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PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Progress report on the statistical work of the international organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report, submitted to the Commission for information, contains a description of the progress made in statistical activities within the United Nations system and the Inter-American Statistical Institute since the twenty-first session of the Commission.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report contains a description of the progress made in the statistical activities of the United Nations system and the Inter-American Statistical Institute since the twenty-first session of the Commission. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.
2. The Commission requested such a report at its twenty-first session as part of its effort to rationalize and improve the documentation on programme performance, planning and co-ordination. 1/ At previous sessions, separate progress reports had been submitted to the Commission by the United Nations Statistical Office, the regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies and the specialized agencies.
3. The structure and content of the present report were agreed to by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination of the Statistical Commission at its ninth session, held at Geneva from 29 September to 2 October 1981 (E/CN.3/1983/24, para. 5). For ease of reference and correlation with the 1984-1985 programme budget, the information presented in the present report is arranged according to the new subprogramme structure applicable to the 1984-1985 biennium as contained in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 (A/37/6).
4. The work of the United Nations Statistical Office is described under two organizational headings (see sections I.A and I.B below). In carrying out its responsibility for the provision of technical co-operation in statistics, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has been relying on the Statistical Office for substantive support, in accordance with the provisional arrangements for collaboration between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development following the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. The provisional arrangements will be reviewed in the light of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197.

I. UNITED NATIONS

A. Department of International Economic and
Social Affairs: Statistical Office

1. Major achievements

(a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

5. The following publications were issued:

- (i) Bibliography of Industrial and Distributive-Trade Statistics; 2/
- (ii) Recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics: Part I, General Statistical Objectives and Part II, Organization and Conduct of Industrial Censuses; 3/
- (iii) Commodity Indexes for the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2. Vols. I and II; 4/
- (iv) International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions; 5/
- (v) Comparisons of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy: Part Two, Conversion of Aggregates of SNA to MPS and vice versa for Selected Countries; 6/
- (vi) A Survey of National Sources of Income Distribution Statistics; 7/
- (vii) Strategies for Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade; 8/
- (viii) Provisional Guidelines on Standard International Age Classifications; 9/
- (ix) Sample Surveys of Current Interest (Fourteenth report); 10/
- (x) Survey of Environment Statistics: Frameworks, Approaches and Statistical Publications; 11/
- (xi) Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use. 12/

6. Other achievements related to the development of concepts and methods included the following:

- (i) Developed proposals for clarification, updating and expansion of the System of National Accounts (SNA), held an expert group meeting at United Nations Headquarters from 22-26 March 1982 to discuss the proposals and issued "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Review and Development of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA)" (ESA/STAT/AC.15/8);
- (ii) Completed a technical report on the treatment of capital formation in SNA and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS);

- (iii) Completed revised specification manuals for consumption, producer durables and construction for the International Comparison Project (ICP);
- (iv) Drafted a manual on consumer prices;
- (v) Conducted a survey of national practices in the use of price indexes for inflation accounting and indexation and completed a technical report on the subject;
- (vi) Extended the social statistics improvement programme funded by the United Nations Children's Fund to additional countries;
- (vii) Completed a technical report on international migration statistics, describing methods of collection and compilation of consolidated statistics of arrivals and departures, and a supplementary volume of country reports. Also held an expert group meeting on this subject in New York in September 1981;
- (viii) Completed a report on census staffing and cost requirements;
- (ix) Conducted an expert group meeting of producers and users of environment statistics in the Asian region;
- (x) Completed drafts of five technical report and guidelines on environment statistics covering energy, land, natural resources, human settlements and pollution;
- (xi) Conducted pilot country studies in the Dominican Republic and Fiji to test the guidelines and methodology for environment statistics and prepared reports on the studies;
- (xii) Held an expert group meeting at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 March 1982 to discuss the third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and issued the "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Third Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification" (ESA/STAT/AC.14/3) and "Draft of the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3" (E/CN.3/1983/12);
- (xiii) Completed a report on national practices in price and quantity measurement in external trade in the Federal Republic of Germany and Norway. The report will be issued as a supplement to Strategies for Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade; 13/
- (xiv) Drafted a directory of national practices and plans in environment statistics;
- (xv) Held an expert group meeting at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 October 1981 to discuss a draft revision of International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 14/ and issued "Draft revision of International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics" (E/CN.3/1983/9);
- (xvi) Issued a "Progress report on national and international work on social indicators" (ST/ESA/STAT/102);

- (xvii) Issued "Draft report on the review of external transactions in the United Nations system of National Accounts: Part A, Concepts, sources and methods for SNA external transactions" and "Part B, Proposed changes to the SNA and other United Nations statistical standards" (Provisional ST/ESA/STAT/103).

(b) Subprogramme 2: Application of advanced technology in collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

7. The United Nations Statistical Information System (UNSIIS) was expanded and photocomposition was used to a greater extent for the production of publications, including the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, the Yearbook of World Energy Statistics and the Demographic Yearbook.

8. The following statistical compendiums, also using photocomposition, were issued:

- (i) Statistical Yearbook, 1979/80; 15/
- (ii) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics;
- (iii) United Nations Statistical Pocketbook (World Statistics in Brief) sixth edition; 16/

(c) Subprogramme 3: National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics

9. The following publications were issued:

- (i) Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, 1979: Volume I, Individual Country Data and Volume II, International Tables; 17/
- (ii) Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, 1979 edition. Volume I, General Industrial Statistics and Volume II, Commodity Production Data, 1970-1978; 18/
- (iii) Yearbook of Construction Statistics, 1972-1979 19/;
- (iv) Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, 1980: Volume I, Trade by Country and Volume II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables; 20/
- (v) Commodity Trade Statistics (approximately 30 fascicles issued annually);
- (vi) 1979 World Trade Annual; 21/
- (vii) 1978 Supplement to the World Trade Annual; 22/
- (viii) Results of the Maritime Transport Study for the Years 1969-1972; 23/
- (ix) Results of the Maritime Transport Study for the Years 1972-1975. 24/

(d) Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

10. Issued the 1979 Yearbook of World Energy Statistics (formerly World Energy Supplies) and the 1980 Yearbook of World Energy Statistics. 25/

(e) Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

11. Completed a report containing comparisons of national product and purchasing power, which represent updated benchmark estimates for 34 countries. A questionnaire to countries to obtain data for the first issue of an annual publication on world trends in price statistics.

(f) Subprogramme 6: Social, demographic and environment statistics

12. Issued Demographic Yearbook, 1979, Demographic Yearbook 1980 26/ and quarterly issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report (Statistical Papers, Series A).

(g) Subprogramme 7: Co-ordination of international statistical programme

13. Issued a report on the data collection activities of the United Nations system (E/CN.3/AC.1/R.17). Issued the Directory of International Statistics, Volume 1, 27/ which is part of a revision of the 1975 Directory of International Statistics 28/. Volume 1 contains the classified inventory of statistical series compiled and published by the United Nations system and some non-United Nations organizations and an inventory of the machine-readable data bases of economic and social statistics maintained by international organizations, classified by subject and by organization.

2. New activities

14. Two training workshops for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics were organized by ESCAP and ECA, and instructional materials were prepared. The first one was held at Suzhou, China, in November-December 1981 for participants from the developing countries of the ESCAP region; the second one, for participants from the English-speaking developing countries of the ECA region, was held at Addis Ababa in January-February 1982. Preparations are under way for workshops for the French-speaking countries of the ECA region and for the countries of the ECWA and ECLA regions.

3. Activities cancelled

15. Activities related to the preparation of a technical report on the treatment of non-monetary transactions in SNA, a survey of country practices in compiling regional data in the national accounts and draft guidelines on the treatment of regional data in the national accounts were eliminated.

16. All work related to studies on statistical organization was cancelled.

17. Plans to extend the collection of industrial statistics to include the value

of production and stocks of selected commodities were dropped because of the limited response and insufficient information received from countries.

18. Two technical reports, one on the statistical analysis of unit values and the other on methods used in compiling export price indexes of manufactured goods, were cancelled.

4. Activities modified significantly

(a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

19. The following modifications were introduced:

- (i) The revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) 29/ was postponed to 1984;
- (ii) The following volumes of the forthcoming Handbook of National Accounting were postponed as a result of changes in priorities and the transfer of resources to the completion of other volumes of the Handbook: income distribution; balance sheet and national wealth; and uses of national accounts;
- (iii) The register of countries and areas was postponed to 1983;
- (iv) The finalization of the International Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS) was postponed to 1983;
- (v) A survey of country practices on deflation of income shares was postponed;
- (vi) A study and technical report on national experiences and plans in the construction and use of a data base in connection with population censuses was postponed to 1983.

(b) Subprogramme 2: Application of advanced technology in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

20. The co-ordination of data bases with the regional commissions has not been fully implemented. Further consultations are under way in order to develop the data-base standards which would make the exchange of data possible.

(c) Subprogramme 3: National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics

21. Studies concerning the construction of balances of stock, production, trade and consumption as well as prices of major industrial non-energy commodities were postponed.

(d) Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

22. The publication of national energy balances for selected countries was postponed to 1983.

(e) Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

23. A preliminary report on the benchmark estimates for 12-18 countries newly participating in ICP, giving fewer items and a less detailed breakdown of expenditures on gross domestic product (GDP), was postponed because of insufficient data from countries;

24. A preliminary report on constant price series for international comparisons over time was postponed because of the redeployment of resources.

(f) Subprogramme 6: Social, demographic and environment statistics

25. The initiation of international reporting and publication of environment statistics was postponed to 1983.

(g) Subprogramme 7: Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

26. Volume 2 of the revision of the 1975 Directory of International Statistics 30/ was postponed to 1983.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

1. Major achievements and new activities

(a) Sub-programme: Support of technical co-operation

27. Two hundred and seven technical co-operation projects in statistics were carried out in 103 countries in 1981, at a cost of \$30.4 million. These comprised 114 projects in demographic statistics/population censuses, 15 in vital registration, 28 in statistical organization/multi-sector statistics, 12 in economic statistics and national accounts, 21 in data processing and 17 miscellaneous.

28. As of the end of May 1982, 57 countries had expressed or confirmed an interest in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), 49 of which had officially invited project formulation missions. Project proposals for 35 countries have been formulated, and 24 of these have been approved by the Governments concerned and submitted to interested donor agencies for the provision of external resources.

29. Software packages were installed on more than 20 different models of computers in 37 developing countries; arrangements were made to train fellows from eight countries in the use of UNEDIT (a generalized editing software package for census and survey data) and XTALLY (a statistical cross-tabulation system).

30. Microcomputers were installed in 13 countries to process population censuses, in two countries to support demographic research and survey analysis and in several other countries to support planning and other statistical functions.

C. Economic Commission for Europe

1. Major achievements

(a) Standards and methodology

31. The following meetings and seminars were held:

- (i) A meeting of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing, Geneva, May 1981;
- (ii) A Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and Related Matters, Bratislava (Czechoslovakia), May 1982;
- (iii) An informal information meeting on timeliness, cost and quality attributes of statistics, Geneva, May 1982;
- (iv) A meeting on problems relating to household surveys, Geneva, June 1981;
- (v) A Seminar on Statistical Data Collection and Processing Systems Under New Conditions, Moscow, September 1981;
- (vi) A meeting of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances, Geneva, June 1982;
- (vii) Meetings (jointly with FAO) of the Study Group on Food and Agriculture Statistics in Europe, Geneva, June 1981 and May 1982;
- (viii) A meeting (jointly with ILO) on consumer prices, Geneva, October 1981;
- (ix) A meeting on general energy statistics, Geneva, September 1981;
- (x) A meeting (jointly with UNESCO) on statistics of science and technology, Geneva, May 1981;
- (xi) A meeting (jointly with WHO) on health statistics, Geneva, February 1982;
- (xii) A meeting on statistics of human settlements, Geneva, March 1982;
- (xiii) An informal meeting on frameworks for the co-ordination and development of environment statistics, Geneva, March 1981;
- (xiv) Meetings on statistics of water use and quality, Geneva, May 1981 and January 1982;
- (xv) An informal meeting on general methodological problems in environment statistics, Geneva, November 1981;
- (xvi) Plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians, Geneva, June 1981 and June 1982.

32. The following publications were issued or completed:

- (i) A Guide to Energy Statistics, prepared jointly with the International Energy Agency (IEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT);
- (ii) A study on national practices in the collection and publication of enterprise statistics in countries of the ECE region with centrally planned economies has been completed;
- (iii) A revised version of the draft "European handbook of economic accounts for agriculture" was prepared and circulated for comment.

33. Other activities related to statistical standards and methodology included the following:

- (i) Work on the European comparisons within the ICP framework continued; a consultation among group II countries was held at Vienna, March 1982;
- (ii) The conversion key between SITC and the Standard Foreign Trade Classification (SFTC) of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) was tested. A consultation to finalize the key was held at Geneva, April 1981, and the revised conversion key was issued.

(b) Research data and projects

34. The major achievements included the following:

- (i) A terminological and conceptual harmonization of the ECE publication programme in energy statistics is nearing completion;
- (ii) The over-all energy balances of ECE countries have been incorporated in the ECE regular statistical publication programme;
- (iii) Work continued on the review of the monthly Statistical Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes in ECE Countries in order better to reflect short-term economic trends in the region;
- (iv) Computer techniques were used more extensively in preparing statistical bulletins;
- (v) Standardized input-output tables around 1970 and 1975 were prepared for 22 ECE countries and sent to the relevant Governments for comment.

2. Activities modified significantly

35. The draft standard international classification of land use was not finalized as planned because of delays in testing the classification.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Major achievements and new activities

(a) Statistical development

36. The following regional advisory missions were carried out (January 1981-March 1982): eight in national accounts, three in vital statistics and civil registration, seven in population censuses and surveys, seven in data preparation and processing and nine in household surveys.

37. The following meetings were organized: an Asian subregional workshop on environment statistics, a seminar on labour productivity statistics, a working group on the evaluation and utilization of population and housing census data, a Pacific subregional workshop on energy statistics, an expert group on a compiler's manual for international trade statistics, an expert group on the design of training courses in energy statistics and an industrial census training workshop.

38. The sixteenth and seventeenth reports on Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region and a technical monograph on Household Surveys in Asia and the Pacific were issued.

39. A report on statistical training needs in the ESCAP region and a manual designed to assist countries in the compilation of international trade statistics were prepared.

(b) Statistical information services

40. The following recurrent publications were issued: Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, Handbook on Agricultural Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific and Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific. In order to reduce the time lag in the release of publications, arrangements were made to print the publications of the Statistics Division at Bangkok instead of Hong Kong.

2. Activity transferred

41. The development of a regional demographic data bank was transferred to other units of the ESCAP secretariat.

3. Activities modified significantly

42. Technical meetings on transport statistics, price statistics (Asian subregion), social statistics, vital statistics, producers and users of statistics and statistical requirements for the International Development Strategy were postponed.

43. The promotion of the National Household Survey Capability Programme proceeded more slowly than planned.

44. The development of guidelines and methodologies for statistics for rural development programmes and a study of surveys of non-conventional energy sources were delayed owing to a lack of extrabudgetary funds.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America

1. Major achievements

45. The following publications were issued:

- (i) Statistical Abstract of Latin America 1960-1980, a new publication;
- (ii) Regional Distribution of the Sectoral Gross Domestic Product in Latin American Countries (Cuaderno Estadístico, No. 6, E/CEPAL/G.1115);
- (iii) Comparisons of National Accounts and National Product in Latin America (E/CEPAL/SEM.5/L.2);
- (iv) Towards the 1980 Latin American Censuses (Cuaderno de la CEPAL, E/CEPAL/G.1131);
- (v) Bulletin of Population and Housing Census Activities, Nos. 8 and 9;
- (vi) Development of National Accounts in Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CEPAL/SEM.2/L.1).

46. The following documents were completed:

- (i) A compendium of input-output tables in Latin America;
- (ii) A draft publication on income distribution in Mexico for the period 1950-1977;
- (iii) A document on the measurement of employment and income in rural areas;
- (iv) A methodological paper on household surveys in Latin America.

47. Other major achievements included the following:

- (i) Reformulated and computerized the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America;
- (ii) Developed and made operational the data banks of external trade and household survey statistics;
- (iii) Released preliminary estimates of the economic evolution of Latin American countries;
- (iv) Conducted, jointly with the Government of Mexico, Latin American Seminars on National Accounts;

- (v) Merged the National Household Survey Capability Programme of the United Nations and the Inter-American Household Survey Programme of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics, which is sponsored by the Organization of American States, into a unified regional programme for the development of household surveys in Latin America;
- (vi) Completed, through the employment of a team of three regional advisers on household surveys and censuses, 22 missions to 12 countries in 1981.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

1. Major achievements

(a) Statistical development

48. The following activities were carried out:

- (i) Serviced the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;
- (ii) Issued reports on new surveys of statistical organization and data processing in the region and a revision of the Directory of African Statisticians;
- (iii) Agreed on the basic structure for the regional statistical data base and extended the coverage of computerized data;
- (iv) Under the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), organized fellowships and lecturing assignments, prepared guide syllabi for middle-level training, organized a working group on statistical organization and manpower and held a biennial meeting of the directors of STPA centres.

(b) Economic statistics

49. The following activities were carried out:

- (i) Maintained advisory services in national accounts and prepared a new programme in this field, placing more emphasis on the generation of basic data flows. Also continued the production of up-to-date estimates of essential aggregates for all countries of the region;
- (ii) Issued revised guidelines and priorities for the development of African price statistics;
- (iii) Maintained the processing of African external trade statistics, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office, and issued Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa (Series C, No. 2);
- (iv) Organized a training workshop on industrial statistics in collaboration with the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

(c) Censuses and surveys

50. The Statistics Division provided technical support to population censuses, civil registration and other projects and prepared a draft manual on civil registration. Technical advisory services were provided to 15 countries in the preparation of project proposals under the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP). A working group and a seminar on household surveys were organized, the latter in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany.

2. New activities

51. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers requested a new project on environment statistics; preliminary work on the project will be undertaken during the latter part of 1982.

3. Activities modified significantly

52. Owing to the lack of funding, a working group on evaluation of population census data was not able to meet. However, the project was partially implemented through the publication of the technical papers in the Statistical Information Bulletin. Working groups on statistical software packages and migration statistics will not be held, but the technical papers will be published.

G. Economic Commission for Western Asia

1. Major achievements

53. The following publications were issued:

- (i) Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, 1981;
- (ii) Statistical Indicators of the Arab World for the period 1970-1979, issued jointly with the League of Arab States;
- (iii) National Accounts Studies, the fourth bulletin on gross domestic product, national disposable income and consolidated accounts statistics of the ECWA countries;
- (iv) Studies on Prices and Index Numbers in the Arab World, 1970-1979, issued jointly with the League of Arab States;
- (v) Statistical Methods Used in the Preparation of National Accounts, Volume 1, issued in Arabic.

54. Other major achievements included the following:

- (i) Completed a report on the experience of the countries of Western Asia in the use of SNA;

- (ii) Completed the collection and compilation of foreign trade data of ECWA countries for publication in a new bulletin at the end of 1982;
- (iii) Assisted the Governments of Democratic Yemen, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in national accounts;
- (iv) Participated in the workshop on national accounts organized by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics at Amman, Jordan, May-June 1981, and in a seminar on national accounts organized by the Council of Arab Economic Unity at Amman in June 1982.

2. New activities

55. An expert group meeting on foreign trade and industrial statistics was held at Amman in September 1981.

3. Activities modified significantly

56. The Seminar on Statistics of Wealth, Poverty and Distribution of Income was deferred to November 1982, and the study on the introduction of ICP in the ECWA region was postponed.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. Major achievements

57. The 1980 and 1981 Supplement to the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics were issued. The Handbook and its Supplements provide a complete collection of basic statistical data relevant to the analysis of world trade and development. The Handbook, while largely based on international and national data sources, provides a unique compilation of data; wherever possible, they are presented in an analytical way in order to facilitate their interpretation. Use is made of rank-orderings, growth rates, percentage shares and other special calculations. For the convenience of readers, statistical classifications of particular relevance to the analysis of trade and development have been constructed.

58. Several issues of the Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin, and the Tungsten Bulletin were published.

59. Statistical and computing support were provided by the Statistical Section to all the other substantive divisions of UNCTAD and through them to the Conference, the Trade and Development Board and its committees.

2. New activities

60. A Quarterly Bulletin of Short-term Economic Indicators was developed for future publication.

61. The Commodity Statistics Handbook was published, containing comprehensive commodity statistics (covering minerals, ores and metals) and related information (for example, earnings, volume, price instability indices, changing trade shares for primary and processed commodities, growth trends, terms of trade, etc.).

62. The existing data base was enhanced by expanding, in a comprehensive manner, information about socio-economic indicators.

3. Activities modified significantly

63. The 1981 edition of the Supplement to the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics was photocomposed, using in-house programmes.

I. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

1. Major achievements

64. The following activities were carried out:

- (i) World Industry in 1980, biennial issue of the Industrial Development Survey, was published. It is an empirical analysis of structural change in industry, drawing upon data provided by the United Nations Statistical Office and other international organizations, as well as data developed by UNIDO;
- (ii) A data base was constructed containing index numbers of industrial production and base weights for the period 1963-1979. The primary object of the data base is to serve the statistical needs of researchers within UNIDO;
- (iii) The draft of Dynamic Changes in Comparative Advantage was completed, for release in 1982.

2. New activities

65. The draft of Handbook of Industrial Indicators was completed for release in 1982.

66. The following training activities were carried out:

- (i) UNIDO provided lecturers for two training courses organized by the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries;
- (ii) UNIDO provided a lecturer to the industrial census training workshop held in China in November-December 1981;
- (iii) UNIDO provided a lecturer and financial assistance to the industrial census training workshop held at Addis Ababa in January-February 1982.

II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

A. International Labour Organisation

1. Major achievements

67. The first major achievement of the Bureau of Statistics was the development of improved concepts and methods for measuring employment, unemployment and underemployment through household surveys. The Bureau's initial ideas on the subject - some of which are incorporated in the forthcoming revision of the United Nations Handbook of Household Surveys - were reviewed at a meeting of experts in 1981. A draft report and resolution on employment and related statistics has been prepared for submission to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1982; the Conference will also discuss reports on the statistics of occupational injuries, international coding of labour statistics, paid holidays and the proposed revision of the wages and hours of work component of the ILO annual October Inquiry.

68. Complementing the developmental work, the ILO is assisting developing countries to carry out household surveys of employment and related topics by actively participating in the inter-agency National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). Within this framework, four regional household survey experts have given short-term assistance in dealing with household survey problems or in formulating longer-term assistance programmes to more than 30 countries.

69. The second major achievement was the successful development of the Bureau's computerized system, significantly improving the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate labour statistics. As a direct consequence, not only has the presentation of the Year Book of Labour Statistics and the Bulletin of Labour Statistics improved, but there has also been a significant increase in the quantity of information they contain. The Bulletin now includes, as a regular feature, technical articles on the methodology of labour statistics. The Year Book contains more detailed data on such topics as (a) population, employment, unemployment, wages and hours of work classified by sex, thus providing basic international data for assessing the conditions of work of women; (b) unemployment by age-group, for the analysis of youth unemployment; (c) statistics of occupational injuries and of industrial disputes in various branches of economic activities.

2. New activities

70. Concepts and problems related to the measurement of labour cost have been studied with a view ultimately to publishing statistical series of labour cost, and work has started on the preparation of new labour force estimates and projections for the period 1950-2000.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Major achievements

71. The following publications were issued:

- (i) 1980 Production Yearbook;
- (ii) 1980 Trade Yearbook;
- (iii) 1980 Annual Fertilizer Review;
- (iv) Monthly Bulletins of Statistics;
- (v) 1981 Production Yearbook;
- (vi) 1981 Annual Fertilizer Review;
- (vii) The updated version of Three-year Average Food Balances, showing food balance sheets 1975-1977, average and per caput food supplies 1961-1965, average 1967-1977;
- (viii) A publication on agricultural support price statistics, covering the period 1970-1980;
- (ix) Methodology for the Assessment and Collection of Data on Post-Harvest Foodgrain Losses.

72. Work on other publications included the following activities:

- (i) Completed the compilation of sub-national administrative-area data relating to population and crop areas and the derivation of corresponding estimates by agro-ecological zones for all countries of Africa, the Far East, the Near East and Latin America for the study "Land resources for population of the future";
- (ii) Completed the draft and sent for printing Estimation of Crop Areas and Yields;
- (iii) Completed the draft Methodology for the Assessment and Collection of Data on Pre-Harvest Foodgrain Losses due to Pests and Diseases.

73. The following meetings and training activities took place:

- (i) A meeting of experts to advise on the work for the Fifth World Food Survey;
- (ii) Four regional expert consultations on socio-economic indicators;
- (iii) National demonstration centres for training in agricultural censuses in Peru, Jordan and Sri Lanka;

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- (iv) A regional training centre on agricultural censuses was held in Bangladesh for the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific.

74. Other achievements included the following:

- (i) Expanded and improved the Interlinked Computerized Storage and Processing System of Food and Agricultural Commodity Data (ICS) and the Fertility Data Centre;
- (ii) Initiated the computerization of data on economic accounts for agriculture and on the results of the World Census of Agriculture;
- (iii) Completed country pilot studies on socio-economic indicators in 18 selected developing countries.

2. New activities

75. The following new activities were undertaken:

- (i) Redesign of the computer support system in order to improve the processing capacity to meet users' requests more efficiently, as well as the growing need for socio-economic indicators;
- (ii) Preparation of the Fifth World Food Survey for publication in 1984, which will provide the latest information regarding the world food and nutrition situation including the quantification of hunger and malnutrition;
- (iii) Revision of the 1974 Provisional Handbook on Economic Accounts for Agriculture;
- (iv) Preparation of the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture for presentation to the FAO Conference in 1985;
- (v) Promotion of the application of a systems approach to the development and/or improvement of food and agricultural statistics;
- (vi) Development of a national system of socio-economic indicators as a follow-up to the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;
- (vii) Promotion of food consumption surveys and collection of agricultural statistics through household surveys.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. Major achievements and new activities

(a) Statistics on education

76. The main activities carried out were:

- (i) Completed a country study on the use of sampling techniques and launched another country project on the subject;
- (ii) Produced directories on the collection of adult education statistics in three Member States and organized two training seminars on the subject;
- (iii) Organized two training seminars on literacy statistics and tested a literacy projection model; organized two training seminars on methods and techniques in education statistics;
- (iv) Revised enrolment projections and produced five analytical studies, including two for Ministerial Conferences.

(b) Statistics on science and technology

77. The main activities carried out were:

- (i) Organized two training seminars on the implementation of statistical standards and methods;
- (ii) Revised the annual survey questionnaire;
- (iii) Completed three analytical studies, including two for Ministerial regional Conferences;
- (iv) Conducted field tests and prepared questionnaires for national pilot surveys on the collection of statistics on scientific and technological information and documentation.

(c) Statistics on culture and communication

78. The main activities carried out were:

- (i) Organized one national and one sub-regional training seminar, and the first meeting of the working group on the Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS);
- (ii) Launched a pilot survey on public financing of cultural activities;
- (iii) Prepared new questionnaires on archival statistics and on books;
- (iv) Completed a methodological study for the collection of statistics on languages and three analytical studies, including one for the World Conference on Culture (Mondiacult).

(d) Statistical operations

79. The 1981 Statistical Yearbook and the first issue of the Statistical Digest were issued.

(e) Co-operation with Member States

80. The Office of Statistics implemented four projects under the Participation Programme, three United Nations Development Programme projects (\$350,000 in 1981) and gave technical support to six projects that included statistical components.

2. Activities cancelled

81. A report on recent trends in educational and military expenditures in the world has been cancelled.

3. Activities modified significantly

82. The study of the scope of a Statistical Cultural Data Bank for Asia was not undertaken; it will be replaced in 1982 by a similar study for the Arab region.

D. International Civil Aviation Organization

1. Major achievements and new activities

83. The seventh session of the Statistics Division, held at Montreal in September 1981, was attended by 101 representatives from 41 Contracting States and two international organizations. The preparation of 18 working papers, covering all aspects of the statistical programme, was a major activity during the preceding eight months or so. The Division made 13 recommendations in addition to numerous suggestions. All the recommendations were subsequently approved by the Council of ICAO and are being implemented as resources permit.

84. After several years of study, ICAO adopted a policy concerning the sale of data in machine-readable form. In principle, the policy provides for the dissemination of ICAO data in standardized computer tape form on a cost-recovery basis to all customers, including service bureaux.

85. Arrangements were made for the provision of aviation statistics for the United Nations Statistical Yearbook in machine-readable form. Procedures for extending the arrangement to include the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the requirements of the regional commissions are being worked out.

86. An agreement was concluded with the Congressional Information Service (CIS) for ICAO participation in the international statistics indexing and microfiche service.

2. Activities modified significantly

87. After the Council's approval of the recommendations of the Statistics Division (see section 1 above), most of the statistical programme has been or is being modified to a varying extent and, as a result, the 15 air transport reporting forms are being revised. Corresponding changes in the statistical publications are planned for data reported in respect of 1982.

E. World Health Organization

1. Major achievements

88. The most significant development in WHO during 1981 was the adoption in May by the thirty-fourth World Health Assembly of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, primary health care being the key to the achievement of this objective. In line with the Strategy, a conceptual frame was evolved for information support to monitor progress. A publication entitled Development of Indicators for Monitoring Progress Towards Health for All by the Year 2000 ("Health for All" Series, No. 4) was issued. Meetings of experts were organized in various regions to review and recommend minimum sets of indicators for use in monitoring national and regional progress.

89. Considerable emphasis was given in 1981 to the generation of minimum essential data and their use. Intercountry workshops and consultations were held to define concepts and principles, to develop action programmes for promoting the use of statistics in health management, to improve health records and statistics practice at the family, community and primary health-care level and to work out practical procedures for counting births and deaths.

90. In addition to the main recurrent publications, World Health Statistics Annual and World Health Statistics Quarterly, the following were issued. Hospitals in the Americas, Health Conditions in the Americas, 1977-1980 and the first three booklets of a series "How to Know Better My Community" (devoted to the planning and organization of community health surveys and the use of information obtained through the surveys). A few manuals and reports on perinatal, infant and child mortality will be published in 1982.

91. A project for monitoring the requirements of countries as regards mental health statistics was completed in 1981.

2. New activities

92. In line with the major policy referred to above, technical co-operation is being focused on the development and strengthening of national capabilities to generate and use data to support their strategies for Health for All. Guiding principles are being drafted concerning information support to the managerial process for national health development. A new programme has been started for establishing projections of health trends in order to facilitate meeting future health-care requirements. The World Health Organization secretariat has begun

assembling data on indicators selected for global and regional monitoring of health progress from national reports.

3. Activities modified significantly

93. In order to evaluate fully the current version (ninth revision) of the International Classification of Diseases, the tenth revision has been postponed by five years so as to be completed by 1990. Work has been adjusted accordingly, and greater emphasis is being given to the development of the methodology for lay reporting of health information.

F. World Bank

1. Major achievements

94. The World Debt Tables 1981, the World Bank Atlas 1981 and the World Development Indicators 1981 were issued. World Development Indicators 1982 will be issued in 1982.

95. An extensive review of the uses of data from household surveys and their conceptual bases is nearing completion as part of the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS). Two conferences were held, bringing this phase of work to a close, one on economic variables and the other on aspects of human resources. In collaboration with the International Statistical Programs Center of the United States Bureau of the Census, prototype survey instruments and specifications of tabulations and analyses are being developed.

96. A handbook on the data needed for evaluating and monitoring Bank-funded projects was issued.

97. As part of the joint Bank/ILO project on income distribution, the analysis of data for Bangladesh, Nepal, Panama, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia was completed; further work of this kind relating to six countries will be undertaken in 1982. A review of present practices of measuring poverty was completed.

98. The Bank has undertaken extensive work in preparing consistent industrial statistics, along with the development of a concordance between the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). As a result, it will be feasible to undertake extensive analytical work on industrialization and market penetration.

2. New activities

99. A research project was launched to test the feasibility of collecting limited information for use in computing purchasing parities for purposes of international comparisons. The programme is being co-ordinated with the work of the United Nations Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

100. A research project was launched in 1982 to develop improved estimates of the gross national product (GNP) of countries with centrally planned economies. The project will be completed early in 1983.

101. A major programme has been initiated to improve the computing capacity through the introduction of a data-base management system. Major software developments will be initiated along with an improved hardware capacity utilizing micro computers linked to a main frame computer.

102. A statistical manual containing information on sources, concepts and methodologies of the major data sets maintained by the Bank is in preparation. It is designed to assist Bank economists and analysts in using and manipulating the data.

103. In order to reconcile the national accounts series published by the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Statistical Office with those collected and maintained by the Bank, a programme to study the differences and attempt a reconciliation was launched late in 1981.

104. A review of statistical activities in the Bank was undertaken in order to assess the current status of the work and to determine what issues of importance need to be dealt with in the future.

105. Work is under way to enlarge the energy data base currently maintained by the Bank. The present data base consists mainly of the energy series compiled by the United Nations.

G. International Monetary Fund

1. Major achievements

106. The major achievements included the following:

- (i) A draft of a guide to the money and banking statistics in International Financial Statistics (IFS) will be circulated for internal comment. An agreed draft will then be sent to national compilers and interested international agencies.
- (ii) A revision of the 1974 Manual on Government Finance Statistics will be published in the near future.
- (iii) The first draft of a Guide to the Data Fund, describing the centerpiece of the Fund's computerized data-base management system, will be circulated for internal comment. The completed Guide will be made available to interested parties.
- (iv) Bridge tables have been prepared, in consultation with the United Nations Statistical Office, linking the statistical classification schemes employed for the IMF Manual on Government Finance Statistics and the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA).

- (v) Reconciliation tables have been prepared, in consultation with the United Nations Statistical Office, linking the statistical classification schemes for the IMF Balance of Payments Manual (fourth edition) and SNA.
- (vi) In co-ordination with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an interpretative guide has been prepared for the OECD Classification of Taxes and the IMF Manual on Government Finance Statistics.

2. Activities modified significantly

107. The following activities were carried out:

- (i) Assistance has been provided, jointly with the World Bank, to develop and maintain national capabilities in the compilation of statistics on state and local governments, and on the classification of government capital expenditures by function;
- (ii) The development and maintenance of national capabilities in the compilation of money and banking, balance-of-payments, government finance and general statistics have been stressed through country missions, documenting national methodology and assisting national compilers in reconciling their practices with international guidelines.
- (iii) Regional seminars were arranged on price statistics and government finance statistics (sponsored by the Central Bank for West Africa) and balance-of-payments statistics (sponsored by the Arab Monetary Fund, the South Pacific Commission and the Central American Monetary Council).
- (iv) The following publications were issued: IFS Supplement on Exchange Rates, issued in 1981; IFS Supplement on Price Statistics, issued in December 1981; and IFS Supplement on Fund Accounts, issued in mid-1982.
- (v) An IFS Supplement on International Trade Statistics is planned for the end of 1982.
- (vi) The Fund is expanding its work on international banking statistics with a view to collecting more detailed information about the foreign accounts of banks and similar institutions.

H. Universal Postal Union

1. Major achievements

108. The statistical activities of UPU have two goals: (a) internationally, to deduce systematically the general trends of postal traffic and the means used to deal with the traffic, as well as the interdependence of postal development and growth in the economic, social and cultural spheres; and (b) nationally, to promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services.

109. Postal statistics in a loose-leaf binder entitled Statistique des services postaux were published for the year 1980. Data furnished by national postal administrations are submitted to an automatic logical and chronological control; the corrections sent by countries are published each year.

110. Statistical data, collected and published in the annual UPU publication since 1964, have been stored in machine-readable form. Since the beginning of 1982, the Statistics Service has been recording the data on the disk files of the International Bureau's new machine. After the necessary programming, the 1982 statistics will probably be processed on the new equipment, which offers greater facilities for analysing the data.

111. Utilizing this data base, the International Bureau of UPU prepares an Annual Report on the Situation of the Postal Services. The reports analysing the data for 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 have been published. The report on the 1979 data is in preparation.

112. A consultative group of statisticians has been established to give technical advice to the International Bureau.

I. World Intellectual Property Organization

1. Major achievements and new activities

113. In recent years, WIPO statistics suffered a certain loss of transparency of the industrial property situation in many countries owing to the coming into force of new international and regional treaties and conventions. The constraints, caused by the existence of simultaneous industrial property rights based on national as well as regional and international applications, have been largely overcome by modifications in collecting and compiling statistical data.

114. All data collected recently have been used to create a comprehensive data base, from which annual statistics have been printed by photocomposition. This has increased the timeliness of publication and will allow the publication of cumulative tables.

115. The production of a short publication of selected statistics has been resumed.

116. Since 1981, the development of statistics has been monitored by a working group of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information.

117. While the form and content of the printed publications will not be changed in the near future, measures have been taken for storing more detailed information in the corresponding data base, for analytical use.

2. Activities modified significantly

118. As from 1982, statistics are being collected through computer-generated questionnaires whose content has been adapted to each country.

J. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

1. Major achievements

119. Considerable improvement was made in the storage and retrieval of the tariff and trade data files for which a commercial data-base management system was adopted. As a result, the data are now available on line and the compilation of aggregates or other tariff and trade statistics can be carried out routinely. The manual compilation of international trade statistics from national trade returns was reduced considerably owing to the improved availability of and access to the statistics compiled by the United Nations Statistical Office. As a result, greater efficiency was achieved in the compilation of statistics required under the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles and for various research projects by the secretariat.

2. New activities

120. The collection of statistics concerning products falling under the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft was initiated.

3. Activities modified significantly

121. The improvement of comparability of the detailed customs tariff data and the corresponding import statistics could not be achieved at present and will have to wait for the completion of the Harmonized System of the Customs Co-operation Council. Also, the integration of international trade and industrial production statistics (scheduled under the tariff and trade data-base project) had to be postponed until the harmonization of the classifications concerned is more advanced.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Inter-American Statistical Institute

1. Major achievements

(a) Committee on Improvement of National Statistics

122. The Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS), established by IASI in 1951 and composed of the principal statistical officer of each country which is a member of IASI, held its fifteenth session at Santiago, Chile from 23 to 27 November 1981. The main topics were the future of the forum itself and household survey activities. The agenda also included statistical activities and matters pending from previous sessions, inter-American standards for communications statistics, technical co-operation, and round tables on "The 1980 censuses of population and housing" and "Price indexes".

123. Household surveys had also been considered by the Sub-Committee on Household Survey of COINS, that held its second session at Washington, D.C., in June 1981.

124. The Coordinating Board of COINS met at Santiago in September and November 1981.

(b) Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas

125. Pursuant to a proposal of the Coordinating Board, COINS was transformed into a Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas (Conferencia de Estadísticos Gubernamentales de las Americas (CEGA)). This will be a specialized organ of IASI, having greater autonomy than COINS, and will operate with joint support from IASI, the Organization of American States and ECLA. The Constitution and Regulations of CEGA are being drafted and the first plenary session will be held at Buenos Aires in 1983.

126. The Sub-Committee on Agricultural Statistics, established within COINS, was scheduled to have its eighth session at Santiago, in June 1982, as a CEGA organ. The session was to be organized jointly by IASI and FAO.

(c) Inter-American Household Survey Program

127. At an inter-agency meeting held at Washington, D.C., in March 1982, it was decided that the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) of the United Nations system and the Inter-American Household Survey Program (PIDEH) should be merged so that both would operate as one in Latin America and the Caribbean. The joint NHSCP/PIDEH will have three components: (i) methodological development, (ii) training (to be developed with the Inter-American Statistical Training Center (CIENES) as the focal point) and (iii) integrated country projects. In addition to a seminar for the heads of national household survey programmes to be held in September 1982, meetings of producers and users of household survey data will be held in three countries.

(d) Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics

128. Standards for communications statistics, proposed by a Sub-Committee of COINS in 1978, are being up-dated in cooperation with the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference. A project on statistics of railway transport, prepared with the co-operation of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos of Argentina, is being studied by national institutions and will then be submitted to CEGA. Standards for statistics of crime are being developed by the Instituto Latinoamericano de las Naciones Unidas para la Prevención del Delito y el Tratamiento del Delincuente, with the co-operation of CEGA members.

(e) Technical co-operation

129. In 1981, short missions provided advice on data banks and statistical publications to the national statistical offices of the Dominican Republic and Panama. Owing to financial constraints, it is not certain that assistance to these and other countries will continue in 1982.

(f) Other activities

130. IASI provided financial support to the seminar on economic forecasting of external trade, the balance of payments and the external debt, organized by ECLA and the ILO Programa Regional del Empleo para América Latina y el Caribe (PREALC) and held in Mexico in May 1982.

131. Conversations were initiated concerning the participation of IASI, with the United Nations Statistical Office, ECLA, UNIDO, CIENES and other institutions, in an industrial census training workshop to be conducted in 1983, possibly at Lima, Peru.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 2 (E/1981/12), para. 259.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.XVII.5.

3/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.81.XVII.11 and E.81.XVII.12.

4/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.81.XVII.3 and E.81.XVII.4.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.14.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.XVII.15.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.XVII.7.

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.3.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.5.

10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.9.

11/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.4.

12/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.8.

- 13/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.3.
- 14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.10.
- 15/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.81.XVII.1.
- 16/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.XVII.14.
- 17/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.80.XVII.11, Vols. I and II.
- 18/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.81.XVII.8 and E.81.XVII.9.
- 19/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.2.
- 20/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E/F.81.XVII.13, Vols. I and II.
- 21/ Five volumes, published by Walker and Co., New York, by agreement with the United Nations Statistical Office.
- 22/ Five volumes, published by Walker and Co., New York, by agreement with the United Nations Statistical Office.
- 23/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.13.
- 24/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.14.
- 25/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E/F.80.XVII.7 and E/F.81.XVII.10.
- 26/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E/F.80.XIII.1 and E/F.81.XIII.1.
- 27/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.XVII.6
- 28/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.11.
- 29/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.8.
- 30/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XVII.11.
