household units, and sampling. The design of the questionnaire and related instructions were discussed, and sample questionnaires were included in an annex. Methods and problems of data collection were dealt with, together with the steps associated with data processing, tabulation review and correction, and the publication of preliminary and final results. A detailed discussion of practical sampling techniques to be used in industrial-type inquiries was provided in an annex.

D. The situation in industrial statistics in developing countries and the progress made

17. Some progress has been achieved in the availability of statistical information on industrial activity in developing countries. In the last few years, several countries or areas (for example, Hong Kong, Macau, Morocco, Oman and the United Arab Emirates) initiated annual surveys to collect basic data on industrial activities. At present, 72 developing countries or areas have initiated industrial inquiries on an annual, quarterly or monthly basis in order to collect basic data covering employment, wages and salaries, gross output, value added etc.

18. The scope of these inquiries relates, in many cases, only to manufacturing industries (International Standard Industrial Classification, major division 3 (ISIC 3)), while a limited number of inquiries also include mining and quarrying (ISIC 2) and electricity, gas and water (ISIC 4). In some countries (Argentina, Mexico and Peninsular Malaysia), inquiries are limited to selected industries. The majority of the inquiries, however, cover industrial establishments or enterprises above a certain size, in terms of employment, sales or output value.

19. As regards the concepts and definitions of the items of data, most of the countries follow the United Nations standards. The national industrial classification system used corresponds to ISIC or groupings adapted from ISIC to suit the local industrial structure. A few countries have national classification systems which, in most cases, are convertible to ISIC.

20. Most of the annual inquiries are carried out by mail, supplemented with field visits if required. The reference period in these inquiries is usually the calendar year, although, in a few cases, the data refer to accounting years. In conducting the inquiries, almost all countries have established a statutory basis for the collection of data, thus ensuring the confidentiality of the information supplied by respondents.

21. In some countries, the lack of financial and human resources seems to hamper the normal conduct of annual or more frequent inquiries and even in cases where an annual survey has been instituted, subsequent surveys are not necessarily ensured.

22. In developing countries, small-scale industrial establishments make an important contribution to certain industries. However, these establishments are, in general, outside the coverage of the annual inquiries. It has also been reported that a large number of developing countries still face problems of reluctant and unco-operative respondents; this is the case not only with small establishments but sometimes also with large establishments, and it creates a critical problem. National statistical authorities are making efforts to overcome this situation by various means (holding seminars, carrying out publicity campaigns, persuading entrepreneurs etc.). Only a few countries make adjustments for non-response in the tabulation of the results of their industrial inquiries. Some countries revise their published data every year in the light of more complete information obtained from subsequent surveys.

23. The time-lag between the inquiry period and the publication of results is generally from two to four years, although many countries are taking measures to reduce the time-lag by the use of computers and other means of expediting data

processing. In addition, some countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iraq, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) undertake infrequent ad hoc surveys of household industries and handicrafts (or cottage industries), using sampling for specified regions or industries. Other countries include this sector in their infrequent comprehensive censuses.

24. In addition to annual inquiries, a large number of developing countries are undertaking monthly or quarterly inquiries of a limited coverage and for selected items of data. The principal purpose of the inquiries is the collection of information in order to calculate index numbers of industrial production and employment.

25. The number of developing countries responding to the annual requests by the Statistical Office for general industrial statistics has been increasing over the years. The recent editions of the Yearbook of Industrial Statistics: volume I, General Industrial Statistics, contain data for about 60 developing countries, as compared with data for about 40 countries ten years earlier. However, the increase does not necessarily represent an improvement in the quality and the timeliness of the data reported.

26. The number of countries included in the Yearbook fluctuates from year to year; a certain number of countries previously included are omitted for lack of data while others are included for the first time or reintroduced after having been excluded for one or more years. Interruption of the annual surveys, national problems with processing the data and the unexplained suspension of reporting by countries are the most common reasons.

27. In processing country replies, there are often difficulties owing to inconsistency in the reported data, figures missing for activities reported in previous years, transcription errors and the year-to-year changes in the coverage of the survey. Some of the problems can be solved through correspondence or by the use of national publications. However, in some cases, national publications are not available and responses to queries are not forthcoming. In summary, the situation is still far from ideal but concerted efforts are expected on the part of a number of countries to improve the quality and timeliness of their industrial data.

E. National participation in the Programme

28. In 1982, the Statistical Office surveyed all countries in order to ascertain the extent of their anticipated participation in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. It was recognized, however, that the information available at the time of the survey might be tentative and subject to change, but it was, nevertheless, considered useful for the preparation of the present report.

29. Eighty-one countries replied to the questionnaire (22 developed countries and 59 developing countries). The replies from developing countries were distributed as follows: 20 from Africa, 24 from Asia and Oceania and 15 from the Americas.

30. Sixty countries, including 39 developing countries, indicated that they intended to participate in the Programme. In the case of 11 countries, participation will be in the form of a special comprehensive inquiry to comply with

the requirements of the complete programme. A special limited inquiry to fulfil the minimum programme is contemplated by 6 countries. Finally, 43 countries indicated that they would extend or elaborate an existing inquiry to satisfy the requirements of either the complete or the minimum programme.

31. In the case of 50 countries, the scope of the inquiry will encompass ISIC major divisions 2, 3 and 4, as recommended in the Programme. Ten other countries indicated that they planned to omit some of the activities included in ISIC divisions 2 and 4 (mining, electricity, water supply); on the other hand, 28 countries were considering extending the scope of their surveys in order to include distributive trades (18 countries) and services (16 countries).

32. In order to attain the full coverage of all recognizable establishments as recommended in the Programme, countries were requested to indicate the approach they planned to follow in respect of the following categories of statistical units: (a) all establishments; (b) establishments above a certain size limit; (c) establishments below a certain size limit; and (d) household industries. They were also requested to indicate whether they planned to cover other sources. The results of the survey indicated that 21 countries will cover all establishments, regardless of size, by complete enumeration; 38 will enumerate completely those establishments above a certain size limit (the limit varies between 3 and 100 persons engaged); 24 will cover establishments below the size limit by sampling; 6 will use estimates from other sources and 4 will omit establishments below the size limit. Government and special-category establishments will be completely enumerated in 10 countries, covered by a sample or estimated in 3 countries and omitted in 9 countries. Industrial activities in households will be included in a sample in 6 countries, estimated from administrative records in 3 countries and omitted in 13 countries.

33. It is recommended in the programme that the results of the industrial census should be classified by the four-digit groups of ISIC or according to a classification that is convertible to ISIC. In this connexion, 36 countries indicated that they would use ISIC, 21 mentioned that their classification was fully convertible to ISIC, and 3 stated that they would use a different scheme for classifying the results of the inquiry.

34. Among the countries which indicated that they would participate in the Programme, 40 considered that the existing capability and resources were adequate for carrying out the programme contemplated, but 20 countries considered that outside assistance was needed in view of the fact that existing resources might not be adequate.

35. Of the 21 countries which were not planning to participate in the 1983 World Programme, 2 indicated that an industrial census was planned for a different year, in accordance with national requirements, which precluded participation in 1983; 5 mentioned that adequate means were already available for measuring industrial activity to satisfy national purposes and that participation in the Programme was considered unnecessary; 7 mentioned that they would not participate in the Programme because they were engaged in statistical activities with a higher national priority. Four countries indicated that resources were not available for participation, and 3 replied that no decision had yet been taken.

F. Regional training activities

36. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in co-operation with the Government of the People's Republic of China, organized an Industrial Census Training Workshop at Suzhou, China, from 16 November to 11 December 1981. The workshop was designed to contribute to the development of industrial census-taking capabilities among countries of the ESCAP region, through the training of industrial statisticians. Twenty-one participants from 14 developing countries in the region attended. In addition, 50 "auditors" from the provincial statistical and other interested offices of the host country were also present. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), ESCAP, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, (SIAP, Tokyo), the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the United States Bureau of the Census, the United States Department of Commerce and the State Statistical Bureau of China provided lecturers.

37. The workshop was largely financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with some assistance from ESCAP and the United States Bureau of the Census. Apart from the discussion on the proposals for the 1983 World Programme and, in particular, its minimum programme, the topics considered at the workshop generally followed the sequence and content of the chapters in part Two of the Recommendations, that is, preliminary steps and major considerations; needs and uses of industrial statistics; general planning and organization; industrial directory, small establishments and household units, sampling, pre-testing; management and budget; questionnaires and other data-collection forms; collection of data; data processing; tabulation of data; review of tabulated data; and publication of results.

38. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with financial assistance from UNIDO and the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries, organized a Regional Industrial Census Workshop for the English-speaking developing countries of Africa. The workshop was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 11 January to 13 February 1982. Twenty-three industrial statisticians from 16 countries attended. Lecturers were provided by ECA, UNIDO and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. The topics discussed were the same as those described in paragraph 37 above.

39. An important aspect in both the ESCAP and ECA workshops was that they offered participants an opportunity to exchange views and experiences in taking industrial censuses and surveys and to discuss possible regional adaptations of the proposals for the 1983 World Programme.

40. A workshop for the French-speaking developing countries of Africa is being organized by ECA and will take place early in 1983. Financial assistance from the Munich Centre is being sought. It is anticipated that industrial statisticians from 20 countries will be invited if the necessary financial resources become available.

41. The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), with possible financial assistance from UNIDO and the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries and in co-operation with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) and the Inter-American Statistical Training Center (CIENES), is organizing a regional training workshop scheduled to be held at Lima, Peru, during April-May 1983. Industrial statisticians from the Spanish- and Portugese-speaking countries of the ECLA region will participate in the workshop.

42. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), in co-operation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and with financial assistance from UNDP, is organizing a regional workshop, scheduled to be held at Baghdad early in 1983, for the industrial statisticians of the ECWA region.

43. The Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries conducted a 17-week course in March-June 1981 on industry and handicraft statistics. The topics discussed included the theory and practice of industrial surveys, and the needs and uses of the data and their links with national accounts and input-output. The 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics was also extensively reviewed. The course, organized and financed by the Munich Centre, was attended by 23 participants from 16 English-speaking developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean region. Lecturers were provided by UNIDO, the statistical offices of the Federal Republic of Germany and India, the Universities of Munich and Budapest; individual experts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also participated as lecturers.

44. The Federal Republic of Germany provided ESCAP, for one year beginning January 1982, with an expert on industrial statistics whose services were available to assist the countries of the region, on request, in the improvement of their industrial survey systems and, in particular, in their participation in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. It is anticipated that the services of the expert could be extended over 1983 should there be sufficient interest.

45. In addition to the regional activities described above, countries may wish to utilize, for the purpose of participation in the Programme, the expert assistance available in economic statistics. Four regional advisers in ECA, ESCAP and ECWA, as well as some 17 country experts and associate experts on national accounts and economic statistics in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania, may be called upon to assist in the organization and conducting of industrial surveys.

II. TRANSPORT STATISTICS

46. At its twenty-first session, the Statistical Commission considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on shipping statistics (E/CN.3/539), which described the activities of the Statistical Office in the development of shipping statistics and the progress made since the twentieth session of the Commission. The Commission requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to direct the attention of all Member States, particularly developing countries, to the potential of the

uniform system as a tool for developing shipping statistics for their economic planning and development; to hold seminars and workshops for promoting the uniform system, to recruit technical advisers to help the developing countries in implementing the system and to make efforts to raise adequate extrabudgetary funds for these activities; and to submit a progress report to the Commission at its twenty-second session. 4/

47. The Commission will recall that a grant of \$US 680,000 from the Government of Norway for the period 1978-1981 was earmarked for the initial stages of the shipping statistics project of the Statistical Office. The objectives in the initial stages were (a) to complete the updating of the pilot study on the network of the flow of goods, published in 1976, 5/ in order to have a clear picture of the current demand pattern of shipping services of the world, and (b) to carry out the preparatory work for promoting the uniform system for collecting economic statistics of shipping, with an emphasis on developing regions. The first objective can be achieved at the international level without any significant national effort. The second objective, however, can only be achieved through the efforts of individual countries, with technical assistance from international organizations to the developing countries.

48. The updating of the 1976 pilot study on the network of the flow of goods has been completed, and detailed data are now available on the flow of goods on world sea lanes, classified by characteristics of their ocean carriage, for the years 1966-1980. Preparations are being made to compare the results of the study on the network of the flow of goods with the movements of vessels recorded daily by Lloyd's of London Press for the purpose of studying the utilization of the world merchant fleet by type, route and, if possible, flag.

49. While in 1979 and 1980 the promotion of the uniform system for collecting economic statistics took place principally in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in 1981 and 1982 the main activities occurred in the region of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). The Statistical Office adviser on shipping statistics made two exploratory trips, in March and November 1981, to assess the statistical environment in eight countries of the ECLA region. As a result of his findings, plans are under way to hold a Latin American seminar in 1982 on the implementation of the uniform system. The activities in the ESCAP region are being held in abeyance owing to the suspension of financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

50. Based on experience to date, the adviser feels that the uniform system could be promoted successfully in developing regions if adequate financial resources were made available. In compliance with the Commission's recommendation at its

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 2 (E/1981/12), para. 34 (b).

5/ Results of a Pilot Study in Maritime Transport for the Years 1966-1968 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XVII.9).

twenty-first session, efforts have been made to raise funds. The Government of Norway has pledged an annual contribution of 1 million kroner (about \$US 180,000) during the period 1982-1985. Other countries, because of budgetary limitations, were not in a position to contribute. Further efforts to secure contributions are planned by the Statistical Office.

A. Updating the pilot study on the network of the flow of goods

51. The updating of the 1976 study on the network of the flow of goods on world sea lanes 6/ for the period 1969-1975 was completed in June 1980; for 1976-1978, it was completed in September 1981; and for 1979-1980, it is expected to be completed in June 1982. Selected tabulations representing some of the highlights of the study were published in December 1980 7/; tabulations for the period 1976-1978 are expected to be published in 1982, and those for 1979-1980 in 1983.

52. The basic approach in compiling the matrixes for the flow of goods is the establishment of a data base representing the export trade for each country of the world, analysed by about 120 commodity groups according to the classification for maritime transport and by country of destination. Ninety-seven reporting countries were selected for the compilation of the matrixes for the period 1976-1978, compared with 70 for 1969-1975 and 30 for 1966-1968. Imports of the reporting countries were used to calculate the exports of the non-reporting countries. The data were then supplemented by information obtained through various other methods in order to reflect exports destined for other non-reporting countries. Thus the decreased use, in the compilation, of derived import data for the most recent periods and the fact that many more reporting countries have been able to submit data on goods exclusively carried by sea have greatly improved the quality of the results of the study.

53. Statistics for world matrixes in total commodity trade or its component trade by sea are usually considered up to date if they become available within 18 months after the close of the period to which they refer. Therefore, the study on the network of the flow of goods by sea, which was initiated in the 1976 pilot study, can be considered as completed. The data are now available in the form of exports of each country (or each coastal region of certain selected countries) for the period 1969-1980, analysed by about 120 commodity groups by country (or coastal region of a country) of destination. In addition, a complete set of computer programs has been developed which has much more flexibility and efficiency than an earlier set. The programs can easily accommodate future technological changes. With the data base available for a twelve-year time series, supported by the necessary software, a variety of statistical analyses can be made to meet the needs of analysts of maritime statistics of cargo movements.

6/ Ibid.

7/ Results of the Maritime Transport Study for the Years 1969-1972 and Results of the Maritime Transport Study for the Years 1972-1975 (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.80.XVII.13 and E.80.XVII.14).

54. The movements of individual ships are monitored daily by Lloyd's of London Press. A comparison of the details of the flow of goods, produced in the United Nations study, with the movements of ships by flag and by type of vessel (tanker, dry bulk carrier, general cargo vessel, refrigerated ship and the like) could be very interesting. Such a comparison is believed to be feasible, and preparations are being made for carrying it out.

B. Promoting the uniform system for the collection of economic statistics of shipping

55. The implementation of the uniform system for the collection of economic statistics of shipping is a task that can be carried out only by Governments, and they must be persuaded that they will benefit from the adoption of the system. In this respect, the action taken by the Statistical Commission, at its twentieth and twenty-first sessions, in inviting countries to examine the possibilities of adopting the framework of the system and in encouraging promotional work on the system among developing countries, has been helpful. In addition, it is essential to promote the system through seminars, workshops and personal visits, particularly in developing regions.

1. Latin America

56. The Statistical Office adviser on shipping statistics made two trips to Latin America in 1981. He visited Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela in order to assess whether the statistical environment was appropriate for the implementation of the uniform system. Prior to visiting the countries, he visited the ECLA secretariat's Transport and Communications Division for consultations and co-ordination.

57. In the eight countries visited, the adviser found that the statistical environment was quite conducive to the adoption of the uniform system. Some of the countries were in an excellent position to do so with no or very few additional resources. The data required in the uniform system are more complete in Latin America than in some other regions of the world. For instance, the data on the gross weight of commodities at the detailed level are universally available. Packaging information, foreign port of loading and unloading, freight charges at the shipment or lower level etc., are often available or easily obtainable. Information of the service type of ships (conference liner, non-conference liner and tramp) is readily available.

58. The adviser also found that some of the countries visited have, for years, been compiling shipping statistics similar to those designed to be produced through the adoption of the uniform system. For instance, the ministry of Transport of Brazil has, since 1974, been compiling and publishing a large number of analytical tabulations on commodities and ship movements, including data on freight charges earned by individual national and foreign shipping companies for each of about 30-40 commodity categories. The Ministry of Transport of Chile has been producing statistical analyses for recent years on freight charges of its imports and exports

on individual commodity lines as well as at their aggregated levels by flag; by individual conference and non-conference liner or tramp; and by port, country or region of loading for imports and unloading for exports.

59. In order further to explore the potential of the uniform system and the practicability of introducing it, a seminar is scheduled to be held in the ECLA region towards the end of 1982.

60. Chile has requested technical co-operation in order to begin implementing the uniform system, and a short-term consultant has been engaged.

2. Asia and the Pacific

61. The Commission may recall that the uniform system was developed in the ESCAP region in the mid-1970s. In recent years, the project for promoting the uniform system was supported by UNDP. A technician was recruited to advise the member countries of ESCAP on the implementation of the system, and several workshops were held to promote the system and to solve the technical problems faced by countries. The Statistical Office was deeply involved in the first, second and third workshops held at Bangkok in July 1976, April 1979 and September 1980. Unfortunately, UNDP terminated its financial support in September 1981.

62. In response to the invitation of the Government of China, the Statistical Office adviser made two lecture tours on shipping statistics. He also prepared a draft project document on the implementation of the uniform system for collecting economic statistics of shipping as well as the development of modern methods for compiling the external trade statistics of China. The proposed project is under negotiation between the Government of China and UNDP.

3. Africa and Western Asia

63. The adviser visited Egypt and Kenya in 1980 and will make follow-up visits late in 1982. Preparations are being made to introduce the uniform system in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). The funding available will determine when the activities will actually start.

C. Fund-raising and future plans

64. In order to solicit voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund which supports the promotion of the uniform system, a budget was drawn up for the four-year period 1982-1985 with an annual expenditure of \$500,000 to \$750,000. Envisaged is the recruitment of four or five technical experts to advise Governments on the implementation of the system and on the organization of seminars and workshops. Six workshops in different regions and two interregional seminars are proposed.

65. Seven countries were approached for contributions. In January 1981, Norway pledged an annual contribution of 1 million kroner (about \$US 180,000) for the

four-year period 1982-1985; the 1982 contribution has already been received. The Statistical Commission may wish to express its appreciation to the Government of Norway for its generous continuing support of this project. While the other six countries responded positively in respect of the worthiness of the project, because of budgetary difficulties they were not in a position to offer financial support.

66. Plans are now under way for the adviser on shipping statistics to visit the bilateral aid agencies of the countries approached earlier for contributions in the hope of obtaining commitments for future financial help. In the meantime, the project will continue within the financial constraints of the Norwegian grant.

67. The following activities are planned for the immediate future:

(a) The compilation of the matrixes on the network of the flow of goods. This involves annual updating beginning with the data for 1981;

(b) The utilization of the world merchant fleet by type, route and flag. This will be based on a comparison of the results of the study on the flow of goods with the movements of individual ships monitored by Lloyd's of London Press;

(c) The promotion of the uniform system. In the light of the encouraging developments in the ECLA region, priority will be assigned to that region. An offer from the Government of China to host a regional seminar will be pursued. Follow-up work will be done in Egypt and Kenya.
