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PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Overall review of the statistical work of the international
organizations for the period 1982 to mid-1984

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains an overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system and the Inter-American Statistical Institute for the period 1982 to mid-1984. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

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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 (IASI) during the 1982-1983 biennium and the first half of 1984. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

2. The Statistical Commission requested such a report for the first time at its twenty-first session as part of its effort to rationalize and improve the documentation on programme performance, planning and co-ordination. 1/ The Commission requested a similar report at its twenty-second session. 2/

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 tenth session, held at Geneva from 26 to 28 September 1983. The information in the report is arranged according to the subprogramme structure contained in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 3/ and the programme budget for 1984-1985. 4/

4. The work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is described under two organizational headings (see sects. 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 of 20 December 1977.

I. UNITED NATIONS

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

1. Major achievements, including new activities

(a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

5. The following publications were issued or manuscripts finalized:

(a) International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions; 5/

(b) Provisional Guidelines on Standard International Age Classifications; 6/

(c) Sample Surveys of Current Interest (Fourteenth Report); 7/

/...

- (d) Survey of Environment Statistics: Frameworks, Approaches and Statistical Publications; 8/
- (e) Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use; 9/
- (f) International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics; 10/
- (g) Concepts and Methods in Energy Statistics, with Special Reference to Energy Accounts and Balances: A Technical Report; 11/
- (h) Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, vol. II: Review of National Practices; 12/
- (i) Directory of Environment Statistics; 13/
- (j) A Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics; 14/
- (k) Handbook of Household Surveys (revised edition); 15/
- (l) Compiling Social Indicators on the Situation of Women; 16/
- (m) Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women; 17/
- (n) Census Costs and Staffing: A Technical Report on Population and Housing Census Procedures, Resources and Requirements. 18/

6. The following expert group meetings were held:

(a) Expert group meeting on proposals for clarifying, updating and expanding the System of National Accounts (SNA); United Nations Headquarters, 22-26 March 1982; 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);

(b) Expert group meeting on the third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC); United Nations Headquarters, 12-15 March 1982; issued the "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Third Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification" (ESA/STAT/AC.14/3);

(c) Expert group meeting on environment statistics; United Nations Headquarters, 20-24 September 1982; issued the "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Environment Statistics" (ESA/STAT/AC.16/6/Rev.1);

(d) Expert group meeting on improving statistics and indicators on the situation of women (convened jointly with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women); United Nations Headquarters, 11-15 April 1983; issued the "Report of the Expert Group on Improving Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women" (ESA/STAT/AC.17/9);

(e) Expert group meeting to discuss the draft of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods; United Nations Headquarters, 5-9 December 1983; issued the "Report of the Expert Group on the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods" (ESA/STAT/AC.21/4);

(f) Expert group meeting on guidelines for freshwater statistics; United Nations Headquarters, 5-9 December 1983; issued "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Guidelines for Freshwater Statistics" (ESA/STAT/AC.20/7/Rev.1);

(g) Expert group meeting to review the draft of the Recommendations for a Statistical Programme for Household and Small-Scale Industries; United Nations Headquarters, 12-16 December 1983; issued the "Draft of the Recommendations for a Statistical Programme for Household and Small-Scale Industries" (ESA/STAT/AC.22/5);

(h) Expert group meeting on harmonization of international economic classifications, United Nations Headquarters, 12-16 December 1983; issued "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Harmonization of International Economic Classifications" (ESA/STAT/AC.19/9);

(i) Expert group meeting on the development of statistics on disabled persons (convened jointly with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat); the United Nations Centre at Vienna, 2-6 April 1984; issued "Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Statistics on Disabled Persons" (ESA/STAT/AC.18/7).

7. The following reports and working papers were issued:

(a) "National studies of population census cost and staffing requirements: Hungary" (ST/ESA/STAT/104);

(b) "National studies of population census cost and staffing requirements: Philippines" (ST/ESA/STAT/106);

(c) "Use of household surveys to collect statistics on disabled persons" (ESA/STAT/AC.18/3);

(d) "Development of statistics of disabled persons in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria" (ESA/STAT/AC.18/4);

(e) "Draft of the Standard International Trade Classification, revision 3 (2nd draft)" (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/34/Rev.3(2nd draft));

(f) "Draft revision of the part of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) covering activities producing transportable goods" (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/4/Rev.3(Part I));

(g) "Draft of the combined trade/production goods classification" (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77).

8. Other achievements related to the development of concepts and methods include the following activities:

(a) A preliminary report on benchmark estimates for 18 new countries as part of phase III of the International Comparison Project (ICP) was completed;

(b) A preliminary report on constant price series for international comparisons over time and replicating purchasing power studies in current prices in non-benchmark years was completed;

(c) A report on the use of population and housing censuses as single-source, multi-subject data bases; preliminary results of an inquiry to selected countries of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), was submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians Working Party on the Framework for Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics (meeting of 30 January-3 February 1984);

(d) Reports on integration of economic and social statistics - general issues in the fields of health and health service, education and housing and its environment, were submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians Working Party on the Framework for Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics (meeting of 30 January-3 February 1984) and to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Seminar on Social and Related Statistics (meeting of 22-28 May 1984);

(e) Progress reports on the integration of social, demographic and related statistics, development and harmonization of socio-economic classifications and social indicators were submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians Working Party on the Framework for Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics (meeting of 30 January-3 February 1984) and to the ESCAP Seminar on Social and Related Statistics (meeting of 22-28 May 1984);

(f) A progress report on development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women, was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session, held at Vienna from 24 February to 5 March 1982;

(g) A report on development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women and status of preparations of the compilation of selected statistics and indicators for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference, at its second session, held at Vienna from 27 February to 7 March 1984.

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

9. The following statistical compendiums were issued:

(a) Statistical Yearbook, 1981; 19/

(b) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics;

(c) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), seventh edition; 20/

(d) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), eighth edition. 21/

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

10. The following publications were issued:

(a) Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, 1980: vol. I, Individual Country Data and vol. II, International Tables; 22/

(b) Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, 1981: vol. I, Individual Country Data and vol. II, International Tables; 23/

(c) Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, 1980 edition: vol. I, General Industrial Statistics and vol. II, Commodity Production Data; 24/

(d) Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, 1981 edition: vol. I, General Industrial Statistics and vol. II, Commodity Production Data; 25/

(e) Yearbook of Construction Statistics 1973-1980; 26/

(f) Yearbook of Construction Statistics 1974-1981; 27/

(g) Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, 1981: vol. I, Trade by Country and vol. II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables; 28/

(h) Commodity Trade Statistics (71 fascicles issued);

(i) 1979 World Trade Annual; 29/

(j) 1980 World Trade Annual; 29/

(k) 1979 Supplement to the World Trade Annual; 29/

(l) Commodity Trade (by Sea) Statistics: Maritime Transport Study for the Years 1975-1978; 30/

(m) Commodity Trade (by Sea) Statistics: 1980 Maritime Transport Study. 31/

11. The work to change the weighting pattern of the world and regional indexes of industrial production and employment from 1975 to the new base year of 1980 has continued. The preliminary 1980 estimate of value added in factor values and number of persons engaged at country levels and three-digit ISIC major groups have been finalized. Those data will be utilized as weighting coefficients for the calculation of world and regional indexes on the new base which is expected to be ready for publication by the end of the year.

(d) Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

12. The following publications were issued:

(a) 1981 Yearbook of World Energy Statistics; 32/

(b) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1982; 33/

(c) Energy Balances 1977-1980 and Electricity Profiles 1976-1981 for Selected Developing Countries and Areas - the first edition of a new series of publications. 34/

13. The data base on new and renewable sources of energy has been improved and expanded and now includes information such as alcohol, vegetal and animal waste, as well as average conversion factors. Additional tables presented data on peat in the 1981 Yearbook of World Energy Statistics 35/ and on steam and hot water from geothermal sources in the Energy Statistics Yearbook 1982. 36/ This latest Yearbook also contained a new summary table on total energy requirements which showed the conventional fuel equivalent for electricity from primary sources such as hydropower for all countries and areas.

(e) Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

14. Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade: Two Studies in National Practices was issued. 37/

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

15. The following publications were issued:

(a) Demographic Yearbook, 1981; 38/

(b) Demographic Yearbook, 1982; 39/

(c) Quarterly issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report;

(d) Special Supplement to Population and Vital Statistics Report. 40/

16. Work was begun in the first half of 1984 to establish, in the Statistical Office, an international data base comprising statistics and indicators on the situation of women.

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

17. A report on the data collection activities of the United Nations system and selected non-United Nations international organizations was issued (E/CN.3/AC.1/1983/R.5).

2. Activities cancelled

(a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

18. International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS) and International Standard Classifications of All Goods and Services: Indexes were cancelled because they were expected to become obsolete in view of other developments, namely, (a) the revision of ISIC, on which ICGS is based, (b) the revision of SITC, to which ICGS is related and (c) the development of a combined trade/production goods classification and associated classifications of non-transportable goods and services linked to the revised ISIC.

19. Common Groupings of the Standard International Trade Classification and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities was cancelled in view of progress on the revision of ISIC and SITC and work towards development of a combined trade/production goods classification.

20. The publication Register of Countries and Areas was cancelled. The publication Standard Country and Area Codes for Statistical Use, 41/ supplemented by regular updates of "Country nomenclature for statistical use", appear to be satisfying the needs of users.

21. Sample Surveys of Current Interest (fifteenth report) was cancelled. The series is now planned to be on a four- or five-year cycle.

22. A technical report on the role of macro-data and micro-data structures in the integration of demographic, social and economic statistics was cancelled after several drafts were prepared. The added costs of revising those drafts appeared to outweigh the possible benefits of a sales publication on this topic.

23. A technical report on problems of classification of locality by size and type of urban/rural areas was cancelled because of the low priority assigned to it by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session. 42/ Portions of this report will appear on the technical notes in the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics.

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

24. The following publications were cancelled as a result of the review of work plans on the revision of SNA and the co-ordination of that work among international agencies in the context of the newly established Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts:

- (a) Price indexes for inflation accounting and indexation;
- (b) Manual on the measurement of factor input;
- (c) Survey of country practices on deflation of income shares.

25. The 1982 edition of the Yearbook of Public Finance Statistics was cancelled in order to prepare a new chapter on government sector statistics for the 1981 edition of the Statistical Yearbook. The 1983 edition was cancelled because of difficulties encountered in the new data processing arrangements for this publication.

3. Activities modified significantly

(a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

26. The Handbook of National Accounting series has been reorganized as a result of an SNA review project that was initiated in 1982 on the basis of proposals made by the Expert Group on National Accounts, which met in New York at that time, and which was further implemented by an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts, established to co-ordinate the SNA review work among the Statistical Offices of the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Economic Community (EEC). Those events led to the following changes and postponements:

(a) Flow-of-Funds Statistics and Balance Sheets and National Wealth were combined into one volume, Financial Flows, Balance Sheets and Reconciliation Accounts, and is now scheduled for 1988;

(b) Income and Outlay Accounts was reformulated as Income Outlay and Capital Accumulation Accounts and as Institutional Sector Accounts, but subsequently cancelled owing to restructuring;

(c) Manual on External Transactions was rescheduled to 1985. Consultations with IMF on the reconciliation of the concepts under SNA and the IMF Balance of Payments Manual will continue;

(d) Household Sector Statistics and Income Distribution was rescheduled to 1987;

(e) Uses of National Accounts was retitled Users Guide to the United Nations Yearbook of National Accounts and rescheduled to 1985.

27. A comparative study of household income distribution statistics was postponed because of the lack of responses from countries and will be issued as National Accounts: Compendium of Income Distribution Statistics in 1985.

28. The International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics was rescheduled to 1988.

29. A manual on the establishment of a system for the collection of economic statistics on shipping was rescheduled to 1988.

30. The Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part II, was rescheduled to 1986.

31. The Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part IV, the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, vol. I, and a technical report on statistics of time-use were rescheduled to 1985.

32. A technical report on the construction and use of a census data base, which incorporated a technical report on privacy and confidentiality, was postponed. The report will be completed after discussion of the world census programme by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session.

33. A technical report on small-area statistics will be circulated as a Secretariat document rather than issued as a sales publication.

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

34. World Price Trends Annual was not issued as a sales publication, because of insufficient data. The available data will be published in special tables of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics in the third and fourth quarters of 1984.

(c) Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

35. The Handbook of Energy Conversion Factors was rescheduled to 1985.

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

36. Work on the development of catalogues of economic and social statistics was postponed to a later biennium based on a recommendation by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. 43/

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

1. Major achievements, including new activities

37. Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1982-1983 amounted to \$36 million; the amount budgeted for 1984 is \$17 million. This accounted for approximately 176 projects in 84 countries comprising, in part, 84 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 48 in statistical organization/multi-sector statistics, 10 in economic statistics, 15 in vital statistics and 19 in data processing.

38. The National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) has started implementation of country projects in 18 developing countries. As part of technical studies covering aspects of household survey methodology and procedures, the following publications were issued: Survey Data Processing - A Review of Issues and Procedures; Non-Sampling Errors in Household Surveys: Sources, Assessment and Control; The Role of the NHSCP in Providing Health Information in Developing Countries.

39. The Directory of Technical Co-operation in Statistics (ST/ESA/STAT/105) was issued in English, Spanish and French. A revised version is being prepared, based on additional information and comments received from contributing agencies.

C. Economic Commission for Europe

1. Major achievements, including new activities

40. The following meetings and seminars were held:

(a) Meeting of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing, Geneva, March 1983;

(b) Seminars on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and Related Matters (ISIS Seminar), Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, May 1982 and Geneva, April 1984;

(c) Informal meeting on timeliness, cost and quality attributes of statistics, Geneva, May 1982;

(d) Meeting on statistical methodology, Geneva, November 1983;

(e) Meeting of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances, Geneva, June 1982;

(f) Informal meeting on international comparisons, Geneva, February 1984;

(g) Meeting on the harmonization of economic classifications and revision of SITC, Geneva, February 1984;

(h) Meetings (jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) of the Study Group on Food and Agriculture Statistics in Europe, Geneva, May 1982, May 1983 and June 1984;

(i) Informal meeting on general energy statistics, Geneva, December 1982;

(j) Meeting on statistics of engineering industries and automation, Geneva, June 1983;

(k) Meeting of the Working Party on the Framework for the Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics, Geneva, February 1984;

(l) Seminar on the Evaluation of Census Results and Methodology, Rome, May 1984;

(m) Meeting (jointly with the International Labour Organisation (ILO)) on manpower statistics, Geneva, May 1983;

(n) Meeting (jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO)) on health statistics, Geneva, February 1982;

(o) Meeting (jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) on statistics of education, Geneva, September 1982;

(p) Meeting on statistics of human settlements, Geneva, March 1983;

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- (q) Informal meeting on statistics of households and families, Geneva, January 1983;
- (r) Informal meeting on migration statistics, Geneva, April 1983;
- (s) Meeting on framework for the co-ordination and development of environment statistics, Geneva, October 1982;
- (t) Meetings on environmental indicators, Geneva, March 1983 (informal) and March 1984;
- (u) Meetings on statistics of water use and quality, Geneva, January 1982 and December 1983 (informal);
- (v) Meetings on statistics of air quality, Geneva, May 1983 and February 1984;
- (w) Informal meeting on general methodological problems in environment statistics, Helsinki, May 1983 and Paris, April 1984.

41. The following publications were issued or completed:

- (a) A Correspondence Table between the Standard International Trade Classification of the United Nations (SITC) and the Standard Foreign Trade Classification of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was published; 44/
- (b) Standardized Input-Output Tables of ECE Countries for Years Around 1970 were published; 45/
- (c) Standardized Input-Output Tables of ECE Countries for Years Around 1975 were published; 46/
- (d) The European Handbook of Economic Accounts for Agriculture was finalized and published; 47/
- (e) The report of the European Comparison Programme within the ICP framework (phase IV) has been finalized and sent for publication.

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

- (a) An inventory of existing international comparisons of prices and consumer expenditures has been prepared; a consultation of countries and international organizations interested in possible co-operation in the observation of consumer prices and expenditures abroad was held at Geneva in March 1984;
- (b) Work was started on the preparation of an inventory of statistics and indicators relating to the role and situation of women;
- (c) Collection of long-term migration data among ECE member countries continued; a document containing data in matrix form for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980 has been prepared and circulated to ECE Governments.

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(b) Research data and projects

43. The major achievements included the following:

(a) The terminological and conceptual harmonization of the ECE publication programme in energy statistics was finalized;

(b) The monthly Statistical Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes in ECE countries have been reviewed in order better to reflect short-term economic trends in the region;

(c) Computer techniques were used more extensively in preparing statistical bulletins.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Major achievements, including new activities

(a) Statistical development

44. The following advisory missions were carried out (January 1982- March 1984): 25 on various aspects of household surveys, 14 on national accounts, 6 on industrial statistics, 26 on population censuses and surveys, 4 on other aspects of population statistics, 11 on social statistics, 13 on data preparation and processing, and 7 on general statistical development and organization. The number of advisory missions delivered increased markedly compared to previous periods.

45. The following meetings were organized: the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics; a Pacific subregional workshop on household surveys and NHSCP; a meeting of statisticians on input-output tables; Pacific subregional workshops on price statistics and on energy statistics, expert group meetings on training courses in energy statistics and on an international trade statistics manual; and a working group on the evaluation and utilization of population and housing census data. An Asian subregional seminar on social and related statistics was held in May 1984.

46. Training courses related to NHSCP on sampling and household survey methodology, and on electronic data processing, were held in collaboration with the Government of India. A training course on energy statistics was also conducted in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Development Centre. Several series of lectures were given at these and other training courses arranged by various organizations.

47. During the past year, NHSCP has gathered some momentum in the region, largely owing to selective approaches adopted in the Asia and the Pacific subregions.

48. The seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth reports on Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region and a technical monograph on Household Surveys in Asia: Organization and Methods were issued. A manual designed to assist countries in the compilation of international trade statistics was prepared.

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(b) Statistical information services

49. The recurrent publications Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, Series A, Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, Series B, 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 have been released regularly, in certain cases with improved timeliness. The Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, previously distributed free of cost, became a sales publication beginning with the March 1983 issue.

50. During 1982, discussions were held with national statistical offices and other producers of statistics in seven countries in the South Pacific. Those meetings and discussions with the officials who were directly concerned with data collection and their supply to ESCAP have improved the flow of data to ESCAP from those countries.

2. Activities cancelled

51. Two technical meetings, a working group of statistical experts, and a seminar on the organization of statistics at the subnational level, were cancelled. Advisory services programmed in the following fields were not delivered: transport statistics, international trade statistics and statistics on distributive trades and services. Technical publications on energy statistics and industrial statistics were also cancelled. Shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding, on which over 80 per cent of statistical development activities depend, were the main cause of those cancellations.

3. Activities modified significantly

52. Technical meetings on energy statistics, transport statistics, price statistics and ICP (Asian subregion), vital statistics, social statistics (Pacific subregion), and intercensal sample surveys were postponed from 1982-1983 to the following biennium. The delivery of regional advisory services in energy statistics, environment statistics and small-area statistics was also delayed. Those postponements were related to difficulties in obtaining extrabudgetary resources.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Major achievements

(a) Data base

53. The External Trade Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean is based on a computerized system for handling national external trade statistics. The master file includes annual imports and exports at the national tariff heading level, correlated with the subregional tariff nomenclature and the international

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statistical classifications. The data stored covered at least the period 1970-1978 for all the countries of the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA) and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), and for some of them they go up to 1981. Furthermore, the data from a series of household surveys carried out in countries of the region have been incorporated into the Household Survey Data Bank. A system for the storage, maintenance and updating of chronological series from the Annual Series Data Bank was developed and put into practice, and the thematic series maintained in the secretariat were included in this bank.

(b) Dissemination of statistics

54. In the field of dissemination of statistics, the process of compiling the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America was computerized. After the Yearbook for 1980 and 1981 had been published, the 1982 edition was omitted in order to achieve greater timeliness in the publication of the 1983 Yearbook. In addition, a folder was published in order to disseminate a statistical summary of Latin America covering the period 1960 to 1980, as was a statistical Cuaderno (monograph) on input-output tables in Latin America.

(c) Publications issued

55. The following publications were issued:

(a) Preliminary Balance of the Latin American Economy during 1982 (E/CEPAL/L.279);

(b) Measurement of Rural Employment and Income in Rural Areas (Estudios e informes No. 19) (E/CEPAL/G.1226);

(c) Cuentas nacionales y producto material en América Latina (Estudios e informes No. 17) (E/CEPAL/G.1218);

(d) Report of the Regional Seminar of Experts on Comparisons of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy in Latin America (E/CEPAL/SEM.5/L.4 and E/CEPAL/G.1213);

(e) Report of the Regional Workshop on the Measurement of Rural Employment and Income (E/CEPAL/G.1220);

(f) Comparability of the Systems of National Accounts and the Material Product in Latin America (E/CEPAL/SEM.5/L.2);

(g) Tablas de insumo producto en América Latina (Cuadernos Estadísticos No. 7) (E/CEPAL/G.1227);

(h) Las Encuestas de Hogares en América Latina (Cuadernos de la CEPAL No. 44) (E/CEPAL/G.1224);

(i) Principios de un sistema integrado de procesamiento muestral (E/CEPAL/R.338);

(j) National Accounts in Latin America and the Caribbean (Cuadernos de la CEPAL, No. 45) (E/CEPAL/G.1245);

(k) Consequences of the Latin American Crisis on Living Conditions (21.X.1983/UNICEF);

(l) Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy during 1983 (E/CEPAL/G.1279);

(m) Notas sobre las transformaciones sectoriales del empleo en América Latina (E/CEPAL/SEM.10/3);

(n) Access for Information Sources on Latin American Foreign Trade Statistics (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.28);

(o) Statistical Yearbook for Latin America, 1981 (E/CEPAL/G.1281).

(d) Seminars, meetings and conferences

56. The following seminars, meetings and conferences were held:

(a) Regional Expert Seminar on Comparisons of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy in Latin America (Havana, May 1982);

(b) Seminar/Workshop for heads of National Household Survey Programmes, held in collaboration with the Inter-American Statistical Training Centre (CIENES) (Santiago, Chile, September 1982);

(c) Latin American Seminar on National Accounts (Lima, October 1983);

(d) Meetings of the Co-ordinating Board of the Inter-American Conference of Government Statisticians of the Americas (CEGA) (Buenos Aires, October 1983).

(e) Training and fellowships

57. The following training courses were held:

(a) Course/workshop on the production of statistics for national accounts (CIENES, Santiago, Chile, August 1982);

(b) Regional Course on National Accounting (Mexico City, May-July 1983);

(c) Course/workshop on the construction of national accounts on food and agriculture (CIENES, Santiago, Chile, 1983).

(f) Technical assistance

58. Technical assistance on household surveys and population censuses continued to be provided to countries of the region. Altogether, the team of regional advisers of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) carried out 39 advisory assistance missions to 21 different countries during the period.

59. Those advisory assistance missions fall within the United Nations programme for developing national capacities to carry out household surveys, for which ECLAC is the regional advisory centre. Some of them, carried out jointly with the Central Co-ordination Unit of this programme, were designed to help in the formulation of projects for channelling technical and financial assistance to assist in the execution of integrated national household survey programmes.

(g) Other achievements

60. As regards estimates of the purchasing power of currencies and the determination of real products expressed in a common currency, the Division of Statistics and Quantitative Analysis of ECLAC collaborated with the Programme of Joint Studies on Latin American Economic Integration (ECIEL) and the United Nations International Comparison Project. In the first case, the Division participated in the comparison of 18 Latin American countries in 1979, while it continued its collaboration with ECIEL on the orientation, centralization and completion of estimates on the structure of final expenditure which are to be prepared by the participating countries. Subsequently, the computerized data base was transferred to ECLAC with a view to its utilization in interregional comparisons.

2. Activities cancelled

61. The Bulletin on Census Activities was cancelled.

3. Activities modified significantly

62. Advisory services in household surveys and related activities in the framework of the NHSCP/Inter-American Household Survey Programme (PIDEH) regional programme will be enhanced to cover more subject areas and to assist a greater number of countries. A technical co-operation regional project on the measurement and analysis of living conditions, covering survey and processing capabilities, as well as the analysis and use of survey data for policy purposes, is envisaged.

63. The proposed World Industrial Statistics Programme, which was to be held during 1983, was postponed. As a support activity to that programme, ECLAC had also envisaged organizing a regional seminar-workshop directed towards regional heads of industrial censuses and surveys.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

1. Major achievements

(a) Statistical development

64. The following activities were carried out:

(a) Servicing of the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. At that session, the Statistics Division

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presented two papers on statistical development, namely, "African statistical services" and "Review of national data processing capabilities";

(b) The Division also issued the following publications: Directory of Data Processing Specialists and the Statistical Newsletter (two issues);

(c) Under the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), three new members and four new associate members were admitted in 1982, bringing a total of 15 member centres and five associate centres. The operational activities of the programme expanded during the period 1982-1983. Efforts continued to be made to mobilize the necessary resources to support the programme. In this connection, a study of the needs for statistical training in Africa was undertaken jointly by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) secretariat and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The third meeting of directors of the centres participating in STPA was held at Addis Ababa in October/November 1983.

(b) Economic statistics

65. The following activities were carried out:

(a) The Statistics Division continued the programme of developing national accounts and related economic statistics. Advisory services in national accounts to African countries, particularly the African least developed countries and newly-independent countries, have been maintained under the National Accounts Capability Programme. The Division responded to requests for advisory services from over 13 member States in the biennium 1982-1983;

(b) The work of the Division in preparing national accounts estimates for all countries of the region has continued, and efforts are being made to associate this work closely with the regional advisory services in national accounts;

(c) A Working Group on the International Comparison Project in Africa was organized in collaboration with EEC;

(d) External trade statistics continued to be reprocessed in standard quantity and unit values by the Division, in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. The thirty-second issue of series B and the third issue of series C of Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa were produced;

(e) Progress was made in the development of the Statistical Data Base, with priority given to level III.

(c) Censuses and surveys

66. Under the African Household Survey Capability Programme, the Statistics Division provided advisory services in the planning and conduct of integrated national household survey programmes; assisted in the development of methodology for the continuing collection, processing and analysis of integrated economic, social and demographic statistics from households; and collaborated with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in co-ordinating international and bilateral assistance to participating countries.

67. The Regional Advisory Services in Demographic Statistics continued to give technical support to projects in the region connected with population censuses, demographic surveys and expansion and improvement of civil registration and the vital statistics system. During the 1982-1983 biennium, about 90 country missions were undertaken.

G. Economic Commission for Western Asia

1. Major achievements

68. The following publications were issued:

(a) Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), 1982 and 1983 issues;

(b) National Accounts Studies, 1983 issue;

(c) Studies on Prices and Index Numbers in the ECWA Region, fourth issue, 1982 and fifth issue, 1983;

(d) International Trade Bulletin of ECWA Countries, first issue, 1983.

69. Other major achievements included the following:

(a) Organized the ECWA Regional Industrial Census Training Workshop for ECWA countries, Kuwait, 5 February-9 March 1983;

(b) Organized the Expert Group Meeting on Income Distribution Statistics in the Arab Countries, Baghdad, 3-8 December 1983;

(c) Participated in the Workshop on the Unified Arab System of National Accounts organized by the League of Arab States at Rabat, 15-28 November 1982. Also participated in two training workshops organized by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics:

(i) Workshop on Statistics of the Distributive Trade and Services, Amman, 3-31 October 1983;

(ii) Workshop on Index Numbers, Damascus, 3-30 December 1983;

(d) Assisted the Governments of Democratic Yemen, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic in national accounts.

2. Activities cancelled

70. The National Accounts Studies, 1982 issue, was cancelled because of post vacancies.

71. The Conference of ECWA Statisticians was not established as scheduled in 1983 and was postponed to the 1984-1985 biennium.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. Major achievements, including new activities

72. The 1983 Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics was 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.

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

74. Statistical and computing support were provided by the Statistical Section to all the other substantive divisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and through them to the Conference, the Trade and Development Board and its committees.

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

76. A report on financial solidarity for development was prepared, containing a statistical annex showing detailed statistics of flows of financial resources (loans, grants etc.) from the member States of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to developing countries for the period 1973 to 1981. The next report on that subject will appear towards the end of 1984 and will cover the period 1977 to 1983.

77. 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.).

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

79. A statistical pocket-book is in preparation, its publication is scheduled for autumn 1984 to coincide with the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of UNCTAD.

3. Activities modified significantly

80. The 1983 edition of the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics was photocomposed, using in-house programmes.

I. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

1. Major achievements, including new activities

81. The following activities were carried out (publications (i) to (vi) mentioned below draw upon data provided by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as data developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)):

(a) Industry in a Changing World, biennial issue of the Industrial Development Survey, was published. This is a major background document submitted to the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO. It is a statistical analysis of structural change and industrial output, employment, productivity and trade;

(b) Changing Patterns of Trade in World Industry: An Empirical Study on Revealed Comparative Advantage was published. This statistical analysis of 130 industries in more than 40 countries shows the changes in revealed comparative advantage;

(c) Handbook of Industrial Statistics was published. This biennial publication provides statistical measures relating to patterns of consumption, industrial growth and the composition of manufacturing output;

(d) A Statistical Review of the World Industrial Situation was published in 1982 and 1983. The document provides a summary of statistical trends in world industry as well as in major economic groupings in developing regions;

(e) World Non-Electrical Machinery: An Empirical Study of the Machine Tool Industry was published. This is a statistical analysis of long-term trends in production and trade in the machine tool industry;

(f) Asian Industry in Figures was published. This is a detailed statistical analysis of the manufacturing sector and trade performance in selected Asian countries;

(g) An Inventory of Industrial Statistics in the UNIDO Data Base was published. This publication documents the coverage and types of data maintained in the UNIDO data base;

(h) In collaboration with ECA and the Munich Centre for Advanced Training, UNIDO provided financial assistance and a lecturer to the industrial training workshop held at Dakar, Senegal, in January-February 1983.

3. Activities modified significantly

82. The UNIDO data base has been extended to include gross output, value added, wages and salaries and employment, as well as index numbers of industrial production. The data base incorporates information provided by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as data compiled and/or developed by UNIDO. It is intended to serve the needs of researchers within UNIDO, but is also available to users outside the organization.

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

A. International Labour Organisation

1. Major achievements, including new activities

83. The Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians was held in October 1982. The following items were on the agenda of the Conference: general report; labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment; occupational injuries; revision of the ILO October Inquiry on Occupational Wages; international coding of labour statistics; paid holidays. The Conference adopted two resolutions: one on statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment; the other on statistics of occupational injuries. It also, inter alia, expressed support for a revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

84. In connection with the implementation of the resolution on statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, work started on a manual on the surveys at Kerala, India, and Costa Rica in order to examine technical issues that needed field testing. Those field studies also tested the feasibility of identifying and measuring employment in the informal sector through household labour force surveys. The latter is linked to the current work programme on informal sector statistics for which an interim paper has been prepared.

85. Following a decision of the Governing Body of ILO in November 1982, ILO Convention No. 63 concerning statistics of wages and hours of work is being revised. Proposals for a new convention that will cover basic labour statistics will be examined by the International Labour Conference at its seventieth session in 1984.

86. Work started on new editions of the Technical Guide. It will now appear as a four-volume serial publication to be entitled: Sources and Methods: vol. I, Consumer price indices; vol. II, Employment, wages and hours of work from establishment surveys; vol. III, Economically active population, employment, unemployment and hours of work from household surveys; vol. IV, Employment, unemployment, wages and hours of work from administrative records and related sources.

87. The ILO October Inquiry on wages and hours of work in selected occupations has been completely revised and expanded. The old questionnaire (used by ILO in the past) as well as a new questionnaire covering 123 supplementary occupations have been sent out to Governments for completion.

88. A feasibility study on a new International Standard Classification of Occupations has been undertaken and preparatory work on the new ISCO has started.

89. The Year Book of Labour Statistics now publishes data on labour costs.

2. Activities cancelled

90. The work of ILO on household income and expenditure statistics was cancelled for the period 1982-1983.

3. Activities modified significantly

91. Most of the Bureau's activities have been modified with a view to improving significantly the quality of statistical activities. In the first half of 1984, work was started to improve the ILO October Inquiry of Retail Prices, to prepare new international recommendations on consumer price indices and to study statistics of labour turnover and absenteeism.

B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. Major achievements, including new activities

(a) Statistics on education

92. The main activities carried out were the following:

(a) Undertook work on new methods for measuring the internal quantitative efficiency of educational systems and on the preparation of a revised manual on adult education statistics;

(b) Organized nine national training seminars in the area of educational statistics and three seminars (two regional, one national) in the area of adult education and literacy statistics;

(c) Produced seven analytical studies on subjects of particular interest (world school-age population, education in the least developed countries, educational attainment and illiteracy, students abroad, revised enrolment projections, vocational education, wastage in schools);

(d) Produced four reference documents for regional and international ministerial conferences on education.

(b) Statistics on science and technology

93. The main activities carried out were the following:

(a) Organized three regional training seminars on the implementation of statistical standards and methods;

(b) Completed nine analytical and methodological studies, including one for a ministerial regional conference;

(c) Prepared a provisional guide to statistics on scientific and technological information and documentation activities and conducted feasibility studies on data collection in this field;

(d) Organized a meeting of experts to discuss scope and methodology of collecting statistics on scientific and technological education and training at broadly the third level, and conducted an exploratory inquiry regarding availability of such data and a feasibility study.

(c) Statistics on culture and communication

94. The main activities carried out in those areas were the following:

(a) Organized two national training seminars and one subregional training seminar on culture and communication statistics, and two meetings of the working group on the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics;

(b) Launched the first international surveys on archival statistics and on statistics of public financing of cultural activities;

(c) Conducted a pilot survey in some 40 countries, with a view to exploring the possibility of including more economic statistics relative to the field of publishing;

(d) Produced a number of analytical studies relating to the international production of books and pamphlets, the international exchange of those cultural goods and the quantitative changes in the mass media throughout the world during the past decades.

(d) Statistical operations

95. The Statistical Yearbook for 1982 and 1983 and the Statistical Digest for 1982 and 1983 were issued. A trilingual (Arabic/English/French) Statistical Yearbook (Arab Member States) was also produced in 1982 for the first time.

(e) Participation and technical co-operation programmes

96. The Office of Statistics implemented 12 projects under the Participation Programme and the Special Account, two United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) projects (one of which as an associated agency) and gave technical support to seven projects that included statistical components. It also organized, with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority, training seminars on education statistics in six African countries.

C. International Civil Aviation Organization

1. Major achievements, including new activities

97. Since 1982, a major effort has been made to implement the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Statistics Division, which met at Montreal in September 1981. All the 15 air transport reporting forms have been revised and issued to States.

98. A new edition of the Manual on the Statistics Programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which provides guidance for the users and providers of ICAO statistics, has been issued. This edition incorporates all the changes that have been made in the Programme.

99. Arrangements for dissemination of civil aviation statistics in computer tape form have been further developed so that, for a standard charge, users can purchase any of the tapes corresponding to a digest of statistics.

100. A survey of user needs for data that are or could be supplied by ICAO, and difficulties that providers of data may be experiencing, was conducted among member States and selected international organizations. Although responses were too limited and diverse to permit drawing general conclusions of substance, it seems that the ICAO Statistics Programme is reasonably well-balanced.

2. Activities modified significantly

101. Following the ICAO Council's approval of recommendations of a study group, a completely revised basis for the collection of airport financial data has been introduced and an appropriate reporting form issued to States for reporting of 1983 data. The revised programme supersedes an experimental collection which was first established in 1976.

D. World Health Organization

1. Major achievements

102. A major development in WHO during 1982 was the adoption by the thirty-fifth World Health Assembly of a plan of action for implementing the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000. During the biennium, a process of monitoring progress in implementing the plan of action was carried out in many countries, and by the end of 1983, 120 of the 161 member States had submitted progress reports to WHO, a coverage of 75 per cent. Those reports contained a great deal of statistical information on a number of indicators of health status, such as coverage by immunization, water supply and sanitation, birth weight, infant mortality, and life expectancy at birth.

103. Also in 1982, the Seventh General Programme of Work was published, covering the period 1984 to 1989. In line with new developments foreseen in that document, the health statistics programme at WHO was merged in 1982 with the epidemiology activities into a new Health Situation and Trend Assessment Programme (HSATAP). This Programme is aimed at providing the technical arm and information support for the implementation and evaluation of national, regional and global strategies for achieving the target of Health for All by the Year 2000.

104. In pursuance of those aims, during the biennium WHO co-operated in developing or reorienting information support in 23 countries, supported the development of hospital record and management systems in 11 countries, and collaborated with 13 countries in carrying out surveys on morbidity or mortality, or in

standardization of data collection methods. Courses on health statistics and health records were held in many countries, and a number of teaching manuals and aids were prepared for publication, including "Sampling: how to select people, households, places to study community health", published in 1982. A conference on health statistics for the year 2000, jointly sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation and WHO, was held in 1982. Working groups on projections of mortality, morbidity and disability in Europe, and on projections of health resources and use of health services, were held at the Regional Office for Europe. Methodologies for ascertaining requirements and potential supply of health manpower were produced in nine developing countries. New WHO collaborating centres were designated in Rome (for health and disease surveillance), and at Addis Ababa and Rennes, France (for health records).

105. The World Health Organization collaborated with the United Nations on the health component of a national household survey capability programme in Ethiopia, and with the International Epidemiological Association in the development of positive indicators of health.

106. In addition to the World Health Statistics Quarterly and the World Health Statistics Annual, the following were published during the biennium: Mortality in South and East Asia: A Review of Changing Trends and Patterns, 1950-1975; Digest of European Health Statistics; Health Conditions in the Americas, 1977-1980; Basic Health Indicators for Member States (Eastern Mediterranean Region) and Bulletin of Regional Health Information (South-East Asia Region).

2. New activities

107. The Programme will work to strengthen the capacity of member States to collect valid and up-to-date statistical and other information required for the planning, operation, monitoring and evaluation of their health systems. This will necessitate the use of procedures that are as simple and inexpensive as possible, and the choice of indicators that are appropriate to the socio-economic and health situation and that are sufficiently selective to be meaningful. To ensure that information produced is relevant to needs and is being used to improve planning and decision-making, better communication between producers and users of health information will be promoted.

108. In collaboration with other programmes charged with the development of health infrastructure and specific aspects of primary health care, HSATAP will work with national authorities to evaluate the capacity of those countries to provide information support to their health systems, and the need for new epidemiological and statistical methodology.

109. In training health personnel, especially those with epidemiological, statistical and managerial responsibilities, emphasis will be placed on the collection, analysis and use of information for health management, and on the use of information on health trends to reshape training programmes according to the present and foreseeable needs. The training of epidemiologists will stress the synthesis of information based on epidemiological analysis to make it useful for the planning and operation of health systems.

110. With those principles in mind, the following activities are proposed:

(a) Review of national epidemiology and statistics training programmes in all regions, to define the need for development of new programmes meeting the requirements of information support for health management;

(b) Promotion and establishment in appropriate countries of in-service epidemiology and statistics training programmes for national and senior level health service managers, and the development of links of technical co-operation among developing countries, where appropriate.

3. Activities to be modified significantly

111. The preparation of the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), which was scheduled for 1985, has been postponed for about five years in order to allow sufficient time for evaluating the present ICD-9. It will, therefore, be possible to adopt a new approach in ICD-10. It has been suggested that WHO should develop not just a single multiple-purpose classification, but rather a family of classifications. The family will consist of a "core" classification which will be used for normal morbidity and mortality coding, and a number of related classifications to suit the needs of particular aspects of health care. These would be as closely compatible as possible with the "core".

112. The content of the three publications of the programme will be continuously reviewed to ensure its relevance to national health development. This will involve including commentaries on the national, regional and global health situation and trends. The three publications are the Weekly Epidemiological Record, the World Health Statistics Quarterly and the World Health Statistics Annual.

E. World Bank

1. Major achievements

(a) Income distribution and living standards measurement

113. The analysis of survey data continued and estimates of income distribution were prepared on a standardized basis for a dozen countries during the period under review. At the same time, the Living Standards Measurement Study took up work designed to define the conceptual basis for the collection and analysis of data on living standards. The World Bank worked closely with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and several other agencies.

(b) International Comparison Project

114. A research project designed to estimate purchasing power parity-based estimates of gross national product (GNP) was carried out during the period under review. Data were collected in a selected number of countries to assess the feasibility of using limited information sets to compute purchasing power parities. These will be compared with the results obtained from phase IV of the ICP study.

(c) Computing activities

115. The World Bank commenced work on developing a comprehensive data base management system. The objective is to integrate various data bases and to provide a service to a large variety of users within the World Bank in a user-friendly environment. New hardware was acquired and consultants were engaged to develop the data base management system. This project is still under way and will not be completed until late 1985.

(d) Improvement of international comparability of national accounts data

116. The World Bank computes GNP per capita estimates in United States dollars and uses these in the operational context. Those estimates, published in the World Bank Atlas, are also used by a variety of other agencies. The World Bank, recognizing that methodological and coverage deficiencies affect comparability of such estimates, embarked on a work programme reviewing both the underlying data and the procedures used in converting the national currency GNP figures into United States dollars. An external panel reviewed current procedures and made recommendations as to how the computations could be improved and comparability enhanced. A set of proposals emerging from the study were considered by the World Bank's Board of Directors, and endorsed. The World Bank has now embarked on a medium-term programme to implement the recommendations of the panel. The programme of work will entail a review of the quality of the GNP estimates and assess the appropriateness of exchange rates for purposes of conversion. During the period, the World Bank also undertook a study of how estimates of national product based on the System of Balances of the National Economy could be recalculated to derive GNP estimates. The study has been completed and the findings will be published in the near future.

(e) External debt statistics

117. The World Bank continued its efforts to improve the reporting of external debt statistics by a number of Governments. Some 30 to 40 country missions per year were carried out. The missions provided advice and assistance to member countries for the improvement of debt recording and reporting systems, including the establishment of computerized debt systems and of machine-assisted reporting of data. In addition, the World Bank prepared overall estimates of private non-guaranteed debt, not covered and captured in the Data Reporting System. The World Bank continued to collaborate with the regional banks, OECD and IMF in improving the coverage of debt data.

(f) Data needed for monitoring and evaluation

118. A manual was produced for use in member countries to enable them to define the collection procedures for assembling data needed for project implementation, evaluation and monitoring. The manual covered issues of data content and survey design and the technology needed for collecting and processing such data.

(g) Technical assistance

119. During the period under review, the World Bank carried out a number of statistical missions to member countries, which reviewed statistical systems and organizations. Those reviews made specific recommendations for improving and developing statistical and information systems. Several of those reviews led to the financing of statistical development projects by the World Bank, UNDP and bilateral aid agencies. In addition, the World Bank's economic and sector missions to member countries engaged in discussions with statistical agencies and provided limited technical advice for improving macro-economic statistics.

F. International Monetary Fund

1. Major achievements, including new activities

120. The following publications were issued:

- (a) The monthly statistical publication, International Financial Statistics;
- (b) The International Financial Statistics Yearbook, 1982, and The International Financial Statistics Yearbook, 1983;
- (c) Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook, vol. 33 (1982) and vol. 34 (1983);
- (d) Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook, 1982, and Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook, 1983; and
- (e) Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, vol. VI (1982) and vol. VII (1983).

121. Additional volumes were published in the series of statistical supplements to International Financial Statistics, containing historical data on special topics. Supplements on the Fund Accounts (the third in the series) and on Trade Statistics (the fourth) were issued in 1982. The fifth and sixth Supplements, on Money and International Reserves, respectively, were issued in 1983. In 1984, Supplements will be issued on the Balance of Payments and on Output Statistics.

122. The first results of the Fund's project on international banking statistics were published in the January 1984 issue of International Financial Statistics. The tables containing the new series are now published regularly in International Financial Statistics; further expansions in coverage are envisaged.

123. The development and maintenance of national capabilities in the compilation of money and banking, balance of payments, government finance, international banking and external debt, and general statistics continued as a major activity. Emphasis was placed on technical assistance missions to IMF member countries, including the documenting of national methodology and assistance to national compilers in reconciling their practices with international guidelines.

124. The Guide to the Data Fund (the IMF computerized data-base management system) was issued in 1982.

125. In co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the Bureau of Statistics of IMF completed a questionnaire seeking information on the availability of separate data as "building blocks" for external transactions. Information derived from the questionnaires for a representative group of countries will be summarized for publication in 1985.

126. Work commenced in 1983 on the development of syntheses of statistics on the external debt of IMF member countries. This activity involves analysis of existing data sources within IMF, and at the national level, as well as sources available through data collections of other international organizations.

127. A meeting on external debt statistics (jointly with the World Bank, the Bank for International Settlements, OECD, and the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers) was held in March 1984.

128. In conjunction with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, a questionnaire was prepared for dispatch to selected countries, as a basis for determining linkages between the classification schemes embodied in the IMF Manual on Government Finance Statistics and the United Nations System of National Accounts.

129. Work continued, jointly with the World Bank, on the development and maintenance of national capabilities in the compilation of statistics on State and local governments, and on the classification of government capital expenditures by function.

130. Regional seminars were arranged on balance-of-payments statistics (sponsored by the Arab Monetary Fund and the Central American Monetary Council) and on government finance statistics (sponsored by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank).

2. Activities modified significantly

131. The "Draft Guide to Money and Banking Statistics" in International Financial Statistics will be completed around mid-1984, at which time it will be sent for comments to IMF member countries and interested international organizations.

132. A revision of the Draft Manual on Government Finance Statistics will be completed and published in the second half of 1984.

133. The computing functions of IMF were centralized in a new Bureau of Computing Services. In the area of statistics, work commenced on the development of the Economic Information System, to replace the Data Fund System as the IMF data base management system.

G. Universal Postal Union

Major achievements, including new activities

134. The statistical activities of the Universal Postal Union (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.

135. Postal statistics in a loose-leaf binder entitled Statistique des services postaux were published for the year 1981 (those for 1982 are being printed). Data furnished by national postal administrations are submitted to an automatic logical and chronological control; the corrections sent by countries are published each year.

136. 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 computer, which was used to process some of the 1981 statistics and all of those for 1982. Moreover, the new equipment now makes it possible to include with each questionnaire sent out to collect the statistics for a given year a summary of the information received over the previous five occasions. This should give an additional a priori control.

137. On the basis of existing data, a report on the situation of the postal services during the five years from 1977 to 1981 was prepared for the information of the UPU Congress, held in Hamburg from 18 June to 27 July 1984. That document takes the place of the annual report on the situation of the postal services. Henceforth, only two reports will be published in the period between Congresses, one covering a shorter three-year period and the other a five-year period whose median year is that of the previous Congress.

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

H. World Intellectual Property Organization

Major achievements, including new activities

139. In recent years, the statistics programme of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was adversely affected by the industrial property situation in many countries owing to the coming into force of new international and regional treaties and conventions. Those constraints will be overcome to a large extent by appropriate modifications in collecting and compiling statistical data.

140. All data recently collected have been used to create a comprehensive data base, from which annual statistics have been printed by photocomposition. This has

increased the expediency of publication and will in future also allow the publishing of cumulative tables.

141. In 1983, on the occasion of the centenary of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, 48/ a data base covering the past 100 years of industrial property statistics was created and a 300-page compilation published (WIPO publication No. 876).

142. In 1984, recommendations for the further development of WIPO statistics have been formulated by a competent Working Group of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information.

143. Whereas the form and content of the printed publications will not be changed in 1984, the necessary measures have been taken for storing even more detailed information in the corresponding data base, for the purpose of specific analytical work.

I. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Major achievements, including new activities

144. Emphasis has been put on the improvement of the timeliness, comparability and internal consistency of the various production, trade, consumption and price statistics collected under the arrangements or agreements concluded under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) (textiles, dairy, bovine meat, civil aircraft, government procurement) and of the data required for customs tariff assessments and economic research projects. For trade statistics, intensive use is made of the data prepared and stored in the COMTRADE system by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

145. The tariff and trade data files have been updated to include the year 1982. Compilation of aggregates or other tariff and trade statistics is being routinely carried out to meet internal needs of GATT and of the Contracting Parties. A new data base system is being prepared. It will contain information that will be required for the tariff negotiations prior to the introduction of the Harmonized System of the Customs Co-operation Council.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Inter-American Statistical Institute

Major achievements, including new activities

(a) Organization

146. In 1983 the constitution of the Institute was revised, through a referendum, to establish the Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas (CEGA) as a specialized organ of the Institute. Also in 1983 negotiations were initiated for a new Agreement to regulate the relationship between the Institute and the Organization of American States (OAS).

(b) Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas

147. The Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas held its first session at Buenos Aires from 3 to 8 October 1983. The main topics were household survey activities and standards for railways, communications, energy and crime statistics. The agenda also included the approval of a constitution and regulations for CEGA, consideration of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Agricultural Statistics, and national statistical activities.

148. The Sub-Committee on Agricultural Statistics held its eighth session at Santiago, Chile, in June 1982. The session was organized jointly by the Institute and FAO.

149. The Co-ordinating Board of CEGA met at Buenos Aires in December 1982, and in May and September 1983.

(c) Regional Household Survey Development Programme NHSCP/PIDEH

150. The activities of this Programme are developed in close co-operation with OAS and ECLAC, and depend on the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development. The main activities during the 1982-1983 biennium were: an inter-agency meeting, held at Washington, D.C. in March 1982, at which it was decided to merge into a consolidated programme the activities developed in Latin America and the Caribbean under NHSCP and PIDEH; a seminar of heads of national household survey programmes, held at Santiago, Chile, in September 1982; national seminars of producers and users of household survey data, held in Panama and Jamaica in July 1983; a national seminar on the use of a household survey to measure urban-rural labour markets, held at Buenos Aires in September 1983; and the publication of Working Paper No. 1, Guidelines and Recommendations for Experimental Activities and Pilot Surveys.

(d) Inter-American Programme of Basic Statistics

151. New standards for railway statistics and communication statistics were established. A project of standards for energy statistics are being developed with the co-operation of the Energy Information Administration of the United States Department of Energy. 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.

Notes

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

2/ Ibid., 1983, Supplement No. 2 (E/1983/12), para. 112 (b).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6), chap. 22.

- 4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6).
- 5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.14.
- 6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.5.
- 7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.9.
- 8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.4.
- 9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.8.
- 10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.8.
- 11/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.13.
- 12/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.11.
- 13/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.12.
- 14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.12.
- 15/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.13.
- 16/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.2.
- 17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.3.
- 18/ Manuscript completed; will be issued as a sales publication in the fourth quarter of 1984.
- 19/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.83.XVII.1.
- 20/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.2.
- 21/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.10.
- 22/ United Nations publications, Sales No. E.82.XVII.6, vols. I and II.
- 23/ United Nations publications, Sales No. E.83.XVII.3, vols. I and II.
- 24/ United Nations publications, Sales No. E.82.XVII.11 and E.83.XVII.12.
- 25/ United Nations publications, Sales No. E.83.XVII.5 and E.83.XVII.6.
- 26/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.15.
- 27/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.9.
- 28/ United Nations publications, Sales No. E/F.82.XVII.7, vols. I and II.

29/ Five volumes, published by Walker and Co., New York, by agreement with the Statistical Office of the United Nations of the Secretariat.

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

31/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.11.

32/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.82.XVII.16.

33/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.84.XVII.4.

34/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.4.

35/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.4.

36/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.4.

37/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.7.

38/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.82.XIII.1.

39/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.83.XIII.1.

40/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.2.

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

42/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 2 (E/1981/12), para. 134.

43/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38) part two, para. 136.

44/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/R.82.II.E.10.

45/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.II.E.23.

46/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.II.E.24.

47/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.E.12.

48/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 828, No. 11846, p. 3.
