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DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS: SOCIAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

International co-ordination of social statistics and indicators
and development of statistics and indicators on special
population groups

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

At its twenty-fourth session, the Statistical Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on current activities and objectives in international work on social statistics and indicators and on the development of statistics and indicators on women and special population groups, including youth, the elderly and disabled persons. The present document has been prepared in response to that request. Chapter I reviews recent work on general sources and methods and on indicators in selected subject-matter fields, as reported by the international agencies concerned to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. Work by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on qualitative aspects indicators of development, undertaken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/179, is described in another document before the Commission (E/CN.3/1989/14). Methods and objectives of current international work on social and related statistical classifications are described in chapter II, in particular the key roles of the United Nations framework for the integration of social, demographic and related statistics (FSDS) and of the illustrative basic classifications for indicators in the United Nations Handbook on Social Indicators.

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*   E/CN.3/1989/1.

Chapter III describes the current work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat on development of statistics and indicators on women and special population groups. This work is closely linked to work on FSDS and the Handbook and includes development of improved statistical concepts and methods, preparation of technical manuals and studies and technical co-operation including training. Recent work on international compilation and dissemination of social statistics and indicators by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is reviewed in chapter IV. This work relies extensively on new microcomputer hardware and software technologies to produce a wide variety of integrated, timely statistical products geared to a wide range of user capabilities and interests. Points for discussion by the Commission are given in chapter IV.

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INTRODUCTION

1.   Since its inception, the United Nations has been concerned with general issues of development, levels of living and related social, economic and environmental conditions, pursuant to the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations (Article 55). This concern has long been reflected in the statistical work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies carried out under the overall guidance of the Statistical Commission. 1/ Over the past five years this work has been greatly stimulated in the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat by new demands at the national and international levels for statistics and indicators on women and special population groups, such as youth, the elderly and disabled persons, and from new interest in the compilation and use of social statistics and indicators to design and implement social policies, to monitor the achievement of social objectives and to monitor the social impact of economic adjustment policies.

2.   In response to these emerging interests and priorities, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat has undertaken a substantial reorganization of its methods of compilation, presentation and organization of social and related demographic and economic statistics and indicators. This work follows up the development in the 1970s of the United Nations framework for the integration of social, demographic and related statistics (FSDS) and the preliminary guidelines on social indicators published by the United Nations in 1978, 2/ and has been greatly facilitated by the rapid development and now nearly universal availability of highly standardized microcomputer hardware and software technologies for statistical work. The present report briefly reviews the use of FSDS as a basis for the co-ordination of current work on social indicators and statistics methodology generally and in specific fields, the development of statistics and indicators on women and special population groups and the improvement of international compilation and dissemination in these fields.

3.   As described in the United Nations Handbook on Social Indicators 3/ and in previous reports to the Statistical Commission on this subject, 4/ the development of social indicators is a multidisciplinary process which aims to bring together basic statistics from many different fields and data collection programmes and recompile them for a wide range of purposes. The Handbook supplements and brings up to date the extensive previous work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies on social indicators and the measurement of levels of living. However, new needs are constantly being identified, and national statistical programmes and their underlying statistical concepts, methods and technologies are continuing to evolve and develop at a rapid pace to meet those needs. By providing a basic core of structure, concepts and methods for use in this process, the Handbook promotes the development of social statistics and indicators to better meet a wide variety of user needs through the more effective integration and use of the basic data.

4.   In addition to the methodological and compilation work of the United Nations system discussed in the present report, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, in

close co-operation with other interested offices and organizations, such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, has also implemented an active programme of technical co-operation and training in developing countries in social statistics and indicators, especially concerning the situation of women and disabled persons. The work is closely integrated at the level of practical implementation with the work on methodology and compilation discussed in the present report. However, as technical co-operation and training are beyond the scope of the present report, they are referred to only incidentally and not reviewed systematically. 5/

I. INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATION

A. General sources and methods

1. United Nations

5.   In reviewing the United Nations preliminary guidelines on social indicators at its nineteenth session in 1976, the Statistical Commission noted various purposes which indicators might serve in such areas as planning, policy-making, research, general monitoring of social conditions, changes and levels of living and living conditions, and that the series described in the preliminary guidelines were intended to serve as an inventory which interested producers and users of statistics might consult in the process of identifying and defining indicators useful for any of a number of different purposes. 6/ Since the preliminary guidelines were issued, general progress reports on national and international work on indicators submitted to the Statistical Commission on a regular basis have documented a range of activities concerned with social indicators at national, regional and international levels. 4/

6.   Although the United Nations preliminary guidelines reviewed a variety of concepts and purposes of social indicators then in use, in their detailed presentation, they focused on the development of social indicators to measure levels of living and social and economic factors considered to influence levels of living. 7/ The guidelines emphasized the development and utilization of traditional basic data sources for indicators and making the underlying statistical concepts, classifications and definitions more compatible for this purpose rather than letting data sources and concepts develop in an ad hoc and unco-ordinated manner. These principles have been followed by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in the preparation of the Handbook on Social Indicators. The Handbook includes a consideration of indicators specifically tailored to meet the needs of developing and least developed countries.

7.   At the international level, general methodological work and compilation of social indicators by several units of the United Nations system and by other international organizations are continuing. In particular, there has been considerable interest in indicators in connection with special international activities and events, including the United Nations Decade for Women, the Decade of Disabled Persons, Health for All by the Year 2000 and the World Programme of Action

for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Current work in these programmes is described below. In addition, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) periodically updates its basic social and economic indicators on the least developed countries in connection with the monitoring of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. 8/ The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development published a comprehensive methodological study on indicators for the measurement and analysis of socio-economic development in 1985. 9/ Since 1973 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has sponsored a variety of activities at the international, regional and national levels on the application of socio-economic indicators to development planning and related issues. 10/

8. In the development of FSDS, one area of work which has been stressed by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is methods of integrating certain kinds of economic statistics more effectively with social statistics and indicators. General and technical questions concerning such integration are addressed in two separate technical reports issued by the United Nations in 1977 and 1986. 11/ As these reports are relatively detailed, this area is not elaborated further in the present report apart from some of the classification aspects.

9. In the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the ninth session of the Conference of European Statisticians Working Party on FSDS, held in May 1987, considered links among economic, social and demographic statistics, statistics of time use, social indicators and socio-economic group classifications. The Working Party also considered the progress made by UNESCO in developing the Framework for Cultural Statistics and by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in investigating the possibility of adapting the trial International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps for use in household surveys. Current plans call for a meeting on FSDS early in 1990 to consider the development and harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications, specific aspects of the System of National Accounts (SNA) revision, methods applied by countries conducting time-use surveys and links among economic, social and demographic statistics, with particular reference to satellite accounts and the linking of micro- and macro-data.

10. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is promoting regional compilation of social statistics and indicators in its regular statistical publications and data bases, including Asia-Pacific in Figures (most recent issue in 1987), Atlas of Children in National Development, jointly produced by ESCAP and UNICEF (most recent issue, 1988) and the Social Development Data Base and Integrated Data Bank now under development. In addition, the Pacific Seminar on Social and Related Statistics and Indicators was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 22 to 26 August 1988. Some of the issues discussed at the seminar are noted below:

   (a) There was clear recognition and support for the "separate identity" of social statistics and indicators, including those on special groups conceived of as "output statistics", as compared to basic "input statistics" collected in population censuses and household surveys and economic statistics;

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(b)   The importance of central statistical officers as chief statistical cq-ordinators in the social and related fields was stressed;

(c)   Good, attractive statistical outputs oriented to specific user needs were also emphasized as both a desirable objective in and of themselves and as a way of improving co-operation among users of social and related statistics and indicators;

(d)   Microcomputers were now widely used in the region for social and demographic statistics processing, but some unreliability of diskettes was reported in tropical conditions;

(e)   International recommendations concerning social and related statistics needed careful review and adaptation to regional circumstances, for example, statistics on household and family structures and production in the non-monetary sector;

(f)   Special compilations of indicators on women should be prepared on a priority basis from population census results in countries where censuses had recently been completed.

11.   Two outputs on social statistics and indicators are planned in 1988-1989 by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); one, a study on social statistics in the region, and the other, a compendium of social statistics.   In addition, a joint publication with the Council for Arab Economic Unity on social statistics and indicators covering all the Arab countries is under consideration. The ESCWA Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Social Development and Population Division, is working on the execution of a project on developing statistics and indicators on the situation of women in the ESCWA region.

2.   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

12.   The development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of work on socio-economic indicators was considerably curtailed in 1987 due to the financial crisis of FAO and the austerity measures imposed as a result.   It is hoped that as soon as these problems have been resolved a wide range of activities on the development and implementation of the socio-economic indicators programme established by the Programme of Action of the World Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) will be reactivated and intensified to meet the needs of member Governments.   Work was undertaken in 1987 to review and improve the guidelines on socio-economic indicators for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development through the harmonization of the contents with similar work of other United Nations agencies and the incorporation of new material as it becomes available.   The guidelines are now being revised and edited for discussion and circulated to interested United Nations agencies.   They will then be issued to countries in provisional form for comments and use.

13.   Based on a list of socio-economic indicators selected from the guidelines, a common framework was prepared for use by countries in preparing their reports to

the FAO Conference at its twenty-fourth session held in November 1987 on progress
in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on
Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and, in particular, on levels of rural
poverty as measured by relevant socio-economic indicators. The second report in
this four-year cycle of reporting was prepared by FAO based on 50 country progress
reports and on other national and international sources of data. The quantitative
data collected have been computerized and stored in a WCARRD data base. Work on
the implementation of socio-economic indicators programme in countries has been
proceeding on an ad hoc basis, mainly in some Asian and Pacific countries that are
now compiling socio-economic indicators on a regular basis, and in two African
countries.

3. Other national and international activities

14. Suggested lists of indicators have been prepared for general national and
international use by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and the
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 12/ In 1986 OECD
issued a compilation of indicators covering its member countries. 13/ At the
national level, most developed countries now issue compilations of social
indicators on a regular basis, and many developing countries issue such reports on
an ad hoc basis. 14/ The coverage and data sources for these compilations
generally follow similar lines, but the type of publication varies among
countries. For example, the oldest continuous publication is Social Trends of the
United Kingdom, which appears annually and includes analytical discussion and
articles in addition to the tables. Données sociales, from France, is biennial and
includes considerable analysis. In Canada and Sweden, statistical studies
specifically concerned with various aspects of levels of living are issued in the
form of a regular publication series at the rate of several per year. 15/ In both
countries these reports are largely based on household survey programmes geared to
the compilation of integrated social statistics and indicators on social conditions
and levels of living. In New Zealand the Planning Council has formed a "Social
Monitoring Group" to prepare and publish a series of reports on current and
emerging trends relevant to social development. 16/ In eastern Europe, an
increasing number of countries are issuing general social indicators reports
following the recommendations of CMEA.

15. In Bulgaria, the Central Statistical Office is organizing an international
seminar on "Theory and practice in the development of integrated systems of social
and demographic statistics". It will be held in Varna, Bulgaria from 18 to
22 October 1988, in co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for
Development and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and ECE. This seminar follows up and draws
on experience in Bulgaria over the last three years in the development of a unified
system of social and demographic statistics. The seminar will compare the results
of work in Bulgaria with experience in other countries, consider the application of
new methods and technologies to further development of integrated systems and
discuss analytical policy uses of such integrated statistical systems.

16.   In central Europe, extensive and innovative work on social indicators has been undertaken in Austria, Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany in recent years, including the publication of a comprehensive social statistics report in Austria, bilateral social indicators comparisons between Austria and Czechoslovakia and an analysis of the theoretical underpinning of welfare indicators in the Federal Republic of Germany. 17/ Bilateral comparisons between Austria and Czechoslovakia include indicators in the fields of population by age and sex, economic and other activity, fertility, marital status, households and families, mortality, physicians and hospitals, educational enrolment and attainment, culture, time use, consumption expenditures, household equipment and dwellings.

17.   In the Asia and Pacific region, Australia, Japan and Indonesia issue social publications at least every two years, but in Africa relatively few countries produce indicators publications on a regular basis. In the Americas, there has been wide interest in general social indicators; Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago are examples of countries which have produced compilations at least twice.

18.   Many developing countries are also concerned with measuring the impact of economic adjustment programmes on their social well-being. For example, The Social Well-Being Programme: A Programme for Social Development is a comprehensive social report and plan for Jamaica covering education, health, housing, water supply and sewerage, social welfare and benefits, and it includes a programme for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of social well-being. The report states that the ultimate goal of the Government's socio-economic policies is to improve the living standards of households. An effective monitoring system must be able to show to what extent government policies have been successful in providing employment and social services, and it must also allow for a general evaluation of the population's level of well-being. A monitoring system is therefore needed to provide base-line information necessary to set priorities for socio-economic policy and possible feedback on the effectiveness of such policies, so that corrective action can be taken where needed during the course of the programme. 18/

B.   Recent developments in specialized fields

1.   Human settlements: drinking water supply and sanitation

19.   The development of human settlements statistics and indicators was discussed at an expert group meeting convened by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in Nairobi from 12 to 16 October 1987. 19/ The meeting noted several problems which had seriously limited the development of statistics and indicators in this multidisciplinary field. These included the need for more data disaggregated below the national and urban/rural levels and for more data disaggregated by income level and by sex. Using aggregate indicators to compare "urban areas" to "rural areas" implies a homogeneity for all urban centres and all rural areas, but there are usually large differences between different urban centres and different rural areas and indeed between different districts within one urban centre. In general, in order to identify the poorer and most disadvantaged groups, households and individuals also need considerable disaggregation below national level. The

meeting also gave high priority to the development of concepts for statistical indicators of the homeless population. The experts also noted that statistical concepts concerning house and house-site tenure as currently used are inadequate for identifying various distinct categories of housing. Housing units in squatter settlements (that is, illegal occupation of the land), illegal subdivisions (that is, illegal use of land for housing) and quasi-legal land developments are often placed in a single category, such as "squatter settlements" or "informal settlements". There are similar problems of definition for the term "slums".

20. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been monitoring water supply and sanitation services nationally, regionally and globally since the early 1960s. The United Nations Water Conference in 1977 called on WHO to intensify its activities in this respect within the overall framework of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The information produced through the monitoring system is used as the basis for reporting by the rest of the United Nations system. The sector digest forms completed by countries for the situation at mid-decade were analysed, and a report was published in 1987 entitled "The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade: Review of Mid-Decade Progress (as at December 1985)". The next collection of data for Decade monitoring will be undertaken at the end of 1988 and the end of the Decade assessment exercise at the end of 1990 for a final report to the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1990.

21. The guidelines contained in "Guiding Principles for National Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring" (WHO document CWS/86/6), which were tested at a subregional workshop in Malawi in November 1986, will again be reviewed at another regional workshop held in China in September 1988. In collaboration with the World Water magazine a publication was issued in early 1988 containing individual country sector reviews based on the data collected through the global monitoring system.

2. Health and nutrition

22. In accordance with the plan of action adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1982 for implementing the Global Strategy for Health for All, the first progress reports were prepared in 1983 and the first evaluation reports in 1985. The results of the 1985 evaluation of the Health for All strategy were published as Evaluation of the Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 - Seventh Report on the World Health Situation in seven volumes comprising a global report and six regional reports. The second monitoring reports for 1988, which are being received from countries, will be consolidated into regional and global reports for submission to the governing bodies of WHO. A common framework (WHO documents DGO/82.1, DGO/84.1 and DGO/86.1, respectively) was prepared by the secretariat for each of these reporting cycles to help countries present the results in a uniform fashion so that the results could be used to produce regional and global syntheses. A list of 12 global indicators agreed upon by the World Health Assembly was provided for countries to use in their reports. Data on these indicators are tabulated in a WHO document entitled "Evaluation of the Strategy for Health for all, 1985-1986" (WHO/HST/87.2). This document will be updated later in 1988 by incorporating new data included in the countries' 1988 monitoring reports.

23. In four of the six regions of WHO, additional indicators have been adopted by the respective regional committees. The most elaborate set of indicators has been developed in the European region covering a wide range of concerns, such as prerequisites and basic needs for health; healthy life and reduction of disease, disability and premature death; lifestyles; environment; appropriate health care; health research; and managerial support for health development.

24. Monitoring and evaluation reports have shown that many Member States had made considerable efforts to improve their health systems to achieve the goal of health for all, but at the same time the reports have revealed a persistent lack of required statistics in most countries. There is an urgent need for strengthening the managerial capacity of health systems, including the generation, analysis and utilization of the information required. The next evaluation of the Health for All strategy is planned for 1991. A new Common Framework for Evaluation will be prepared, taking account of the experience gained in the previous monitoring and evaluation.

25. The development of indicators on nutritional status has been intensively considered over the past several years by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN) and its Advisory Group on Nutrition in connection with the Inter-agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance Programme (IFNS). This is a joint initiative of FAO, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) designed to assist a large number of countries and regional institutions in the establishment and strengthening of food and nutrition surveillance programmes over the next five years. It follows up a resolution adopted at the 1974 World Food Conference recommending the establishment of a global surveillance system by FAO, WHO and UNICEF to monitor the food and nutrition conditions of the disadvantaged groups of the population at risk, and to provide a method of rapid and permanent assessment of all factors which influence food consumption patterns and nutritional status. 20/

26. There has also been an increasing recognition in the last few years of the devastating effects of economic recession on the poor and vulnerable groups, especially children, and of the importance of ensuring that the current structural adjustment policies that Governments are obliged to carry out are so designed that their potentially damaging effects are reduced to a minimum. 21/

27. Appropriate common indicators to be monitored in national food and nutrition surveillance systems were considered at several meetings during the initial months of the IFNS programme in order to move towards a greater consensus and more standardization in the collection and presentation of a minimum list of indicators which could be obtained and used by developing countries with limited statistical and information generating and analysing capabilities. These common indicators would include three anthropometric indicators plus one or two food indicators. Wherever possible, countries should be encouraged to aim for at least quarterly reporting. The nutritional status indicators that were agreed as common outcome indicators for the IFNS programme are birth weight, weight-for-age of children under five, supplemented where possible (as in household surveys) by weight-for-height and height-for-age, height-for-age of primary school entrants.

28.   One of the short-term objectives of IFNS is to produce information on trends
in a limited number of specified indicators of food and nutrition. The first IFNS
Report on Recent Trends was to be issued by mid-1988, containing country analyses
and regional overviews and assessing key nutritional and socio-economic indicators
for the period 1984-1987. The report will supplement the 1987 World Nutrition
Situation issued by the Sub-Committee on Nutrition.

3.   Culture

29.   UNESCO has continued work on the development of concepts and methods for basic
cultural statistics and indicators, within the UNESCO framework for cultural
statistics (FCS). This framework was reviewed at the third joint meeting on
cultural statistics of UNESCO and the Conference of European Statisticians. 22/
Indicators are to be considered in more detail at the next joint meeting in Europe.

4.   Crime and criminal justice

30.   The data base of statistics and indicators on public order and safety has been
developed by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the
United Nations Secretariat, based on the first two United Nations surveys of crime
trends, operations of criminal justice systems and crime prevention strategies.
Data from the third survey, covering the years 1981-1986, are being collected by
the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre, through the
Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. In working through the
Statistical Office for the first time in this field, the Secretariat was guided by
the emphasis placed by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fourth session on
the need for improved co-ordination of ad hoc statistical inquiries by
non-statistical units. Based on experience gained in the second crime survey, the
questionnaire has been revised in scope, simplified and shortened.

31.   The possible development of statistics and indicators concerning drugs was
identified by the Working Group of the Statistical Commission at its last session
as an important area to consider for further work. In this field, the Division of
Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Secretariat compiles and issues on a quarterly
basis data on significant seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
These data list significant seizures, quantity seized (e.g. by weight), reported
source, method of transport and intended destination, among other information. 23/
Recent trends are reviewed at regional meetings of heads of national drug law
enforcement agencies 24/ and analysed and summarized in special articles prepared
by the Secretariat for the Bulletin on Narcotics. These provide a useful source of
indicators and will be drawn on for the social statistics data base of the
Statistical Office.

II. CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL WORK ON SOCIAL
AND RELATED CLASSIFICATIONS

A. Conceptual framework for harmonization of classifications

32. One of the technical features which work on FSDS has stressed since its inception has been the development and harmonization of social and related classifications for statistical integration and for indicators. The present section considers the current status of this field based on the extensive treatment of classification issues in the Handbook on Social Indicators.

33. The development and harmonization of social and related classifications is itself a complex matter. It involves the same difficult problems of organization and methodology that statistical offices face in the development of social statistics indicators. In general, the subject-matter is extremely heterogeneous, and the relevant statistics come from a very wide range of sources, each with established traditions, procedures and objectives and often administered more or less independently of the central statistical service. These circumstances are similar at the national and international levels.

34. The initial development of FSDS in Towards a System of Demographic and Social Statistics and in the preliminary guidelines on social indicators established a basic subject-matter and classifications framework for the further development of classifications and indicators. These early reports served to clarify what classifications were relevant to integrated social statistics and in what ways. They were thus useful in encouraging further work on these classifications and on applying them in ways useful for integration. With the current increased interest in social statistics and indicators and in the new technical possibilities of microcomputers for bringing together data in microcomputer data bases, work on classifications has acquired a new urgency.

35. A basic principle underlying work in this area continues to be the importance of close linkage between basic statistics and statistics for integration and indicators. It has never been suggested that new classifications should be developed for integration or indicators, which would in any case be a technically and organizationally impossible task given the degree or decentralization of responsibility for statistical classifications at the national and international level and given the large number of competing interests and technical problems that must always be delicately balanced in preparing any kind of recommendation on classifications. What the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat undertook in the preliminary guidelines on social indicators, which has now been made much more explicit in the Handbook on Social Indicators, is to recommend abstracting from existing classifications shorter forms which are needed for integration and indicators. As the draft Handbook states, once the fields and topics for indicators have been outlined in an indicators programme at the national or international level, basic statistical classifications for use in indicators should be developed. These must, of necessity, be based on the classifications used in the basic data, but for purposes of indicator compilation these source classifications often require careful adaptation. The process of adaptation should be undertaken with three objectives in mind:

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(a) Meeting specific indicator requirements;

(b) Abbreviating classifications as much as possible to simplify compilation and presentation of indicators;

(c) Devising classifications into which data from a variety of sources, often using differing classifications or variants of classifications, can be fitted as consistently as possible;

(d) Identifying population groups of special policy concern.

B. Basic classifications for integration and indicators

36. All of the classifications referred to in the illustrative series and basic data tables for indicators in the Handbook are listed in the table below, which also shows the fields in which they are used. Sixteen of these are considered basic classifications in the Handbook. Five of these concern demographic and social characteristics (sex and age group, national or ethnic group, household size and composition, household headship and level of education); three are geographical (urban and rural areas, cities and urban agglomerations, and geographical regions); four concern activity charateristics (occupation, status in employment, socio-economic group and time-use); and four are classifications from economic statistics (percentage distributions of household income and consumption, kind of economic activity (industry), functions of government and institutional sector).

37. These basic classifications can be used to provide a firm foundation for the development of indicators in the fields covered by the Handbook. They were selected for discussion as basic classifications on the basis of (a) their substantive importance for indicators, usually in more than one field and drawing on multiple data sources, (b) the extent of their importance and use for indicators in national and international experience, and (c) the relative detail and complexity required in their use for compiling statistics for indicators.

Illustrative use of classifications for social indicators

Classification	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Higher priority in developing countries	Women	Elderly	Youth	Disabled
Social security																
1. Type of benefit								x	x				x	x	x	x
2. Type of service									x				x	x	x	x
Health and health services; impairments and disabilities; nutrition (I 8)																
1. Diseases, injuries and causes of death				x				x				x a/	x	x	x	x
2. Health services				x								x b/	x	x		x
3. Impairments and disabilities				x	x							x a/				x
4. Nutrition standards and classifications				x								x	x			
Public order and safety																
1. Offences and disposition									x				x		x	
2. Correctional services									x							
Time use																
1. Time use (activities)			x	x						x		x	x	x	x	x
Economic classifications																
1. Kind of economic activity (industry)	x		x	x								x	x			
2. Functions of government			x	x			x	x				x				
3. Institutional sector			x	x				x	x							

A. Population

B. Human settlements and housing; distribution of population

C. Households and families

D. Health, health services; disability; nutrition

E. Learning and educational services

F. Economic activity and population not economically active

G. Socio-economic groups and social mobility

H. Income, consumption and wealth

I. Social security and welfare services

J. Leisure, culture and communications

K. Public order and safety

Classification	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Higher priority in developing countries	Women	Elderly	Youth	Disabled
Population																
1. Age group and sex	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2. National or ethnic group	x			x	x		x		x	x	x					
Human settlements																
1. Urban and rural areas	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
2. Cities and urban agglomerations	x	x	x	x	x				x	x		x	x			
3. Geographical regions	x		x	x								x	x	x	x	x
4. Size class of localities	x											x				
5. Land use	x							x				x				
6. Characteristics and facilities of living quarters	x											x	x	x		x
7. Type of tenure	x											x				
8. Energy in households	x											x	x			
Households and families																
1. Marital status		x										x	x	x	x	x
2. Size and composition of households		x				x	x					x	x	x		x
3. Household headship		x				x	x					x	x	x		
4. Non-household population							x		x							
Learning and educational services																
1. Level of education				x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x
2. Field				x								x	x		x	
3. Type of education				x	x											
Economic activity and population not economically active																
1. Type of activity		x		x	x			x				x	x	x	x	x
2. Occupation			x	x	x	x			x			x	x		x	x
3. Status in employment				x								x	x		x	x
4. Socio-economic group			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x
5. Not economically active				x	x			x					x	x	x	x
Distribution of income, consumption and accumulation																
1. Receipts					x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
2. Household goods and services	x		x	x			x		x			x	x	x		x
3. Percentile distributions of household income and consumption			x			x	x	x								

A. Population

B. Human settlements and housing; distribution of population

C. Households and families

D. Health, health services; disability; nutrition

E. Learning and educational services

F. Economic activity and population not economically active

G. Socio-economic groups and social mobility

H. Income, consumption and wealth

I. Social security and welfare services

J. Leisure, culture and communications

K. Public order and safety

a/   Partial.

b/   Primary health care service.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS AND INDICATORS ON WOMEN
AND OTHER SPECIAL POPULATION GROUPS

38. Interest in the development of statistics and indicators on women and other population groups that are considered to be of special relevance for policy planning has given considerable impetus to a range of activities concerned with statistics and indicators on these groups. These include:

(a) Critical review and refinement at the national and international levels of concepts and methods used in collecting statistics concerning these groups and preparation of technical documentation on them;

(b) Implementation of new data collection activities giving special attention to data on these groups at the national levels;

(c) Selection and compilation of relevant statistics and indicators at the national, regional and international levels;

(d) Training in collection, compilation and use of these statistics and indicators.

39. The principal groups on which work has been concentrated in the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat are women (beginning with the World Conference of the International Women's Year in 1975), disabled persons (beginning with the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1982), youth (in connection with International Youth Year in 1985) and children. There has also been interest in the development of statistics and indicators on the elderly (in connection with the World Assembly on Aging in 1982 and the International Plan of Action on Aging) and on families, and new programmes are now being considered in these fields. This work has been undertaken in close association with other interested units of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, INSTRAW, UNFPA, the Voluntary Fund for the Advancement of Women, the Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Disabled Persons and WHO.

A. Women

40. Further to recommendations of the International Women's Year and the United Nations Decade for Women, a joint programme of work on improving statistics and indicators on the situation of women was initiated in 1982 by INSTRAW and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. FSDS was used as the starting point for this work. An expert group meeting on this subject was convened by the Statistical Office and INSTRAW in 1983, and two technical reports were subsequently published which drew extensively on previous work on FSDS. 25/ Further work on concepts and methods has been undertaken by INSTRAW and the Statistical Office concerning the measurement and valuation of women's participation in non-monetary productive activities, the measurement of women's income and the use of household surveys to collect statistics on the situation of women. 26/

41. Overall, considerable progress was made during the United Nations Decade for Women in improving statistics and indicators on the situation of women within the overall framework provided by FSDS. Pursuant to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, efforts will continue during the period 1989-1991 to improve concepts and methods; establish more effective systems of data collection and ensure sex-disaggregated data in all relevant fields; expand the dissemination and use of the substantial data already collected, for example in population censuses and household surveys; and promote a dialogue between users and producers of data on needs, priorities and applications. Special emphasis will be given to income, wage, industrial and agricultural statistics and to technical co-operation for producers and users of statistics on women at the national level.

B. Disabled persons

42. The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons direct special attention to the importance of disability-related statistics for policy design and programme formulation, implementation monitoring and evaluation. In line with the recommendation of the World Programme of Action to assist developing countries in the development of systems of data collection and analysis with regard to disability-related statistics, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, in association with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, has prepared two technical reports - Development of Statistics of Disabled Persons; Case Studies and Development of Statistical Concepts and Methods on Disability for Household Surveys. 27/ This work was supported in part with a grant from Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

43. The Statistical Office also co-operated with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in the mid-term review and appraisal of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons through the preparation of a technical paper on the development of disability-related statistics which was considered by the Global Meeting of Experts to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons at the Mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, held in Stockholm 17-22 August 1987. 28/ On the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Meeting on needs and priorities associated with disability-related statistics, the Statistical Office, in co-operation with Centre, is currently preparing a compilation of statistics and indicators on disability. The work is being financed in part by a grant from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

C. Youth

44. In connection with the celebration in 1985 of International Youth Year, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and international statistical services, prepared the pocket-book Statistical Indicators on Youth. 29/ This publication provided an important starting point for research,

analysis and further statistical work in the field of youth at the national level. Preparation and publication were assisted by an earmarked contribution to the United Nations Youth Fund.

45. The "Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth", adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14, provide Governments and non-governmental organizations with a broad policy framework for youth-related concerns and recommendations for action at the national, regional and international levels. The Guidelines state that "adequate statistics ... are prerequisites to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth programmes and policies", and that the "United Nations should: (a) encourage research and data collection projects designed to update information and data on salient youth issues and concerns; and (b) pay particular attention to the use and dissemination of the results of youth research and data collection." 30/ In the light of the priority actions identified in the Guidelines, the Statistical Office in co-operation with the Centre is currently preparing a graphics-oriented statistical pocket-book on youth for use by planners, administrations and researchers, particularly in developing countries. Support for this work is being provided by an earmarked contribution to the United Nations Youth Fund.

IV. DISSEMINATION

46. The cost and methodological difficulties of bringing together social statistics and indicators from a wide variety of disparate and often intractable primary and secondary sources has held back work on social indicators in many developing countries and confounded initial hope in many quarters that social indicators methods would somehow simplify the development of social statistics. Rather, experience has demonstrated that social indicators can help to focus and direct social statistics, and simplification of certain statistical outputs and clarification of underlying concepts are important parts of that process; however, the process is still a difficult one, and indicators do not offer any shortcuts.

47. Thus, for example, it is well established that appropriate statistical series for indicators, such as those shown in the forthcoming Handbook on Social Indicators, cannot be compiled on a reliable basis except by drawing on sound bodies of underlying basic statistics. The basic list of main sources for these statistics has not changed significantly in the past two decades, and substantial experience in the use of those traditional sources has steadily accumulated covering, for example, population and housing censuses, agricultural censuses, many different kinds of household surveys, civil registration, other administrative records and establishment censuses and surveys. There is now a fairly detailed understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and potential of each source as well as rapidly expanding bodies of actual data to draw on.

48. However, the collection of a considerable volume of basic data has by no means ensured the ready availability to users of indicators relevant to their specific purposes and concerns, including policy issues. For such purposes, close collaboration between users and producers of indicators and detailed attention to data requirements for indicators at the stage of designing data collection

programmes, and co-ordination within a framework such as FSDS are needed. Thus much of the work on social indicators in the 1970s and early 1980s was concerned with the precise identification of user interests and requirements and their translation into well-structured statistical methods and concepts.

49. More recently, fundamental changes in social statistics work have become evident as new technical possibilities for statistical co-ordination have been developed. Those elements have included the computerization of basic data, the expansion of household surveys, policy demands for integrated socio-economic monitoring and assessment, co-ordination of basic socio-economic classifications and the inexpensiveness and portability of user-oriented microcomputer hardware and software technologies. Naturally, the pace and impact of each of those elements of change have differed widely among countries, and those changes, like all statistical development efforts, require substantial experimentation and investment before they can be fully implemented. Automated data processing, for example, is still far from routine in many countries and in many fields, and household surveys, while expensive and often ineffective when undertaken piecemeal, are also difficult to meld into an overall, ongoing programme of the desired scope, coverage and frequency.

50. In spite of these and other difficulties, including resource limitations which in many countries are quite severe, the direction of change has been clear and the speed of recent changes has been relatively rapid. Overall, there has been an increasing trend towards transparency between statistics and users, and statisticians themselves have been among the secondary users who, with the aid of computers and especially microcomputers, are becoming much more able to rearrange, select and otherwise work with much more detailed secondary and even primary data to create a variety of user-oriented outputs.

51. Thus, one basic feature of social indicators work which is being strengthened by the use of microcomputer base technologies is links between users and producers of statistics and among producers in different specialized fields. Because of their intended policy relevance and general audience, work on indicators has emphasized overall trends, often using estimates and projections, simplified presentation, as in graphics, and within-nation and international comparisons. The choice, organization and policy orientation of subject-matter and the selection and specification of indicators thus require substantial communication and elaboration of common concepts and objectives among users and producers, for which the flexibility, ease of use and low cost of microcomputers are of great value. Policy-relevant comparisons, monitoring and assessment require the simplification of data and the crossing of subject and ministerial boundaries. These objectives raise difficult problems for the development of integrated social statistics and indicators, but these problems are much more tractable using inexpensive, decentralized microcomputers than expensive, inflexible mainframe systems. At the same time, a central core framework for organization and co-ordination, such as FSDS, is essential.

52. As noted in the Introduction, over the last five years the Statistical Office of the United Nation's Secretariat has undertaken a considerable reorganization of its methods of compilation, presentation and organization of social and related

demographic and economic statistics and indicators, following up on the development of FSDS and the preliminary guidelines on social indicators. For example, in the compilation and dissemination of indicators on women at the international level, a substantial quantity of data is being routinely collected by international statistical services and supplemented, in many cases, with standardized international estimates and projections. The rapid spread of microcomputers and the ease of use of spreadsheet techniques have now made it feasible to compile these data in one source, using the FSDS framework, disseminate them to users cheaply and quickly on diskettes and prepare user-oriented software and documentation for reference, analysis, table generation and other similar uses. A special project with these objectives was established in the Statistical Office in 1984 with extrabudgetary support. This work was basically completed in 1987; a users' manual for the data base and an updated compilation of statistics and indicators on the situation of women will be issued in 1989. 31/

53. Using quite different underlying technical methods of organization and compilation but identical microcomputer hardware and software, an international disability statistics data base was also completed by the Statistical Office in 1987, comprising detailed statistics on disabled persons from censuses and surveys in 55 countries and areas between 1975 and 1985. Like the women's data base, the Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT) is disseminated on diskettes accompanied by a technical manual. 32/ Finally, the basic strategy and framework for organizing social statistics for social indicators, as set out in the Handbook on Social Indicators, were adopted by the Statistical Office for the preparation of the Compendium of Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women - 1986 and the Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators - 1986. 33/ That is, highly simplified basic data were compiled from primary international sources into microcomputer spreadsheets. Once in the spreadsheets, new series and indicators could be calculated and data transferred within and among spreadsheets with great flexibility and minimal time and effort and, once final table formats were agreed upon, they could be tested and then generated very quickly in final form. On this basis, series and classifications such as those given in the Handbook have been prepared for these two compendiums showing percentages, rates, ratios, distributions, reaggregations and the like, and juxtaposing series from different sources. A short, preliminary version of the social compendium was prepared using these techniques for the United Nations Interregional Consultation on Social Welfare Policies and Programmes held in September 1987 34/ which generated considerable interest among delegates with no special statistical background.

54. At its twenty-second session the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities noted the importance of new technologies to statistical dissemination and the greater opportunities these offered for moving towards the development of more harmonized and integrated international data bases. The heightened requirements for technical and substantive co-ordination that creation of such data bases implied was also noted. The Sub-Committee agreed that intensified co-operation in dissemination practices and in developing dissemination policies was a high priority area. Specifically in the area of social indicators, the importance of continued co-ordination among international programmes, especially in relation to specifying indicators and avoiding duplication in data collection was stressed, and

the value of making the fullest possible use of the statistical expertise and
established data collection programmes of the international organizations in their
areas of special competence was noted.

55.   Overall, it appears that microcomputer hardware and software for spreadsheets,
data bases and analysis are at the leading edge of basic changes in the development
of social statistics and indicators at the national and international levels. The
effects are now beginning to be seen on a wide scale and, at the same time, the
technologies are advancing and spreading so rapidly throughout the world that the
direction and full implications of these changes are not yet fully understood or
appreciated.

V.   POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

56.   The Commission may wish to:

(a)   Comment on steps that have been taken to achieve the co-ordinated
development and utilization, at the national, regional and international levels, of
a wide range of basic statistics programmes for social indicators, including
indicators on women and special population groups, within the framework for the
integration of social, demographic and related statistics;

(b)   Comment on the content and priorities of further work in the United
Nations Secretariat on the development of concepts and methods for statistics and
indicators on women and special population groups, including youth, elderly and
disabled populations;

(c)   Comment on the nature, objectives and priorities for further work in the
United Nations system aimed at the co-ordinated international compilation of
indicators for integrated socio-economic policy analysis and monitoring and for
women and special population groups;

(d)   Request the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its
twenty-sixth session on these co-ordination activities and on progress in
development of harmonized and integrated international data bases in these fields,
taking into account the consideration of this subject by the ACC Sub-Committee on
Statistical Activities at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions;

(e)   Express its appreciation to the organizations which have provided support
for special projects in the development and compilation of statistics, indicators
and microcomputer data bases on women, youth, disabled persons and other special
population groups, and request the Secretary-General to continue to work closely
with all interested and concerned organizations to maintain support of work in
these fields.

Notes

1/   The first United Nations reports on levels of living measurement were
Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of
Living (United Nations publication, Sales No. 54.IV.5), prepared by an expert group
and published in 1954, and International Definition and Measurement of Levels of
Living; An Interim Guide (United Nations publication, Sales No. 61.IV.7).

2/   See Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics, Studies in
Methods, Series F, No. 18 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.XVII.8),
Studies in the Integration of Social Statistics: A Technical Report, Studies in
Methods, Series F, No. 24 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.4),
Improving Social Statistics in Developing Countries: Technical Report, Studies in
Methods, Series F, No. 25 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.12) and
Social Indicators: Preliminary Guidelines and Illustrative Series, Statistical
Papers, Series M, No. 63 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XVII.8).

3/   Series F, No. 49 (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

4/   "Progress report on national and international work on social indicators"
(E/CN.3/517, subsequently updated and issued as ST/ESA/STAT/102), "Progress report
on national and international work on social indicators and on related concepts and
classifications for general use" (E/CN.3/1983/18), "Future direction of work on
social indicators" (E/CN.3/1985/3), "Progress in the development of social
indicators and the integration of social, demographic and related statistics"
(E/CN.3/1985/11) and "Progress in work on indicators of living standards and
patterns of consumption and co-ordination of work on social statistics and social
indicators" (E/CN.3/1987/16).

5/   For example, training programmes for development of statistics on special
population groups have been developed. See Training Users and Producers in
Compiling Statistics and Indicators on Women in Development, Series F, No. 45
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.6), prepared in collaboration with
the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the
Advancement of Women and United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for
Development/Statistical Office, Compilando Indicadores Sociais sobre a Situaçao das
Mulheres em Paises de Expressao Portuguesa (INT-84-R91).

6/   Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second
Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5910), para. 101.

7/   See the Introduction to the present report and note 1 above.

8/   "Basic data on the least developed countries" (TD/B/AC.21/10).

9/   Measurement and Analysis of Socio-economic Development; An Enquiry into
International Indicators and Quantitative Interrelations of Social and Economic
Components of Development, D. McGranahan, E. Pizarro and C. Richard, Report
No. 85.5 (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, 1985).

Notes (continued)

10/ See, for example, Applicability of Indicators of Socio-economic Change for Development Planning, Socio-Economic Studies, No. 7 (Paris, 1984).

11/ The Feasibility of Welfare-oriented Measures to Supplement the National Accounts, and Balances: A Technical Report, Series F, No. 22 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XVII.12) and Concepts and Methods for Integrating Social and Economic Statistics on Health, Education and Housing - A Technical Report, Series F, No. 40 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.23).

12/ The System of Basic Indicators for Social Statistics (Moscow, 1976) and The System of Basic Indicators for Social Statistics: Methods of Calculation (Moscow, 1978); and The OECD List of Social Indicators (Paris, 1982).

13/ Living Conditions in OECD Countries: A Compendium of Social Indicators (Paris, 1986).

14/ Numerous examples in addition to those given in the text are listed in the progress reports to the Statistical Commission (see note 4 above) and Studies in the Integration of Social Statistics ....

15/ In Canada, see "General Social Survey; Features and Status Report" (Ottawa, Statistics Canada, April 1988) and the General Social Survey Analysis series. In Sweden, see the series Living Conditions, for example Inequality in Sweden: Trends and Current Situation, report No. 58 (Stockholm, Statistics Sweden, 1988).

16/ See From Birth to Death; The First Report of the Social Monitoring Group (Wellington, New Zealand Planning Council, 1985).

17/ Austria and Czechoslovakia: A Socio-demographic Comparison (Vienna and Prague, Austrian Central Statistical Office and Federal Statistical Office of Czechoslovakia, 1987); Sozialstatistische Daten 1986 (Vienna, Austrian Central Statistical Office, 1986) and Wolfgang Zapf, Aufsatze zur Wohlfahrtsforschung und zur Modernisierungstheorie, (Berlin, WZB, 1987).

18/ Government of Jamaica, April 1988.

19/ See the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements (ESA/STAT/AC.31/1).

20/ Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II A.3), pp. 9-10.

21/ See Richard Jolly, "Recession, adjustment and nutrition: An overview", Food and Nutrition Bulletin, United Nations University, vol. 9, No. 1, 1987.

Notes (continued)

22/ See "The UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS)", prepared by UNESCO for the Third Joint Meeting on Cultural Statistics, held in Geneva, 17-20 March 1986 (CES/AC.44/11), the addendum to the report of the meeting, "Matrices of cultural spheres" (CES/AC.44/12/Add.1) and the UNESCO Secretariat background paper prepared for the meeting of experts on indicators of culture, held in Vienna 8-11 April 1986 (ST-86/CONF.601/4).

23/ "Quarterly summary of reports of significant seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances received by the Secretary-General". (See, for example, E/NS.1988/Summary 2.)

24/ See, for example, the report of the First Meeting of Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), African region (E/CN.7/1988/3).

25/ Compiling Social Indicators on the Situation of Women Series F, No. 32 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.2) and Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women, Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 33 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XVII.3).

26/ See the Report of the Expert Group on Measurement of Women's Income and Their Participation and Production in the Informal Sector, which met in Santo Domingo 13-17 October 1986 (INSTRAW/AC.3/8-ESA/STAT/AC.29/8), and Improving Statistics and Indicators on Women Using Household Surveys, Series F, No. 48 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.11).

27/ Series Y, No. 2 and Series F, No. 38 (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.86.XVII.17 and E.88.XVII.4).

28/ "Development of statistics and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons" (CSDHA/DDP/GME/4).

29/ Series Y, No. 1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XVII.12).

30/ See A/40/256, annex, pp. 43-44.

31/ The United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base (WISTAT) consists of 72 microcomputer spreadsheet files (currently Lotus 1-2-3) ranging in size from approximately 20kb to 150kb and totalling about 12mb. WISTAT is available from the Statistical Office on 22 microcomputer diskettes complete for 178 countries and areas or for specific regions, using the forms provided in the printed user's guide (currently available in part, as a Statistical Office working paper). WISTAT will be fully documented in a user's guide to be issued in final form as a sales publication of the United Nations.

<u>Notes</u> (continued)

32/ The United Nations Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT) consists of 34 microcomputer spreadsheet files ranging in size from about 7 kb to 314 kb and totalling about 3.3 mb. The files are described in detail in <u>United Nations Disability Statistics Data Base, 1975-1986: Technical Manual</u>, Series Y, No. 3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.12). The complete data base is available from the Statistical Office on 12 microcomputer diskettes using the forms provided with the Technical Manual. Version 1 of the data base (as of 31 December 1987) contains (a) information on sources and availability of statistics on disability for 95 countries or areas for various years between 1960 and 1986, and (b) detailed statistics on disabled persons from national censuses, surveys and other data sources from 55 of those countries or areas for the period 1975-1986.

33/ Series K, No. 5 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), and Series K, No. 6 (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

34/ "Compilation of selected statistics and indicators on social policy and development issues" (E/CONF.80/CRP.1).