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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for 1986-1987
and related information

Note by the Secretary-General

* E/CN.3/1985/1.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE FOR 1986-1987	1	3
II. PROPOSALS ON PRIORITIES FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987	2	13
III. INDICATIVE FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSIGNED TO EACH PROGRAMME ELEMENT	3	14
IV. COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN RELATION TO THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987	4	18
V. CHANGES TO THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1984-1985	5 - 8	21
VI. REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989 .	9	22

I. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE FOR 1986-1987 1/

1. The following is a tentative work programme which has not yet been reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and is subject to change in the light of the Board's review of the relevant submissions for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 and of the Secretary-General's decisions on the proposed programme budget as a whole which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session for consideration and approval.

Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

The objective is to develop further and to improve economic, social, demographic and environment statistics at the national and international levels, in terms of their timeliness, quality, scope and coverage, usefulness, comparability and accessibility.

1.1 Further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy*

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on: (i) review of the System of National Accounts (SNA) (second quarter, 1986) and (ii) elaboration of the conceptual framework of comparisons between SNA and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) (second quarter, 1986);

(b) Sales publications in the Handbook of National Accounting series: Household Sector Accounts and Income Distribution (second quarter, 1987; a draft is to be prepared by a consultant in 1986); and Input-Output Tables (third quarter, 1987; a draft is to be prepared by a consultant in 1987);

(c) Newsletter on the review of SNA (two issues each year);

(d) Revised draft of the Handbook of National Accounting: Financial Flows and Balance Sheets, to be prepared by a consultant (1987);

(e) Revised draft of the Comparisons of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS), to be prepared by a consultant (1986);

(f) Expert group meeting to review the structure of SNA (1987);

(g) Expert Group meeting on production accounts and input-output tables (1987).

* Highest priority.

1.2 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications*

- (a) Report to the Statistical Commission on progress made in the development and harmonization of international economic classifications (second quarter, 1986);
- (b) Provision of ad hoc advisory services to users of classifications, upon request, on interpretation and application of classifications and on proposals for their development, revision and harmonization;
- (c) Expert group meeting on the revision of the part of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) dealing with non-manufacturing industries (1986).

1.3 Development of concepts, classifications and methods of industrial, construction, distributive trade and energy and related statistics

- (a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on (i) development of energy statistics, especially statistics on new and renewable sources of energy (second quarter, 1986) and (ii) statistical programme for household and small-scale industries (second quarter, 1986);
- (b) Sales publications: Revised Concepts and Methods in Energy Statistics (second quarter, 1987; a first draft was issued in 1982; 2/ a revised and expanded version that is to be prepared by a consultant will contain new material and take into account the comments received from countries on the original publication); Recommendations for a Statistical Programme for Household and Small-scale Industries (third quarter, 1987; a draft was prepared by a consultant and reviewed by an expert group in 1983; the draft is being revised in the light of the expert group's comments and of the comments received from countries).

1.4 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for international trade, transport and related statistics**

- (a) Sales publications: Classification by Broad Economic Categories, Defined according to the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (second quarter, 1986); Commodity Indexes to Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3, vols. I and II (third quarter, 1987); National Practices in Compiling External Trade Statistics (second quarter, 1987; a consultant is to prepare a draft in 1987 for review by an expert group in 1987).

* Highest priority.

** Lowest priority.

1.5 Development of concepts and methods for statistics of prices and purchasing power comparisons**

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on the International Comparison Project (ICP) and the International Price Statistics Programme (IPSP) (second quarter, 1986);

(b) Sales publications: Manual on Consumer Price Indexes, a joint output with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) carried over from 1984-1985 (third quarter, 1987; a draft was prepared by a consultant in 1980, revised by the Statistical Office in 1981 and is being revised further jointly by the Statistical Office and ILO).

1.6 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for demographic, housing and human settlements statistics*

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on (i) draft supplementary recommendations for population and housing censuses (second quarter, 1986) and (ii) progress made in the development of concepts and methods for housing and human settlements statistics (second quarter, 1986);

(b) Sales publications: Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, part I, Planning, Organization and Administration of Population and Housing Censuses (third quarter, 1987; a draft is to be prepared by a consultant in 1986); Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, part II, Topics and Tabulations for Population Censuses (third quarter, 1986; carried over from 1984-1985; basic material now assembled); Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, part V, Methods of Evaluating Population and Housing Census Results (third quarter, 1986; a draft has been prepared by a consultant and will be revised and expanded for publication); Emerging Issues in Population and Housing Censuses and their Implications for National Censuses during the Decade 1985-1994 (second quarter, 1986; carried over from 1984-1985; report presented to the Statistical Commission in 1983; new material assembled; revised version to be reviewed by an expert group in 1985 and then finalized for publication); Supplementary Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (second quarter, 1987); Recent Developments of the National Population Registration Systems and their Statistical Use (second quarter, 1987; a report is to be prepared by a consultant in 1986); Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on Housing and Human Settlements (fourth quarter, 1986; carried over from 1984-1985; work was begun in December 1984).

* Highest priority.

** Lowest priority.

1.7 Development of concepts and methods for integration and linkage of social, demographic and related statistics and indicators**

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on progress made in the development of integrated social, demographic and related economic statistics (second quarter, 1986);

(b) Sales publications: Methods of Developing Integrated National Data Bases for Social Statistics and Indicators (fourth quarter, 1986; carried over from 1984-1985 when it bore the title "Construction and use of a census data base"; a consultant is to prepare selected material in 1986); Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality of Persons in National Statistical Data Bases (fourth quarter, 1987; a partial draft exists, based on work done in 1982-1983);

(c) Report on concepts and methods for levels of living surveys, to be prepared by a consultant (1987).

1.8 Development and use of statistics for services to children and youth

Provision of advisory services in support of the improvement of social statistics in developing countries.

1.9 Development of concepts, methods and classifications for environment statistics

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on environment statistics (second quarter, 1986);

(b) Sales publications: Guidelines on Environmental Aspects of Freshwater Statistics (third quarter, 1987; draft guidelines were prepared by a consultant and reviewed by an expert group in 1983; they will be revised in the light of the comments made by the expert group, other national experts and experts from international organizations); Technical Report on Environmental Aspects of Energy Statistics: Concepts and Methods (first quarter, 1986; a draft is to be prepared by a consultant in 1985);

(c) Report on environmental aspects of human settlements statistics, to be prepared by a consultant (1986).

1.10 Development of concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on special population groups*

(a) Report to the Commission on Social Development on progress made in the development of statistics and indicators on special population groups (third quarter, 1986);

* Highest priority.

** Lowest priority.

(b) Report to the Commission on the Status of Women on progress made in the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women (third quarter, 1987);

(c) Sales publications: Selection and Use of Statistical Indicators on the Situation of Disabled Persons (second quarter, 1986; a report is to be prepared by a consultant in 1985; extrabudgetary); Technical Guide for the Development of National Data Bases on Disabled Persons (second quarter, 1987).

Subprogramme 2. Application of advanced technology in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

The objectives are: (a) to disseminate statistics at the international level through the issuance of recurrent general compendia of economic and social statistics; (b) to apply more efficient and effective means of managing a statistical integrated data base, providing direct access to an information network for the provision of data, the more efficient production and storage of statistics and the improved dissemination of all output, including response to ad hoc inquiries.

2.1 General compendia of economic and social statistics

(a) Sales publications: Statistical Yearbook, 1984 (fourth quarter, 1986); Statistical Yearbook, 1985 (fourth quarter, 1987); Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (12 issues each year); World Statistics in Brief, eleventh edition (third quarter, 1986); World Statistics in Brief, twelfth edition (third quarter, 1987).

2.2 Improved computerization of statistics

(a) Provision of a full range of data-processing services for the Statistical Office, including systems analysis, programming, electronic text handling, phototypesetting, the development of computerized techniques for the management of data and data base systems;

(b) Co-ordination of data processing with other organizational units within the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, and United Nations agencies;

(c) Dissemination of copies of machine-readable statistical data files;

(d) Reports on upgrading the existing on-line data base system and on the organization of data processing, networks and communications, to be prepared by consultants (1986).

Subprogramme 3. National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics

The objective is to collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate comprehensive, reliable, useful and timely national accounts, industrial, international trade and transport statistics that are as comparable as possible in order to serve the needs of national and international users.

3.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics

(a) Sales publications in the National Accounts Statistics series: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables (third quarter, 1986; third quarter, 1987); Analysis of Main Aggregates (third quarter, 1986; third quarter, 1987); Government Accounts and Tables (fourth quarter, 1986; fourth quarter, 1987); Results of Quantitative Comparisons of Gross Domestic Product and Net Material Product (fourth quarter, 1986);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations and other types of information in response to ad hoc requests by users.

3.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation**

Monitoring of data developments and compilation of data from individual countries regarding household income and expenditure statistics in preparation of the next issue of the sales publication Compendium of Household Income Distribution Statistics (which will appear every four or five years and is next scheduled to be issued in 1989).

3.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics

(a) Sales publications: Industrial Statistics Yearbook, vol. I, General Industrial Statistics, and vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics, 1984 and 1985 (third quarter, 1986; third quarter, 1987); Construction Statistics Yearbook, 1984 and 1985 (third quarter, 1986; third quarter, 1987); 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics; Summary of Data from Selected Countries (fourth quarter, 1986); Distributive-Trade Statistics Yearbook, 1985 (third quarter, 1987);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations and other types of information in response to ad hoc requests by users.

3.4 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade statistics

(a) Sales publications: International Trade Statistics Yearbook, vols. I and II (third quarter, 1986; third quarter, 1987); Commodity Trade Statistics, Series D (approximately 28 issues each year); World Trade Annual (fourth quarter, 1986; fourth quarter, 1987); Supplement to the World Trade Annual (fourth quarter, 1986; fourth quarter, 1987);

(b) Preparation of special statistical tables, computer tapes and microfiches in response to ad hoc requests by users.

** Lowest priority.

3.5 Collection, compilation and dissemination of transport statistics

(a) Sales publication: Maritime Transport Study (fourth quarter, 1986; fourth quarter, 1987; extrabudgetary);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations and other types of information in response to ad hoc requests by users.

Subprogramme 4. Energy and related statistics

The objective is to collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate comprehensive, reliable, useful and timely energy and related statistics that are as comparable as possible in order to serve the needs of national and international users.

4.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of energy and related statistics

(a) Sales publications: Energy Statistics Yearbook (first quarter, 1986; first quarter, 1987); Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles (fourth quarter, 1986);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations, press releases and other types of information in response to ad hoc requests by users.

Subprogramme 5. Price statistics and related areas

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

5.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics for international comparisons of real gross domestic product and purchasing power of currencies

Interim report on international comparison of real gross domestic product and purchasing power of currencies for approximately 50 countries (second quarter, 1987).

5.2 Price statistics for internationally traded commodities**

Sales publication: Methods used in compiling the United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade (2 vols.) (fourth quarter, 1987; carried over from 1984-1985).

5.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of price and related statistics**

Sales publication: Yearbook of World Price Trends (third quarter, 1986; third quarter, 1987).

** Lowest priority.

Subprogramme 6. Social, demographic and environment statistics

The objective is to collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate comprehensive, reliable, useful and timely social, demographic and environment statistics that are as comparable as possible in order to serve the needs of national and international users.

6.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics

(a) Sales publications: Demographic Yearbook (second quarter, 1986; second quarter, 1987); Population and Vital Statistics Report (four issues each year); Compendium of Immigrant Stock Data (second quarter 1987; carried over);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations and other types of demographic information from the demographic data base including immigrant stock data in response to ad hoc requests by users.

6.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social, housing and human settlements statistics*

(a) Sales publications: Compendium of Social Statistics (second quarter, 1987); Compendium of Statistics on the Situation of Women (first quarter, 1987); Users' Guide to the United Nations Data Base on Women (first quarter, 1987);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, diskettes, tabulations and other types of information on social statistics, data base on women and data base on disabled persons in response to ad hoc requests by users.

6.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics

Compilation of selected environment statistics and indicators that are to be published in the relevant publications of the Statistical Office.

Subprogramme 7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

The objective is to promote co-ordination of the international statistical system, including technical co-operation activities, and to provide statistical services to intergovernmental bodies, units within the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies; the Statistical Office serves as a focal point for the international statistical system.

7.1 Co-ordination of the statistics programme of the United Nations

(a) Substantive servicing of the twenty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission (first quarter, 1987); substantive servicing of the twelfth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination (fourth quarter, 1987);

* Highest priority.

(b) Reports to the Statistical Commission on (i) overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system (second quarter, 1986), (ii) future plans for statistical activities of the United Nations system (second quarter, 1986), (iii) proposed work programme for 1988-1989 and future plans of the Statistical Office 1990-1995 (second quarter, 1986) and (iv) the eleventh session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group (first quarter, 1986);

(c) Reports to the Statistical Commission's Working Group on (i) inventory of statistical data collection activities (second quarter, 1987), (ii) co-ordination of data-collection activities (second quarter, 1987), (iii) outlines of reports to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session (second quarter, 1987), (iv) approaches to long-term special issues to be considered by the Statistical Commission at future sessions (second quarter, 1987) and (v) other reports that may be requested by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fourth session (second quarter, 1987).

7.2 Review and co-ordination of statistical publications**

Activities include a review of the publications of the Statistical Office, regional commissions and specialized agencies in order to:

- (i) Assess quality, coverage and consistency of the data and their presentation and timeliness;
- (ii) Improve the co-ordination and complementarity of published material;
- (iii) Assess the extent of any duplication of published series in relation to the needs and convenience of users.

7.3 Provision of statistical services to General Assembly organs and other bodies on request*

(a) Substantive servicing of two sessions of the Committee on Contributions, which includes (i) collection and compilation of national income, population and exchange rate data, (ii) compilation of social and economic indicators and data on external debt and national wealth and (iii) special studies on methodology for assessment purposes (fourth quarter, 1986; fourth quarter, 1987);

(b) Processing of data on military expenditure, collected on the basis of a questionnaire prepared jointly by the Statistical Office and the Department for Disarmament Affairs (fourth quarter, 1986; fourth quarter, 1987);

(c) Provision of substantive services and statistical expertise to various units of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies on request.

* Highest priority.

** Lowest priority.

Subprogramme 8. Support of technical co-operation

The objective is to assist countries in developing their statistical capabilities, including the application of modern computer technology for processing statistical data, through the provision of advisory services, fellowships, supplies and equipment, and issuance of methodological material, and through substantive support and monitoring of technical co-operation projects.

8.1 Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries

(a) It is expected that 150 country projects in 80 countries will be in progress at the start of the biennium. It is expected that 50 will be completed and that 60 new projects will commence during the biennium (extrabudgetary). All of these projects will be undertaken in response to requests from developing countries for assistance in establishing, expanding or strengthening the capacities and capabilities of their statistical services;

(b) Technical co-operation activities in statistics relating to projects for the: conduct of population and housing censuses; improvement and expansion of civil registration systems; establishment or improvement of national accounts estimates, government sector accounts, income distribution statistics, external transactions, input-output tables, energy statistics, statistics on special population groups including women, youth, disabled persons and the elderly, and statistics in specialized social fields, such as crime and criminal justice; establishment of national household survey capability programmes for obtaining basic statistical series; and improvement of the structure of the statistical services of developing countries (1986-1987; extrabudgetary);

(c) Reports to the Statistical Commission on (i) technical co-operation activities in statistics, including statistical training and data processing (second quarter, 1986), (ii) assessment of the effectiveness of technical co-operation in statistics rendered by the United Nations system (second quarter, 1986) and (iii) development of national capabilities in statistics (second quarter, 1986).

8.2 Improvement of statistical data-processing capabilities of developing countries

(a) It is expected that there will be 55 projects with computers and with data-processing components being executed in 50 countries at the beginning of the biennium. Of these, 15 projects will be completed and 20 new projects with those components initiated (extrabudgetary). All of these projects will be undertaken in response to requests of developing countries for assistance in establishing, expanding or strengthening the capacities and capabilities of their statistical data-processing services (1986-1987);

(b) Technical co-operation activities in statistics relating to projects for the expansion and strengthening of data-processing hardware and software capabilities to edit and process raw data from different statistical areas so as to obtain the variety of reliable and comprehensive statistics required for establishing and monitoring the progress of national economic, demographic, social and other development (1986-1987).

Subprogramme 9. Programme support

9.1 Programme formulation and management

- (a) Direction and management of the Statistical Office;
- (b) Preparation of medium-term plans, budgets, performance reports and publication programmes;
- (c) Development of a management information system for the control of project development and the efficient utilization of staff resources;
- (d) Maintenance of a correspondence registry;
- (e) Liaison with other offices and departments, awareness of decisions of intergovernmental bodies that may have significance for statistics;
- (f) Maintenance of relationships with the senior staff of national statistical offices and international organizations.

II. PROPOSALS ON PRIORITIES FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987

2. The proposals of the Statistical Office on priorities for programme elements for 1986-1987 are as follows:

(a) Highest priority

- 1.1 Further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy
- 1.2 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications
- 1.6 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for demographic, housing and human settlements statistics
- 1.10 Development of concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on special population groups
- 6.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social, housing and human settlements statistics
- 7.3 Provision of statistical services to General Assembly organs and other bodies on request

(b) Lowest priority

- 1.4 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for international trade, transport and related statistics

- 1.5 Development of concepts and methods for statistics of prices and purchasing power comparisons
- 1.7 Development of concepts and methods for integration and linkage of social, demographic and related statistics and indicators
- 3.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation
- 5.2 Price statistics for internationally traded commodities
- 5.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of price and related statistics
- 7.2 Review and co-ordination of statistical publications

III. INDICATIVE FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF
ASSIGNED TO EACH PROGRAMME ELEMENT

3. Indicative figures on the number of Professional staff assigned to each subprogramme and programme element are shown in the table below. 3/

Subprogramme and programme element	Professional staff		
	Regular budget	Other funds	Total
1. Development of concepts and methods			
1.1 Further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy	5	-	5
1.2 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications	3	-	3
1.3 Development of concepts, classifications and methods of industrial, construction, distributive trade and energy and related statistics	5	-	5
1.4 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for international trade, transport and related statistics	2	1	3
1.5 Development of concepts and methods for statistics of prices and purchasing power comparisons	2	-	2

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Subprogramme and programme element	Professional staff		
	Regular budget	Other funds	Total
1.6 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for demographic, housing and human settlements statistics	3	1	4
1.7 Development of concepts and methods for integration and linkage of social, demographic and related statistics and indicators	1	-	1
1.8 Development and use of statistics for services to children and youth	-	1	1
1.9 Development of concepts, methods and classifications for environment statistics	2	-	2
1.10 Development of concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on special population groups	-	-	- a/
Total	23	3	26
2. Application of advanced technology in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics			
2.1 General compendia of economic and social statistics	5	-	5
2.2 Improved computerization of statistics	9	-	9
Total	14	-	14
3. National accounts, industrial, international trade and transport statistics			
3.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics	5	1	6
3.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation	-	-	- b/
3.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics	4	-	4

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Subprogramme and programme element	Professional staff		
	Regular budget	Other funds	Total
3.4 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade statistics	7	-	7
3.5 Collection, compilation and dissemination of transport statistics	-	1	1
Total	16	2	18
4. Energy and related statistics			
4.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of energy and related statistics	2	-	2
Total	2	-	2
5. Price statistics and related areas			
5.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics for international comparisons of real gross domestic product and purchasing power of currencies	2	-	2
5.2 Price statistics for internationally traded commodities	-	1	1
5.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of price and related statistics	1	-	1
Total	3	1	4
6. Social, demographic and environment statistics			
6.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics	3	-	3
6.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social, housing and human settlements statistics	1	-	1
6.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics	3	-	3
Total	7	-	7

Subprogramme and programme element	Professional staff		Total
	Regular budget	Other funds	
7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes			
7.1 Co-ordination of the statistics programme of the United Nations	2	-	2
7.2 Review and co-ordination of statistical publications	1	-	1
7.3 Provision of statistical services to General Assembly organs and other bodies on request	1	-	1
Total	4	-	4
8. Support of technical co-operation			
8.1 Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries	4	3	7
8.2 Improvement of statistical data-processing capabilities of developing countries	-	4	4
Total	4	7	11
9. Programme support			
9.1 Programme formulation and management	3	-	3
Total	3	-	3
Grand total	76	13	89

a/ Eight regular budgetary work months assigned.

b/ Nine regular budgetary work months assigned.

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IV. COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN RELATION
TO THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987

4. The listing below relates to special commitments made by the Statistical Office for work during 1986-1987 over and above its normal ongoing commitments to produce international statistics in its recurrent statistical publications, to produce publications on statistical methodology, to carry out its co-ordination function, to provide support for technical co-operation in statistics and to provide statistical services to General Assembly organs and other bodies, on request.

Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

1.1 Development of the United Nations System of National Accounts and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy

Participation, with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, in the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts for the co-ordination of the work on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA); organization of two SNA expert group meetings on the structure of SNA (1986) and input-output statistics and production accounts (1987); provision of assistance to other organizations participating in the Inter-Secretariat Working Group in the preparation of three other SNA expert group meetings on external transactions (1986), public sector accounts (1987), national accounting in constant prices and the International Comparison Project (ICP) (1986) and household sector and income distribution statistics (1987); preparation of draft handbooks of national accounting on input-output tables and household sector accounts and income distribution statistics which will be discussed at the relevant SNA expert group meetings; further elaboration of the conceptual framework of linkages between SNA and MPS in close co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and provision of assistance to CMEA in the revision of MPS.

1.2 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications

Work towards the harmonization of international economic classifications, including continued participation in the Joint United Nations Statistical Office/Statistical Office of the European Communities Working Group on World-Level Classifications; continued participation in the work on the Harmonized System of the Customs Co-operation Council; work towards the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and development of a combined production/goods classification and associated classifications of non-transportable goods and services linked to the revised ISIC; continued participation in the Maintenance Agency for International Standards (ISO 3166) (codes for the representation of names of countries) of the International Organization for Standardization.

1.4 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for international trade, transport and related statistics

Issuance of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 3, by the time that the revision of the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN) and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) come into force (1 January 1987).

Commitment, as set out in the project document on the development of shipping statistics, to compile statistics on the flow of goods on world sea lanes and to promote the uniform system for the development of economic statistics of shipping.

Provision of more comprehensive methodological information to users, especially international organizations, for international trade data published by the Statistical Office.

1.5 Development of concepts and methods for statistics of prices and purchasing power comparisons

Work with ILO to complete the Manual on Consumer Price Indexes in 1987.

Work with EUROSTAT, OECD and ECE on international comparisons and undertaking of a strong co-ordinating role in work on international comparisons.

1.6 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for demographic, housing and human settlements statistics

Review of census recommendations, taking into account the recommendations of the ILO International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1982.

1.8 Development and use of statistics for services to children and youth

Commitment to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support and encourage the development of social statistics, especially statistics that are useful for services to children and youth in developing countries.

1.10 Development of concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on special population groups

Preparation of a report to the Commission on Social Development on progress made in the development of statistics and indicators on special population groups and of a report to the Commission on the Status of Women on progress made in the development of statistics and indicators on the status of women.

Subprogramme 2. Application of advanced technology in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

2.2 Improved computerization of statistics

Participation, with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies and other international organizations, in a technical working group on statistical data bases.

Subprogramme 3. National accounts, industrial, international trade and transport statistics

3.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics

Continue sharing with OECD, EUROSTAT and the regional commissions work for the collection and processing of national accounts data; continue co-operation with IMF on government sector accounts and tables for publication in the Statistical Yearbook; maintenance of an input-output data bank in close co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

3.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive-trade statistics

Provision to UNIDO of industrial statistics, especially for developing countries; provision to the regional commissions of indexes to industrial production and employment.

3.4 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade statistics

Continued provision of trade statistics to international organizations, especially the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), for ongoing analytical work and improvement of the timeliness of data in the data base.

3.5 Collection, compilation and dissemination of transport statistics

See the description under programme element 1.4 above.

Subprogramme 6. Social, demographic and environment statistics

6.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social, housing and human settlements statistics

Commitment to producers and users of social statistics to work on the Compendium of Social Statistics. Preparation of special data for international conferences or years in specialized fields of social concern, for example, youth, the disabled, crime and criminal justice.

Subprogramme 7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

7.1 Co-ordination of the statistics programme of the United Nations

Provision of services to the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, the Committee on Contributions and the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC).

Subprogramme 8. Support of technical co-operation

8.1 Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries

Provision of support, on request.

8.2 Improvement of statistical data-processing capabilities of developing countries

Provision of support, on request.

V. CHANGES TO THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1984-1985

5. The Statistical Office prepared its draft work programme and budget proposals for 1984-1985 which were discussed within the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, including the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, and with the Budget Division of the Office of Financial Services, Department of Administration and Management. The proposed draft work programme was submitted to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-second session as a conference room paper. Subsequently, the proposed draft was amended to take into account the comments and decisions made by the Commission during the session as a whole and, in particular, during the discussion of the proposed draft. 4/

6. In the two to three months immediately following the session of the Statistical Commission, the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination and the Budget Division, in consultation with the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Statistical Office, undertook a further review. The revised proposals appeared in section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. 5/

7. In consultation with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, designations of highest and lowest priority were assigned to selected programme elements of the proposed programme budget, reflecting as far as possible the comments made by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-second session.

8. The proposed programme budget was reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-third session, held from 9 May to 4 June and 29 August to 12 September 1983. The Committee recommended that programme element 7.2 (Development of catalogues of economic and social statistics) should be deleted from section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 and the work under it postponed to a subsequent biennium. 6/ That recommendation was accepted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

VI. REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989

9. The following revisions to chapter 22 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 7/ were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1984/61 of 26 July 1984 and adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/238 of 18 December 1984.

CHAPTER 22. STATISTICS

I. GENERAL ORIENTATION OF THE MAJOR PROGRAMME

The following text modifies paragraph 22.6 of A/37/6.

Add at the end of subparagraph 22.6 (a) the following text: "and co-ordination and production of world-wide comparisons of products and purchasing power for as large a number of countries as possible."

Add in paragraph 22.6 the following:

(e) Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications;

(f) Further co-ordination of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) with its subsystems which have been developed by the Statistical Office and other international organizations in the past decade. The linkage of SNA with the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) will be further developed.

PROGRAMME 1. WORLD STATISTICS (DIESA)

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT OF CONCEPTS AND METHODS

The following text modifies paragraph 22.10 and 22.16 of A/37/6.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

Replace paragraph 22.10 with the following:

22.10 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. 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, update those standards in order to take changing institutional arrangements into account in the definition of transaction and transactor concepts, and foremost to reconcile the national accounting standards with those of alternative national accounting systems such as the European System of Accounts (ESA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS), with standards of related systems of statistics such as those designed by the IMF for balance of

payments and government finance statistics, as well as 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 reconciliations are defined in conceptual terms, but additional work is needed to make those reconciliations practically operational on the national and international levels.

Replace the first sentence of paragraph 22.16 with the following:

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 and statistical guidelines on concepts, classifications and methods of data collection and dissemination in selected areas of environmental concerns will be issued.

Insert after paragraph 22.16 the following:

22.16A 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. A new version of the publication Concepts and Methods in Energy Statistics and technical reports on selected topics of energy statistics will be prepared.

22.16B 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.

Replace the first sentence of paragraph 22.27 with the following:

Work will continue on preparing a methodology for a Yearbook of Distributive-Trade Statistics with a view to beginning its publication.

Notes

1/ The inclusion of the activities and projects leading to output has been done on an exceptional basis: that is, if the use of consultants, the convening of expert groups or inter-agency meetings or other special steps are involved, they are described; if the work is routine, no details are given.

2/ Concepts and Methods in Energy Statistics, with Special Reference to Energy Accounts and Balances: A Technical Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. 82.XVII.13).

3/ Based on the 1984-1985 level of staff resources. Rounded to the nearest number. The actual staff resources available to the Statistical Office for the biennium 1986-1987 will be determined by the General Assembly in the context of its consideration, at its fortieth session, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Notes (continued)

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 2 (E/1983/12 and Corr.1), chap. XII, sect. A.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, paras. 6.58-6.69.

6/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 136.

7/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement Nos. 6, 6A and 6B (A/37/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1-2).
