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NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS

PRICE STATISTICS

INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Updated information on the work of the Statistical Office
of the United Nations Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report provides information on significant developments that have occurred since the reports for the Statistical Commission were completed, as well as on important developments in areas of work not already covered by the agenda. Information is provided relevant to the following agenda items: 5 (National accounts and balances), 6 (International economic classifications), 7 (Price statistics), 8 (Industry, energy and environment statistics) and 9 (Demographic and social statistics). Information is also provided on services statistics and sea-borne trade statistics. The annex contains information on work completed by the Statistical Office in the biennium 1984-1985 and in the first six months of 1986.

* E/CN.3/1987/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth and eleventh sessions, the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination of the Statistical Commission noted that the content of the reports prepared for submission to the Commission was determined partly by the need to complete the drafting early enough so that translation and reproduction might be completed in time to make early distribution possible (E/CN.3/1985/17, para. 9; E/CN.3/1987/21, para. 6). The purpose of the present report is to provide updated information relevant to a number of items of the agenda. As was agreed to by the Working Group at its eleventh session, the report also includes information on important developments in areas of work not covered by the agenda (E/CN.3/1987/21, para. 26).

2. Section I contains updated information for those items in respect of which significant developments have occurred since the substantive reports for the Commission were completed. Section II contains information on important new developments in services statistics and sea-borne trade statistics, two items not included in the agenda. Information on major elements of work completed by the Statistical Office in the biennium 1984-1985 and in the first six months of 1986 is contained in the annex.

I. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORK OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT RELEVANT TO CERTAIN ITEMS OF THE AGENDA

A. System of National Accounts (SNA) (item 5 (a))

3. In the context of the review of the system of National Accounts (SNA), further discussions have taken place related to the organization of the SNA expert group meetings to be held in 1987. Agreements have been reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the details of two meetings sponsored by the Fund: the Expert Group on External Transactions, to be held at Washington, D.C., in April 1987, and the Expert Group on Public Sector Accounts, to be held at Washington, D.C., in July 1987. Agreement has also been reached with the World Bank on the meeting of the Expert Group on Household Sector Accounts and Income Distribution Statistics, tentatively scheduled to be held, at Rome in September 1987.

4. Balance-of-payments experts have been invited to attend the meeting of the Expert Group on External Transactions, in addition to the six "core" experts on national accounts. Topics for discussion at the meeting have been identified, and it has been agreed that an annotated agenda and a central discussion paper would be drafted by IMF and sent for comments to the members of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

5. IMF will draw up a tentative list of six experts on government finance statistics for the Expert Group on Public Sector Accounts and prepare the first draft of a central discussion document based on the selection of topics and the

layout of the paper agreed to by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

6. Agreement has been reached with the World Bank on the outline of a handbook on household sector accounts, to be prepared jointly by the World Bank and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. The handbook will provide the basis for selecting discussion topics for the Expert Group on Household Sector Accounts and Income Distribution Statistics.

7. With regard to the special survey on the basic economic information used in national accounts, 15 additional replies have been received since the end of June 1986, when the report of the Secretary-General on the state of the basic economic information used in the System of National Accounts in developing countries (E/CN.3/1987/6) was finalized. The replies were received from the following countries or areas: Ecuador, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Malawi, Montserrat, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga and Trinidad and Tobago. An initial analysis of these replies has confirmed the findings contained in the report of the Secretary-General. Nevertheless, further studies will be continued in this area, and a revised version of the report will be prepared for use in the ongoing review of SNA.

8. With regard to the work on links between SNA and related fields of statistics, efforts have been made to incorporate the orientation described in the report of the Secretary-General on links between the System of National Accounts and related fields of statistics, with particular reference to balance-of-payments statistics (BOP), government finance statistics (GFS) and money and banking statistics (MBS) (E/CN.3/1987/7) into a number of technical co-operation projects in statistics. In each of the projects, the establishment of data links between national accounts and related statistics has been included in order to widen the data base for the national accounts. In addition to increasing the implementation of SNA in individual countries in terms of tables and accounts, these efforts are resulting in increased information and developing-country orientated examples for use in individual volumes of the Handbook of National Accounting.

9. Developments in the work on social statistics and indicators relevant to SNA are described in paragraphs 21 to 23 below.

B. International economic classifications (item 6)

10. Discussions have recently taken place on the harmonization of national and international classifications with the emerging International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3 and the Central Product Classification (CPC). Many countries have requested copies of the classification documents to be discussed by the Statistical Commission, in order to align their national classifications with them. In making copies available, the Statistical Office stressed that some aspects of the classification were still tentative, particularly the parts dealing with services statistics, and that they might change considerably in the future. At the conference of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes of the European Communities, held at Palmela,

Portugal, from 28 to 30 May 1986, it was agreed that the revised General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE) should be identical with the revised ISIC, except that NACE would contain some further breakdowns. Since NACE may become a legal instrument, it may require more extensive explanatory notes than those contained in the current ISIC draft. The work done on NACE will be of value in finalizing ISIC.

11. Concerning the parts of ISIC and CPC dealing with services, a suggestion made by Statistics Canada has been followed, with the aim of obtaining more input from individual statistical offices. A number of countries are scheduled to meet in the Netherlands in January 1987 to agree on how to share work in this field. As a result of the meeting, the work on services classifications should gain extra impetus towards its finalization.

12. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on harmonization of international economic classifications (E/CN.3/1987/10, para. 31), suggestions have been made to introduce annexes to ISIC not only for energy and information but also for tourism. Such annexes would be useful for defining certain groups of activities according to some criteria other than those used in ISIC.

C. Price statistics (item 7)

13. Among the various developments that occurred between June and October 1986 in respect of the International Comparison Project (ICP), the most important one is the progress achieved in the comparison for the region covered by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). As a result of the financial assistance received from the United Nations Development Programme through its programme support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a multilateral workshop was convened at Bangkok from 15 September to 3 October 1986 to launch the field work for this regional comparison. The workshop was attended by representatives of nine countries or areas (Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand). It is hoped that India and Pakistan, which were unable to participate in the workshop will participate in the comparison. There is also the welcome prospect that the Asian Development Bank will provide substantial financial support, which will enable various ICP experts to visit the countries concerned and convene another multilateral meeting to review the results of the preliminary computations (some time in the middle of 1987). The regional comparison will be conducted jointly by the ESCAP secretariat and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. Because of these two instances of additional financial support, the regional comparison is expected to be finalized by late 1987 or early 1988.

14. Considerable progress has also been achieved in the Europe Group 2 comparison. A multilateral meeting, at which the Austrian Central Statistical Office acted as host, was held at Vienna from 20 to 24 October 1986. Agreement was reached on most of the methodological and organizational problems involved in continuing the project. It is expected that results for the five countries of the region will be available by the middle of 1987. Decisions have yet to be made on

the methods for linking the results for this region to those for the rest of Europe (or the Economic Commission for Europe) and on interpreting the fixity requirement in respect of this Group.

15. Work in the regions of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is continuing as planned; preliminary results are expected by December 1986. Results for the African comparison are expected by the second half of 1987. However, progress in the core comparisons has been somewhat slower than originally anticipated. There is still hope that the Pakistan/Nigeria, Pakistan/Turkey, India/Kenya, India/United States of America, and perhaps the Philippines/United States of America comparison also, will catch up and be completed on time. The possibility of linking the regions on the basis of a smaller number of interregional comparisons, however, may need to be considered.

16. Two important meetings are to take place in relation to ICP: the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) is to hold a meeting in Luxembourg in November 1986 to discuss the uses of the purchasing power and real product comparison, and a joint OECD/EUROSTAT meeting is to be held in Luxembourg in December 1986 to finalize the phase V comparison results and to discuss the most important multilateral and organizational problems that have still to be resolved, such as the fixity question and the periodicity of the comparison work.

D. Industrial statistics (item 8 (a))

17. Since the "Draft recommendations for a statistical programme for household and small-scale industries" (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/80) was submitted for reproduction, synopses of national practices on the measurement of household and small-scale industrial activity have been completed for France, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mauritius, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, as well as a second one for Sri Lanka. These synopses will be issued as an addendum to the draft recommendations (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/80/Add.1).

18. In substance, the discussion section on country practices (paras. 196-200 of the draft recommendations) will be largely unchanged by this additional information, except that the use of list frames for sampling appears to be more common than was suggested in paragraph 200. This fact may also have implications for the discussion of sampling procedures (chap. IV, sect. B, of the draft recommendations), pending further study.

19. If the review of country practices (part three of the draft recommendations) is approved for inclusion in the final recommendations, it may be possible to add synopses for a further six or eight countries.

E. Energy statistics (item 8 (b))

Ongoing methodological projects

20. The methodological work on energy statistics has focused on three aspects: (a) developing the statistical methodology for collecting and compiling statistics on new and renewable sources of energy; (b) investigating the possibilities for establishing systems for price and cost statistics for energy; and (c) researching and compiling a technical report on international energy statistics, covering definitions, units of measure and conversion factors.
21. The work programme on statistics on new and renewable sources of energy, which was presented in more detailed form at the twenty-third session of the Statistical Commission, is nearing completion. Phase II of the project concluded with the receipt of consultant reports on biomass, draft animal power and the novel sources of energy, the sun and the wind. The incorporation of new and renewable sources of energy in overall energy balances was discussed in an additional report. Phase III of the project opened with the convening of the ad hoc expert group meeting on statistics on new and renewable sources of energy at Rome from 29 September to 3 October 1986. The resulting draft recommendations on concepts and methods for the collection and compilation of statistics on new and renewable sources of energy are included in the final report of the meeting and will be made available in the near future, thus concluding the project.
22. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat has received a consultant report on energy price and cost statistics in developing countries, which assesses the status of energy data existing in value terms, using the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as a reference field. Owing to translation requirements, the questionnaires on price and cost statistics, which were developed with the assistance of the consultant, could not be forwarded to developing countries in 1986 but will be included with the annual questionnaire on energy statistics in 1987.
23. The Statistical Office has completed the preparation of a technical report entitled Energy Statistics: Definitions, Units of Measure and Conversion Factors, draft versions of which were distributed to selected individuals and institutions for comments and suggestions. The replies received were of assistance to the Statistical Office in finalizing the report.

F. Social statistics and indicators (item 9 (b))

24. The Expert Group Meeting on Measurement of Women's Income and Their Participation and Production in the Informal Sector was held at Santo Domingo, from 13 to 17 October 1986. The meeting was organized by the Statistical Office and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Draft technical reports were reviewed on methods of measuring and valuing women's participation in the informal sector of the economy; the use of household surveys to improve statistics and indicators on women, with special reference to women's income and the informal sector; methodological experience in measuring women's

participation in the informal sector in Latin America; and innovative methods of measuring women's economic welfare in household surveys. The reports are being revised to take into account the comments and recommendations made at the meeting and will be published in 1987.

25. The members of the Group discussed ways in which SNA and some of the principal economic classifications such as ISIC and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) could be developed further for use in the development of statistics and indicators on the economic situation of women and their contribution to development. A substantial programme of further work was recommended along those lines in response to the following recommendation contained in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women:

"The remunerated and, in particular, the unremunerated contributions of women to all aspects and sectors of development should be recognized, and appropriate efforts should be made to measure and reflect these contributions in national accounts and economic statistics and in the gross national product. Concrete steps should be taken to quantify the unremunerated contribution of women to agriculture, food production, reproduction and household activities." 1/

26. In connection with SNA and related economic statistics, the Group made the following proposals:

(a) Clarification of the SNA production boundary. The existing SNA recommendations are not sufficiently clear with regard to two types of informal activities: (i) the underground or hidden economy - that is, activities that produce goods and services for sale which are not reported or registered: the value added by these activities should be included in the gross domestic product (GDP) along with the value added by similar activities in the "open" or "formal" economy; (ii) production for own consumption: the types of production for own consumption that should be included in GDP should be specified in detail in the revised SNA. The existing rules are not well understood and are interpreted differently from one country to another. The revised SNA should provide a comprehensive list of all such activities that may be included;

(b) Subsectoring of the household sector in SNA. The possibility of using such subsectoring to more adequately distinguish at least some types of informal activity should be carefully considered. For example, farm and non-farm households might be distinguished, and farm households could be further divided between those whose income is mainly consumption from own production and those whose main income comes from cash sales; non-farm households could be further divided into those whose main income is from formal activities and those who are mainly dependent on earnings from informal activities;

(c) Estimation of value added by home-makers. The Group proposed that countries should regularly estimate home-makers' value added in such activities as minding and educating children, caring for sick and elderly family members, preparing meals, house-cleaning, repairing and washing clothes and health care. These estimates should not be included in GDP as defined in SNA but, rather,

estimates of home-makers' value added should be added to GDP to obtain a measure of "expanded GDP". The implication is that home-makers' value added should be valued in accordance with SNA principles. Gross output of home-makers' services and their intermediate consumption should therefore be valued using market prices for similar services and goods. In practise, it would usually be necessary to approximate the required measure using the wages of paid workers producing similar kinds of services;

(d) GDP by sex. Guidelines and special analytical studies should be prepared on economic output by sex. This would require various assumptions about the sex division of non-wage components of value added and thus goes beyond national accounting as normally defined. A similar sex division should be worked out for expanded GDP; namely, GDP plus the value of housework;

(e) Sex bias in estimation procedures used for the national accounts. Women are under-counted in the labour force for various reasons. The same may be true for the inclusion of women's contribution in the national accounts. The methods used by national accountants to estimate GDP may discriminate by sex either in the sense that certain informal activities are more likely to be omitted if they are performed by women rather than by men or in the sense that the informal activities usually performed by women are more likely to be omitted than the informal activities usually performed by men. These questions should be investigated by examining the estimation procedures at present used by a sample of countries;

(f) Interrelation of economic classifications. The Group noted that many classification issues concerning ISCO, ISIC, status in employment and the informal sector were interrelated. They recommended that, in connection with the review and revision of these classifications, thorough and detailed studies of applications of these classifications in statistics on women's contribution and participation in development be undertaken in co-operation with competent bodies and interested specialists, taking these interrelations into account.

27. In other fields, the Group reached the following conclusions:

(a) It recommended that every effort be made to promote the development and use of time-use statistics in developing countries. In connection with the measurement of women's production, technical material on concepts, classifications, organization and methods of analysis and the application of time-use surveys should be developed and widely disseminated, and innovative and cost-effective approaches should be promoted;

(b) It noted that it had discussed a number of innovative topics that might be included in labour force surveys with a view to determining the importance of these topics relative to the situation of women, such as the informal sector and size of establishment; place of work; various employer practices, social security arrangements and other aspects of working conditions and sexual discrimination in the labour market and at work. It was recommended that sample survey questions, modules and table outlines on these topics be prepared for experimental application;

(c) It re-emphasized its recommendation, made many times during the discussion, that all statistics related to persons should be collected and tabulated by sex. There were still many fields and countries where this was not done;

(d) It noted the importance of, and the contributions of technical co-operation to, the development of statistics and indicators on women in all fields at the national and international levels - for example, through the National Household Survey Capability Programme - and it urged the continuation and expansion of that support. The Group stressed the necessity of using statistics and indicators on women in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans, programmes and projects in technical co-operation. It agreed that high priority should be given to further work in training and dissemination activities and that special funding should be considered for the preparation of materials for the wider dissemination of statistics and research in the countries concerned.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN AREAS NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA

A. Services statistics

28. As mentioned in paragraph 11 above, a meeting on services statistics is scheduled to take place in the Netherlands in January 1987. Aspects of service statistics other than classification problems may be discussed at the meeting. The Statistical Office proposes to prepare a report on the collection, availability and use of statistics on services. ^{2/} The report may focus on the following subjects: (a) a further breakdown of the services area for general statistical data, such as employment and value added, according to activities; (b) the establishment and definition of units of measurement for the output of service industries; (c) the evaluation of quantity and price components of these outputs; and (d) an indication of how to measure trade in services, including international trade in services.

29. It would be of great assistance if the Commission could indicate which other subjects should be dealt with. The Commission may also wish to consider the most appropriate steps for proceeding with further developmental work in the area of services statistics; for example, the possibility of including a separate item on the subject in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission.

B. Sea-borne trade statistics

30. The Statistical Office has been carrying out a programme of work on shipping statistics within the framework of transport statistics for the past several years. The short-term objective was to compile up-to-date, comprehensive statistics on the flow of goods by sea in order to assess the effective demand for shipping services. The long-term objective was to provide - at least in developing countries - a uniform system of collecting economic statistics on shipping, in which the individual shipments of commodities are linked to the respective ships that carry the goods in question.

31. The programme was made possible by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Norway, amounting to \$800,000 for the four-year period 1978-1981 and approximately the same amount for a further four-year period, 1982-1985. In accordance with its plan of support, the Government of Norway discontinued its voluntary contribution at the end of 1985. The Statistical Office has no extrabudgetary funds to continue the work beyond December 1987.

32. This work programme was discussed by the Statistical Commission at its twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions. 3/ The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Norway for its contribution to the Statistical Office for the project, and requested the Secretary General to keep the topic of shipping statistics in the long-term work programme of the Office and to make efforts to raise adequate extrabudgetary funds for the activities of the work programme.

1. Implementation of the shipping statistics project

33. The Statistical Office produced annual publications covering the flow of goods by sea from 1972 to 1983. During the period, the geographical coverage of the publication has been increased significantly, and the number of reporting countries has grown from 30 in the pilot study to 95 in the 1983 annual publication. There are now time series for the period 1969-1983 recorded on magnetic tapes.

34. Assistance to developing countries has been provided in the form of consultancies, visits to countries to discuss and formulate plans for establishing data collection systems, and the convening of and participation in seminars and workshops. To date, 11 countries of Asia and Latin America have been able directly and indirectly to improve their maritime trade statistics. In addition, a number of countries of the Caribbean and Africa have requested technical assistance to establish and improve their maritime trade statistics.

35. During the period of the project, three workshops were held for countries of the region in close collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, a workshop was held at Beijing, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. The Statistical Office has organized and funded a workshop in Peru for Latin American countries. At the meeting of the International Advisory Group on Maritime Statistics, held at Oslo in 1984, the Statistical Office presented a discussion paper on the methods used in collecting and compiling maritime external trade statistics.

36. Visits designed to promote the uniform system of collecting economic statistics of shipping and to assist in its implementation were paid to a number of countries of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. Because of inadequate funds, the Statistical Office was only able to field a few short-term consultancies which, in the final analysis, could not achieve much.

37. Among the many problems encountered in implementing the uniform system were the following:

(a) Implementation primarily required close working relationships between the national statistical office, the national customs authority and the national ports authority. This proved to be rather difficult to achieve in a number of cases and meaningful progress was delayed;

(b) A few countries were able to implement only that part of the uniform system which concentrated on obtaining a tabulated analysis from data available within their respective national statistical offices. This was especially true for a number of countries of the regions covered by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) A number of countries of Africa were interested in and understood the advantages and usefulness of this type of data, but their priorities were such that little support could be given to the programme, and it was difficult to make an impact in those countries.

38. As part of the original plan, the Statistical Office was to (a) collect national data from countries according to the uniform system and (b) process and publish merged tables of commodity and ship characteristics. However, as the basic data were not available in many countries and would take time to develop, the Statistical Office attempted to develop a methodology to merge ships' movements obtained from Lloyd's Register of Shipping with commodity movements obtained from external trade by maritime transport compiled by the Statistical Office. It was decided that the starting point should be to merge tanker movements with movements of bulk petroleum products. Unfortunately, the Statistical Office did not have the computer programming expertise for this activity and the cost of using a consultant was judged to be too high in relation to the funds available.

2. Evaluation of the shipping statistics project

39. Despite the problems faced in implementing the uniform system, the project achieved some tangible results:

(a) The project was able to produce aggregates of the pattern of the flow of goods on the important world sea lanes on an annual basis. This information is useful and is used by the United Nations system, national shipping research institutes, national universities and private businesses. The Statistical Office has received letters, visits and reports from a number of the international and national organizations that have been using the outputs of the project;

(b) Although total implementation of the uniform system has not been accomplished by any country, it has been implemented in a modified form in a number of countries.

40. In reassessing the original objectives of the project against its outputs during the past eight years of its existence, it was concluded that there was a need to change its objectives and to rearrange its methodology to achieve more realistic and useful outputs. A new focus was called for and, in this light, a new alternative programme has been developed.

3. Objectives of the new programme

41. The immediate objectives of the new programme are:

- (a) To establish an on-line data bank system for sea-borne trade statistics;
- (b) To improve the methodology of deriving sea-borne trade from total external trade statistics;
- (c) To improve the speed with which national data become available and to develop a methodology for obtaining national estimates in the absence of actual data;
- (d) To assist developing countries in providing sea-borne trade statistics and improving the quality of those statistics.

42. The long-term objectives of the new programme are:

- (a) To provide technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to establish systems of obtaining sea-borne external trade statistics at the same time as they process their total external trade data;
- (b) To encourage collaboration with the regional commissions, other United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and regional bodies, such as the secretariat of the Latin American Economic System, to avoid any duplication of effort.

4. Programme of work

43. The programme of work is scheduled to be undertaken over the next five years. It is intended to satisfy the immediate objectives of the project and to make a start on the achievement of its long-term objectives.

44. It is planned that the time lag of the annual publication be reduced so that sea-borne trade statistics for a particular year will be published with a lag of only one year. The processing time will be reduced by devising more efficient computer processing methodology. A computer methodology for producing provisional estimates for main trading partners, important commodities and main flows of sea-borne trade that can be used in the absence of actual national data will be developed. This will permit the Statistical Office to publish data that can be used for analysis.

45. Research will be undertaken to develop an improved methodology for estimating quantities in metric tons for commodities whose original units of measurement are not expressed in terms of weight or whose quantities are unreported in their total external trade statistics.

46. The selection of sea lanes will be reviewed and improved. For example, it is hoped that a country-to-country pattern of goods flow can be instituted. This is especially useful for major trading partners and for flows of commodities such as oil, ore, coal, grain and gas.

47. At present, sea-borne trade data for each year are stored on magnetic tapes. It is inconvenient to retrieve data for a number of years for analytical purposes. A data bank on disks with enough flexibility for any type of analytical purpose should be established. Such a data bank would be available on line to outside users.

48. Research will also be conducted to help analyse problems of land-locked countries and the use of alternative outlets and ports for their external trade. Existing ports statistics from main transit ports could be an important source of data for such work.

49. Technical assistance should be directed towards selected developing countries that are reasonably interested in establishing or improving their sea-borne trade statistics. This will be done in close collaboration with the appropriate regional commissions, and will involve preparing a methodological document for use by developing countries in processing international maritime trade statistics from their total international trade statistics.

5. Expected output

50. The most significant expected output will be the annual matrix of goods flow along sea lanes of the world. Apart from data of the total international sea-borne freight market measured in metric tons and ton-miles, the statistics will provide a comprehensive picture of the structure of the market at the regional and national levels. As these cross-section data will be comparable to the existing time-series data, the results will give a detailed description of the trends in the international shipping market for any reasonable time period.

6. Action taken by the Statistical Office

51. The Statistical Office has taken action to secure extrabudgetary funding for the project. The possible cessation in the production of international sea-borne trade data was brought to the attention of the International Advisory Group on Maritime Statistics, of which the Statistical Office is a member, at its meeting in Luxembourg in 1985. The Group requested the Statistical Office to present a paper for discussion at its meeting in 1986. In that paper, the Statistical Office described the original objectives of the project, the broad output of the uniform system and the process of implementing the project; it also gave an evaluation of the project and included a new proposed programme of work.

52. After discussing the paper, the Group requested its Chairman to take the following action:

(a) To request the United Nations Secretariat to maintain the work of collecting maritime trade statistics in the long-term work programme of the Statistical Office and urge that it not be discontinued;

(b) To inform members of the Statistical Commission of the Group's views on this aspect of the work programme of the Statistical Office and ask that each member endorse the continuation of the work and that it be given priority treatment in the work programme.

53. The Group requested its individual members able to do so to assist the United Nations in obtaining extrabudgetary funds from their Governments or other national sources for the continuation of this work.

54. Some interest has been expressed by a few Governments and national organizations in the possibility of providing extrabudgetary funds for continuing the work over the next five years. Resources will be required to recover the cost of two statisticians, two statistical clerks, consultancies, travel and other related support services.

7. Action required by the Statistical Commission

55. The Commission may wish:

(a) To express its appreciation to the Government of Norway for its voluntary contribution to the Statistical Office over the eight-year period 1978-1985 for the shipping statistics project;

(b) To comment on the history of the implementation of the uniform system and the decision of the Statistical Office to shift the focus to a new programme of work, namely, the collection, analysis and publication of sea-borne trade statistics and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries in this area;

(c) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To continue the new work programme on sea-borne trade statistics and retain it in the work programme of the Statistical Office;

(ii) To make efforts to raise adequate extrabudgetary funds for those activities.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A, para. 120.

Notes (continued)

2/ See the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1988-1989 (E/CN.3/1987/CRP.1), programme element 1.2, "Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications".

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), chap. II, sect. C; *ibid.*, 1981, Supplement No. 2 (E/1981/12), chap. II, sect. C; *ibid.*, 1983, Supplement No. 2 (E/1983/12 and Corr.1), chap. IV, sect. B.

Annex

OUTPUTS COMPLETED BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN THE BIENNIUM
1984-1985 AND IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1986

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

1. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:

(a) Handbook of National Accounting - Accounting for Production: Sources and Methods; a/

(b) Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3; b/

(c) Classification by Broad Economic Categories Defined According to SITC, Rev. 3; c/

(d) Consolidated Statistics of all International Arrivals and Departures: A Technical Report; d/

(e) National Data Sources and Programmes for Implementing the United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration; e/

(f) Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, volume II, Review of National Practices; f/

(g) Handbook of Household Surveys (Revised Edition); g/

(h) Compiling Social Indicators on the Situation of Women; h/

(i) Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women; i/

(j) Development of Statistics of Disabled Persons: Case Studies; j/

(k) A Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics; k/

(l) Concepts and Methods for Integrating Social and Economic Statistics on Health, Education and Housing: A Technical Report; l/

(m) Manual for the Development of Criminal Justice Statistics. m/

2. The following expert group meetings and seminar were held:

(a) Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Statistics on Disabled Persons (convened jointly by the Statistical Office and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat), Vienna, 2-6 April 1984; for the report of the Meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.18/7;

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(b) Expert Group Meeting on the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme, United Nations Headquarters, 11-15 November 1985; for the report on the Meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.24/15;

(c) Expert Group Meeting on the Harmonization of Economic Classifications, United Nations Headquarters, 28 April-2 May 1986; for the report on the Meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.25/10;

(d) Interregional Seminar on the SNA Review for Developing Countries, Geneva, 18-21 June 1986; the report on the Seminar is to be issued as ESA/STAT/AC.27/18;

(e) Expert Group Meeting on the System of National Accounts (SNA) Structure, Geneva, 22-27 June 1986; for the report of the Meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.28/10.

3. The following reports were prepared:

(a) Draft methodological provisions for the compilation of the System of Balances of the National Economy, volumes I and II (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/17/Rev.1), prepared by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance;

(b) First complete draft of the Revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/4/Rev.3);

(c) Draft supplementary principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Add.1);

(d) First draft of the Central Product Classification (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77);

(e) Draft recommendations for a statistical programme for household and small-scale industries (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/80).

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

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on selected statistics and indicators on the status of women (A/CONF.116/10) was submitted as a basic document to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985;

(b) Two reports, on measuring and valuing women's participation in the informal sector of the economy (INSTRAW/AC.3/2-ESA/STAT/AC.29/2) and on improving statistics and indicators on women using household surveys with special reference to women's income and the informal sector (INSTRAW/AC.3/3-ESA/STAT/AC.29/3), were completed and issued as draft working papers, in co-operation with the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, for general circulation and comment prior to final revision and publication;

(c) The Handbook of Social Indicators was completed in draft form for consideration at the Informal Meeting on Social Indicators of the Conference of European Statisticians, held at Stockholm from 9 to 11 April 1986, and for general circulation and comment prior to final revision and publication;

(d) A report entitled "Current work and plans for development of statistics on disability" (position paper No. 11) was submitted to the Fourth Inter-agency Meeting on the Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Vienna from 5 to 7 March 1986;

(e) A report on selected problems in consumer price index computations (CES/SEM.19/R.14) was submitted to the joint ILO/ECE Expert Group Meeting on Statistics of Consumer Prices;

(f) A draft of Manual of Environment Statistics, Volume I, Human Settlements Statistics, has been completed and discussed in an informal group meeting with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). It was distributed to the regional commissions, the United Nations Environment Programme and selected specialized agencies.

5. Information on other work done is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General before the Commission, in particular those in the fields of national accounts and balances (E/CN.3/1987/5), classifications (E/CN.3/1987/10), prices (E/CN.3/1987/11), energy statistics (E/CN.3/1987/13) and population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/1987/15).

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

6. The following statistical compendiums were issued or submitted for printing:

(a) Statistical Yearbook, 1982; n/

(b) Statistical Yearbook, 1983-1984; o/

(c) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics;

(d) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), ninth edition; p/

(e) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), tenth edition. q/

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

7. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:

(a) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1982; r/

- (b) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1983; s/
- (c) National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 1982; t/
- (d) National Accounts Statistics: Government Accounts and Tables, 1982; u/
- (e) National Accounts Statistics: Government Accounts and Tables, 1983; v/
- (f) National Accounts Statistics: Compendium of Income Distribution Statistics; w/
- (g) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1982, volume I, General Industrial Statistics, and volume II, Commodity Production Statistics; x/
- (h) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1983, volume I, General Industrial Statistics, and volume II, Commodity Production Statistics, 1974-1983; y/
- (i) National Accounts Statistics: Study of Input-Output Tables, 1978-1980; z/
- (j) Construction Statistics Yearbook, 1982; aa/
- (k) Construction Statistics Yearbook, 1983; bb/
- (l) 1983 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, volume I, Trade by Country, and volume II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables; cc/
- (m) 1984 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, volume I, Trade by Country, and volume II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables; dd/
- (n) Commodity Trade Statistics (87 fascicles were completed or issued);
- (o) 1980 World Trade Annual; ee/
- (p) 1980 Supplement to the World Trade Annual; ee/
- (q) 1981 World Trade Annual; ee/
- (r) 1981 Supplement to the World Trade Annual; ee/
- (s) 1981 Maritime Transport Study: Analysis by Type of Goods Moved During 1978-1981 Between Regions of the World; ff/
- (t) 1982 Maritime Transport Study: Analysis by Type of Goods Moved During 1979-1982 Between Regions of the World. gg/

Subprogramme 4. Energy and related statistics

8. The following publications were issued:

- (a) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1982; hh/
- (b) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1983; ii/
- (c) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1984; jj/
- (d) Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1982. kk/

Subprogramme 5. Price statistics and related areas

9. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:

- (a) World Comparisons of Purchasing Power and Real Product for 1980, Part One: Summary Results for 60 Countries; ll/
- (b) World Comparisons of Purchasing Power and Real Product for 1980, Part Two: Detailed Results for 60 Countries; mm/
- (c) Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade: Two Studies of National Practice. nn/

Subprogramme 6. Social, demographic and environment statistics

10. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:

- (a) Demographic Yearbook, 1982; oo/
- (b) Demographic Yearbook, 1983; pp/
- (c) Demographic Yearbook, 1984; qq/
- (d) Quarterly issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report;
- (e) Population and Vital Statistics Report: 1984 Special Supplement; rr/
- (f) Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics, 1983; ss/
- (g) Statistical Indicators on Youth; tt/
- (h) Selected Indicators on the Status of Women (poster); uu/
- (i) Selected Statistical Indicators on Youth (poster). vv/

Subprogramme 7. Co-ordination of international
statistical programmes

11. The Directory of International Statistics, volume II, was submitted for printing.

12. The report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the collection of social statistics and the preparation of reports on social issues (E/CN.5/1985/3), prepared in accordance with paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 37/54, was submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-ninth session (Vienna, 18-27 February 1985).

13. A note by the Secretary-General concerning the data collection activities of the United Nations system and selected non-United Nations international organizations (E/CN.3/AC.1/1985/R.6) was prepared for the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its eleventh session.

Subprogramme 9. Programme support

14. The Statistical Office Newsletter was issued on approximately a monthly basis.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

15. Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1984-1985 amounted to \$31 million; the amount budgeted for 1986 is \$20 million. This accounted for approximately 183 projects in 87 countries comprising, in part, 83 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 50 in statistical organization/multi-sector statistics, 14 in economic statistics, 19 in vital statistics and 17 in data processing.

16. The National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) has made significant progress. At present, 26 developing countries are participating in the Programme. Most of those countries have carried out several household surveys and are making use of the survey results in planning and monitoring development programmes. Two technical studies covering aspects of household survey methodology and procedures were published: Development and Design of Survey Questionnaires (INT-84-014) and Sampling Frames and Sample Designs for Integrated Household Survey Programmes (DP/UN/INT-84-014/5E).

17. The revised Directory of Technical Co-operation in Statistics (ST/ESA/STAT/105/Rev.1) has been submitted for printing; it is to be issued in English, French and Spanish.

Notes

- a/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.11.
- b/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.12.
- c/ Submitted for printing; to be issued as a sales publication in 1987.
- d/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.8.
- e/ Submitted for printing; to be issued as a sales publication in 1987.
- f/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.11.
- g/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.13.
- h/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.2.
- i/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.3.
- j/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.17.
- k/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.12.
- l/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.23.
- m/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.16.
- n/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.84.XVII.1.
- o/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XVII.1.
- p/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.13.
- q/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.8.
- r/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.3.
- s/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.3.
- t/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.4.
- u/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.5.
- v/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.5.
- w/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.6.
- x/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.84.XVII.7 and E/F.84.XVII.8.
- y/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.85.XVII.10 and E/F.85.XVII.11.

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Notes (continued)

- z/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.15.
- aa/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.9.
- bb/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.14.
- cc/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XVII.2, vols. I and II.
- dd/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.86.XVII.7, vols. I and II.
- ee/ Five volumes, published by Walker and Co., New York, by agreement with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.
- ff/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.11.
- gg/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.6.
- hh/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.84.XVII.4.
- ii/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XVII.9.
- jj/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.86.XVII.2.
- kk/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.7.
- ll/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.9.
- mm/ Submitted for printing; to be issued as a sales publication in 1987.
- nn/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.7.
- oo/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.83.XIII.1.
- pp/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.84.XIII.1.
- qq/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XIII.1.
- rr/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.84.XIII.2.
- ss/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.84.XVII.5.
- tt/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XVII.12.
- uu/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XIII.6A.
- vv/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.12A.
