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SPECIAL ISSUES AND RELATED MATTERS

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

SERVICE STATISTICS

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

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

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report provides information on significant developments that have occurred since the reports for the Statistical Commission were completed on relevant agenda items (sects. I-IV) as well as on developments in areas of work not covered by specific documents before the Commission (sects. V-VI). The report provides information on the following agenda items: 3. Special issues and related matters; 4. National accounts and balances; 5. Service statistics; 6. International economic classifications; 8. Demographic statistics; and 10. Technical co-operation. Information on work completed by the Statistical Office in the biennium 1986-1987 and in the first six months of 1988 is contained in an annex.

* E/CN.3/1989/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The contents of the documents prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission were determined partly by the need to complete drafting early so that translation and reproduction be completed to allow timely distribution. The purpose of the present report is to provide updated information relevant to a number of items on the agenda.
2. Sections I-IV contain updated information on those items in respect of which significant developments have taken place since the completion of the initial reports. Sections V and VI contain information on new developments in areas of work not otherwise documented. Information on major elements of work completed by the Statistical Office in the biennium 1986-1987 and in the first six months of 1988 is contained in the annex.

I. RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF FOR WORK IN NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES AND STATISTICAL SERVICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(Item 3 (b))

3. Since the submission for reproduction of the report of the Secretary-General on this special issue (E/CN.3/1989/2), four additional countries, i.e. Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, have responded to the questionnaire sent by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with the subject of recruitment and selection of professional staff for work in national statistical offices. A summary of each reply is provided in the following paragraphs.
4. In Brazil, the Fundacao Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) is directly responsible for the recruitment and selection of statistical personnel. The National School of Statistical Sciences, a branch of IBGE, serves as an important source in finding qualified personnel.
5. Currently, the selection of staff for statistical work is based on candidates' professional qualifications, background and experience. However, the new charter of IBGE, to become effective in 1989, calls for examinations as part of the screening process.
6. The IBGE maintains an ongoing training programme for its staff, in both central and regional offices. With respect to special measures to ensure equity, there are no problems encountered in Brazil and, therefore, no need to take special measures.
7. The retention of qualified staff is a problem for the IBGE because of the lure of other organizations offering higher salaries.

8. In the Japanese civil service, no distinction is made between professional and other categories of staff, and the responsibility for the recruitment of personnel in all areas of public service rests exclusively with the National Personnel Authority which conducts government-wide civil service examinations to identify potential candidates for recruitment.

9. Examinations are conducted on three levels and are classified by subjects such as administration, economics, law, mathematics, machinery, agriculture, civil engineering, construction etc. Successful candidates become eligible for public service, and their selection for a particular service is then left to the ministries and agencies which rely primarily on interviews as part of their selection process.

10. The Statistics Bureau and the Statistics Center of the Management and Co-ordination Agency (MCA), as well as the statistics divisions and sections of various ministries and agencies, handle their own recruitment from the pool of successful candidates in the civil service examinations. The process at the regional level is similar to that followed at the level of the central Government.

11. Upon recruitment for statistical work, the staff are provided with on-the-job training and are expected to attend statistical training courses. These courses are organized by the Statistical Training Institute of the Statistics Center of MCA and are open to the personnel of national and local governments.

12. With respect to the special measures taken to ensure equity in representation of special population groups, under the National Public Service Law all nationals are treated equally regardless of race, religion and sex. Therefore, no special measures need be taken to ensure equity in representation.

13. In the Netherlands, the responsibility for recruitment and selection of statisticians rests entirely with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). All recruitment and selection functions are carried out by the Personnel Department of CBS in consultation with the substantive departments concerned.

14. When a vacancy occurs, first, an internal search is conducted. In the absence of suitable internal candidates, procedures for external recruitment are initiated by way of advertisements in national and regional newspapers and professional journals. The candidates identified as a result of these advertisements are screened by the Personnel Department and those found to be qualified are invited for an interview. The candidates do not have to take any examinations during the selection process, but may be required to be in possession of an elementary or general statistics certificate, depending on the level of the post to be filled.

15. If two equally suitable candidates are found for a particular vacancy, the female candidate is given preference over the male candidate. The new measures also call for special attention to ethnic minorities and to the disabled.

16. One major problem faced on occasion by the CBS is the difficulty in finding qualified candidates requiring special statistical skills and experience.

17. In the Ukrainian SSR, the State Committee on Statistics and the corresponding services in the regional statistical departments are responsible for the recruitment and selection of statistical staff.
18. The search for suitable candidates for vacant positions is done through a variety of channels, including promotion registers of highly qualified and capable candidates chosen from the staff of State statistical organs; employees of other economic committees, ministries and organizations identified at conferences, symposia, meetings etc. as candidates with potential, and young graduates of institutes of higher learning and technical colleges specializing in economics.
19. In addition, the staffing needs for certain positions are met by the provision of training opportunities to staff on a full-time and part-time basis (for details, see E/CN.3/1989/2, para. 47).
20. Competitive examinations are not used in recruitment; instead, interviewing is the method employed in determining the potentials of candidates.
21. As for the special measures to ensure equity in representation, the reply from the Ukrainian SSR reports that "equal rights to employment and promotion for persons of different nationalities (including national minorities), women and so forth are guaranteed under the constitutions of the USSR and Ukrainian SSR". More than 84 per cent of the total work force in the State statistical organs is female, and women constitute 63 per cent of the managerial staff.

II. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA)

(Item 4 (a))

22. Several further developments have taken place in the area of the SNA review since the progress report (E/CN.3/1989/4) was submitted for reproduction. Conclusions were reached at the Expert Group Meeting on Financial Flows and Balances held at Washington, D.C., in September 1988; an additional Expert Group Meeting on SNA Co-ordination will be held in Luxembourg in January 1989; a framework for environmental accounting has been proposed by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and was discussed in the Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Accounting and the SNA, jointly sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank; and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) is planning to convene a meeting on methodological problems of calculating gross domestic product in centrally planned economies.
23. The Expert Group Meeting on Financial Flows and Balances, sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at Washington, D.C., from 6 to 14 September 1988, reached conclusions on several issues. On the coverage and sub-classification of the present financial institutions sector in the SNA, it recommended the alignment of coverage of the institutional sector with coverage of financial intermediaries in ISIC (65, 66, 67). This was achieved by renaming the financial institutions sector to financial corporate (enterprise) sector and extending it to include not only the Central Bank, depository institutions and other financial intermediaries,

as is the case in the present SNA, but also to include financial auxiliaries such as stock-brokers, mortgage brokers, insurance agents etc. It also agreed to break down the financial corporate sector into financial subsectors to facilitate the identification of newly emerging alternative "broad" money concepts. This change clarified further the borderlines between expanded financial corporate sector and the non-financial corporate (enterprise) sector, in particular the treatment of financial and non-financial holding companies.

24. Furthermore, the Expert Group agreed on a summary and on a more detailed classification of financial instruments to be used both in Money and Banking Statistics (MBS) and in balance sheets, reconciliation accounts and capital finance accounts of the SNA. This new classification was agreed upon after extensive examination of characteristics and possible treatments within SNA and MBS of a large number of new financial instruments that have emerged since the 1968 version of SNA. In the course of this examination, the Group also took into account new financial arrangements with regard to debt cancellation, rescheduling, debt payment arrears and debt equity swaps which affect developing countries.

25. The Expert Group examined in detail the relationship between capital finance accounts of the SNA and reconciliation accounts and balance sheets of the System. This examination by the Expert Group was essential, as in the 1968 SNA, capital finance accounts had been elaborated separately from the publication Provisional International Guidelines on the National and Sectoral Balance Sheet and Reconciliation Accounts of the System of National Accounts (Series M, No. 60), which was issued after the publication of the SNA. The discussion clarified the role of the reconciliation accounts in particular and reached the conclusion that this account should be broken down into two sub-accounts, i.e. one dealing with revaluation of assets and liabilities and the other sub-account covering other reconciliation items not reflected in the capital finance account. The Group recommended further integration of reconciliation accounts with present capital finance accounts of the SNA and recommended that the resulting system of capital accounts be given new names to reflect their new roles.

26. With respect to the revaluation accounts, the Group paid much attention to the identification of holding gains and losses in assets and liabilities. As the holding gains and losses and their relation to interest flows have particular characteristics in Latin American countries with high inflation rates, the Group requested that the November 1988 meeting of ECLAC/CEMLA, held at Buenos Aires, pay particular attention to these matters and make recommendations that may be used as points of departure in the final discussions of these issues in the meeting of the SNA co-ordinating Expert Group to be held in January 1989 in Luxembourg.

27. Regarding the links between SNA and MBS, the Group agreed that the revised SNA should include in addition to the sectoral classification of capital finance accounts and balance sheets, three dimensional matrices of capital flows and stocks by financial instruments, creditor sector and debtor sector. The Group also agreed that it would be desirable to have flow data consistent with MBS stock data since flows reflect better the underlying financial activity in a form consistent with SNA.

28. The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts held a two-day SNA review meeting at Washington, D.C., during 16-17 September 1988, with core experts and the author of the revised SNA, discussed the first set of chapters of the revised SNA and reviewed the SNA issues remaining to be resolved. Based on this discussion the Group prepared a work programme for further work including an additional meeting on SNA co-ordination in January 1989. EUROSTAT agreed to sponsor this first Expert Group Meeting on SNA Co-ordination, in Luxembourg, from 23 to 27 January 1989. This meeting would discuss subsequent chapters of the SNA and would cover the following remaining SNA issues:

(a) Capital accumulation issues related to the treatment of research and development, mineral exploration and software, as well as issues related to the development of criteria for the classification of capital stock;

(b) Income and consumption issues related to the treatment and coverage of (total) household consumption, enterprise consumption, consumer subsidies, intermediate and final consumption of government, and (total) income;

(c) Imputation of bank service charges and issues pertaining to the related treatment of interest;

(d) Statistical units, sectoring and issues mainly related to the treatment of technical assistance personnel as a part of the residency concept in SNA and Balance of Payments;

(e) Factor income and transfer issues dealing with the harmonization of taxes between SNA and GFS (Government Finance Statistics), the distinction between current and capital transfers and the treatment of reinvested earnings on direct investment;

(f) Valuation and time of registration issues dealing with the distinction between cash and accrual, the effects of hyper-inflation and the treatment of exchange rate differentials in recording and valuing transactions;

(g) Structural SNA issues dealing with the tabular presentation of the revised SNA, the classification hierarchy of transactions and transactors, the incorporation of Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) and environmental accounts as satellite systems, and with the design of a glossary of terms.

29. The SNA Expert Group Meeting on Production Accounts and Input-Output Tables at Vienna, recommended that environmental accounts be developed as satellite accounts to the SNA. The Statistical Office has since then elaborated a framework for environmental accounts which was discussed in the joint UNEP/World Bank Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Accounting and the SNA (held at Paris on 21 and 22 November 1988). This meeting of environmental specialists and national accounts experts made specific recommendations on the structure, concepts and classifications of an environmental accounting framework. It recommended inter alia that the January 1989 meeting of the Expert Group on SNA Co-ordination take note of the results of the meeting as presented in its report and give final recommendations on how to reflect environmental accounting in the revised SNA.

After the January meeting, it is the intention to prepare a first draft of a handbook on environmental accounting, which should be tested in case studies to be carried out in selected countries. Close collaboration will be maintained with the World Bank, UNEP and other interested organizations.

30. Finally, the Statistical Office of CMEA is planning to convene a meeting in Czechoslovakia, in the first quarter of 1989, to discuss the methodological problems of gross domestic product and related SNA calculations in centrally planned economies.

III. SERVICE STATISTICS

(Item 5)

31. The third meeting of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics took place in Wiesbaden (Federal Republic of Germany) on 4-6 October 1988. The meeting was attended by experts from 12 countries (including 3 developing countries) and 6 international organizations; 31 documents were circulated in advance or distributed during the meeting. The discussions concentrated on statistics of trade in services and on the problems of quantity and price indices of services; however, a number of other statistical issues (classifications, survey problems, users' demands on service statistics etc.) were also covered. The report of the meeting together with a list of documents is being circulated to national statistical offices. Documents may be obtained on request.

32. In view of the many unresolved problems in services statistics and taking into account that the financial constraints in international organizations still impose severe limitations on the development of the methodology, the meeting deemed it worthwhile and useful to continue the activities of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. Statistics Canada offered to host the next meeting at Ottawa, scheduled tentatively for the beginning of October 1989. Items to be covered were discussed during the Wiesbaden meeting and the provisional agenda of the Ottawa meeting will be issued shortly.

33. Preliminary summaries on the United Nations/IMF survey on trade in services statistics and on the United Nations survey on quantity and price indices of services were prepared and circulated to national statistical offices. Additional copies will be made available to the Commission.

IV. INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) AND CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)

(Item 6 (a))

34. The following developments have taken place since the submission of the progress report on the revision and harmonization of international economic classifications (E/CN.3/1989/8).

35. The final drafts of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 3, and the Central Product Classification (CPC) were sent to the participants of the third meeting of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, in October 1988. Furthermore, the part of the ISIC introduction dealing with the definition, use and classification of different types of statistical units was circulated for comments to the participants of the third Round-table on Business Survey Frames, organized by the Department of Statistics of New Zealand in November 1988.

36. Many member countries and international organizations have requested copies of the classification documents submitted for consideration and approval to the Statistical Commission in order to ensure harmonization between their national and various international economic classifications. While the Statistical Office of the United Nations is circulating the final drafts of the classifications, it is stressed that the CPC is still to be considered provisional as long as explanatory notes for the services part do not become available.

37. Concerning these explanatory notes for the services part of the CPC, the proposal made by the United Nations Expert Group on Harmonization of Economic Classifications on how to develop them was taken up by the Statistical Office. Countries who offered contributions to ISIC and CPC in selected services areas in the context of the Voorburg Group initiative were requested at the Wiesbaden meeting to have their first draft contributions worked out by the end of 1988. Explanatory notes received will be made available, at least informally, to the twenty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission.

V. DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

(Item 8)

38. A proposal for an International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration System (VS/CR), developed jointly by the Statistical Office, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics (IIVRS), has been prepared and sent to a number of international organizations for comment.

39. The purpose of the programme is to promote, support and encourage the developing countries in accelerating the development and improvement of their civil registration and vital statistics systems during the 1990 decade, so that they will become a sound component of the socio-demographic data base needed for monitoring population trends and development.

40. The programme would assist countries by way of:

(a) Providing guidelines for self-assessment of the existing national VS/CR systems;

(b) Providing guidance for formulating national plans of action;

- (c) Helping in the preparation of handbooks and manuals for the countries' own use;
 - (d) Operating a clearing house of information on VS/CR systems which would be responsive to the countries' needs;
 - (e) Providing technical advice at various stages of VS/CR development;
 - (f) Supporting training activities to increase the skills of nationals;
 - (g) Helping countries to obtain other forms of technical co-operation necessary for proposed activities and projects;
 - (h) Helping to rally the support of national organizations which are potential beneficiaries of a sound VS/CR system.
41. The programme will seek endorsement, participation and co-operation from a wide range of multilateral and bilateral organizations.

VI. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

(Item 10)

42. The International Statistical Institute (ISI) is attempting to develop a series of educational video cassettes on the various aspects of statistical work, to be used in statistical training in interested countries. The Statistical Office is fully collaborating in this project. The utilization of video cassettes for training, as done by ISI, may also be useful for statistically advanced countries. However, its greatest use is seen in the education and training of personnel in statistically less developed countries, as their national statistical offices suffer perennially from loss of trained statistical and data processing personnel.

43. It is proposed that the project be carried out in several phases. In the first phase, a feasibility assessment will be made. In Africa, two sites have been proposed for effectiveness testing of video cassette teaching materials in classrooms, under the Project Director's supervision. He has already taken up his post in ISI. Some information has already been collected on currently available video cassettes and their costs. In the second phase, pilot video courses will be developed. The first course may be produced on environment statistics, if resources are available. A summary prospectus with preliminary cost estimates is in preparation at the ISI. The third phase will consist of full-scale production and distribution of the ISI Statistical Education Video Series. The Statistical Office will collaborate with ISI in identifying course themes and providing methodological materials.

44. A joint communication by the Director of the Statistical Office and the Director of ISI is being sent to all national statistical offices, requesting actual or potential users to fill out and return their questionnaires. Results are expected to be used in the preparation of the Directory of Statistical Educational Videos.

Annex

OUTPUTS COMPLETED BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN THE BIENNIUM
1986-1987 AND IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs:

Subprogramme 1: Development of Concepts and Methods

1. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:
 - (a) National Data Sources and Programmes for Implementing the United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration; a/
 - (b) Development of Statistical Concepts and Methods on Disability for Household Surveys; b/
 - (c) Handbook of National Accounting - Accounting for Production: Sources and Methods; c/
 - (d) Concepts and Methods for Integrating Social and Economic Statistics on Health, Education and Housing; d/
 - (e) World Comparisons of Purchasing Power and Real Product for 1980 (Part One: Summary Results for 60 Countries); e/
 - (f) World Comparisons of Purchasing Power and Real Product for 1980 (Part Two: Detailed Results for 60 Countries); f/
 - (g) Manual for the Development of Criminal Justice Statistics; g/
 - (h) Energy Statistics: Definitions, Units of Measure and Conversion Factors; h/
 - (i) Training Users and Producers in Compiling Statistics and Indicators on Women and Development; i/
 - (j) Improving Statistics and Indicators on Women Using Household Surveys; j/
 - (k) Handbook of National Accounting, Public Sector Accounts; k/
 - (l) National Accounts Statistics: Compendium of Income Distribution Statistics; l/
 - (m) Methods Used in Compiling the United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade, volume I. m/

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

- (a) Interregional Training Workshop on National Accounts, Mexico City, 4-13 February 1986; for the report of the meeting, see CONS/N.A/30;
- (b) Interregional Workshop on Statistical Development in the Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries, at Addis Ababa, 19-23 May 1986; for the report of the meeting, see INT/86/R92/7-TCD/SEM/86/7;
- (c) Interregional Seminar on the SNA Review for Developing Countries, Geneva, 18-21 June 1986; for the report of the seminar, see ESA/STAT/AC.27/18;
- (d) Expert Group Meeting on the System of National Accounts (SNA) Structure, Geneva, 22-27 June 1986; for the report of the meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.8/10;
- (e) Population Statistics Training Seminar, held in China, from 8 to 17 October 1987. The report, which is being prepared by the Government of China, has not yet been released;
- (f) Expert Group Meeting on Measurement of Women's Income and Their Participation and Production in the Informal Sector (convened jointly by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat), Santo Domingo, 13-17 October 1986; for the report of the meeting, see INSTRAW/AC.3/8-ESA/STAT/AC.29/8;
- (g) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Price and Quantity Comparisons, Luxembourg, 10-14 November 1986, sponsored by EUROSTAT and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); report issued by EUROSTAT;
- (h) First meeting of the ad-hoc Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (hosted by the Central Bureau of Statistics), Voorburg, 6-8 January 1987; report issued by the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics;
- (i) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on External Sector Transactions, (sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)), Washington, D.C., 23 March-2 April 1987; report issued by the IMF;
- (j) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on the Household Sector (sponsored by the World Bank), Florence, Italy, 31 August-4 September 1987; report issued by the World Bank;
- (k) Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements Statistics (convened jointly by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat), Nairobi, 12-16 October 1987; for the report of the Meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.31/1;

- (l) Second meeting of the ad-hoc Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, hosted by Statistics Sweden, Stockholm, 2-4 November 1987; for the report of the meeting, see UNSO/SOEC/6/6/1;
- (m) Sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Office/Statistical Office of the European Communities Joint Working Group on World Level Classifications, Luxembourg, 14-18 December 1987; for the report of the meeting, see UNSO/SOEC/6/10;
- (n) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Public Sector Accounts (sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)), Washington, 25-29 January 1988; report issued by the IMF;
- (o) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Production Accounts and Input-Output Tables (sponsored by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)), Vienna, 21-30 March 1988; report issued by UNIDO;
- (p) Expert Group Meeting on Harmonization of Economic Classifications, United Nations Headquarters, 25-29 April 1988; for the report of the meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.32/9;
- (q) Interregional Workshop on Statistical Data Processing and Data Base in Developing Countries, Geneva, 30 May-3 June 1988; for the report of the workshop, see INT/88/R92/16;
- (r) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Financial Flows and Balances, (sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)), Washington, D.C., 6-14 September 1988; report issued by IMF.

3. The following reports were prepared:

- (a) Final draft of the Revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev. 3 (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/Ser.M/4/Rev.3 and Add.1 and Add.2);
- (b) Final draft of the Central Product Classification (CPC) (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/Ser.M/77 and Add.1);
- (c) Revised System of National Accounts: Preliminary Version of Selected Chapters (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/Ser.F/2/Rev.4);

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

- (a) "Compilation of selected statistics and indicators on social policy and development issues" (E/CONF.80/CRP.1), prepared by the Statistical Office for the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, Vienna, 7-15 September 1987 (also issued as a Statistical Office working paper);

- (b) "Development of statistics for monitoring the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 1983-1992 (CSDHA/DDP/GME/4), and "Illustrative statistics and information on sources from the United Nations Disability Statistics Data Base" (CSDHA/DDP/GME/CRP.1), prepared by the Statistical Office for 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, Stockholm, 17-22 August 1987 (also issued as a Statistical Office working paper);
- (c) "Development of the United Nations System of National Accounts and related statistical classifications to take account of women's participation and production in the informal sector; report and recommendations of the INSTRAW and Statistical Office project on women and the informal sector of the economy, 1 April 1987-28 February 1988" (working paper of INSTRAW and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat);
- (d) "Review of occupation and industry classification experience in three countries and comments on the 1987 proposed revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations from the perspective of women's concerns", conference room paper prepared by the Statistical Office for the Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 28 October-6 November 1987;
- (e) "Women's Indicators and Statistics (WISTAT): user's guide to the United Nations microcomputer data base; final draft, annexes and order forms", working paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. (The complete user's guide is in preparation for publication in mid-1989.);
- (f) "Prospectus and technical report on preparation of a new United Nations publication 'Women and social trends - 1988' (working title)", working paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

5. Information on other work done is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General before the Commission, in particular those in the fields of national accounts and balances (E/CN.3/1989/4), E/CN.3/1989/5, E/CN.3/1989/6); service statistics (E/CN.3/1989/7); classifications (E/CN.3/1989/8); price statistics (E/CN.3/1989/10); and social statistics (E/CN.3/1989/11 and E/CN.3/1989/12).

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

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

- (a) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics;

- (b) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), eleventh edition; n/
- (c) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), twelfth edition; o/

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

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

- (a) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1983; p/
- (b) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1984; q/
- (c) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1985; r/
- (d) National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 1983/1984; s/
- (e) National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 1985; t/
- (f) National Accounts Statistics: Government Accounts and Tables, 1983; u/
- (g) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1984: vol. I, General Industrial Statistics and vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics; v/
- (h) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1985: vol. I, General Industrial Statistics and vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics 1974-1983; w/
- (i) National Accounts Statistics: Study of Input-Output Tables 1978-1980; x/
- (j) 1984 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: vol. I, Trade by Country and vol. II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables; y/
- (k) 1985 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: vol. I, Trade by Country and vol. II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables; z/
- (l) Commodity Trade Statistics (56 fascicles were completed or issued);
- (m) 1982 World Trade Annual; aa/
- (n) 1982 Supplement to the World Trade Annual; aa/
- (o) 1983 World Trade Annual; aa/
- (p) 1983 Supplement to the World Trade Annual; aa/

- (q) 1984 World Trade Annual; aa/
- (r) 1982 Maritime Transport Study: Analysis by Type of Goods Moved During 1979-1982 Between Regions of the World; bb/
- (s) 1983 International Seaborne Trade Statistics Yearbook; cc/
- (t) 1984-1985 International Seaborne Trade Statistics Yearbook. dd/

Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

8. The following publications were issued:

- (a) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1984; ee/
- (b) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1985; ff/
- (c) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1986; gg/
- (d) Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1984; hh/
- (e) Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1986. ii/

Subprogramme 6: Social, demographic and environment statistics

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

- (a) Demographic Yearbook, 1984; jj/
- (b) Demographic Yearbook, 1985; kk/
- (c) Demographic Yearbook, 1986; ll/
- (d) Quarterly issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report;
- (e) Development of Statistics of Disabled Persons: Case Studies; mm/

The following statistical data bases were issued on microcomputer diskettes as United Nations machine-readable sales products:

- (a) United Nations Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT), Version 1: 12 diskettes;
- (b) United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base (WISTAT), Version 1: 22 diskettes.

Subprogramme 7: Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

13. A note by the Secretary-General concerning the data collection activities of the United Nations system and selected non-United Nations international organizations (E/CN.3/AC.1/1987/R.5) was prepared for the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its twelfth session.

14. Considerable progress was made towards improved co-ordination of ad hoc statistical inquiries to countries from non-statistical units of international organizations. Subsequent to the twelfth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group in October 1987, the Organizational Committee of ACC at its meeting held on 13, 14 and 23 October 1987, on the basis of the recommendation of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, decided, on behalf of ACC, that a clear policy should be developed in each organization of the United Nations system requiring that the statistical unit of an organization should be consulted before any statistical inquiry is sent to a country. The Committee requested all organizations of the system to examine the proposals of the Sub-Committee and to develop appropriate procedures so as to minimize duplication and the unnecessary burden imposed on member States in the collection of statistics (ACC/1987/2/Add.3, para. 40).

15. In December 1987, as a follow-up to the above decision, the Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Secretary of ACC and Chairman of the Organizational Committee of ACC, wrote to the heads of all the organizations of the United Nations system providing them with the relevant extract from the report of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the note prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on its mechanism for screening requests for information to Governments and institutions. The letter requested that the decision of the Organizational Committee and the material enclosed be brought to the attention of the officials concerned in each organization for appropriate action. Also in December 1987, the Director of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat sent a similar letter to the chiefs of the statistical units of the organizations.

16. The ACC Sub-Committee at its twenty-second session in June 1988 considered this matter further. Organizations outlined their practices and action being taken or contemplated in their organizations, and one organization outlined its experiences under new policies that had been instituted. The following organizations reported having taken action in response to the Organizational Committee's decision: Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Some organizations,

while supporting fully the spirit of co-ordination in that area, indicated that they might, at least in the immediate future, have problems in implementing the request of the Organizational Committee to the full extent.

17. The Sub-Committee considered co-ordination of ad hoc questionnaires an extremely important matter, reflecting the concern that had been expressed by the ACC through its Organizational Committee and by countries in the Statistical Commission and regional statistical bodies. The Sub-Committee expressed its satisfaction with the considerable progress that had been made on co-ordination in that area and, because of the importance of the subject, decided to include it on the agenda of its twenty-third session.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

18. Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the biennium 1986-1987 amounted to \$32.6 million; the amount of the budget at 30 November 1988 was \$29.7 million. This accounted for approximately 223 projects in 92 countries, comprising, in part, 107 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 48 in statistical organization/multi-sector statistics, 13 in economic statistics, 27 in vital statistics and 28 in data processing.

19. The National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) has made significant progress. At present, 30 developing countries are participating in the Programme. Most of those countries have carried out several household surveys and are making use of the survey results in planning and monitoring development programmes. The technical study on "How to Weigh and Measure Children" (DP/UN/INT-81-041/6E) was published in English and French, with the Spanish translation currently in press. "Sampling Frames and Sample Designs for Integrated Household Survey Programmes" (DP/UN/INT-84-014/E) was published in Spanish, and "Development and Design of Survey Questionnaires" (INT-84-014/E) was published in French.

Notes

- a/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.22.
- b/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.4.
- c/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.11.
- d/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.23.
- e/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.9.
- f/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.10.
- g/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.16.

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- h/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.21.
- i/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.6.
- j/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.11.
- k/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.5.
- l/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.XVII.6.
- m/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.4.
- n/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.5.
- o/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.8.
- p/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.3.
- q/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.26.
- r/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.10.
- s/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.4.
- t/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.11.
- u/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.5.
- v/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.18.
- w/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.8.
- x/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.15.
- y/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.7
- z/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.87.XVII.3 and E/F.88.XVII.2.
- aa/ Five volumes, published by Walker and Co., New York, by agreement with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.
- bb/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.6.
- cc/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.25.
- dd/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XVII.7.
- ee/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.2.

Notes (continued)

- ff/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.13.
- gg/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.3.
- hh/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.14.
- ii/ Submitted for printing; to be issued as a sales publication in 1989.
- jj/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.85.XIII.1.
- kk/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.86.XIII.1.
- ll/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.87.XIII.1.
- mm/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.17.
