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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report provides a summary of the future plans in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and of several international organizations outside the system. For most organizations, it covers the principal activities planned until the end of 1989. The summaries for the United Nations organizations reflect the revisions made to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 at the end of 1983 and to the approved work programmes for the period 1984-1985. The summaries include the general future orientation and important planned changes in the activities of the organizations, that is, new activities, activities to be cancelled and activities to be modified significantly. Points for discussion by the Commission are included (para. 159).

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The present report provides the Statistical Commission with a summary of the future plans in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and several international organizations outside the system. For most of the organizations, it covers the principal activities planned up to 1989, the end of the period for which medium-term plans are being prepared in the United Nations system. The report is necessarily very selective in coverage owing to its restricted size. The general orientation of the future work of each organization is given first. That description is followed, wherever possible, by new activities, activities to be cancelled and activities to be modified significantly. Routine, continuing activities, such as the issuance of recurrent publications, are not generally reported. The summaries included in this report for United Nations organizations reflect revisions made to the medium-term plans at the end of 1983 and to the approved work programmes for the period 1984-1985.

2. The Statistical Commission first requested the present report at its twenty-first session 1/ as part of its effort to rationalize and improve the documentation on programme performance, planning and co-ordination, and it repeated that request at the twenty-second session. 2/ Information about plans in high-priority areas had been provided to the Commission at previous sessions, and at the twenty-first session they had been included in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Review of achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1981-1985" (E/CN.3/558).

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.

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 relied 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. General orientation

5. The statistics programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat will make provision for work on the following topics during the period 1984-1989:

- (a) The development of concepts and methods, with particular efforts directed towards meeting the needs of countries at various levels of development;
- (b) Improved statistical operations, including the application of advanced computer and related techniques;
- (c) Support of technical co-operation activities, with special emphasis on establishing permanent statistical capabilities in countries, including household survey capabilities and statistical data processing capabilities, and the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries through training workshops and the exchange of statistical experience;
- (d) The collection, processing and publication of statistics, including extended time series of basic data for the analysis of long-term economic and social change at the national, regional and global levels;
- (e) Co-ordination of the international statistical system to create a world statistical system (international and national agencies) that is conceptually consistent and technically integrated.

## 2. New activities

### (a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

6. Work on the national accounts will emphasize the review of the national accounting standards to prepare for a revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA), as well as the development and revision of the expanded framework for reconciliation of SNA and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS). The review of the national accounting standards will be reflected in specific studies to clarify the present SNA concepts in the light of countries' practices, to update those standards in order to take changing institutional arrangements into account in the definition of transaction and transactor concepts, and above all to reconcile the national accounting standards with those of alternative national accounting systems, such as the European System of Accounts (ESA) and (MPS), with standards of related systems of statistics such as those designed by the International Monetary Fund for balance of payments and government finance statistics, and with standards used by countries in the compilation of input-output tables, income distribution statistics, financial flows and balance sheets statistics, and also quarterly accounts and regional accounts. The latter types of reconciliation are defined in conceptual terms, but additional work is needed to make those reconciliations practically operational on the national as well as the international level.
7. Work on economic classifications will involve the completion of the indexes to the forthcoming revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3, and the development of a combined trade/production classification.

8. In price statistics, the main emphasis will be on the further development and consolidation of international recommendations and guidelines and their articulation within the SNA/MPS framework, the clarification of concepts, definitions and classifications and the study of the consistency and adequacy of the overall system. The International Comparison Project (ICP) in co-operation with the inter-organizational group on ICP will continue to study methods for linking groups of countries from different regions and with different economic structures, to seek to formulate improved principles of item selection for price comparisons, and to improve comparisons for non-marketed goods and services. ICP will also be investigating problems of estimation in non-benchmark years and of including countries with less complete statistical coverage.

9. Regarding the integration and improvement of social and demographic statistics, specialized studies will be prepared on methods for the collection and dissemination of statistics in fields assigned high priority by Governments, the development and use of national data bases in the compilation of social indicators, the development and application of integrated socio-economic classifications and general data bases using data from population and housing censuses, household surveys and civil registration systems and other types of administrative reporting systems.

10. In order to promote the participation of all countries in the 1985-1994 census decade, new and updated reports will be prepared on the planning, organization and administration of population and housing censuses, methods of evaluating population and housing censuses and the uses of censuses in order to establish national data bases.

11. To promote the provision of comparable environmental data for purposes of environmental management at the national, regional and international levels a framework for the development of environment statistics will be published <sup>3/</sup> and statistical guidelines on concepts, classifications and methods of data collection and dissemination in selected areas of environmental concerns will be issued.

12. In energy statistics, emphasis will be given to further development and harmonization of methods, concepts, definitions and classifications of statistics for commercial and non-commercial forms of energy, in physical as well as in value terms.

13. Further work on industrial and related statistics will concentrate on the preparation of special technical reports on household and small-scale industries, mineral statistics, secondary recovery of metals, distributive trades and the revision and updating of International Recommendations for Construction Statistics. <sup>4/</sup>

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

14. It is expected that international data series will be established on income distribution and input/output tables. Progress should be made towards the reconciliation of the national accounts data of countries with market economies and those with centrally-planned economies as well as between national accounts on the one hand and government finance and balance-of-payments statistics on the other.

15. A new series of more-frequent-than-annual industrial inquiries will be introduced. A compilation of industrial statistics covering the countries participating in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be published in 1988. Collection and publication of data on non-energy minerals and raw materials (production, consumption and prices) will be started.

16. In addition to maritime transport statistics, statistics on transport by road, inland water, railways and air will be developed and improved and will be published regularly from 1986 onwards.

(c) Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

17. New series of energy statistics, including statistics on new and renewable forms of energy, will be completed. It is expected that, progressively, more countries will be able to prepare energy balances and that all countries will eventually be included in the energy balances publications.

(d) Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

18. A central facility for the provision of information about prices to the international community will be developed. Summary information from the data base will be published in SNA form and will serve as a guide to national and international sources of supplementary information as well as to the national methodologies employed.

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

19. Several world conferences are being planned under United Nations auspices on such social issues as crime and criminal justice, youth and women, and special statistics will be prepared for the use of the conferences.

20. To provide comparable environmental data at the national, regional and global levels for purposes of environmental assessment and management, international series of environment and natural resources statistics will be collected and published.

3. Activities to be modified significantly

(a) Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

21. Work on classifications will be required in connection with the further development, clarification and integration of SNA/MPS (conversion keys between the activity classifications of the two systems) and also in connection with the development of links between economic, social and demographic statistics.

22. Further technical documentation will be prepared on the collection of data concerning levels of living, including income distribution statistics, through household sample surveys and the links between those data and the related data obtained from administrative records.

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

23. Continued improvements in the content and dissemination of publications will be introduced after a market analysis. Expanded use will be made of new technology for publication preparation and printing.

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

24. The quality and coverage in terms of information categories and countries will be improved for national accounts data series, and reconciliation with other similar series will be achieved.

25. The target date for the introduction of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the Customs Co-operation Council and the correlated Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3, is 1 January 1986, making it possible to publish statistics on this basis starting with those for 1986.

(d) Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

26. Sectoral work on price statistics will be concentrated on international trade and energy. The coverage of specification price indexes for international trade flows will be extended and integrated with the related indexes for domestic commodity flows. The information available on the prices of international commodities, particularly the commodities covered by the Integrated Programme for Commodities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, will be improved in scope, structure and organization.

27. International comparisons will be extended in geographical coverage, and estimates of purchasing power and real product will be expanded with a view to establishing a general system of spatial indexes.

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

28. To aid users, clearer and more extensive indications of the reliability of published data will be provided. The international co-operative programme for the collection and exchange of statistics concerning the foreign-born population will be extended to all interested countries.

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

29. Close working relations will be maintained with the regional commissions, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national statistical services on matters such as questionnaires, data banks, the exchange of data and concepts, definitions and classifications.



B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

General orientation and new activities

Subprogramme: Support of technical co-operation in statistics

30. The major goal of technical co-operation for development will be to leave behind a self-sustaining infrastructure. Countries will be assisted in establishing permanent capabilities for taking national household surveys and censuses and for vital registration systems and in developing the skills needed to carry out their statistical activities systematically and to generate a regular flow of information for policy and planning needs. It is expected that there will be a considerable increase in the number of country projects, subject to the availability of funds, in various fields during the medium-term period, particularly in those related to population, housing and industrial censuses, expansion of civil registration systems, vital statistics and household surveys and the development of national accounts statistics, energy statistics and social indicators. An important component of many of these projects will be the training of national statistical personnel in the collection and processing of such statistics. The improvement of data-processing technology will be another important component of many of the projects. Expanded application of micro-computer technology will be made for processing survey data, statistical data-base management and analysis of survey results. Training of national statistical personnel in the methodology of collecting data, as well as in the data-processing technology, will be strengthened.

31. For the purpose of transferring technical expertise, instruction manuals and international classification systems in various fields, adapted to the needs of developing countries, will be prepared in the Statistical Office.

32. More extensive information on the orientation of technical co-operation in statistics can be found in the reports of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation in statistics rendered by the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and countries (E/CN.3/1985/13) and on the National Household Survey Capability Programme (E/CN.3/1985/14).

C. Economic Commission for Europe

1. General orientation

33. The statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) during the period 1984-1989 will have the following objectives:

(a) To improve statistical standards and methodology in the ECE region as regards economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, in the light of the recommendations of the Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other bodies, as necessary;

(b) To promote close co-ordination of the statistical activities in Europe of the international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and

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definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burden on the national statistical offices;

(c) To provide statistical data for research studies and for general information purposes;

(d) To provide substantive support for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) statistical projects in the ECE region.

## 2. New activities

### (a) Subprogramme 1: Standards and methodology

34. This subprogramme will focus on the development of internationally comparable data needed to facilitate decision-making by Governments on the major policy issues. Special attention will continue to be given to statistics needed as a basis for forecasting and the preparation of economic and social perspectives, and to fields related to energy statistics and environment statistics. In addition, the following subjects will receive special emphasis during the period: national accounts and balances (particularly SNA/MPS links); international comparisons; international economic classifications; population and housing censuses; statistics and indicators on the role and situation of women; use of computers for statistical purposes; and design and development of software systems for statistical data processing. The subprogramme will result in methodological documents, guidelines or recommendations. At its annual plenary sessions, the Conference of European Statisticians will review the statistical work in the ECE region and will consider questions concerning the co-ordination of statistical activities in the region of intergovernmental organizations, statistical support to ECE studies and projects, contributions to the work of the Statistical Commission and statistical problems of special interest to the ECE countries which are developing from the economic point of view.

### (b) Subprogramme 2: Research data and projects

35. The activities under this subprogramme are of a continuing nature. Statistical bulletins will continue to be published in various areas of the work of ECE. Substantive support will continue to be given to UNDP statistical projects in the region.

## D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### 1. General orientation

36. Countries in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be assisted in the development of their statistical services, mainly through expert and advisory services, technical meetings and the training of statistical personnel. Fuller acceptance of statistics as an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes will be actively promoted among countries.

A more effective dialogue between the users and producers of statistics will be fostered, leading to the improvement in the cost-effectiveness of data production and utilization of statistics. Special attention will be paid to countries which are at an early stage of development - for example, the least developed countries and the island developing countries of the Pacific. Data will be collected from countries of the region, compiled and disseminated through publications. It is intended to set up a data bank for research studies and general information purposes.

## 2. New activities

37. With the completion of the 1980 round of population and housing censuses, in-depth analysis of these data is being promoted. Similar analysis of data collected through the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will also be emphasized. In conjunction with work by the Statistical Office, the use of administrative records for statistical purposes will be explored. Improvement and co-ordination of development-related government information systems through the effective application of computer technology to the collection, organization and management of data will be promoted. Emphasis will be laid on the closer identification, collection, maintenance and publication of data relevant to the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex), such as statistics on poverty and income distribution. New publications in specialized fields may be issued. As mini-computers and micro-processing equipment are becoming easily affordable by all countries of the region, training programmes will be promoted in such countries on the use of the equipment to meet their statistical needs. Emphasis will also be placed on the timely dissemination of data through employing sampling techniques and quality control procedures in data preparation.

## 3. Activities to be modified significantly

38. Apart from what has been outlined in paragraph 36 above, the present programme will be reoriented to the extent necessary in response to the changing needs of the countries and, in particular, to give emphasis to the development and collection of data relating to the key sectors of the International Development Strategy. ESCAP will assist countries of the region in developing and strengthening their ability to produce adequate, reliable and timely statistical data for the purpose of facilitating the formulation and monitoring of social and economic policies and programmes, specifically through the implementation of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) and, generally, by the holding of technical meetings aimed at promoting the adaptation and application of international concepts, definitions, standards and guidelines. Activities will be directed towards the development of statistics relating to national accounts, energy, transport and communication, industry, international trade, prices and quanta, employment, population, social affairs, poverty and income distribution and the environment. ESCAP will also provide advisory services in areas such as national accounts, population censuses and surveys, energy statistics, industrial statistics, social statistics, household surveys and data processing. It will assist countries in developing the capability in data analysis to enhance the role

of statistical offices in planning and decision-making processes. It will continue to collect demographic, social, economic and other statistics from member countries, maintain them as time-series and release them through statistical publications.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. General orientation

39. The 1984-1989 statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be designed to provide a regional framework of statistical information and quantitative analysis of the economic and social situation in Latin America in order:

(a) To help Governments, the ECLAC secretariat and the regional programmes in evaluating and monitoring economic and social development, planning concerted action and formulating policies;

(b) To help the countries, through regional services and advisory assistance, methodological studies, and meetings to exchange experience and horizontal co-operation mechanisms, in strengthening their statistical capacity in line with national needs.

40. The programme reflects the integration of the ECLAC experience in using national statistics and applying quantitative analysis to the study of the economic and social situation in the region with the technical co-operation given to the statistical development of the countries concerned. It also reflects the linking of the two aspects in order to constitute a focal point, both for the statistical experience accumulated in the region and for the statistical information most relevant for comparative studies.

2. New activities

(a) Subprogramme 1: Regional framework of quantitative information

41. Data will be organized of public sector statistics, more-frequent-than-annual indicators, and statistics concerning maritime transport, energy, income distribution and employment. The existing data bases will be completely computerized for purposes of flexible retrieval and quantitative analysis. The national accounts series in a common currency will be revised and changed to a more recent base year. A yearbook of indicators of economic and social development will be added to the recurrent publications.

(b) Subprogramme 2: Studies in methods and quantitative analysis

42. Studies in methods, national practices and quantitative analysis will be undertaken in the measurement of income distribution and living conditions, indicators of social development, employment, labour force and occupational

structure, household surveys, national accounts, external trade and financing. In some of these areas, regional workshops or expert group meetings will be organized.

3. Activities to be modified significantly

Subprogramme 3: Statistical development and regional statistical co-operation

43. Advisory services in household surveys and related activities within the framework of the regional programmes of the National Household Survey Capability Programme/Inter-American Household Survey Programme (PIDEH) will be extended 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 the survey data for policy purposes, is envisaged.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

1. General orientation

44. The programme for 1984-1989 of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will cover, inter alia:

- (a) Assistance in the development of national statistical infrastructures and capabilities;
- (b) The continuing development of a statistical data base;
- (c) Technical and methodological studies;
- (d) Provision of technical assistance.

2. New activities

(a) Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

45. As a result of material and human constraints, the original strategy of developing the second level of the statistical data base has been modified. Priority is now being given to setting up level III, which contains selected statistical series. Efforts will be made to improve gradually the procedures already established and to prepare the documentation required on the system.

46. Greater emphasis will be put on the identification of data applications to provide a satisfactory basis for organizing data collection and analysis. Efforts will also be made, under the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), to ensure that statisticians receive adequate training in data processing in order to reduce problems in this area.

(b) Subprogramme 2: Economic statistics

47. Due attention will be given to the development of the newly-established National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP). The objective is to strengthen the capability of African countries to enable them to produce timely and reliable basic economic and national accounts statistics, as opposed to ad hoc technical assistance operations.

48. In addition, extensive work will be done with regard to statistics on prices, agriculture, transport and communications and energy.

(c) Subprogramme 3: Censuses and surveys

49. Methodological studies and compilation activities in the field of demographic and social statistics will be strengthened in order to include the promotion of the collection, processing and analysis of data pertaining to special population groups such as children and youth, women and disabled.

50. Emphasis will be placed, within the framework of the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP), on the uses of household survey data - not only for planners, but also for other applications such as the monitoring and evaluation of government projects on a day-to-day basis. A document on application and analysis of household survey data will be prepared. It will deal with potential uses of integrated demographic, social and economic data on households and will attempt to recommend a conceptual framework for integrated analysis of data from different survey records.

51. The new project on environment and natural resources statistics gave rise to considerable interest at the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The necessary financial resources for the implementation of the project will be sought. It should be noted that a number of relevant data will be collected through AHSCP.

G. Economic Commission for Western Asia

1. General orientation

52. The programme of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) will be oriented towards promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability, the development of the statistical services of the ECWA secretariat and the achievement of an integrated system for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics.

2. New activities

(a) Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

53. The main activities will be:

(a) Technical co-operation, especially in census-taking and household surveys, will be provided to the least developed countries of the region;

(b) The dissemination of international standards and guidelines will be enhanced in co-ordination with the international organizations;

(c) Training courses will be organized on sampling techniques, labour force, household income and expenditure surveys and data processing.

(b) Subprogramme 2: National accounts and economic statistics

54. The main activities will be:

(a) The international trade bulletin of ECWA countries will be published annually, effective 1984;

(b) The System of National Accounts and international classifications will receive special emphasis, and harmonization with regional systems and classifications will be pursued with intergovernmental Arab organizations;

(c) The collection, compilation and dissemination of price statistics will be developed within the framework of the international programmes and activities.

(c) Subprogramme 3: Social, demographic and environment statistics

55. This new subprogramme aims at:

(a) Developing, collecting, compiling, standardizing and disseminating social, demographic and environment statistics;

(b) Advising member countries on the improvement of their data collection capability and the establishment of a permanent national survey organization.

3. Activities to be modified significantly

(a) Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

56. The collection, processing and dissemination of statistics will be improved by utilizing the computer facilities of ECWA at Baghdad.

(b) Subprogramme 2: National accounts and economic statistics  
Subprogramme 3: Social, demographic and environment statistics

57. Modifications will be made in some statistical activities in order to cope with new international recommendations and the evolving needs and priorities of the region.

## H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

### 1. General orientation

58. Statistical and computing support will continue to be provided in filling requests for information and evaluating statistics of trade, indicators of development and financial data in order to meet the requirements of the policy-making organs and substantive units of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as other international and national organizations. This will be done by means of:

(a) The maintenance of an economic and social statistics time series data base from which basic and derived series can be provided;

(b) The collection of information about the financial flows from OPEC member countries to other developing countries, as well as from other aid donors and developing countries;

(c) The publication of the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics (and Supplements), the Quarterly Bulletin of Short-term Economic Indicators, the Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin, The Commodity Statistics Handbook, Tungsten Statistics and the Statistical Pocketbook (annual).

### 2. New activities

59. New activities may be introduced in the light of the deliberations of and resolutions adopted by the Conference at its seventh session, to be held in 1987.

### 3. Activities to be modified significantly

60. Improvement and expansion in the exchange and use of machine-readable statistics will be introduced in order to meet effectively and efficiently the needs of the Conference and the secretariat.

## I. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

### 1. General orientation

61. The statistical programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will continue to give the highest priority to the support of research. A secondary priority will be to disseminate industrial data developed in connection with this function. These priorities are to be realized through the following steps:

(a) Extending the detail and coverage of available data to facilitate research on international or multilateral issues pertaining to the industrial sector and to ensure a greater degree of international comparability in these statistics;



(b) Publication of the Handbook of Industrial Statistics and the Industrial Development Survey (both published biennially), together with ad hoc empirical research projects to be disseminated in the form of sales publications;

(c) Distribution of industrial statistics in machine-readable form for the purpose of facilitating international studies on industrial structure and structural change.

## 2. New activities

62. New activities may be introduced in the light of the deliberations and resolutions adopted by the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, held at Vienna from 2 to 19 August 1984.

## 3. Activities to be modified significantly

63. Existing methods of data storage and the exchange of data in machine-readable form will be upgraded in order to meet more effectively the needs of the UNIDO secretariat. These modifications will give particular attention to differences in data concepts, definitions, methods of estimations and sources of information.

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

## A. International Labour Organisation

### 1. General orientation

#### (a) Subprogramme A: Development of labour statistics

64. The objective of this subprogramme of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is to increase the ability of member States to produce useful, reliable and comparable labour statistics, namely, information on the labour force, employment, unemployment, household income and expenditure, wages, hours of work, consumer prices, industrial disputes and occupational injuries.

65. This objective entails the following activities: the promulgation of international recommendations on labour statistics, the production of manuals and papers, technical co-operation, training and participation in NHSCP. Developmental activities of the ILO Bureau of Statistics, started in 1982-1983, which are continuing include: (1) production of a manual on household survey statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment which will translate into operational terms the new (October 1982) ILO international recommendations on those topics; (2) production of a paper and article on informal sector statistics; (3) revision of the ILO Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63) to make it a broader Convention covering major topics of labour statistics.

(b) Subprogramme B: Collection, analysis and dissemination of labour statistics

66. The objective of this subprogramme is to increase the international availability of reliable and useful labour statistics. It involves the publication, in printed and computer-readable form, of both statistics and their description, as well as the provision of data to other international agencies as part of an agreed inter-agency division of labour. In addition to the data obtained directly from countries, estimates will be produced to fill the gaps in the statistical series published by the ILO, comparative analyses of national data on important labour questions will be published and press releases for use by information media will summarize the latest available information. The two-volume Technical Guide describing the series published in the Bulletin of Labour Statistics and the Year Book of Labour Statistics is being revised, enlarged and updated. It will be published in four volumes in a new serial publication entitled "Sources and methods". A new set of estimates and projections of the labour force 1950-2010 will be published in 1985. The October Inquiry on wages and hours of work in selected occupations and retail prices of selected commodities has been completely revised and data on labour costs has been added to the Year Book of Labour Statistics.

2. New activities

67. Work is being undertaken with a view to developing a new ILO international recommendation on consumer price indices. A meeting of experts will be held in 1985 to review the preliminary work of the International Labour Office on that topic.

68. The Bureau of Statistics is starting to examine a number of new topics for which, in most countries, statistics do not exist, are inadequate or need to be improved, namely, labour turnover, net income from paid employment, absenteeism and industrial disputes.

69. Work on the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) started in 1984.

70. The Bureau hopes to start work in 1985 on the establishment of annual estimates of employment and unemployment and to produce analyses of statistical data with respect to women, youth, etc.

3. Activities to be cancelled

71. The Bureau of Statistics programme on estimates and projections of the labour force 1950-2010 will finish in 1985.

72. The Bureau will more intensively use its computerized system for its publication programme or analytical activities. For example, the methodological descriptions in the new "Sources and methods" will be available in the Bureau's data base and will be linked with the data published in the Year Book and

the Bulletin. The methods used to collect information from countries to transmit data to users or to store statistical information relevant to ILO statistical activities will be more computerized than at present.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. General orientation

73. During the period 1984-1989, the statistics programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will continue to develop and promote unified concepts and definitions, suitable classifications and methods to ensure the production of consistent and internationally comparable food and agricultural statistics; promote the use of the latest computer and related techniques in agricultural censuses and surveys; provide technical support to field projects relating to food and agricultural statistics; expand the contents of the data bank of food and agricultural statistics through improved processing capacity and improve their timeliness and accuracy; organize training centres and seminars; publish technical documents and disseminate statistical information through different media, including the yearbooks on agricultural production, trade, fertilizers, forestry and fisheries, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and food balance sheets.

74. Emphasis will be given during the same period to upgrading the computer support system in order to improve user services to process the results of the world agricultural census and to publish and promote the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture, to collaborate in the implementation of NHSCP and to assist countries in developing their socio-economic indicators programme as follow-up to the Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The analytical activities will focus on the preparation of the Fifth World Food Survey, projections of agricultural population and labour force, trade matrix analysis, development of concepts and analytical tools for the economic accounts for agriculture, agricultural prices and other related projects.

2. New activities

75. The work on socio-economic indicators will concentrate on reporting to the 1987 FAO Conference on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. High priority will be given to the development and/or improvement of the basic statistics needed for constructing socio-economic indicators for use in the periodic monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development through the application of a systems approach. This will include the data concerning food consumption levels and distributions which are needed for the periodic assessment of the world food and nutrition situation.

76. Closer collaboration with the National Household Survey Capability Programme will be sought in order to promote the collection of agricultural statistics as well as the above-mentioned socio-economic data through household surveys.

77. The development and maintenance of country profiles, incorporating socio-economic indicators, through closer dialogues with member States will, it is expected, yield improved quality and coverage of the basic data. Associated with this work is the development of the computer support system at the national and international levels.

78. The improvement of agricultural censuses and surveys will focus on the promotion of area sampling frames using remote sensing - for example, aerial photographs and satellite imageries - and the development of a computer support system for photo-interpretation.

79. The coverage of statistics of forestry products production, trade, prices and forestry resources will be extended, particularly to human involvement in the forestry sector.

80. The work on agricultural prices and resource flows to agriculture will include the promotion of the development and/or improvement of data collection at the national level through training, seminars and technical co-operation. The FAO data base on agricultural prices will be expanded to meet the needs of users.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. General orientation and new activities

81. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will place emphasis on the following:

(a) Continued efforts to improve the collection, verification and dissemination of statistical data in the areas of education, science and technology and culture and communication, and extension of their coverage to include such topics as adult education statistics, scientific and technological information and documentation activities, scientific and technological education and training, music sound recordings, access to and participation in cultural activities;

(b) Intensification of actions aimed at achieving better international comparability of data through improved implementation of the existing recommendations concerning the international standardization of statistics falling within the Organization's fields of competence and through the revision of these recommendations when required;

(c) Refinement of statistical methods, techniques and procedures and production of new instruments, indicators and guides to be put at the disposal of member States for better collection, processing and analyses of data;

(d) Preparation of statistical studies and analyses with a view to taking stock of the situation at the international level as concerns education, science and technology and culture and communication, and to assisting in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the major programmes of the second UNESCO medium-term plan (1984-1989);

(e) Continued support to member States to enable them to develop and improve their statistical services and to strengthen their infrastructure through the organization of training seminars or courses, provision of consultancy services, fellowships, equipment and implementation of statistical projects funded by regular budget as well as by extra-budgetary sources;

(f) Further development and extension of the computerized data bank and further modernization of procedures for storing, processing and retrieving statistical data through acquisition of additional hardware and development of interactive procedures for on-line consultation of the bank;

(g) Improvement of the quality of statistical publications, and extension of the applications of the automated photocomposition system for their preparation, and reduction of their production costs.

## 2. Activities to be modified significantly

82. The support provided to member States for the development of their statistical infrastructure and services will increasingly take the form of short training courses, seminars and meetings financed from the regular budget.

## D. International Civil Aviation Organization

### 1. General orientation

83. Improvement in efficiency, rather than expansion and diversification, will remain the principal goal of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with regard to its statistics programme.

### 2. New activities

#### (a) Over-all review of the programme

84. The eighth session of the ICAO Statistics Division, a representative body of member States, is scheduled for 1987. The planning, preparation of documentation, and servicing of the Division will involve considerable work, particularly during the preceding 12 to 18 months. At the session, there will be a detailed review of the structure of the statistics programme, including the degree of completeness, timeliness and accessibility of ICAO statistics. The implementation of the Division's recommendations could extend into 1989.

#### (b) Application of technology

85. Special emphasis will be placed on the application of advanced technology to the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics, including the development of a data bank with world-wide accessibility.

3. Activities to be modified significantly

(a) Adjustment of individual programme areas

86. There will be a review of the traffic-flow statistics programme and its confidentiality aspects during 1985 and the necessary modifications will be implemented in 1986 or 1987. Other individual programme areas will be scrutinized from time to time.

(b) Publication of ICAO estimates

87. The current activity of compiling only annual estimates of airline traffic will be extended to provide quarterly and, eventually, monthly estimates on a world-wide and regional basis.

(c) Assistance to States

88. Efforts to promote the regular collection, analysis and publication of civil aviation statistics at the national level will be intensified through a programme of training courses, visits to States, informal workshops and guidelines.

E. World Health Organization

1. General orientation

89. The health statistics programme of the World Health Organization (WHO) has been merged into a new health situation and trend assessment programme which is aimed at supporting the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000.

90. The primary objective of the health situation and trend assessment programme is to collaborate with member States in the progressive development of relevant information support to the management of national health systems. In working towards this objective, the Programme plans five linked areas of activity. First, the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the national services providing information support to health programmes, followed by the formulation of national strategies to strengthen this support; second, assistance in the development and implementation of the training required to strengthen the information support; third, the development of health statistical and epidemiological methodology and standard tools; fourth, the monitoring and evaluation of regional and global health situation and trends; and fifth, the provision of the epidemiological and statistical support needed to maintain a uniformly high standard of research and development in WHO programmes.

2. New activities

91. The Programme will work to strengthen the capacity of member States to collect valid and up-to-date statistics 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 appropriate to the socio-economic and health situation and 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.

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

93. 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.

94. With these 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 technical co-operation links among developing countries where appropriate.

### 3. Activities to be modified significantly

95. 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 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".

96. 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 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.

F. World Bank

97. The World Bank does not have a work programme for the period 1984-1989. The following statements deal essentially with the work currently under way and to be undertaken in the course of the next two or three years:

(a) Income distribution and living standards measurement. The Bank's efforts in this area are now focused on developing new methods for measuring and analysing changes in living standards within a given country. Prototype questionnaires, survey designs, data processing techniques, and analytical plans will be tested in several country settings. These pilot studies are expected to provide a basis for judging the feasibility and relative merits of alternative strategies. The Bank is working in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office in one test site and will share its findings and recommendations as they emerge with the Commission, member States, and other international organizations.

(b) International Comparison Project (ICP). The Bank will continue its efforts to provide assistance in the improvement of methodology and developing ICP-based estimates of gross domestic product (GDP), using methods involving shortcuts and limited information. In these endeavours, it will work closely with other international organizations.

(c) International trade and industry data. The current efforts to integrate external trade statistics with those pertaining to manufacturing, through the harmonization of the classifications for the two data sets, will continue. The data sets emerging from these activities will be used extensively for analysis, with the objective of obtaining better insights into development patterns. The Bank will co-ordinate its work with that of other agencies.

(d) Computing activities. The Bank has recently commenced work on establishing 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 Bank in a "user-friendly" environment. The programme calls for a standardization of concepts and the establishment of procedures for statistical computations built around the information resource management concept. Although the project is designed for execution over a two-year period, it is likely to demand a continuing effort in the medium term.

(e) Data needed for monitoring and evaluation. A considerable amount of work will be undertaken in the next several years to define the collection procedures for assembling data needed for project implementation and evaluation in agriculture and rural development. Issues covering data content, survey design and the technology needed for the manipulation of the data will be dealt with. A manual has been produced for use in member States.

(f) Social accounting matrices. Both conceptual work and particular country applications are continuing. This work covers issues in the collection and presentation of national accounts data as well as its application in macro-economic analysis of development policy.



(g) Improvement of international comparability of national accounts data.

The Bank computes GNP per capita estimates in US dollars and uses these in the operational context. These estimates are also published in the World Bank Atlas and are used extensively by other agencies. Underlying methodological and coverage differences do reduce the comparability of these numbers. The Bank has recently embarked on a work programme which will evaluate the quality of the GNP numbers and the appropriateness of conversion factors used in calculating per capita numbers in terms of US dollars. It is proposed to collect and evaluate available information on the methodologies employed by national statistical agencies in compiling the national accounts. The Bank will seek the assistance of the other international agencies engaged in the collection, compilation and publication of national accounts data. A longer-term work programme, including the provision of technical assistance to national Governments, is being formulated. Since the Bank's own resources are limited, it will seek the co-operation of other agencies in this regard. The Bank, through its participation in the work of the inter-secretariat group on national accounts, will identify issues of concern to developing countries.

(h) External debt statistics. Improving the reporting of external debt statistics will continue to receive priority. The Bank will continue to assist member States in improving the recording of debt statistics and their reporting and in establishing computerized debt systems.

G. International Monetary Fund

1. General orientation

98. The statistics programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is directed to meeting the statistical needs of the institution in its work on economic analysis and research on developments in the international finance system and in individual member States. The programme of work in 1984 and beyond will continue to emphasize monetary, fiscal, and balance-of-payments statistics, as well as statistics on international banking and external debt. There are no plans to discontinue present activities.

2. Activities to be modified significantly

(a) Development of concepts and methods

99. Work will proceed on the concepts and methods used to compile international liquidity statistics (international reserves, international banking statistics and other data on cross-border financial accounts).

100. A draft Guide to Money and Banking Statistics in International Financial Statistics (IFS) is nearing completion; it will include a digest of the references from internationally agreed statements of statistical methodology (which will be identified in a bibliography), an explanation of the general statistical framework adopted for IFS and a glossary of terms. In addition, a revised edition of the Manual on Government Finance Statistics is also expected to be completed in 1984.

(b) Application of advanced technology

101. It is expected that there will be a steady transfer of data, in machine-readable form, between the Fund and national compilers (and other international organizations). Transfers through telecommunications networks will also become important.

102. Improved technology may give rise to new approaches to the dissemination of Fund statistics. The development of an on-line capability, now in progress within the Fund, will open up possibilities for a subscription service providing on-line computer access to Fund statistics; it will also permit a more flexible and variable approach to the preparation of statistical publications.

(c) Support of technical co-operation

103. The Fund will continue its efforts to satisfy the increasing number of requests for developing and maintaining national capabilities in the application of advanced computer and related techniques.

(d) Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

104. The statements on statistical methodology, developed in each area of Fund expertise, will continue to be refined both to promote the uniformity of the recommendations in areas of overlap and as part of the effort to achieve harmonization with other internationally agreed classification schemes.

H. Universal Postal Union

105. 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;

(b) Nationally, to promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services.

106. UPU will continue the collection and publication of postal statistics, their maintenance in machine-readable form, and the policy of giving aid in statistical matters to member States which request it, through expert missions.

I. World Intellectual Property Organization

1. General orientation

107. The statistics programme of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) during the period 1986-1991 will be aimed at maintaining and improving the data on the global situation and the development of industrial property as an incentive for creativity and for transfer of technological knowledge. In order to achieve this goal the following activities will be carried out:

121. The introduction into statistical practice of newly-established or improved classifications and nomenclatures for CMEA members is envisaged: a revised classification of the branches of national economies (CBNE CMEA); a newly-devised classification of the economic and statistical indicators (CESI CMEA); and the new fourth edition of the standard foreign trade classification (SFTC CMEA).
122. Comprehensive studies on automating the processing of statistical information through the application of advanced computer techniques will be continued.
123. The States members of CMEA continue to provide co-ordinated assistance to Cuba and Viet Nam in the development of their national statistics.
124. There will be continued efforts to develop further the co-operation in statistics between CMEA and the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly in connection with the co-ordination and comparison of statistical classifications and nomenclatures with MPS and SNA and with social statistics indicators in order to improve the comparability of data at the international level. The secretariats of CMEA and ECE intend to continue their work on the co-ordination of international branch classifications (CBNE CMEA and ISIC United Nations), the standard foreign trade classification (SFTC CMEA and SITC United Nations), and other branches of statistical activity.

## 2. New activities

125. Among the new forward planning trends in the statistical activity of CMEA the following topics should be mentioned:

- (a) Statistical methods for studying the effectiveness of social production in the States members of CMEA;
- (b) Statistical study of the reproductive structure of capital investment;
- (c) Preparation of systems of indicators characterizing the application of computer techniques at the level of the national economy.

## B. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

126. The statistical work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) differs to some extent from the work of other international organizations. Data collection and methodological studies are often closely linked to analytical and policy studies for committees and working parties whose programmes of work are in constant evolution according to the priorities set by Governments of member States. It is not always possible, therefore, to specify a medium-term statistical plan.

127. It is the policy of OECD to work closely with other international organizations in order to obtain the maximum benefit from limited resources. This tendency will probably be reinforced, owing to continuing budgetary restrictions. Several joint projects have been undertaken in national accounts, for example,

together with the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the Economic Commission for Europe. To minimize the reporting burden on national administrations, OECD seeks to harmonize its statistics with those of other international organizations, as regards energy statistics, environment statistics and statistics related to education, for example. Wherever possible, joint questionnaires have been drawn up, such as those for national accounts, industrial statistics and tax statistics.

128. There is more emphasis on improving the quality of OECD statistics and making them more accessible to both internal and external users than there is on the collection of new statistics. Some directorates have started to reorganize their statistics into sectoral data banks which will be integrated into an OECD central data base to facilitate the analytical use of statistics throughout the Organization.

129. The dissemination of data in machine-readable form will continue to expand whether in the form of magnetic tapes suitable for micro-computers or on-line access. OECD has arranged for its member Governments to have free on-line access to the OECD statistics available on the network of a time-sharing company, I. P. Sharp, but it is also investigating the feasibility of providing on-line access to the various data bases available at its Paris headquarters. A new data extraction service has been started in the field of foreign trade statistics whereby selected data are extracted according to the requirements of individual users and made available either on tape or as special computer listing. OECD is also exploring the possibility of obtaining data from member States by direct links between computers, especially monthly or quarterly data which are needed quickly for conjunctural and forecasting purposes. Large quantities of annual data, such as foreign trade statistics and national accounts, are now mostly received on tape.

130. The revision of SNA will figure prominently in the OECD work programme over the next five years. This work is, of course, being undertaken in close collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and EUROSTAT. The original inter-secretariat group formed between the three organizations to co-ordinate work on the revision has been expanded to include World Bank and the IMF. This work involves engaging consultants and arranging expert group meetings; it requires careful forward planning and close liaison between the agencies involved.

131. OECD became involved in the calculation of purchasing power parities in 1982, and the calculation of a set of parities for 1980 embracing the majority of OECD countries was completed in the middle of 1984. This programme has drawn extensively on the results already obtained by EUROSTAT covering 12 OECD countries in 1980. OECD plans to undertake a larger exercise for the calculation of a set of parities covering almost all OECD countries in 1985, working in parallel and in close collaboration with EUROSTAT. The results should be published by the beginning of 1987 and will also be available for inclusion in phase V of ICP which is planned for 1985 at a world level. OECD actively participates in the inter-organization group formed to co-ordinate the work of the various international organizations involved in phase V of ICP.

132. OECD has developed its own system of leading indicators for industrial production and these are now published on a regular basis and used extensively in

the Organization's forecasting work. Leading indicators for other variables, such as labour force variables, are being investigated. A review of the system will be undertaken by an expert group late in 1984.

133. A new data base of compatible production and trade statistics is being developed in collaboration with the World Bank, each organization being responsible for different countries. Some difficulties remain in achieving a satisfactory conversion from a trade to a production classification, especially at a detailed level.

134. The international energy agency of OECD (IEA) is continuing to improve the scope and detail of its energy data services. In the coming year, coal supply, demand and infrastructure information, energy prices and end-use data are to be high priority development sectors. IEA offers a wide range of data on magnetic tape. These services will also be developed further in the coming year. It is planned also to establish direct computer-to-computer links with EUROSTAT and a number of IEA administrations. IEA has just completed a major project on energy balances of developing countries in close consultation with the United Nations Statistical Office. It is also involved in continuing work on classification and methodology with ECE at Geneva.

135. The review of industrial statistics is continuing, and the statistical programme is being revised. Systems of short-term indicators and of structural indicators for individual industries will be developed, and exploratory work is being done on services rendered to enterprises.

136. Work will continue on resources devoted to research and development, and output and impact indicators concerning research and development will be developed. Work is in progress on statistics for technology transfer, patents and technology, trade and competitiveness and innovation.

137. New statistical activity is being undertaken in the programme on information, computers and communications policy. It will cover both methodological problems and data collection.

138. The environmental data bank will be extended to include the data now being collected on the state of the environment and on private environmental expenditure, supplementary to the data on environmental expenditure by the public sector. The urban information base will be extended to include data on land use and housing as well as the most recent data on population, employment and public finance in a sample of about 200 cities in the OECD area.

139. OECD studies on international trade in services may, in the future, involve certain statistical work.

140. Work will continue on the improvement of employment statistics, including statistics of hours worked, employment statistics on a family basis, employment linked to income, labour market flows and unemployment duration data. A detailed system of demographic and labour force statistics will be developed to include population projections by single year of age. As a separate activity, attempts will be made to put the data from the OECD Continuous Reporting System on Migration (SOPEMI) in a more accessible format.

141. The development of detailed education statistics will continue. Based on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and the questionnaire prepared jointly with UNESCO, a more elaborate questionnaire has been designed to respond to the more specific policy concerns of OECD countries. Methodological work will be pursued concerning statistics on teachers, non-formal education and training, educational equality, the level of education and the professional structure of the population.

142. Work continues on social indicators, and a compendium of social indicators data has been prepared. The data bank on social expenditures related to health and social security will be expanded.

143. The first issue of a new publication on financial statistics entitled Annual Bulletin of Bank Operating Accounts and Balance Sheets was published in 1982. Work on the improvement of financial statistics will continue, focusing on external assets and liabilities, in general, and on direct international investments.

144. The tax classification for government revenue statistics has been revised, and the revised classification has been used in the 1984 round of data collection. The revision has been carried out in close co-operation with IMF. The data series on the tax/benefit position of an average worker is being reviewed.

145. Seaborne trade statistics will be somewhat expanded in coverage and detail in order to increase their usefulness. The Working Party on Tourism Statistics has initiated work on domestic tourism and on international comparability of receipts and expenditure in tourism.

146. The statistical activities related to the work of the Development Assistance Committee include efforts to improve statistics concerning the development of energy resources, indebtedness (a survey of claims of banks and non-bank trade creditors on individual borrowers will be issued in April 1984, jointly with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the first of a semi-annual series), and associated financing.

### C. Statistical Office of the European Communities

#### 1. General orientation

147. The primary function of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) is to provide the Commission of the European Communities, and the other Community institutions, with a statistical service designed to assist in the formulation, monitoring and administration of Community policies. It also publishes Community statistics designed to inform the public at large. A longer-term role is to promote the convergence of national statistical systems towards an integrated Community system.

148. Its three-year programmes of work, drawn up in consultation with the national statistical services of the member States, sets out the priorities for the coming years. In the 1982-1984 programme much emphasis was put on the development of data

banks and on dissemination of their contents through on-line access, primarily by internal users but also by external users through commercial hosts and the European telecommunications network (EURONET).

## 2. New activities

149. The programme prepared for the period 1985-1987 foresees a peak period of activity in terms of the work of EUROSTAT in the field of international harmonization, where its already heavy participation in co-ordinated international efforts reflects in part the increased recognition of the world context in which the Community acts.

150. In addition to work on the implementation of the Harmonized System, in ICP, the review of SNA, and on world nomenclatures, there is a new programme of co-ordination of Community technical co-operation in statistics with new funds for this purpose.

151. Proposed changes in the programme include increasing the frequency of the Labour Force Survey from once every two years to an annual rhythm, to develop statistics of services, particularly international trade in services, and develop statistics of high-technology industries.

152. The continued search for economies and gains in efficiency involves, among other initiatives, proposals to simplify statistical and other formalities in intra-Community trade, and the search for more efficient means to obtain statistics of the structure of earnings as an alternative to the costly large-scale Community sample survey which was due to be carried out in 1986.

## IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Inter-American Statistical Institute

#### 1. General orientation

153. In 1983, the Constitution of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) 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. The activities for the period 1984-1989 will be generally oriented towards complementing, at the regional level, the work carried out by other inter-governmental and professional organizations, and will comprise the following:

#### (a) Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas

154. There is expected to be (1) a plenary session every two years; (2) meetings of the committees and working groups to deal with the development of standards, methodology and technical materials; and (3) supporting research activities conducted in co-operation with the Inter-American Statistical Training Center (CIENES) and national statistical institutions.

(b) Regional Household Survey Development Programme NHSCP/PIDEH

155. The activities of this Programme are developed in close co-operation with the Organization of American States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development. During the period 1984-1985, activities will be concentrated in the preparation of methodological materials, national seminars for producers and users of statistical information obtained through household surveys, and regional seminars devoted to specialized technical matters.

(c) Inter-American Programme of Basic Statistics

156. The updating of standards, and the development of new ones, are expected to take place in close co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the statistical divisions of other agencies that operate in the American region.

(d) Technical co-operation

157. The Institute will continue to co-operate with national institutions in their search for assistance. Very limited direct assistance will be given by IASI because of lack of funds.

2. New activities

158. New activities will be designed to develop the statistical profession in Latin America and the Caribbean. The activities will include scientific meetings and measures to establish national programmes for training statisticians.

V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

159. The Commission may wish to comment on the various plans of the organizations.

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 and Corr.1), para. 120 (b).

3/ Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 78.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.11.

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