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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Overall review of the statistical work of the international  
organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains an overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization and the Inter-American Statistical Institute for the period January 1988 to December 1989. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in response to a request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session and covers the period January 1988 to December 1989. <sup>1/</sup> The report contains a description of the progress made in the statistical activities of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) during the 1988-1989 biennium. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

2. The work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is described under two organizational headings (see sects. I.A and I.B below). In carrying out its responsibility for the provision of technical co-operation in statistics, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has been relying on the Statistical Office for substantive support, in accordance with the arrangements for collaboration that have existed for some time between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Additional information on the work of the Statistical Office is contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Updated information on the work of the Statistical Office" (E/CN.3/1991/30) and in the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 and information on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.3/1991/31; see also A/45/6 (Prog. 24)).

### I. UNITED NATIONS

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

##### 1. Major achievements, including new activities

##### (a) Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

3. A preliminary draft of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) (including 14 draft chapters and three annexes) has been completed. The first drafts of two handbooks on national accounting - Environmental Accounting and Input/Output Tables - have been completed; and outlines on two others - SNA Application in Countries in Transition and National Accounts Compilation and Reconciliation - have been prepared. System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) (vols. I and II) was issued. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3, and Central Product Classification (CPC) were submitted for printing.

4. Classification by Broad Economic Categories, defined in terms of SITC, Rev.3, was issued. A technical report describing customs areas of the world was also issued. A draft manual on the construction of unit value and quantum indexes in external trade was prepared. Work continued on developing commodity indexes for SITC, Rev.3, with drafts being completed for sections 5 and parts of 6 and 7. Work continued on describing the methods used in compiling the United Nations price indexes for external trade.

5. The following publications were issued concerning the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women: Methods of Measuring Women's Participation and Production in the Informal Sector, Handbook for National Statistical Data Bases on Women and Development, and sections of 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, "The informal sector: development of statistics and indicators" (with INSTRAW) and "Statistics and indicators on women's participation in the economy". The following working paper drafts for development of statistics on women in the informal sector were issued in English and French (with INSTRAW): "Handbook on the compilation of statistics on women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services in Africa" and "Synthesis of pilot studies on the compilation of statistics on women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services in four African countries". Technical reports were prepared and issued as working papers on two proposed new publications, "Prospectus and technical report on the preparation of a new United Nations publication 'Women and social trends - 1988'" and "Feasibility of preparing a publication on social trends in the International Development Decades, 1960-1990".

6. A technical report, Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics: Human Settlement Statistics, was published. Statistics of the Natural Environment is currently being finalized. An SNA Framework for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting was developed and served as the basis for the draft Handbook of Environmental Accounting mentioned above.

7. Three expert group meetings on SNA co-ordination and one expert group meeting on the reconciliation of SNA and MPS standards on national accounting were held. In addition all five United Nations regional commissions held regional meetings on the SNA with the co-operation of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and other member organizations of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts. Two expert group meetings on ICP methodology were held jointly with OECD and EUROSTAT. An interregional workshop on external trade statistics was held. Regional workshops were organized in Lusaka and Ouagadougou on methods of collecting and analysing statistics on women in the informal sector and their contribution to national product (with INSTRAW). The 1989 International Workshop on Population Data Bases and Related Topics was organized in Voorburg, Netherlands. Several workshops on economic topics were jointly carried out with the regional commissions and ILO to inform countries on new international standards for the measurement of the economically active population and revised industrial and occupational classifications. Reports have been issued on each of the expert groups and regional meetings.

(b) Subprogrammes 2-6. Application of advanced technology in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics and compilation and dissemination of economic and social statistics

8. The regular recurrent compilations were issued or submitted for printing in national accounts (main aggregates and detailed tables and analysis of main aggregates), industrial statistics (general industrial statistics and commodity production statistics), international trade statistics (trade by country and trade by commodity: commodity matrix tables), commodity trade statistics series D, energy statistics and demographic statistics. Statistical Yearbook, World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and Population and Vital Statistics Report (quarterly) were also issued. In addition, computer tapes, tabulations, microfiches and other types of information were provided to users in response to ad hoc requests in various fields of statistics.

9. Special compilations were issued on indicators on the situation of women and world comparisons of purchasing power and real product. The Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT) and the Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base (WISTAT) were issued on microcomputer diskettes.

(c) Subprogramme 7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

10. Initiatives were further developed for the co-ordination of ad hoc requests to member States for statistics by non-statistical units of international organizations by most organizations establishing internal mechanisms for advance review of such requests. New mechanisms were increasingly used for accelerating statistical development in certain fields while ensuring co-ordination (for details, see E/CN.3/1991/2, para. 85). In addition to the co-ordination reported in the various documents before the Commission on individual subjects, including the report of the Statistical Commission Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, whose primary objective is the co-ordination of international statistical work, met once each year. A number of intersecretariat working groups in specialized fields of statistics held one or more meetings, including the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the System of National Accounts and the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the International Comparison Programme. In 1989, the Statistical Office Newsletter was reinstated after a three-year hiatus.

2. Activities cancelled

11. During the biennium, several activities were cancelled due to the continuing financial crisis, which resulted in the loss of human resources, planned consultancies and extrabudgetary resources and necessitated the redeployment of staff to higher priority areas in order to complete those activities.

12. Under subprogramme 1, National Practices in Compiling External Trade Statistics; International Standard Definitions of Transport Statistics; Handbook for Compiling and Processing Maritime Trade Statistics; Use of Household Surveys to Collect Statistics and Indicators on Levels of Living and Patterns of Consumption; and Revised Survey of Environment Statistics were cancelled.

13. Handbook of National Accounting: Comparisons of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS): Conceptual Relationships was cancelled due to obsolescence. Another national accounting handbook, External Transactions, was cancelled. However, the Statistical Office will instead contribute to a compilation guide that is being prepared in conjunction with the IMF Balance of Payments (BOP) Manual.

14. Under subprogrammes 3-6, Results of Quantitative Comparisons of Gross Domestic Product (GNP) and Net Material Product (NMP); Construction Statistics Yearbook (15th and 17th editions); and Compendium of Immigrant Stock Data were cancelled.

### 3. Activities deferred or modified significantly

15. Under subprogramme 1, Handbook on National Accounting: Household Sector Accounts and Income Distribution was postponed due to reallocation of funds to other, higher priority, areas. A report on the collection availability and use of service statistics was postponed to 1991. Handbook for Statistical Programmes for Household and Small-scale Industries, Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods (vol. I) and Commodity Indexes to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3, (vols. I and II) were delayed due to extended vacancies in posts and deployment of staff to other priority areas. International Seaborne Trade Statistics Yearbook was suspended due to lack of extrabudgetary funds and pending the allocation of regular budget resources to continue this activity. Work on goods loaded and unloaded in international sea-borne shipping is being done in collaboration with UNCTAD. Handbook for Statistics and Indicators on Housing was postponed due to unavailability of expected extrabudgetary resources. The publication Emerging Issues in Population and Housing Censuses and Their Implications for National Censuses is being reformulated to reflect experience gained in the 1980 census round and will be retitled Training Methods: A Technical Report. Compendium of Statistics and Indicators on Women's Participation and Production in the Informal Sector was postponed to 1990. Methods of Compiling and Analysing Statistics and Indicators on Disabled Persons and Selection and Use of Statistical Indicators on the Situation of Disabled Persons were combined into one publication, Compendium of Disability Statistics.

16. Under subprogrammes 2-6, World Programme of Industrial Statistics was delayed due to diversion of resources to perform unanticipated functions to accommodate UNIDO's needs on accession to specialized agency status. Methods of Compiling United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade was deferred to 1990. Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics has been postponed and resources assigned to higher priority work.

**B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development**

17. Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1988-1989 amounted to \$50.7 million and the amount budgeted for 1990 is \$31.4 million. The total number of projects relating to the above expenditure was 235 in 102 countries - 112 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 56 in statistical organization/multisector statistics, 12 in economic statistics, 27 in vital statistics, and 28 in data processing.

18. Forty-five countries are participating in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). Fifteen countries (Algeria, Angola, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Fiji, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama) joined the programmes in 1989-1990. A total of \$15.8 million additional in external funding support has been committed for survey programmes in the participating countries in this period. Consultations for external funding for a further five countries - all new prospective participants - are nearing finalization.

19. The Central Co-ordinating Unit (CCU) of NHSCP has produced the June and December 1989 and June 1990 issues of the NHSCP Reporter and published three technical studies, "Assessing the nutritional status of young children"; "Literacy through household surveys"; and "Household income and expenditure surveys". Work on the compilation of a further six technical studies is in an advanced stage of finalization. These include the following: "Sampling errors in national household surveys"; "Guidelines for measuring health through household surveys"; "Sampling for rare and elusive populations in household surveys"; "Surveys on household consumption of energy"; "Methodology of household surveys of agriculture in Africa" and "Surveys of household economic activities: a technical study".

**C. Economic Commission for Europe**

20. Work in the field of economic statistics continued to focus on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA), links between the SNA and the MPS, and international comparisons of macro-economic data and purchasing power parities. In addition, the Conference of European Statisticians paid increasing attention to new areas of work (i.e., statistics of services). The Conference participated in the Working Party on Transport Statistics and the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation.

21. In the field of social and demographic statistics, the 1985 and 1986 origin/destination matrices for the flow of migrants between ECE countries were published. A special publication containing the papers, which were considered at the 1989 ECE/INSTRAW Joint Meeting on Statistics of Women, is to be published jointly by ECE and INSTRAW.

22. In the field of environment statistics, the Conference finalized work on two ECE standard statistical classifications: water use and land use. The classification of ambient air quality is ready for final approval. In addition, the draft waste classification was revised, a new draft classification of



ecological fresh-water quality was prepared, and a draft structure for statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection was established.

23. The list of ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 (SCP-2), outputs has been disseminated to all countries participating in the Project and the other regional commissions, and finalization of all scheduled outputs is expected by the end of 1990.

24. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued regularly in the fields of energy, transport, housing, road traffic accidents, steel, timber, trade in engineering and chemical products, and on short-term economic indicators. A computerized data base was started during 1988/89 and is being offered for on-line access to statistical offices of ECE member countries and international organizations.

#### D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

##### 1. Major achievements, including new activities

25. A total of 90 advisory missions were carried out during the period January 1988 to December 1989. The areas covered by technical assistance were statistical infrastructure development, household surveys, energy statistics, population censuses and surveys, national accounts and data processing.

26. The following meetings were held during 1988: Expert Group Meeting on Computerized Information Systems for Governments; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Statistics Related to Poverty, Inequality and Basic Needs; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Agricultural Census; Pacific Seminar on Social and Related Statistics; Working Group on Software Packages for Processing Census and Survey Data; Working Group on Statistical Experts; and ESCAP/SIAP Seminar on Improving Timeliness and Quality of Statistics; and during 1989: ESCAP/ILO Seminar on Employment and Unemployment Statistics; UNICEF/ESCAP Expert Consultation on Social Statistics and Indicators for Children and Women; Workshop on Computer-assisted Coding; Seminar on Transport Statistics; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Projections for Social Development and Economic Planning; ESCAP/SIAP Seminar on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s; ESCAP Committee on Developing Planning and Statistics; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Statistics on the Informal Sector; and UNICEF/ESCAP Training Workshops on Social Indicators for Children and Women in the Asia/Pacific Region.

27. Three training courses related to the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) were held: one on sampling and household survey methodology, one on electronic data processing, and one on the training of trainers in sampling and household survey methodology.

28. The following technical reports were published: Statistical Software Packages for Processing Censuses and Surveys; A Brief Guide to Present Availability and Expected Future Developments; ESCAP Conferences for Regional Statisticians; Manual on Training of Statisticians; and Censuses of Population and Housing in Asia and the Pacific: Towards the 1990 Round. In addition, the twenty-fourth report on sample surveys in the ESCAP region was produced, and seven issues of the Statistical Newsletter were published.

29. The following publications have been released regularly: Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (annual); Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly); Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (annual); and Asia/Pacific in Figures (annual). Work started on the establishment of a network of data bases within the secretariat and the conversion of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific and Asia/Pacific in Figures to a microcomputer-based data base format using dBase IV and LOTUS 1-2-3.

## 2. Activities cancelled or postponed

30. A seminar on the design and evaluation of household sample surveys was postponed to 1990. A seminar on human settlement statistics was cancelled due to lack of resources. A seminar on the revision of the System of National Accounts was postponed to 1990, awaiting further progress in the work on the revision of SNA by the experts involved.

## E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. Within the framework of the project "Statistics for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean", two seminars were held: "Entering and editing statistical data" and "Data bases and electronic dissemination". The regional project "Support to preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean" was undertaken with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In the framework of the project, the following seminars were held: "Management organization and strategy of a census"; "Cartography"; "Contents and design of the census schedule"; "The use of sampling in the preparatory phases and the utilization of census data"; "Computerized systems for users access to census information"; and "Training personnel for activities in the field".

32. Among recurrent publications, mention should be made of the 1988 and 1989 editions of the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes new statistical areas. Delivery to users has been significantly shortened, to February of 1989 and 1990. Progress has been made, as well, in the coverage and accuracy of the Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy (1988-1989).

33. With regard to technical co-operation at the national level, ECLAC acted as executing agency in projects in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela with the financial support of various international and national organizations. Approximately 55 consultancy missions were carried out by experts of the region.

34. Six reports were issued in the framework of the project "Support to preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean". Other reports covered topics such as national accounts; co-ordination of national statistics; improvement of the statistics of services; meeting of directors of statistics of the Americas; and economic censuses and economic units registry.

35. As a reply to the high demands for training in the statistical field, ECLAC delivered courses on methods and generalized software for statistical data processing; entering and editing statistical data; data bases and electronic dissemination; transport statistics; national accounts; industrial statistics; and organization of the national statistical system.

#### F. Economic Commission for Africa

##### 1. Major achievements, including new activities

36. In the field of statistical development, the following activities were carried out:

(a) Servicing of the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The most important feature of this session of the Joint Conference was the adoption of the Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

(b) Organization of the following meetings: sixth meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA; training seminar on the use of software packages in statistical computing for French-speaking government statisticians and planners;

(c) Twenty-five missions were carried out: 19 in the field of statistical training and six on the assessment of national statistical capacities;

(d) The following publications were issued: STPA News (four issues); Directory of STPA and Associate Centres (third edition), Directory of Non-STPA Centres (third edition); Guide Syllabus for Middle-level Personnel in Statistics: English-speaking Countries (first revision); Programme type pour la formation des cadres moyens en statistique: pays francophones (première revision) and Creating and Strengthening a Statistics Teaching Group (English and French versions).

37. In the area of economic statistics the following activities were undertaken:

(a) About 38 advisory missions were fielded in ECA member States to develop basic economic statistics;

(b) An intergovernmental seminar on the Review of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) was organized;

(c) The following publications on external trade statistics were finalized and sent for printing: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa (summary tables), series C, Nos. 8 and 9, and series A (direction of trade), Nos. 31 and 32;

(d) The 1987 African Socio-Economic Indicators, the 1987 African Statistical Yearbook, and the Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa No. 20 were also finalized and sent for printing.

38. Finally, in the field of censuses and surveys, about 151 advisory missions were undertaken during the period under reference. The following meetings, seminars and workshops were organized: Sub-regional workshop on census cartography for English-speaking East and southern African countries; Sub-regional workshop on census cartography for French-speaking West African countries; Working group on household surveys; Bilingual working group on migration statistics in Africa; Training workshop on economic activity topics in population censuses.

## 2. Activities cancelled or postponed

39. The Intergovernmental Working Group on Processing of Census, Civil Registration and Sample Survey Data was terminated due to lack of funds. The Working Group on Improvement of Data on Small-scale and Household Industries, the Workshops on environment statistics (one for English-speaking countries and one for French-speaking countries), and the training seminar on international trade statistics for English-speaking African countries could not be organized because the extrabudgetary resources expected could not be secured. They were postponed to the biennium 1990-1991. A number of activities relating to computer print-outs, technical publications and advisory missions were also cancelled owing to the staff situation in the Secretariat during the period under review and the resulting lack of funds.

## G. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

40. The following publications were issued:

(a) Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 1988 and 1989 issues;

(b) National Accounts Studies, 1988 and 1989 issues;

(c) Prices and Financial Statistics in the ESCWA Region, 1988 and 1989 issues;

(d) External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, 1988 issue;

(e) Unified Arab Statistical Abstract, first and second issues, in co-operation with the League of Arab States;

(f) National Accounts at Constant Prices, technical study, 1989;

(g) Compendium of Social Statistics, second issue, 1989.

41. ESCWA also organized the third Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA region, Baghdad, 28 February-2 March 1989; conducted an Advanced Training Workshop on the Organization and Administration of Population and Housing Census, Amman, 10-29 June 1989; contributed, within the regional household survey project, to four local seminars organized, respectively, by the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics (July 1988), the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (April 1989) and the Jordanian Department of Statistics (April and August 1989); organized, in co-operation with the Women's Programme in ESCWA, a meeting of the Working Group on Developing Indicators and Statistics on Arab Women, Cairo, 15-19 October 1989; participated in the annual intergovernmental meetings of the Statistical Committees of the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the Standing Statistical Committee of the League of Arab States and the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; and provided statistical backstopping to technical assistance activity in national accounts and economic statistics, population statistics and data processing of household surveys.

#### H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

42. The following publications were issued: 1988 and 1989 editions of the Supplement to the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics; the 1986 and 1987 editions (second issue) of Yearbook of International Commodity Statistics; Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin and the Tungsten Bulletin. A Statistical Pocketbook was published to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD, as well as a supplement (1970-1989) to the Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin.

43. Statistical annexes, containing detailed statistics on flows of financial resources from the member States of the Organization of Petroleum-exporting Countries (OPEC) to developing countries for the period 1987 and 1988 were prepared for the reports on Financial Solidarity for Development.

44. Statistical and computing support was provided to the substantive divisions of UNCTAD and its committees. An Economic Time Series Data Bank (ETS) has been developed to provide a framework for storing, in a standardized manner, machine-readable data available to UNCTAD to permit statistical and economic analysis to be carried out in an efficient and effective manner. ETS has been developed in-house as well as a table-generating programme for accessing the standardized data and preparing a wide variety of reports. In addition interfaces have been written to enable economists and statisticians to use the data in ETS as direct input to standard econometric and statistical computing packages. Work continued on the establishment in UNCTAD, of a data base comprising statistics on production, trade and employment in services.

45. UNCTAD has developed a trade information system on trade control measures of the developing countries. The data base provides a computerized link between foreign trade statistics at the country and product level and the corresponding

tariffs, para-tariffs and non-tariff measures, as well as preferential trading arrangements affecting trade among developing countries.

### I. United Nations Children's Fund

46. Two annual statistical compendia continued to be published during the period: Statistics on Children in UNICEF Assisted Countries; and the statistical section of the The State of the World's Children. UNICEF issued many reports, with statistical components, on various social, economic and demographic topics, as well as statistical assessments of programmes related to children, which involved collaboration with other agencies of the United Nations. Continuing collaboration with the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has been of considerable help in monitoring the under-five mortality rate by country. A manual for the estimation of child mortality through the use of household surveys has recently been produced by the UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa. Monitoring immunization - another important indicator of well-being, has been carried out jointly by UNICEF and the World Health Organization. Estimates for this monitoring activity are derived from a combination of household surveys, administrative records and demographic estimates.

47. Drawing on data from the World Health Organization, the Demographic and Health Surveys and the Living Standards Measurement Surveys, the Interagency Food and Nutrition Surveillance programme (IFNS) has been instrumental in the publication of A Global, Regional and Country Assessment of Child Malnutrition. The IFNS programme, in which UNICEF is collaborating with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, continues to assist national Governments in obtaining food- and nutrition-related information for policy-making, planning and programme management.

48. Technical assistance to statistical activities in social and demographic subjects in developing countries has continued to be given great importance. This has been in the form of direct support to country activities through UNICEF country offices; interagency technical assistance programmes, such as the National Household Survey Capability Programme; other statistical programmes directed at specific countries, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys; and support to methodological research and studies.

## II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

### A. International Labour Organisation

49. The Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), came into force on 24 April 1988 and has now been ratified by 14 countries. Reports on the application of the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), were examined for 11 countries and territories. A questionnaire was sent to countries to collect information on the methods used for compiling statistics of strikes and lock-outs.

50. Major work was done on the Retrospective Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1945-1989, and it is anticipated that it will be completed in 1990. Regular issues of the Bulletin of Labour Statistics continued to appear. The separate edition presenting the results of the ILO October Inquiry included data on occupational wages and hours of work for 80 countries and on retail food prices for 132 countries.

51. Volume II of Statistical Sources and Methods: Employment, Wages and Hours of Work (establishment surveys) was published in French and Spanish, and a revised and expanded edition of Volume III, Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Hours of Work, was prepared for publication in 1990. A fifth volume, Economically Active Population, Employment and Unemployment (population censuses) was also completed. Volume IV of the Statistical Sources and Methods series, Employment, Unemployment, Wages and Hours of Work (administrative records and related sources), was published in English.

52. The first draft was prepared of a comparative study of employment and unemployment measurement covering 28 countries which takes into account significant differences in national concepts and timing. Technical papers were issued on informal-sector employment, the economic activity of women, absenteeism and experiments in the measurement of economic activity, employment and unemployment in Costa Rica and India (Kerala).

53. Technical advisory missions were undertaken in 12 countries in the fields of labour statistics, labour force surveys and occupation classification, and consultations were also held with the European Community on its use of ISCO-88. Three UNDP-financed technical co-operation projects are operational: one in Uganda on national human resources statistics, one in the United Republic of Tanzania on the development of labour market information, and one in Ecuador on statistical support in the formulation of employment-creation policies. A human resources and labour statistics project was approved and became operational in Ethiopia in 1989.

## B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### 1. Major achievements including new activities

54. The World Agricultural Information Centre has been launched. Its objective is to integrate the FAO information system in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food and to provide on-line access to external users. As a first step, since mid-1988 AGROTEL, an on-line system, has been operational on a trial basis, which allows selected external institutions to interrogate AGROSTAT on-line.

55. The FAO subprogramme, Statistical processing and analysis, has continued to maintain and update world-wide and long-term statistical services on production, trade and utilization of crops, livestock and livestock products, land use, agricultural population and labour force (including projections), agricultural inputs (machinery, fertilizers, pesticides), food supplies, prices, economic account and the periodic world food surveys.

56. Regional supplements to the programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture were published in 1989. A manual on sampling was also issued. Four regional training courses were conducted on the Census of Agriculture, of which three were in Africa. Sessions of the Asia and the Pacific and African Commission on Agricultural Statistics were held in 1988 and 1989. Studies were carried out on the use of household surveys to collect agricultural statistics in five African countries, and the findings were discussed at the Commonwealth Workshop on the Food Supply Information Systems for Africa. In co-operation with the World Bank, five country studies were carried out, comparing objective and subjective methods of estimating crop areas and yields. Guidelines were published on socio-economic indicators of agrarian reform and rural development. A data bank of statistics on women in agriculture was initiated in 1989. Four workshops were jointly organized at FAO headquarters during the biennium with the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries. These formed part of the Centre's four-month course on strengthening the statistical system for food policies and strategies.

## 2. Activities cancelled

57. Meetings of two regional statutory bodies for statistics were postponed. Activities have been discontinued on the development of methodologies for constructing agricultural product trade matrices, animal feed balances at the country level, marketing costs and margins, and the use of remote-sensing in estimating land-use statistics. Work was also severely delayed on the analysis of food consumption surveys, the analysis of the 1980 round of the World Census of Agriculture, manuals on the establishment of poverty lines and socio-economic groups, and surveys for collecting statistics on women in agriculture and on food consumption. A number of publications had to be suspended, including long-term series on per capita crop and livestock production and food supplies, 1984-1986 average food balance sheets and long-term series for trade in selected commodities. Manuals on land-use statistics and on agricultural machinery statistics also could not be produced.

## C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

58. The main activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of statistics of education were the following:

(a) A revised set of school enrolment and illiteracy projections were established and published, as well as six statistical reports disseminating comparative data at the international level;

(b) Six reference documents for regional and international ministerial conferences and governmental expert meetings on education were produced;

(c) One regional and four national training courses were organized, and with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), six training seminars on education statistics, which were attended by 542 participants, were conducted;



(d) A statistical computation package for calculating a broad range of educational measures (EDSTATS), developed for microcomputers, was made available to member states.

59. In the area of statistics on science and technology, the following activities were carried out:

(a) The questionnaire on scientific information and documentation (STID) was revised and prepared for field-testing;

(b) Two analytic studies were published, as well as the annual Annotated Accessions List of Studies and Reports in the Field of Science Statistics;

(c) One expert meeting was convened on the methodology for collecting data on organized lifelong training of scientists, engineers and technicians, in which 10 experts participated;

(d) One regional and four national training seminars were held, which were attended by some 190 participants.

60. The principal activities in the area of statistics on culture and communication, were the following:

(a) A manual on the collection of statistics on public financing of cultural activities was finalized in English, French and Spanish;

(b) A case-study on statistics of sports and games and two case studies on the collection of statistical data on private financing of cultural activities were prepared;

(c) A report on the field-testing of the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS) was prepared;

(d) An expert meeting on statistics and indicators relating to the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics was organized, with the participation of 10 experts;

(e) One regional and four national training courses on culture and communication statistics were organized, with some 160 participants.

61. The UNESCO Statistical Yearbook for 1988 and 1989 was issued, in a trilingual (E/F/S) version. Major texts in the Yearbook were also shown in Arabic and, for the first time, in Russian. The UNESCO Statistical Digest was temporarily discontinued, but it will be re-issued during 1990 in a format that will be more practical for users.

#### D. International Civil Aviation Organization

62. In addition to the regular activities concerned with the collection, processing and publication of aviation statistics, a major activity during 1988-1989 was the preparation of documentation for the April 1989 session of the ICAO Statistics Division (a representative body of member States), servicing of the Division, and implementation of its recommendations.

63. The Statistics Division reviewed all aspects of the statistical activities of ICAO and made 17 recommendations aimed at enhancing the usefulness and efficiency of these activities. While endorsing the general structure and content of the ICAO statistics programme, the Division emphasized the need for increased availability and timeliness of ICAO statistics and recommended that ICAO should, as a matter of priority, develop a comprehensive programme for increased automation of the collection and analysis of aviation statistics and their transmission to the Organization, aeronautical authorities, airlines, airports and other interested parties. Implementation of the Division's recommendations was begun in 1989 and is likely to be completed by about mid-1991.

64. The thirteenth and fourteenth editions of the ICAO statistical yearbook Civil Aviation Statistics of the World were issued during this period, and preparation of the fifteenth edition was started. In addition, 24 digests of statistics were issued in the different areas of the ICAO statistics programme. Generally, the production of statistical publications continued to be adversely affected by shortage of resources.

65. Regional workshops on aviation statistics were organized for States in the North America/Caribbean region and the Asia/Pacific region. Advice on aviation statistics was provided by regional air transport officers during missions to various countries in their regions.

#### E. World Health Organization

66. The second report on monitoring progress in implementing the Strategies for Health for All was issued. The regional office for the Western Pacific made all the data in its country health information profiles (CHIP) available on microcomputer. Work on simplifying monitoring and evaluation tools and procedures began with an Interregional Consultation on Indicators and Procedures for the Second Evaluation of the Health for All (HFA) Strategy, held in Brazzaville from 16 to 20 October 1989. The presentation of family planning indicators was the subject of collaboration with the regional office for Africa. An intercountry workshop was held in Mauritius.

67. WHO and the World Bank collaborated in estimates and projections of mortality from selected causes of death for certain countries. In the Americas, epidemiologists and statisticians from the ministry of health in 11 countries collaborated in a research project on the effects on the ranking of leading causes of death of different criteria for grouping causes of death. Based on the results, PAHO plans to construct a new mortality short list.

68. Activities to reinforce the analysis and use of data in health service management were undertaken in India, Kenya, Maldives, Malta, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea. WHO also collaborated with the Government of the Philippines in developing a new health management information system using microcomputers. A health survey workshop was held in the eastern Mediterranean region with the collaboration of the population research unit of the League of Arab States.

69. Two new statistical handbooks were published, Adequacy of Sample Size in Health Studies and Sample Size Determination - A User's Manual. Work started on an atlas of map-linked data bases, which will allow the quick and easy linking of maps and data so as to relate the data to policy and make them intelligible to health planners and decision makers.

70. Proposals for the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) were finalized and submitted to the International Conference for the Tenth Revision of the ICD, held in Geneva from 26 September to 2 October 1989. In a radical departure from previous revisions, ICD-10 proposes an alphanumeric instead of numeric coding system, which will allow for the coding of almost twice as many conditions at the basic three-character level.

71. The French edition of the International Classification of Impairments, Disability and Handicaps (ICIDH) was published in 1988. In collaboration with UNSO, a training workshop on household surveys of disability was held in Malta. WHO is also taking part in the informal network Researchers on Healthy Life Expectancy, which seeks to develop generally accepted indicators of healthy life expectancy.

#### F. World Bank

72. The World Bank continued its efforts to improve the reporting of external debt statistics by member Governments. Some 30-40 country missions per year were mounted. In addition, the Bank improved estimates of private non-guaranteed and short-term debt not covered by the Bank's Debtor Reporting System.

73. Technical assistance to member countries continued to be a feature of the work of the Bank's data-oriented units. A major review of the functioning of statistical systems in member countries of Sub-Saharan Africa was undertaken. Following up on this study, three country case studies have been launched, with the intention of developing proposals for prototype programmes for countries at different stages of statistical development.

74. The Bank's programme for integrated household surveys under the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) have been launched in a number of additional countries. Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) programmes were extended in scope, and plans are now in place to commence activities in 30 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Collaborative arrangements with other international survey programmes, including the NHSCP, were enhanced.

75. The Bank jointly sponsored a workshop with ECE on the statistical issues in the transition economies. The Bank also contributed a paper to the OECD Conference on the Transition Economies on the identification of their statistical priorities and has also launched a major research programme on the methodological issues and comparability of data. A "factbook" on the transition economies is being prepared with the objective of disseminating a range of statistics that are of interest to a variety of users.

76. In collaboration with the Statistical Office, the Bank has carried out case studies whose aim is to test a framework for compiling environmentally adjusted measures of GDP. A paper reviewing national practices in compilation of environmentally adjusted accounts was prepared. Compilation of environmental indicators was pursued, particularly in respect of urban wastes and the use of national resources.

77. Several new publications emphasizing data on social indicators, African economic and social data, and measures of poverty and income distribution were released. The use of CD-ROMs as media for data dissemination was further developed in a joint programme with the IMF. Bank data sets are now being disseminated through the STARS system, an approach utilizing compressed data sets on PC-diskettes with features that permit data manipulation.

78. In the context of the revision of the SNA, the Bank continued to play an active role through participation in the Inter-Secretariat Group and the Expert Group. The needs of developing countries and of transition economies in adapting the SNA to their circumstances have featured in the Bank's contributions to the revision.

#### G. International Monetary Fund

79. IMF continued to give priority to the development and maintenance of its large-scale data base of internationally comparable economic statistics. The Fund's computerized data base system, the Economic Information System (EIS), has progressively replaced the Data Fund System.

80. The Fund has continued to support the training of national officials in statistical methodology and practices through the IMF Institute. Recently the Bureau of Statistics has initiated a new programme of technical co-operation by means of long-term assignment of technical experts to member countries.

81. IMF sponsored three specially convened expert group meetings to discuss external sector issues, public sector accounts, and financial flows and balances in relation to revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA). The Fund has recently commenced the process of revising its Balance of Payments Manual and of developing further its work on the methodology of monetary statistics, with a view to preparing a guide to money and banking statistics. A similar effort is also continuing in the area of government finance statistics.

82. In December 1989 the Fund established an international Working Party on the Measurement of International Flows to study measurement issues underlying the coverage of international capital flows, and address concerns of world asymmetries in the principal components of the capital account of the balance of payments. The final report of the Working Party is to be submitted to the Fund's Executive Board by the end of 1991. The study, which is seen as a follow-up to the study on the statistical discrepancy in world current account balances (Esteve Report), will review the procedures and practices (at the national level) underlying the measurement of capital flows and identify measures needed to improve data in this area.

83. The International Working Group on External Debt Statistics, including representatives of IMF, met in June 1989 to discuss its future work programme. The joint publication, External Debt: Definition, Statistical Coverage and Methodology, issued in March 1988, dealt with stock data and left several issues, including questions concerning flow data, for future work. During this meeting it was decided to prepare a second publication that would deal with the possible reconciliation of stock and flow data and present the debt data in a balance of payments framework.

#### H. Universal Postal Union

84. Statistical activities of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) have the following broad objectives:

(a) To record systematically data on postal traffic volumes so as to deduce general trends and make extrapolations for the future;

(b) To collect information on staffing patterns and volumes, financial operating performance, performance of the postal financial services, technical means etc. of UPU member countries;

(c) To determine and quantify the level of services available to the public;

(d) To determine the evolution of the postal services in general over a period of time;

(e) To promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services;

(f) To determine the direction and volume of technical assistance to UPU member countries.

85. Data is collected by means of a questionnaire which is circulated annually. This data is then examined for plausibility and consistency, and is subsequently entered in the computer where it is subjected to additional checks for consistency. Corrections communicated are also incorporated. This information is then published in a loose-leaf binder entitled Statistique des services postaux (Postal Services Statistical Yearbook), which is then circulated among member countries and also made available on demand to other interested parties. Editions

pertaining to data for the years 1986 and 1987 were published in 1988 and 1989, and the edition containing 1988 statistics was published in April 1990.

86. Statistics were first computerized in 1982 when UPU acquired a computer, and information from 1964 onwards has been stored on disk. This information is used to make up reports at prescribed intervals.

87. The most recent five-year report on the development of the postal services was prepared for the information of the UPU Congress, held in Washington, D.C., in November/December 1989. This will be supplemented by a three-year report covering the period 1987-1989, which is scheduled for publication in 1991.

#### I. World Intellectual Property Organization

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

#### J. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

89. The following publications were issued: Handbook of Industrial Statistics (1988); Africa in Figures (1988); The Largest Establishments in China and Thailand: An Analysis of Industrial Statistics (1989); International Specialization and Trade in Manufactures (1989); An Inventory of Industrial Statistics: UNIDO Data Base, 1989 (1989).

90. The series of lectures on industrial statistics to the Institute for Social Studies, The Hague, was continued in 1988 and 1989. A number of missions in connection with technical assistance projects on industrial statistics were undertaken (Ethiopia, Kenya, Oman) and contacts maintained with the International Statistics Institute and United Nations organizations in order to facilitate data exchange. The UNIDO data base was extended to include industrial statistics at a more detailed level.

91. Further technical assistance projects were launched to implement the UNIDO-developed software package for the processing of industrial statistics (NISIP), and the organization has also started technical assistance projects in the field of statistical process control (Brazil, Hungary).

#### K. International Atomic Energy Agency

92. The Agency publishes annually a comprehensive overview report entitled Nuclear Power: Status and Trends, based in particular on data in the Agency's Energy and Economic Data Bank (EEDB) and the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS). A booklet entitled "Energy electricity and nuclear power estimates for the period up

to 2005" (Reference Data Series No. 1) is published annually, using data from EEDB and PRIS and results of the Agency and other international demand projections.

93. The Agency co-operates with industrialized member States and with other international organizations in the use of methodologies for forecasting electricity demand in developing countries as a basis for studying the role of nuclear power. Within this context, a technical committee on energy and nuclear power planning (United Nations and other international organization approaches) meets annually.

#### L. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

94. Under the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, trade negotiations files were developed to assist in the evaluation of tariff proposals. They comprise two basic components: the tariff schedule, and the import statistics. Files have been prepared at the tariff line level for countries covering close to 95 per cent of GATT-member trade. The resulting information is only available to contracting parties which meet certain criteria.

95. Another recent development is the GATT Data Base on International Trade in Services, using information from the International Monetary Fund, OECD, the International Labour Office and the Statistical Office (United Nations Secretariat) and national sources. The main components are country data on international trade in goods and services, domestic production and employment for the years 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1980-1988, where available.

96. Concurrently, the development of the Integrated Data Base is proceeding. It will contain tariff line data on imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The tariff lines will be based on the Harmonized System. Over time, it is expected that the Integrated Data Base will be expanded to include exports and other categories of non-tariff measures on which information is supplied by contracting parties.

97. Ongoing statistical activities include the collection of trade, production, consumption and price statistics under the various arrangements negotiated under the auspices of the GATT (textiles, dairy products, bovine meat, civil aircraft, government procurement); data preparation for economic research projects and the annual report on international trade.

### III. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### World Tourism Organization

98. The following statistical publications were issued: Yearbook of Tourism Statistics (1988 and 1989 editions); Compendium of Tourism Statistics (1988 and 1989 editions); and, quarterly, Current Travel and Tourism Indicators (1988, 1989 and first 1990 editions). Emphasis was placed on the improvement of the coverage, timeliness, comparability and consistency of data. WTO has also started the creation of a computerized data base on tourism statistics.

99. In relation to the development of concepts and methods, the activities of WTO during the biennial period 1988-1989 were devoted mainly to the completion of the "Guidelines for tourism statistics" and the development of a Standard International Classification of Tourism Statistics (SICTA) within the framework of the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) of the United Nations. A set of guidelines were also prepared on the harmonization of household surveys on pleasure and holiday travel.

100. Various missions on tourism statistics were carried out in Turkey, Uruguay, Cape Verde, United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritania in pursuance of the organization's programme of technical assistance activities. A workshop on tourism statistics was organized in Lusaka (Zambia) from 27 to 30 November 1989 as part of the first WTO/UNDP regional co-operation project in tourism development in eastern and southern Africa.

#### IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### A. Inter-American Statistical Institute

101. According to the present organization of the Institute, its activities are oriented:

(a) To complement the work carried out by other organizations concerning the development of governmental statistics in the American region;

(b) To strengthen the role of the Institute regarding the academic and professional statistical activities. Emphasis is being placed in its programmes of scientific publications and technical meetings.

102. The Institute co-operates in the operation of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, maintained by the Organization of American States (OAS), and participates in the meetings of Directors of Statistics organized by ECLAC.

103. The Regional Programme for the Development of Household Surveys, developed for several years in close co-operation with OAS, ECLAC and the Statistical Office, had to be discontinued in 1988 because of lack of appropriate funding.

104. The Secretariat organized jointly with FAO, and with the co-operation of the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), the third session of the working group on agriculture statistics, held in Santiago, Chile, in March 1990.

105. The Seminars on Statistical Methods initiated in 1987 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, continued, with one held in Santiago, Chile, in 1989 on statistics in quality and productivity improvement; a third, on statistical methods in business and in the actuarial sciences, is being organized, to be held in September 1991 in Mexico.



V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

106. The Commission may wish to comment on the work of the various international organizations during the period under review.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 3 (E/1989/21).

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