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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for 1990-1991
and related information

Note by the Secretary-General

* E/CN.3/1989/1.

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR 1990-1991 1/

1. The following is a tentative work programme which has not yet been reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and is subject to change in the light of the Board's review of the relevant submissions for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and of the Secretary-General's decisions on the proposed programme budget as a whole, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session for consideration and approval.

Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

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

1.1 Further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on: (i) the revision of the SNA (third quarter 1990); (ii) the development of MPS and the links between SNA and MPS (third quarter 1990); and (iii) the provisional version of A Revised System of National Accounts (fourth quarter 1990);

(b) Sales publications: (i) Handbook on Environmental Accounts, provisional edition (fourth quarter 1990); (ii) Handbook on Enterprise Sector Accounts, provisional edition (fourth quarter 1990, draft to be prepared by consultant); (iii) Handbook on the Use of Micro-Computers on the Compilation of National Accounts, provisional edition (third quarter 1991); and (iv) Handbook on National Accounting: household sector accounts, provisional edition (third quarter 1991, draft to be prepared by consultant);

(c) Ad hoc technical information service and technical advice to national and international users and producers of statistics of national accounts and balances on concepts, classifications and methods of the SNA;

(d) Participation in and co-ordination of the SNA review programme, including preparation of issue papers, studies and draft Handbooks submitted for discussion at the expert group and other meetings which are intermediate activities leading to the revised System of National Accounts, targeted for completion in 1991. (Consultant required to revise draft of new SNA Review following Expert Group Meeting and regional review meetings in 1990.)

(e) Draft of Handbook in National Accounting: National Accounts in Constant Prices, to be prepared by a consultant in 1990;

(f) Expert Group Meeting on second SNA Review Co-ordination (1990); and Third SNA Review Co-ordination (1991);

(g) Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Accounts (1990, extrabudgetary funds required).

1.2 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on development and harmonization of international economic classifications (first quarter, 1991);

(b) Sales publications: (i) Central Product Classification (CPC), provisional (first quarter, 1990); (ii) Co-Relation Tables, ISIC, CPC, SITC, MS (fourth quarter, 1990);

(c) Ad hoc technical information and advice to national statistical offices and other users of statistical classifications including information and advice on proposals for the development, revision and harmonization of international statistical classifications.

1.3 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for industrial, energy, services and related statistics

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on: (i) the effectiveness of the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics with implications for the next World Programme of Industrial Statistics (fourth quarter, 1990); and (ii) work in statistics on services (fourth quarter, 1990);

(b) Sales publication: Handbook on Statistical Programme for Household and Small Scale Industry for Government Statistical Services (second quarter, 1990); Methods of Quantity and Price Indices of Services - a technical report, for users and producers of statistics in Member States and international organizations (first quarter, 1991; a draft is to be prepared by a consultant in 1990);

(c) Ad hoc information and advisory services: Information concerning internationally recommended concepts and methods as well as national practices in industrial, energy, services and related statistics, rendered on request from governmental or intergovernmental organizations;

(f) First draft of provisional guidelines on the collection and compilation of statistics on computer and related information services, to be prepared by a consultant in 1991.

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

(a) Sales publication: Commodity Indexes to the Standard International Trade Classification, Rev. 3, vol. II - (first quarter, 1991);

(b) Ad hoc technical information and advice to national statistical offices and other users of international trade and transport concepts, classifications and methods.

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

Ad hoc technical information services (mostly methodological studies) on national, regional and world levels to producers and users of price statistics to member States and international organizations.

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

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on progress in the 1990 World Population and Census Programme (second quarter 1990); and to the Commission on Human Settlements on development of housing and human settlement statistics at national and international levels, using housing censuses and household surveys (first quarter, 1990);

(c) Technical publication: Methods for the development of national population census data bases on microcomputers (second quarter, 1990);

(d) Technical publication: Handbook on Planning, Organization and Administration of Population and Housing Censuses (first quarter, 1991).

1.7 Development of concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on special population groups and co-ordination of social statistics and indicators

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on development of an integrated United Nations system data base for social statistics and indicators and compilation of economic and social indicators for the fourth development decade (second quarter, 1991, prepared with the assistance of a consultant in 1990 and 1991 from extrabudgetary funds);

(b) Reports to the Commission on the Status of Women providing: (i) Summary compilation of available statistical indicators concerning the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies; and (ii) progress report on the reporting of statistics and indicators on women for monitoring implementation of the Strategies (third quarter, 1991);

(c) Sales publications: (i) Methods of Compiling Supplementary Accounts to the System of National Accounts on Women's Contribution to Economic Activity in the Formal and Informal Sectors (second quarter, 1990, extrabudgetary funds required); (ii) Use of Time-Budget Surveys to Measure Women's and Men's Social and Economic Activities (second quarter, 1991, extrabudgetary funds required); (iii) Methods of Compiling and Analysing Statistics and Indicators on Disabled Persons (second quarter, 1990).

1.8 Development of concepts, methods and classifications for environment statistics

(a) Sales publication: Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics: Statistics of the Environmental Aspects of Energy Production and Use - a technical report for use by national and international environmental statisticians, planners,

policy makers and administrators (fourth quarter, 1991; a draft is to be prepared by a consultant);

(b) Ad hoc information services and advice concerning environmental data sources and methodologies;

(c) Expert Group to review draft technical report on statistics of the environmental aspects of energy use and production (1990).

1.9 General development and integration of methodological work

(a) Report to the Statistical Commission on the general development and integration of methodological work (fourth quarter, 1990);

(b) Ad hoc technical information service and advice to Member States and international organizations on methodological aspects of all areas of statistics.

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

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

2.1 General compendiums of economic and social statistics

(a) (i) Statistical Yearbook, 37th edition (fourth quarter, 1990); (ii) Statistical Yearbook, 38th edition (fourth quarter, 1991); (iii) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (12 issues per year); (iv) World Statistics in Brief, 14th edition (third quarter, 1990); (v) World Statistics in Brief, 15th edition (third quarter, 1991).

2.2 Improved computerization of statistics

(a) Provision of on-line services to external users of the integrated statistical data base of core statistical indicators;

(b) Intermediate activities: Provision of a full range of data processing services in support of the work programme of the Statistical Office; development of new systems that either enhance existing work or result in improved efficiency in the substantive areas; co-ordination of data processing activities with other Secretariat offices, with the regional commissions and with other United Nations agencies; servicing of requests for statistical data from external users;

(c) Reports on data base systems, networking and telecommunications, to be prepared by consultants in 1990 and 1991.

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

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

3.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics

(a) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 32nd and 33rd editions (fourth quarter 1990 and 1991, respectively);

(b) National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 30th and 31st editions (first quarter 1990 and 1991, respectively);

(c) Ad hoc provision of national accounts information via computer tapes, computer printouts, diskettes for microcomputers and response to telephone inquiries concerning national accounts statistics;

(d) Technical information service on data development of developing countries, including statistics on household income distribution and expenditures.

3.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, services and related statistics

(a) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, vol. I, General Industrial Statistics, 1988 and 1989 (fourth quarter 1990 and 1991, respectively);

(b) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics, 1988 and 1989 (fourth quarter 1990 and 1991, respectively);

(c) Ad hoc services related to the dissemination of computer tapes and printouts of general industrial statistics and commodity production data.

3.3 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade and transport statistics

(a) Sales Publications: (i) International Trade Statistics Yearbook, 3 volumes, 37th edition (first quarter, 1990); (ii) International Trade Statistics Yearbook, 3 volumes, 38th edition (first quarter, 1991); (iii) Commodity Trade Statistics, Series D (1990-1991);

(b) Provision of computer tapes, tabulations and other types of information including material previously published in the World Trade Annual and its Supplement.

Subprogramme 4. Energy and related statistics

The objective is to collect, compile, evaluate and disseminate comprehensive,

reliable, useful and timely energy and related statistics that are as comparable as possible in order to serve the needs of national and international users.

4.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of energy and related statistics

(a) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1988 and 1989 (second quarter 1990 and 1991, respectively);

(b) Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1988 (fourth quarter, 1990);

(c) Ad hoc provision of energy information via computer tapes, computer printouts, diskettes for microcomputers and response to telephone inquiries concerning energy statistics.

Subprogramme 5. Price statistics and related areas

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

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

(a) Sales publication: World Results of Comparisons of Real Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power of Currencies for Approximately 65 Countries (phase V) (second quarter, 1990 draft to be prepared by a consultant);

(b) Ad Hoc Technical Information Service: computer tapes and printout on international comparison data in response to requests from users.

5.2 Price statistics for internationally traded commodities

(a) Methods Used in Compiling the United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade, vol. II (fourth quarter, 1990).

Subprogramme 6. Social, demographic, human settlements and environment statistics

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

6.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics

(a) Sales publications: (i) Demographic Yearbook, 40th edition (second quarter, 1990); (ii) Demographic Yearbook, 41st edition (second quarter, 1991); (iii) Population and Vital Statistics Report (four issues per year, first, second, third and fourth quarter);

(b) Ad hoc information services: provision of computer tapes, diskettes, tabulations and other types of information from demographic data base including immigrant stock data in response to users' requests.

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

(a) Sales publications: (i) User's Guide to the United Nations Social Statistics and Indicators Data Base on Microcomputer Diskettes (second quarter, 1990, extrabudgetary); (ii) Indicators of Social Trends in the Development Decades 1950-1990 (third quarter, 1990, consultant to assist in preparation of statistics, extrabudgetary);

(b) Microcomputer data bases on diskettes (for sale): (i) United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base (WISTAT) - Version 2 (fourth quarter, 1990, w/XB); (ii) Social Statistics and Indicators Data Base of the United Nations System (second quarter, 1990, extrabudgetary);

(c) Ad hoc provision of social statistics and indicators, statistics and indicators on special population groups and human settlements statistics, in the form of magnetic media and tabulations prepared in response to user requests.

6.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics

(a) Intermediate activity includes assessment of data sources and compilation of selected environment statistics and indicators to be published by the Statistical Office in various statistical publications. Development and implementation of a global programme of environment statistics.

Subprogramme 7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

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

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

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on: (i) overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system (fourth quarter, 1990); (ii) future plans for statistical activities of the United Nations system (fourth quarter, 1990); (iii) proposed work programme (1992-1993) and future plans (1992-1997) of the Statistical Office (fourth quarter, 1990); (iv) updated information on the work of the Statistical Office (fourth quarter, 1990); (v) the thirteenth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group (first quarter, 1990);

(b) Reports to the Statistical Commission's Working Group on: (i) inventory of statistical data collection activities (third quarter, 1991); (ii) outlines of

reports for the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission (third quarter, 1991); (iii) long-term special issues to be considered by the Statistical Commission at future sessions (third quarter, 1991); (iv) other reports that might be decided upon by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-sixth session (third quarter, 1991);

(c) Substantive servicing of: (i) the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission (first quarter, 1991); (ii) the fourteenth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination (third quarter, 1991).

7.2 Provision of statistical services to the General Assembly organs and other bodies on request

(a) Substantive servicing of two sessions of the Committee on Contributions, which includes collection and compilation of national income, population, price and exchange rates data, compilation of social and economic indicators, external debt and special studies on methodology for assessment purposes;

(b) Ad hoc provision of substantive services on scale assessment methodology to regional and subregional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa;

(c) Provision of substantive services and statistical expertise to the Department for Disarmament Affairs on the establishment of data base for analysis of military expenditures within the national accounts framework, and to other United Nations bodies on request;

(d) Consultant to establish benchmark year data base on military expenditures and extrapolation of global and national trends (extrabudgetary);

(e) Expert group meeting on military expenditures data base in 1990 (extrabudgetary).

Subprogramme 8. Support of technical co-operation

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

8.1 Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries

(a) Reports to the Statistical Commission on: (i) technical co-operation in the field of statistics, including statistical training (third quarter, 1990); (ii) on development of national household survey capability programme (third quarter, 1990);

(b) It is expected that 170 country projects in 90 countries will be in progress at the start of the biennium. It is expected that 40 will be completed and that 50 new projects will be commenced during the biennium. These will include projects to develop, expand or strengthen the capacities and capabilities of national statistical services.

8.2 Improvement of statistical data processing capabilities of developing countries

(a) It is expected that there will be 100 country projects with computer and data processing components being executed in 80 countries at the beginning of the biennium. Of these projects, 30 will be completed and 35 to 40 new projects with those components initiated. These will include projects to develop, expand, or strengthen the capacities and capabilities of national statistical data processing services. The projects will be designed to expand and strengthen the data processing hardware and software capabilities to edit and process raw data from different statistical areas so as to obtain a variety of reliable and comprehensive statistics.

Subprogramme 9. Programme support

9.1 Programme formulation and management

- (a) Direction and management of the Statistical Office;
- (b) Preparation of medium-term plans, budgets, performance reports, publication programme;
- (c) Maintenance of a correspondence registry;
- (d) Liaison with other offices and departments, awareness of decisions of intergovernmental bodies that may have significance for statistics;
- (e) Maintenance of relationships with senior staff of national statistical offices, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

II. PROPOSALS ON PRIORITIES IN THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1990-1991

The proposals of the Statistical Office on priorities for programme elements for the 1990-1991 biennium are as follows:

(a) Highest priority

1.1 Further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

(b) Lowest priority

5.2 Price statistics for internationally traded commodities

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

Indicative figures on the number of professional work months assigned to each sub-programme and programme element are shown in the table below: 2/

Sub-programme and programme element	Professional work months		
	Regular budget	Other funds	Total
1. Development of concepts and methods			
1.1 Further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and linkage with the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)	124	24	148
1.2 Development, updating and harmonization of standard international classifications	76	-	76
1.3 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for industrial, energy, services and related statistics	101	-	101
1.4 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for international trade, transport and related statistics	46	-	46
1.5 Development of concepts and methods for statistics of prices and purchasing power comparisons	36	-	36
1.6 Development of concepts, classifications and methods for demographic, housing and human settlement statistics	40	24	64
1.7 Development of concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on special population groups and co-ordination of social statistics and indicators	26	-	26
1.8 Development of concepts, methods and classifications for environment statistics	37	-	37
1.9 General development and integration of methodological work	24	-	24
Total	<u>510</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>558</u>

Sub-programme and programme element	Professional work months		Total
	Regular budget	Other funds	
2. Application of advanced technology in collection, processing and dissemination of statistics			
2.1 General compendiums of economic and social statistics	150	-	150
2.2 Improved computerization of statistics	<u>236</u>	-	<u>236</u>
Total	<u>386</u>		<u>386</u>
3. National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics			
3.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics	86	-	86
3.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, services and related statistics	113	-	113
3.3 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade and transport statistics	<u>140</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>164</u>
Total	<u>339</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>363</u>
4. Energy and related statistics			
4.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of energy and related statistics	<u>48</u>	-	<u>48</u>
Total	<u>48</u>		<u>48</u>
5. Price statistics and related areas			
5.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics for international comparisons of real gross domestic product and purchasing power of currencies	68	-	68
5.2 Price statistics for internationally traded commodities	<u>24</u>	-	<u>24</u>
Total	<u>92</u>		<u>92</u>

Sub-programme and programme element	Professional work months		
	Regular budget	Other funds	Total
6. Social, demographic, human settlements and environment statistics			
6.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics	72	-	72
6.2 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social, housing, and human settlements statistics	36	-	36
6.3 Collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics	36	-	36
Total	<u>144</u>		<u>144</u>
7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes			
7.1 Co-ordination of the statistics programme of the United Nations	28	-	28
7.2 Provision of statistical services to the General Assembly organs and other bodies on request	24	-	24
Total	<u>52</u>		<u>52</u>
8. Support of technical co-operation			
8.1 Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries	101	336	437
8.2 Improvement of statistical data processing capabilities of developing countries	32	72	104
Total	<u>133</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>541</u>
9. Programme support			
9.1 Programme formulation and management	24	-	24
Total	<u>24</u>		<u>24</u>
Grand Total	<u>1 728</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>2 208</u>

Notes

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

2/ The actual staff resources available to the Statistical Office for the biennium 1990-1991 will be determined by the General Assembly in the context of its consideration, at its forty-fourth session, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.
