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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report provides updated information on the future activities in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and of several international organizations outside the system. For most organizations, it covers the principal activities planned through the end of 1989. The sections on the United Nations organizations generally incorporate revisions made to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and reflect the approved work programmes for the period 1986-1987. Only important planned changes in the activities of the organizations are discussed, that is, new activities, activities to be cancelled and activities to be modified significantly.

For a complete summary of the plans of international organizations in the area of statistics, the present report should be read in conjunction with the previous report on the subject (E/CN.3/1985/19), which was submitted to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

* E/CN.3/1987/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. As requested by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session, 1/ the present report, supplemented by the report submitted to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session entitled "Plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics" (E/CN.3/1985/19), provides the Commission with a summary of the future activities in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and several international organizations outside the system. The two reports should be read in conjunction with each other. The present report contains references to the earlier report and includes only new information.

2. The sections in this report for the United Nations organizations generally incorporate revisions made to the medium-term plans for the period 1984-1989 and the approved work programmes for the period 1986-1987. The report is necessarily selective in coverage owing to the restrictions on its length. The sections on the activities of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (sects. II.A and II.B below) should be read in conjunction with the notes by the Secretary-General entitled "Proposed work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for 1988-1989 and related information" (E/CN.3/1987/CRP.1) and "Preliminary proposals for the medium-term plan of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for 1990-1995" (E/CN.3/1987/CRP.2).

3. The general orientation of the future work of each organization remains largely unchanged from that set out in the previous report to the Commission. New activities and activities which have been cancelled or modified significantly are discussed. Appropriate references to paragraphs of the previous report are made. Routine, continuing activities, such as the issuance of recurrent publications, and other activities that have not changed since the twenty-third session of the Commission are not reported.

4. The work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is described under two organizational headings (see sects. II.A and II.B below). In carrying out its responsibility for the provision of technical co-operation in statistics, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has relied on the Statistical Office for substantive support, in accordance with the arrangements for collaboration that have existed for some time between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

I. IMPACT OF RESOURCE LIMITATIONS ON THE FORMULATION OF WORK PLANS

5. All plans of the United Nations entities, including those in the area of statistics, are somewhat tentative owing to the current financial crisis of the United Nations. Several of the specialized agencies and non-United Nations entities are also experiencing substantial financial restraints and reductions. Similar constraints in a number of member States are also adversely affecting the

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work in statistics at the national level. For the immediate short term, reductions in resources for statistical work have been made in the United Nations and some other international organizations, and the resource outlook for the proposed work programmes of the international organizations for the remainder of the decade and the early 1990s is uncertain. It may be noted that with respect to the United Nations and most other organizations, the reductions experienced so far reflect the shrinkage of the overall resources available to the organizations rather than any lessened sense of the importance of statistics. Reductions in the overall resources available for statistical work make it even more imperative that work be co-ordinated and shared among the international organizations. The priorities for international statistical work over the next few years should be clearly articulated so that the available resources can be allocated appropriately.

6. Resources available to statistics programmes of the United Nations have already been reduced from the level planned and approved for 1986-1987 by decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. This has resulted in some cancellations and deferments and the reformulation of some outputs and the cancellation of planned consultancy services, expert groups and other technical meetings and travel. The changes have been implemented, taking into account as far as possible the priority concerns previously expressed by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, international conferences, the Statistical Commission and the regional commissions. The scale of the adjustments is on the order of 10 per cent of the originally approved level. Any additional information on the implications for the statistics programmes resulting from the deliberations and decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-first session will be communicated to the Commission orally.

II. UNITED NATIONS

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

Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

7. For information on plans in national accounts and balances, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 6. In addition, a series of Handbooks of National Accounts will be issued.

8. Work on economic classifications will involve the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the development of a central product classification (CPC). It will also involve the completion of indexes to the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3, and possibly to the other classifications mentioned above. For additional work on classifications, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 21.

9. In price statistics, the main emphasis will be on the further development and consolidation of international recommendations and guidelines and their articulation within the national accounting systems and on improving the links between national price statistics and the International Comparison Project (ICP).

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The focus of ICP, in co-operation with the inter-organizational group on ICP, will be on continuing to study methods for linking groups of countries from different regions and with different economic structures, to seek to formulate improved principles of item selection for price comparisons, to improve comparisons for non-marketed goods and services and to promote methods for product side (value added) comparisons. Problems of estimation in non-benchmark years and of carrying out simplified purchasing power comparisons that do not require substantial financial resources will also be investigated.

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

11. For plans related to the 1985-1994 round of population and housing censuses, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 10. In addition, supplementary principles and recommendations will be prepared in connection with this round of population and housing censuses.

12. A technical manual of environment statistics will be prepared. The manual will propose concepts, definitions and classifications for statistical variables in the areas of human settlements and natural resources which describe high-priority environmental concerns in most countries.

13. For plans in energy statistics methodology, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 12.

14. For plans in industrial and related statistics methodology, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 13.

15. Further technical documentation will be prepared on the collection of data and compilation of indicators on (a) levels of living, including income distribution statistics, and (b) special population groups such as women, children, youth and disabled persons, through household sample surveys. Further technical documentation will also be prepared on the links between those data and the related data obtained from administrative records.

16. Efforts will also be made to promote statistics in the field of services and to co-ordinate work carried out by other international organizations in this area. The main emphasis will be put on measuring the output of services (especially in constant prices) and on compiling statistics on the international trade of services.

Sub-programme 2: Application of advanced technology in collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

17. For plans in this area see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 23.

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

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

19. The quality and coverage in terms of information categories and countries will be improved for national accounts data series of main aggregates and institutional sector accounts. Analytical studies of national accounts data will be expanded.

20. A compilation of industrial statistics covering the countries participating in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be published. Studies on the feasibility of introducing a new series of industrial statistics on more-frequent-than-annual inquiries will be continued. Similarly, the plans to expand the collection and publication of data (e.g., production, trade, consumption and prices) on non-energy minerals and raw materials will continue to be kept under close review.

21. The target date for the introduction of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the Customs Co-operation Council and the correlated Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3, has been changed to 1 January 1988, making it possible to publish statistics on this basis starting with those for 1988.

22. In addition to maritime transport statistics, statistics on transport by road, inland water, railways and air will be developed and improved and, it is hoped, will be published regularly from 1988 onwards.

Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

23. For plans in energy and related statistics compilation, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 17.

Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

24. For plans in price statistics, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 18 and 26. In addition, growth indices adjusted for terms-of-trade changes will be compiled and published regularly. Also, international comparisons will be extended in coverage by involving the participation of interested countries in the project in future phases.

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Subprogramme 6: Social, demographic and environment statistics

25. For plans on reliability of published data and for data on foreign-born population, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 28. In addition, selected basic social data and indicators will increasingly be made available in easy-to-use machine-readable form.

26. To provide comparable environmental data at the national and international levels for purposes of environment assessment and management, a programme of collection and dissemination of international series of environment statistics will be gradually developed.

Subprogramme 7: Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

27. For plans on co-ordination, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 29.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

Subprogramme: Support of technical co-operation in statistics

28. For plans in support of technical co-operation, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 30 and 31. An increased number of projects is also expected for statistics on special population groups, including children, women, youth and disabled persons. Expanded application of computer technology for data dissemination will also be supported.

29. Information on the orientation of technical co-operation in statistics can be found in the reports of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation in statistics rendered by the United Nations system, other international organizations and countries (E/CN.3/1987/17), and the National Household Survey Capability Programme (E/CN.3/1987/19).

C. Economic Commission for Europe

Subprogramme 1: Standards and methodology

30. For plans on standards and methodology in a number of areas, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 34. In addition, transport statistics will be included among the subjects to receive special emphasis during the period.

Subprogramme 2: Research data and projects

31. For plans in the area of research data and projects, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 35.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

32. Promotion of country participation in the 1990 round of population and housing censuses has already commenced. It is planned to provide technical assistance in additional demographic areas, such as census cartography. Significant new work is expected in such areas as employment statistics, human settlements statistics, revisions to SNA, and data on poverty and income distribution. A regional statistical pocketbook is being planned. Work will commence shortly on setting up a network of co-ordinated data bases within the secretariat, initially for in-house use and subsequently accessible by external users.

33. While no major departure is contemplated from the modalities currently utilized to deliver the statistics programme, its content will be reoriented in partial response to the changing needs of the countries and to the extent that resources allow. Industrial statistics and social statistics are among the areas that will be de-emphasized, despite continuing country interest and need. The review of national statistical organizational arrangements and the promotion of overall statistical development, especially in least developed and island developing countries, will receive increased attention. The secretariat will play a greater role in the regional International Comparison Project (ICP). Work on transport statistics will be intensified to support the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994. Substantial improvements in energy statistics are expected through advisory services, training courses and technical meetings. Training and advisory services in data processing, especially through micro-computers, will receive added emphasis, and an expanded programme is planned in the effective application of computer technology to the collection, organization and management of data. In the area of statistical information services, prospective linkages to other international statistical data bases will be exploited; these should significantly modify present data collection and dissemination arrangements.

34. Planned work on certain types of cross-sectoral statistics, including environment statistics and small-area statistics, has been cancelled because of a lack of resources.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Subprogramme 1: Regional framework of quantitative information

35. The establishment of a data bank is envisaged for the public sector, in addition to the organization of data bases for the analysis of social stratification, income distribution and employment as well as for specialized sectors of industry and mining. Existing data bases will be completely computerized. The most frequently used statistics will be identified and classified by main subjects in order to establish on-line data banks. Statistics dissemination will be improved through an increase of publications on specialized fields. National accounts series in a common currency will be revised and changed to a more recent base year. At the same time, new external trade indexes, disaggregated by groups of goods, will be prepared for the countries of the region.

Subprogramme 2: Studies in methods and quantitative analysis

36. For the subjects on which studies are planned, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 42. In addition, dissemination of computing software packages, prepared in developed countries and suitable for adaptation to countries of the region, is envisaged. To evaluate their feasibility, projects will be undertaken on a trial basis.

Subprogramme 3: Statistical development and regional statistical co-operation

37. For plans related to technical co-operation, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 43.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

38. For planned work relating to statistical development, economic statistics and censuses and surveys, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 45-50. In addition, a new post for an environment statistician has been established in the ECA Statistics Division with the following major responsibilities:

(a) Developing a data base on environment statistics, with particular reference to areas pertaining to desertification and drought in Africa;

(b) Conducting research and methodological studies in the field of environment statistics in order to enhance the usefulness of the data for policy-oriented applications and analysis.

39. Consequently, the approved work programme of the ECA Statistics Division in this field for the biennium 1986-1987 consists of two elements, namely:

(a) Computer print-outs on environment statistics;

(b) Technical publications for government statisticians, planners and policy makers on:

(i) Adapting the United Nations framework of environment statistics to African countries, with particular reference to ecosystems;

(ii) The data requirements for studies on desertification and drought in Africa.

40. Regarding the biennium 1988-1989, the work programme includes two regional workshops on environment statistics (one for English-speaking countries in 1988 and one for French-speaking countries in 1989), in addition to technical publications and computer print-outs. Funds permitting, the ECA Statistics Division will also provide African countries with a few advisory services during that period and in subsequent years as well. A specific programme dealing with this aspect of the promotion of African national environment statistics will be drawn up in the near future.

G. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

41. The main activities will be:

(a) Preparation of selected current statistics on countries of the region covered by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the internal use of substantive divisions of the secretariat;

(b) Organization of training courses on sampling techniques and data processing in the framework of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP);

(c) Convening of an intergovernmental meeting of heads of central statistical organizations in the ESCWA region to discuss the statistics programme and its main orientation.

Subprogramme 2: National accounts and economic statistics

42. A new publication will be issued to cover energy and industrial statistics. The Bulletin of Prices and Index Numbers will be developed and will include financial statistics.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

43. For planned work in statistics generally, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 58-60. However, the Yearbook of International Commodity Statistics will replace the former Commodity Statistics Handbook.

I. United Nations Children's Fund

44. As a result of the initiative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the close collaboration with the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as the careful exploitation of data available in the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, a set of estimates and projections on infant and child mortality has been produced. A new methodological development has involved the elaboration of an Under 5 Mortality Rate comparable to the Infant Mortality Rate. It is the intention of UNICEF to put great emphasis on the Under 5 Mortality Rate as an advocacy and planning tool, and as a management and programme monitoring instrument, and to support countries in estimating their Under 5 Mortality Rates as well as the internal differentials within this indicator. With the collaboration of the Population Division, single country revisions will be issued every six months, pending the regular two-year revision of demographic estimates undertaken by the Population Division.

45. It has been a growing practice for UNICEF to issue periodical statistical reviews on the situation of children and statistical assessments of programmes relating to children. This will be regularized into a basic biannual statistical review, biannual assessments of immunization coverage and periodic assessments of other UNICEF programme elements and methodological topics of interest to UNICEF.
46. The publication of three regular statistical compendiums will continue. These are the annual publication, Statistics on Children in UNICEF Assisted Countries, prepared for the UNICEF Executive Board meeting each year in April; the tables and charts annexed to the annual publication, State of the World's Children, issued annually in December; and the UNICEF Statistical Pocketbook. The latest issue of the Pocketbook appeared in May 1986; it is to be published every three years. All this material will shortly be available within a computerized data base.
47. Much of the activity described above is possible only as a result of the generous co-operation of the statistical bodies in the United Nations system, particularly the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. The publication of the Statistical Pocketbook has been undertaken by UNICEF with assistance in processing from the Statistical Office.
48. Technical assistance will continue to be given to statistical activities in developing countries, partly in the form of direct support of country activities, partly in the form of support for inter-agency technical assistance programmes, such as the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), and partly in the form of methodological research and the commissioning of statistical studies.
- III. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
AND THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
- A. International Labour Organisation
49. Work will continue on producing national series on labour statistics (namely, on labour force, employment, unemployment, household income and expenditure, labour cost, wages, hours of work, consumer price indices, industrial disputes and occupational injuries). Work will be carried out on a new project to harmonize the national series on the different topics with regard to the sources of the statistics and their time reference.
50. A supplementary edition of the Bulletin of Labour Statistics devoted entirely to the results of the ILO October Inquiry on occupational wages and hours of work and on food prices will be published annually.
51. A fourth volume of the Statistical Sources and Methods series will be prepared. It will include data obtained from administrative sources on statistics of employment, unemployment, wages and hours of work. It follows volume I, on consumer price indices; volume II, on employment, wages and hours of work (establishment surveys); and volume III, on economically active population, employment, unemployment and hours of work (household surveys).

52. A manual provisionally entitled Surveys of the Economically Active Population: A Manual on Concepts and Methods will be published in 1987. The purpose of this manual is to describe the application of the new international standards on statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment adopted by the thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 1982.
53. A manual on consumer price indices will be published in 1989 after adoption by the fourteenth ICLS (1987) of a new ILO recommendation on consumer price indices.
54. Investigations will be carried out on both the methodology and the availability of statistics on absence from work, on the informal sector, on labour turnover, on productivity and on net earnings of employees.
55. A manual on the development and use of national dictionaries and classifications of occupations will be published in the course of 1988.
56. Revision of the Data Base Management system of the Bureau of Statistics of ILO will be made to permit easier on-line access to the data and to facilitate the production of versions of it on tape for supply to users.
57. The fourteenth ICLS will be convened at Geneva in October 1987. It will consider (a) a general report (including chapters concerning the development of statistics on the informal sector, statistics on absence from work and, if possible, on the statistical treatment of persons affected by labour market measures and employment and training schemes); (b) consumer price indices; (c) industrial disputes; and (d) revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations. The report prepared by the International Labour Office will examine concepts, definitions and methods and, except for the general report, will provide draft revisions of earlier recommendations for examination and adoption by the Conference.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

58. For plans in relation to socio-economic indicators, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 75. High priority will also be given to improvement of statistics on women in agriculture.
59. The provisional publication, Food and Agricultural Statistics in the Context of a National Information System, has been released to serve as guidelines for developing countries to prepare their national long-term statistical programme to collect, process and disseminate data in an integrated and co-ordinated manner. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is promoting this systems approach, and assistance will continue to be provided to selected countries to develop their 10-year statistical programme.
60. The promotion of the 1990 World Census of Agriculture has been given high priority and it is planned to organize training activities and assist countries in the planning and execution of their census of agriculture.

61. In the area of training, a new approach to the FAO National Demonstration Centres programme in the area of food and agricultural statistics will be implemented. The training activities, which will now cover more topics besides agricultural censuses, will be organized in collaboration with established national or regional statistical training institutions that already have adequate facilities and qualified lecturers. Participants from neighbouring countries will continue to be invited to attend the training courses and emphasis will be focused on practical work and field demonstrations.

62. FAO is following with great interest the experiences and research being carried out in the use of hand-held computers by field enumerators to input and store data directly into computer files in order to improve survey data processing. It is intended to promote this approach if experiments prove successful. This technique needs more testing and evaluation in small-scale surveys.

63. Two new statistical publication series have been started by the FAO Statistics Division. The Statistical Development series will cover methodological publications to promote standardized concepts, classifications, methods, and integrated national programmes of data collection, processing and analysis. The Statistical Processed series will include processed data on various subjects, such as agricultural production, trade, prices and inputs.

64. For planned co-ordination with the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 76.

65. The improvement of agricultural censuses and surveys through improved frames will focus, in addition to the list frames, on the promotion of area sampling frames using remote sensing - for example, aerial photographs and satellite imagery - and the development of related computer support systems.

66. For planned work on forestry statistics, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 79.

67. The improvement of concepts, methods and classification and development of an integrated programme of fishery statistics will also be promoted.

68. For planned work on agricultural prices and resource flows, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 80.

69. Manuals will be finalized and issued on commodity supply and utilization accounts, socio-economic indicators of agrarian reform and rural development, processing food and agricultural statistics, food consumption and nutrition statistics, land use statistics, agricultural input statistics and food and agricultural price statistics.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

70. Continued efforts will be made to improve the collection, reliability and dissemination of statistical data in the areas of education, science and technology

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and culture and communication, and to extend their coverage to include such topics as statistics on adult education, on school attendance, on scientific and technological information and documentation activities, on scientific and technological education and training, on music and on sound recordings, among other topics.

71. Statistical studies and analyses will be carried out, reviewing the progress made in education, science and technology and culture and communication at the international level. Projections will be made in these fields and assistance provided in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the major programmes of the second UNESCO medium-term plan (1984-1989).

72. For plans relating to improvement of the comparability of data, refinement of methods, technical co-operation, further computerization of data processing and improvement of publications, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 81 (b), (c), (e), (f) and (g).

D. International Civil Aviation Organization

73. The eighth session of the Statistics Division of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a representative body of member States, will be held in 1988. At that session, there will be a detailed review of the structure of the statistics programme, including the degree of completeness, timeliness and accessibility of ICAO statistics. The implementation of the Division's recommendations could extend beyond 1989. A meeting of a group of experts, the Statistics Panel, is to be held in 1987 to assist with preparations for the Division's eighth session.

74. For plans relating to the application of technology, the publication of estimates and technical co-operation, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 85-88.

E. World Health Organization

75. The preparation of the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), which was scheduled for 1985, has been postponed for about five years to allow sufficient time for evaluating the present ICD-9 and to prepare ICD-10. It has been suggested that the World Health Organization (WHO) should develop not just a single multiple-purpose classification, but rather a family of classifications. The family will consist of ICD-10 as a "core" classification, which will be used for morbidity and mortality coding, and a number of related classifications to suit the needs of particular aspects of health care. These would be as closely compatible as possible with the "core". It is planned to convene in 1989 an international conference to review the final draft of ICD-10 and to submit recommendations to the World Health Assembly in 1990 for adoption.

76. The content of the three publications of the programme will be continuously reviewed to ensure its relevance and timeliness to national health development. This will involve including commentaries on national, regional and global health situations and trends.

77. For plans relating to technical assistance and training, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 91-94.

F. World Bank

78. For plans relating to income distribution and living standards measurement, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 97 (a).

79. The World Bank will continue its efforts to provide assistance for the International Comparison Project (ICP) in the improvement of methodology, using methods involving shortcuts and limited information. In these endeavours, it will work closely with other international organizations, especially the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

80. The Bank recently completed import/export unit value and quantum indices for some 60 developing countries, which will be made available to other agencies and will ultimately be published in the Bank's statistical publications. Further work to refine these indices will continue.

81. Further work is under way to link the recently completed comprehensive data-management system to the data bases of the other international agencies to facilitate access and the exchange of data.

82. For plans relating to data needed for monitoring and evaluation, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 97 (e). In addition, the Bank, in co-operation with other agencies, hopes to test alternative survey approaches for obtaining timely and reliable estimates of food production, especially in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

83. For plans relating to improvement of international comparability of national accounts, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 97 (g).

84. The Bank is actively seeking to enlarge the number of countries that report private non-guaranteed debt data (in aggregated form) under the Debtor Reporting System.

85. The Bank has expanded the range of standard debt information published on a country-by-country basis in its annual publication, World Debt Tables. The standard format for each country now includes (a) public and publicly guaranteed debt, (b) private non-guaranteed debt, (c) short-term debt and (d) use of IMF credits. Private non-guaranteed debt data are not available for all countries, but will be expanded to cover all countries for which this form of debt is believed significant. Additional debt and debt service ratios have been included in the annual publication to reflect the expanded range of information now available. The

Bank will continue to co-operate with the other major official compilers of debt data through the International Compilers' Working Group. This Group is seeking both to harmonize practices and standards between the compiling institutions in order to facilitate reconciliation of their published data, and to make these data more accessible to outside analysts by explaining the principal differences between them.

G. International Monetary Fund

86. The programme of work in statistics of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the current fiscal year calls for continued emphasis on the collection and maintenance of country and global aggregates in the fields of monetary, fiscal, balance of payments, and real sector statistics, and for further development of statistics on international banking activity and external debt.

87. IMF will continue to work in close collaboration with other international agencies in refining and updating statistical methodologies. In the period through 1990, the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) will require close collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. IMF is participating with these agencies in the intersecretariat group that is co-ordinating the process of revision. Expert group meetings on the revision of SNA in the fields of balance of payments, government finance, and monetary statistics are to be held in 1987 and 1988 under the sponsorship of IMF.

88. IMF will also work closely with other international agencies in the International Compilers' Working Group on External Debt Statistics, established under the auspices of IMF in 1984.

89. A draft Guide to Money and Banking Statistics in International Financial Statistics was circulated for comment in 1985 and a published version is expected to be completed late in 1987.

90. The new IMF new data base management system, the Economic Information System (EIS), will become operational in 1986, replacing the Data Fund System. EIS, an on-line data entry and retrieval system, will also provide a more flexible approach in the preparation of IMF statistical publications.

H. Universal Postal Union

91. For plans relating to statistics of postal development, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 105 and 106.

I. International Telecommunication Union

92. The ongoing activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in regard to telecommunication statistics will be oriented towards:

(a) Improving the collection of reliable statistical data from its member countries;

(b) Inducing more countries to submit their telecommunication statistics regularly;

(c) Keeping appropriate statistics concerning the introduction of new telecommunication services;

(d) Analysing in more detail the data collected, thus showing the trends of telecommunication development in the world. The results of the analyses will assist technical co-operation activities in telecommunications;

(e) Continuing the publication of the Yearbook of Telecommunication Statistics, with fuller statistics on telephone, telex, telegraph, data communications and telecommunication finance.

93. With the introduction of new telecommunication technologies and services, ITU envisages a complete revision of the Yearbook of Telecommunication Statistics to reflect the new situation. The revision will comprise the introduction of statistics on new services - namely, telex, telefax and telemessage. Detailed activities along these lines will depend on the decisions of the IXth Plenary Assembly of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee in 1988.

J. World Intellectual Property Organization

94. A new, more detailed breakdown of the statistical data collected will be made, permitting in particular the assessment of the impact of international and regional treaties. The information may be published in two volumes - one relating to patents and similar industrial property rights and the other to trademarks and service marks, industrial designs, new varieties of plants and micro-organisms.

K. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

95. In the statistical programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), high priority will be accorded to the development of industrial data that are internationally comparable in order to facilitate industrial research and to provide an input for the activities of UNIDO in the field of technical assistance. The programme is also intended to meet the needs of the developing countries with regard to the collection, compilation and processing of industrial data. These objectives will be achieved through:

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(a) Statistical analysis of national and international data for the purpose of extending the detail and coverage of such data and to ensure a greater degree of international comparability;

(b) Dissemination of results through recurrent publications, such as the Handbook of Industrial Statistics, the Industrial Development Survey and ad hoc empirical studies, as well as external distribution of industrial statistics in machine-readable form.

96. Also on a priority basis, technical assistance will be provided, on request, to developing countries for carrying out industrial censuses, surveys and related areas of data processing.

97. In view of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, additional activities consistent with the organization's new responsibilities will be introduced during the biennium 1988-1989.

L. International Atomic Energy Agency

98. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) collects, processes and distributes statistics whenever necessary for the execution of its programmes. As part of its research and isotopes programme, IAEA maintains statistics on nuclear physics and on research reactor utilization for distribution to member States. As part of its nuclear energy programme, statistics are maintained on nuclear power plant operations and energy economics. As part of its nuclear safety programme, statistics are maintained on incidents at nuclear power statistics. No new areas of statistical collection are planned. The emphasis in the immediate future will be on providing more comprehensive statistics in a more flexible manner (in some cases machine-readable) to member States.

M. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

99. For plans related to statistical development to meet the needs of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 110-114.

IV. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

100. Further work is to be done on the organization of statistical observation of the growth of economic, scientific and technological co-operation between countries members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), notably the development of international specialization and co-operation in industrial production, implementation of the Comprehensive Programme to Promote the Scientific and Technological Progress of the Member Countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance up to the Year 2000 and so forth.

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101. The range of basic indicators for the forthcoming international comparisons of key cost indicators for economic development in CMEA countries and Yugoslavia, based on data for 1988, has been extended to include indices for national income produced and social labour productivity. Work on experimental comparisons with these indices concluded in 1986. Experimental comparison exercises are also being conducted with cost indicators for fixed capital formation.

102. Work continues on statistical methods of studying the efficiency and intensification of social production in CMEA countries. Statistical checks on the efficient and rational use of material resources are being refined as part of this process.

103. Work is in progress on international comparisons of basic social statistics indicators. The goal is to obtain the kind of comparable indicators that CMEA countries and bodies need to study social conditions and life-styles among the general population, and to make further improvements in the system of social statistics indicators of CMEA countries.

104. For plans relating to co-operation with the United Nations, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 124.

B. Statistical Office of the European Communities

105. For plans relating to international co-operative work, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 149.

106. Additional features include a new programme of co-ordination of Community technical co-operation in statistics with new funds for this purpose; changing the frequency of the labour force survey from once every two years to once a year; developing statistics of services, particularly international trade in services; and developing statistics of high-technology industries.

107. New programme changes are now planned, which will take into account two important recent developments:

(a) Enlargement of the European Economic Community to 12 member States, Spain and Portugal having joined in January 1986;

(b) The Community's action programme to complete its internal market by 1992.

108. Enlargement has important consequences for all sectors of Community statistics, particularly agriculture and tourism, and broadens the geographical area of technical co-operation in statistics. The statistical implications of the completion of the internal market are being studied with particular reference to two objectives of the European Council: (a) implementation of European standards and (b) abolition of all police and customs formalities at intra-community frontiers.

109. Other new activities planned include poverty and environment statistics.

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V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Inter-American Statistical Institute

110. The activities for the period up to 1989 will aim at complementing, at the regional level, the work carried out by intergovernmental and other professional organizations.

111. For plans relating to the Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraph 154.

112. Activities in the regional programme for development of household surveys will be developed in close co-operation with the Organization of American States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development. During the period 1986-1987, activities will be concentrated on the publication of methodological documents and on national seminars for producers and users of statistical information.

113. In 1987, a series of scientific meetings will be initiated, dealing with matters related to theory and applications of statistical methodology. These meetings will be held every two years, and the topics for discussion will be selected with a view to satisfying the interests of the diverse sectors of the statistical community.

114. For plans relating to technical co-operation and development of the statistical profession, see E/CN.3/1985/19, paragraphs 157 and 158. In addition, activities will include the development of national statistical associations.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 6 (E/1985/26), para. 137 (b).
