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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Proposed programme of work of the Statistical Office for 1992-1993
and related information

Note by the Secretary-General

I. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR 1992-1993 1/

A. Introduction

1. The following is a tentative programme of work 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 1992-1993 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-sixth session for consideration and approval. The proposed general orientation of the statistics programme for the biennium 1992-1993 is presented in section B and detailed proposals for subprogrammes 1-5 follow in section C.

2. The format of the proposed programme of work presented in this conference room paper differs somewhat from the format used in previous bienniums to accord with various decisions of the General Assembly related to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and instructions by the Secretary-General for implementing these decisions. In

* E/CN.3/1991/1 and Corr.1.

addition to the changes referred to in document E/CN.3/1991/31, outputs and services at the subprogramme level are grouped in accordance with a new set of standard activity categories and subcategories. In the case of the statistics programme, the following categories and subcategories are used:

Parliamentary services:

- (a) Parliamentary documentation (including official records);
- (b) Substantive services;
- (c) Technical (secretariat) services;
- (d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work;

Published material:

- (a) Recurrent publications;
- (b) Non-recurrent publications;
- (c) Technical material (including data bases, computer software and wall charts);

Operational activities:

- (a) Advisory services;
- (b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships;
- (c) Field projects;

Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison.

B. General orientation of the programme

3. The overall goal of the programme is to increase the availability and use of relevant, timely and reliable statistics for national and international planning and action. In pursuit of this goal, the programme provides a wide range of outputs and services to producers and users of statistics in Member States, to other programmes of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, to other parts of the Organization, to specialized agencies and to other international and regional organizations. The programme is an integrated one, involving four interrelated and mutually supportive functions:

- (a) Developing statistical concepts and methods for use by Member States (subprogramme 1);

(b) Collecting, processing and disseminating integrated statistics (subprogrammes 2 and 3);

(c) Promoting the co-ordination of international statistical activities (subprogramme 4);

(d) Supporting technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing, including informatics (subprogramme 5). Work under subprogramme 5 is carried out on behalf of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

4. The programme covers basic statistical work in a number of important specific subject-matter areas: national accounts, international trade and transportation, industrial activity and production, energy, population, the environment, internationally comparable prices, social indicators, women, human settlements and special population groups, as well as integrated and multi-sectoral statistics and topics not specifically covered by the statistical services of other organizations of the United Nations system. Because of the importance of co-ordination in improving the cost-effectiveness of statistical activities and outputs, a separate subprogramme is devoted to such work.

5. Under the guidance of the Statistical Commission, the programme is designed to serve the continuing needs of users and producers of statistics as reflected in the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. It is also guided by needs arising from the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session (resolution S-18/3), the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (Assembly resolution 45/199, annex) and a number of related sectoral strategies and initiatives, including, for example, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, ^{2/} the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children (A/45/625, annex), and the World Population Plan of Action. ^{3/}

6. In response to the widely recognized need for improved statistics and indicators on the environment, an augmented programme on environment statistics, including environmental accounting, will be undertaken to enhance the availability of environmental statistics nationally and internationally. In addition, during the biennium special attention will be given to support for a number of major international conferences and events, including the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging and the international meeting on population in 1994. In view of its central importance for macro-economic analysis and description, the highest priority will continue to be given to completing the revision of the System of National Accounts and to assisting developing countries in its implementation, in co-operation with the regional commissions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT).

C. Description of each subprogramme

7. A description of each subprogramme follows:

Subprogramme 1. Developing statistical concepts and methods for use by Member States

The overall objectives of this subprogramme are stated in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24), para. 24.14). During the biennium, the revised draft System of National Accounts (SNA) will be finalized and submitted to the Statistical Commission for adoption and the drafting of the related handbooks will be completed or be well under way. Indexes to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3, and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.3, will be issued and guidance on the use of international classifications will continue to be provided. Correlation of SITC, Rev.3, with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) will be maintained. Preparation of technical material for the 1993 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be initiated and methodological support to phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) will be provided. Formulation of international guidelines for price and quantity indexes for services will be accelerated. Work on population and housing census methods and technical reports on statistics on women will continue. Methodological work on environment statistics, including environmental accounting, will be expanded, leading to the preparation of technical reports and guidelines covering specific fields of environmental statistics and related issues of statistical organization. New methodological work will also be initiated on the measurement of poverty and human development, special population groups and social indicators.

ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

1. Reports to the Statistical Commission (twenty-seventh session) on:
(a) revision of the SNA (1992); (b) 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme (1992); (c) implementation of the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (1992); (d) special population groups (1992); (e) World Programme of Industrial Statistics (1992); (f) work done by national and international agencies in the field of service statistics (1992); (g) progress of work in service statistics (Voorburg Group) (1992); (h) reviewing national and international work and needs in the field of implementation of ISIC, Rev.3 and provisional Central Product Classification (CPC) (1992); (i) developments in the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and other related international comparison issues (1992); (j) progress made in environment statistics (1992); (k) general development and integration of methodological work (1992); (l) international guidelines on quantity and price indices of services (1992).

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2. Final draft of a System of National Accounts (Series F, No. 2, Rev.4) to be submitted to the Statistical Commission for adoption (1992, consultant required to assist in the preparation of the final draft).

(b) Substantive services

3. Report(s) as requested to the Population Commission (biennial), international meeting on population (1994), Commission on Human Settlements (annual), Commission on Social Development (biennial), Conference of European Statisticians (annual), Conference of African Planners, Demographers and Statisticians (biennial).

4. Substantive servicing of sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1992 and 1993).

5. Ad hoc provision of substantive services on scale of assessment methodology to regional and subregional organizations such as the Organization for African Unity (OAU) and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa; and substantive services to the Department of Disarmament Affairs (1992 and 1993).

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work

6. Sixth Expert Group meeting on SNA (1992).

7. Seventh Expert Group meeting on SNA (1993).

8. Interregional meeting on the revised SNA (1992, extrabudgetary funds required).

9. Expert Group Meeting to review the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) and its application for use in censuses, surveys and registration systems (1993, extrabudgetary funds required).

10. Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics (1992).

11. Statistics of the environmental aspects of energy production and use (1993, consultant required to prepare technical report on statistics of the environmental aspects of energy production and use).

Published material

(b) Non-recurrent publications

12. Handbook on National Accounting: National Accounts Compilation and Reconciliation (1992, extrabudgetary funds required).

13. Handbook on National Accounting: Application of the SNA in Transition Countries (1992, extrabudgetary funds required).

14. Handbook on National Accounting: Enterprise Sector Accounts (1993, extrabudgetary funds required).
 15. Handbook on National Accounting: Household Sector Accounts (1993).
 16. First draft for circulation of Handbook on National Accounts: Constant Prices and Inflation Accounting (1993).
 17. Indexes to ISIC, Rev.3 (1993).
 18. Manual on Procedures for Registering and Reporting a Vital Event in the Civil Registration System (1992).
 19. Population and Housing Census Handbook, Part V: Economic Characteristics (1992).
 20. Population and Housing Handbook, Part III: Migration Characteristics (1993).
 21. Draft report on housing census recommendations in the context of the year 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme in preparation for the Expert Group Meeting scheduled for 1993/94 (1993, extrabudgetary funds required for consultant to prepare draft report on census recommendations in the context of the year 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme).
 22. Survey Methods for Collecting and Analysing Disability Statistics (1992).
 23. Methods of Collecting Statistics on Elderly Women (1993, extrabudgetary funds required for consultant to prepare draft document on issues in the production and use of gender statistics).
 24. Handbook on Production and Use of Statistics on Women in Development (1992).
 25. Women and Men in National Accounts (1993, consultant required to prepare draft).
 26. Commodity Indexes to SITC, Rev.3, vol. 1 (1992), vol. 2 (1992).
 27. Technical report on concepts and methods of environment statistics: statistics of the environmental aspects of energy production and use (1993).
- (c) Technical material
28. Studies on application of the accounting approach to different kinds of analysis: environmental, socio-economic, demographic, measurement of poverty (1992 and 1993).

29. Response to ad hoc requests from organizations, Member States, institutions and the public at large for technical information and advice on concepts, classifications and methods for all fields of economic, demographic and social statistics (1992 and 1993).
30. Technical papers and studies on application of classifications and on proposals for their development, revision and harmonization for submission to international meetings, environmental accounting related to socio-economic policy and planning, and on refinements and further development of methodologies in the field of energy statistics (1992 and 1993).
31. Support for methods, systems and indicators on disarmament, human development and patterns of consumption.
32. Technical report on high-priority environmental indicators for national and international use (1993).
33. Glossary of terms applied in environmental statistics (1993).
34. Draft technical reports on environment-related agricultural statistics; statistics of water use and water quality; organization of national statistical activities in environment statistics; use and analysis of environment statistics; environment and natural resource accounting (1992 and 1993).
35. Technical report on service statistics, dealing with a substantive topic (1992).
36. Provision of ICP technical documentation, particularly on the core commodity approach to participating countries of ICP phase VI regional comparisons (1993).
37. The change from revision 2 to revision 3 of ISIC in the reporting of industrial data (1992).
38. Coding links between the different classifications for industrial commodity production data (1993, consultant required to prepare technical document for 1993 World Industrial Census Programme).
39. Microcomputer template for industrial data reporting in connection with the World Programme of Industrial Statistics (1992).
40. Updating and revising of SITC, Rev.3, to keep correlation with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) (1993).
41. Collection of information on country practices in the field of international trade statistics (1993).
42. Study on implementation of ISIC, Rev.3, and CPC based on survey of country practice (1992).

43. Preparation of conversion keys between ISIC, Rev.3, and Classification of the Branches of the National Economy (CBNE) of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) (1993).

44. Inventory of economic and social classifications used for statistical purposes (1992 and 1993).

45. Overall substantive direction and management of this subprogramme.

Subprogramme 2. Applying advanced technology in collecting, processing and disseminating integrated statistics

The overall objectives of this subprogramme are stated in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24), para. 24.22). During the biennium, the subprogramme will (a) continue to give priority to developing cost-effective methods and systems for collecting, assessing and compiling data and their dissemination, using new technologies for preparing major data bases, publications and other statistical outputs, with particular emphasis on using new technologies to improve timeliness in reaching users and the quality of data and estimates presented; (b) implement an in-depth review of techniques, methods and content of the Office's major general-purpose publications, the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, to consolidate the results of ongoing reviews and adjustments which have been made over recent years; and (c) develop new data bases to meet the growing need for multi-sectoral and integrated statistics and indicators, drawing on ongoing work under subprogramme 3 in individual fields of statistics and on related work in other international organizations. For example, data bases will be established to assist in the monitoring of the new International Development Strategy and in assessing the achievement of social goals during the 1990s using nationally and internationally established quantitative targets.

ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary services

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work

Revising the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook (1992). (Related to outputs 1-4 below.)

Published material

(a) Recurrent publications

1. Statistical Yearbook, 38th edition (annual, 1992, consultant required in 1992 and 1993 to reprogramme specialized data bases for outputs 1-4).

2. Statistical Yearbook, 39th edition (annual, 1993).

3. Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, 12 issues (monthly, 1992).
4. Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, 12 issues (monthly, 1993).
5. World Statistics in Brief, 15th edition (annual, 1992).
6. World Statistics in Brief, 16th edition (annual, 1993).
7. Selected Socio-economic Indicators for Monitoring Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2nd edition (irregular, 1993).

(b) Non-recurrent publications

8. United Nations Social Statistics and Indicators Data Base on Microcomputer Diskettes: User's Guide (1993).
9. User's Guide for Demographic and Social Statistics Data Base System (1993).

(c) Technical material

10. United Nations Social Statistics and Indicators Data Base on Microcomputer Diskettes (international core statistics data base) (1992).
11. Ad hoc data compilation on diskettes to external users of the integrated statistical data base.
12. Microcomputer data bases and screening routines for improving the quality of industrial data.
13. International migration statistics data base (IMSTAT). Flow of migration and immigrant stock data: provision of computer tapes and diskettes (1993).
14. Production of the International Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT), version 2 (1993).
15. COMTRADE: data base of commodity trade statistics of almost all Member States at the most detailed level of SITC, Revs.I, II and III.
16. UNSIS: data base comprising all data collected by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and used extensively for the production of magnetic tapes for photo-composition.
17. Microcomputer data bases/software development: national accounts data bases and new software.
18. Microcomputer data bases/software development: M49/CPC/indices.
19. Microcomputer data bases/software development: LAN.
20. Development and maintenance of general and special use data bases.

Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison

21. Chair and secretariat of the Technical Working Group on Statistical Data Bases of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) (1992 and 1993). Report of the Technical Working Group on Statistical Data Bases of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities (1992 and 1993).
22. Inventory of computerized statistical data bases.
23. Liaison, UNEDIFACT.
24. Overall substantive direction and management of this subprogramme.

Subprogramme 3. Collecting, compiling and disseminating international statistics

The overall objectives of this subprogramme are given in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24), para. 24.30). During the biennium, attention will be given to improving timeliness, quality and relevance of statistical outputs in subject-matter areas covered in recent bienniums such as national accounts, international trade, industry, energy and demographic statistics. Drawing on work carried out under subprogrammes 1 and 2, existing specialized data bases will be strengthened, with particular attention to the COMTRADE data base for international trade and the national accounts, industry and demographic statistics data bases. Recently established data bases on women and disability will be maintained. In response to urgent appeals from users in both developed and developing regions, work on shipping statistics will be resumed. The compilation and dissemination of international environmental statistics, including statistics based on work on environmental accounting, will be initiated. Special efforts will also be made to ensure more comprehensive and comparable economic data for developing countries and for the transition countries of Eastern Europe. Regular and ad hoc outputs and services will be used to meet the statistical needs of a wide range of international initiatives, strategies and conferences.

ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

1. Report to the Commission on the Status of Women on progress in the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women (1992).
2. Report to the Commission on the Status of Women providing a summary compilation of available statistical indicators concerning the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies (1993).

Published material

(a) Recurrent publications

3. Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1990, vol. I, General Industrial Statistics (annual, 1992).
4. Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1990, vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics (annual, 1992).
5. Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1991, vol. I, General Industrial Statistics (annual, 1993).
6. Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1991, vol. II, Commodity Production Statistics (annual, 1993).
7. Compilation and dissemination of international series of environmentally adjusted accounting indicators (annual, 1992 and 1993).
8. Compilation and dissemination of international series of environment statistics and indicators as environmental indicators 1990 (annual, 1992 and 1993).
9. Energy Statistics Yearbook 1990 (annual, 1992).
10. Energy Statistics Yearbook 1991 (annual, 1993).
11. Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles 1990 (biennial, 1992).
12. National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables 1990, 34th edition (annual, 1992).
13. National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables 1991, 35th edition (annual, 1993).
14. National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates 1990, 33rd edition (annual, 1992).
15. National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates 1991, 34th edition (annual, 1993).
16. International Trade Statistics Yearbook 1990, 2 volumes, 39th edition (annual, 1992).
17. International Trade Statistics Yearbook 1991, 2 volumes, 40th edition (annual, 1993).
18. Commodity Trade Statistics, Statistical Papers, Series D (1992 and 1993).
19. Demographic Yearbook 1990, 42nd edition (annual, 1992).

20. Demographic Yearbook 1991, 43rd edition (annual, 1993).
21. Population and Vital Statistics Report (quarterly, 1992 and 1993).
22. Compendium of Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women (1993).
- (b) Non-recurrent publications
23. Demographic Yearbook, Special Issue on Aging (1992).
- (c) Technical material
24. Preparation of human settlements statistics data base and tabular outputs (1993).
25. Creation of data base on microcomputers for the compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics and related indicators.
26. Work on maintaining and improving the coverage and quality of data base on price/unit value and quantity indexes of aggregate trade and matrices of international trade (1992 and 1993).
27. Compilation of price statistics (including the consumer price index (CPI)) for the calculations of price adjusted rate of exchange (PARE) and estimation of purchasing power parities (PPPs) based on the short-cut method for the Committee on Contributions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international and national users (1992 and 1993).
28. Continuous compilation to maintain quality and timeliness of international trade statistics in the COMTRADE data base (1992 and 1993).
29. Provision of routine outputs on computer tapes, diskettes and tabulations and probably CD-ROM, containing data in previously published forms or customized formats (1992 and 1993).
30. Compiling and estimating trade by commodity and partner country when official data are not available, and refinement of estimates (1992 and 1993).
31. Research work and initial compilation of data for future reinstatement of sea-borne trade publication containing statistics on international sea-borne trade (1993).
32. Statistical Chart on Aging, 1992.
33. Ad hoc statistical services: provision of computer tapes, diskettes, tabulations and other types of information to organizations, Member States, institutions and the public at large in all fields of statistics: economic, demographic and social statistics (1992 and 1993).
34. Overall substantive direction and management of this subprogramme.

Subprogramme 4. Co-ordinating international statistical programmes

The overall objectives of this subprogramme can be found in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24), para. 24.41). During the biennium, promotion of overall co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations organizations and major non-United Nations organizations will continue to be of prime concern, utilizing the instruments of co-ordination such as the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, inter-secretariat working groups in individual fields and ongoing consultations and exchange of information and plans, as well as ad hoc consultations and meetings on subjects and issues of current concern. In addition, under the subprogramme, statistical services will continue to be provided to the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies on request.

ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

1. Reports to the Statistical Commission on: (a) the statistical work of the international organizations (1992); (b) the plans of international organizations in the field of statistics (1992); (c) updated information on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (1992); (d) draft programme of work of the Statistical Office for 1992-1993 (1992); (e) medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (1992); (f) the fourteenth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination (1992).
2. Reports to the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination on: (a) inventory of statistical data collection activities (1993); (b) outlines of reports for the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission (1993); (c) other reports which might be decided by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session (1993).

(b) Substantive services

3. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission (February 1993)
4. The fifteenth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination (1993).
5. Two sessions each of the Committee on Contributions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (1992 and 1993).

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Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison

6. Substantive and technical servicing of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities meeting (1992, 1993).
7. Preparation of reports for the above meeting (1992, 1993).
8. Substantive and technical servicing of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environmental Statistics (1992).
9. Preparation of reports in substantive area for the above meeting (1992).
10. Co-ordination of the development and use of international environmental data base with the assistance of the proposed Intersecretariat Working Group on Environmental Data and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities (1992 and 1993).
11. Preparation of reports for the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and meetings on aging and disability (1992, 1993).
12. Regular consultations with United Nations organizations and bodies, regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations and Member States relating to their activities and plans in specific subject areas and on specific issues. Overall co-ordination is implemented through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and specific subject-matter co-ordination through a number of inter-secretariat working groups (statistical data bases, environmental data, SNA, ICP, energy, statistical development in transition countries, demographic estimates and projections, aging, disability). Preparation of special reports requested by the ACC secretariat. Work related to co-ordination, harmonization and liaison, including letters, miscellaneous reports, review of reports (1992, 1993).
13. Provides overall management and supervision of the programme of work for the Statistical Office in all substantive areas in the development of statistical methods and concepts, application of advanced technology, data compilation and dissemination, co-ordination of international statistical programmes and support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing (1992, 1993).

Subprogramme 5. Support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development)

The overall objectives of the subprogramme are given in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24), para. 24.46). This subprogramme is carried out on behalf of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. During the biennium, continued substantive support will be provided for a broad range of technical co-operation activities in areas such as general economic statistics, national accounts, demographic and social statistics, population censuses and surveys, statistics

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and indicators on women, statistics on specialized population groups, integrated statistical services, national household survey capabilities and statistical data processing and informatics. Emphasis will be given to ensuring that developing countries have full access to appropriate new technologies for processing and disseminating statistics and to the problems of those developing countries that are the least advanced in statistics. Depending on the availability of extrabudgetary resources, new technical co-operation initiatives will also be undertaken in connection with monitoring human development and the achievement of social goals, the 1993 World Programme of Industrial Statistics and the development of environment statistics. Work carried out under the subprogramme will be reoriented to ensure that needed assistance is given to Governments, UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the national execution of projects pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/211.

ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

Reports to the Statistical Commission (twenty-seventh session) on:

1. Technical co-operation in statistics (1992).
2. Progress report on promotion of national household survey capabilities (1992).

Published material

(a) Recurrent publications

3. Directory of Technical Co-operation in Statistics (1992).

Operational activities

(a) Advisory services

4. Provide ad hoc advisory services for the establishment and/or improvement of statistical programmes in all areas: economic, demographic and social (1992 and 1993).
5. Provide ad hoc advisory services to assist developing and least developed countries in the establishment and/or improvement of comprehensive information systems for the processing of data (census and surveys) and informatics (1992 and 1993).

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(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships

6. Participate in and/or co-ordinate seminars, workshops and training programmes in industrial and energy statistics, improvement of civil registration and vital statistics system, national household survey capabilities, environmental accounting methods and in the implementation of the revised SNA.

(c) Field projects

7. Support approximately 140 to 160 country projects directly or through UNFPA-organized multidisciplinary team with components in training seminars, workshops, study tours, fellowships in the areas of computer data processing, population censuses, household surveys, civil registration and other demographic and social statistics programmes.

8. Provide technical support to 190 field projects in 100 countries to assist developing countries in strengthening and extending national services and capabilities for collecting, processing, disseminating and using a broad range of development-related statistics.

Co-ordination, harmonization and liaison

9. Regular and formal consultations with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions, UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV/CSDHA), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the specialized agencies, the World Bank, EUROSTAT and the International Statistical Institute (ISI), as well as bilateral technical co-operation programmes. Also draws on methodological outputs and services generated by subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3.

10. Overall substantive direction and management of this subprogramme.

II. PROPOSALS ON PRIORITIES IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK
FOR 1992-1993

8. The proposals of the Statistical Office on priorities for the biennium 1992-1993, based on the criteria and instructions for priority-setting described in document E/CN.3/1991/31, are as follows:

(a) Proposed high-priority activities

Subprogramme 1

2. Final draft of a System of National Accounts (Series F, No. 2, Rev.4) to be submitted to the Statistical Commission for adoption.

6. Sixth Expert Group meeting on SNA.
7. Seventh Expert Group meeting on SNA.
8. Interregional Meeting on the revised SNA.
12. Handbook on National Accounting: National Accounts Compilation and Reconciliation.
13. Handbook on National Accounting: Application of the SNA in Transition Countries.
26. Commodity Indexes to SITC, Rev.3, vols. 1 and 2.
37. The change from revision 2 to revision 3 of ISIC in the reporting of industrial data.
42. Study on implementation of ISIC, Rev.3, and CPC based on survey of country practice.

Subprogramme 2

17. Microcomputer data bases/software development: national accounts data bases and new software.

Subprogramme 4

3. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission.
4. The fifteenth session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination.
6. Substantive and technical servicing of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities meeting.
12. Regular consultations with United Nations organizations and bodies, regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations and Member States relating to their activities and plans in specific subject areas and on specific issues. Overall co-ordination is implemented through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and specific subject-matter co-ordination through a number of inter-secretariat working groups (statistical data bases, environmental data, SNA, ICP, energy, statistical development in transition countries, demographic estimates and projections, aging, disability). Preparation of special reports requested by the ACC secretariat. Work related to co-ordination, harmonization and liaison, including letters, miscellaneous reports, review of reports.

Subprogramme 5

4. Provide ad hoc advisory services for the establishment and/or improvement of statistical programmes in all areas: economic, demographic and social.
5. Provide ad hoc advisory services to assist developing and least developed countries in the establishment and/or improvement of comprehensive information systems for the processing of data (census and surveys) and informatics.
9. Regular and formal consultations with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNOV/CSDHA, INSTRAW, the specialized agencies, the World Bank, EUROSTAT and ISI, as well as bilateral technical co-operation programmes. Also draws on methodological outputs and services generated by subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3.

(b) Proposed low-priority activities

Subprogramme 2

10. United Nations Social Statistics and Indicators Data Base on Microcomputer Diskettes (international core statistics data base).
13. International migration statistics data base (IMSTAT). Flow of migration and immigrant stock data: provision of computer tapes and diskettes.
14. Production of the International Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT), version 2.

Subprogramme 3

14. National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates 1990, 33rd edition.
15. National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates 1991, 34th edition.
24. Preparation of human settlements statistics data base and tabular outputs.
27. Compilation of price statistics (including CPI) for the calculations of price adjusted rate of exchange (PARE) and estimation of purchasing power parities (PPPs) based on the short-cut method for the Committee on Contributions, UNDP and other international and national users.
29. Provision of routine outputs on computer tapes, diskettes and tabulations and probably CD-ROM, containing data in previously published forms or customized formats.

33. Ad hoc statistical services: provision of computer tapes, diskettes, tabulations and other types of information to organizations, Member States, institutions and the public at large in all fields of statistics: economic, demographic and social statistics.

III. INDICATIVE FIGURES ON PROFESSIONAL WORK-MONTHS ASSIGNED
TO EACH SUBPROGRAMME AND OTHER COMPONENTS 4/

9. Indicative figures on the number of work-months of professional staff and estimated allocations for travel and consultancies and ad hoc expert group meetings assigned to each subprogramme are shown in table 1 for the biennium 1992-1993 along with comparable figures for the biennium 1990-1991. Table 2 shows comparable percentage distributions by subprogramme.

Table 1.

Regular budget resources for statistics by subprogramme for the bienniums
1992-1993 and 1990-1991

(Professional staff expressed in work-months and consultancies, ad hoc expert groups
and travel expressed in thousands of US dollars)

Subprogramme a/	Professional staff		Consultancies		Ad hoc expert groups		Travel	
	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/
1. Developing statistical concepts and methods	765	517	81.0	47.2	137.0	122.6	31.4	32.4
2. Applying advanced technology in collecting, processing and disseminating integrated statistics	422	391	14.0	18.8	40.0	-	5.4	6.0
3. Collecting, compiling and disseminating international statistics	438	632	-	17.4	-	-	6.6	-
4. Co-ordinating international statistical programmes	81	53	-	-	-	-	35.9	23.4
5. Support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing	118	135	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1 824	1 728	95.0	83.4	177.0	122.6	79.3	61.8

a/ Subprogrammes shown are those that will be in effect beginning with the biennium 1992-1993. For the biennium 1990-1991, the nine subprogrammes formerly in use have been distributed to their appropriate category under the new structure. Specifically, subprogrammes 1 and 2 correspond to subprogrammes 1 and 2, respectively, in the previous biennium; subprogramme 3 is the consolidation of subprogrammes 3; 4, 5 and 6 used previously; subprogrammes 4 and 5 correspond to subprogrammes 7 and 8, respectively, in the previous biennium. Since no separate subprogramme covering programme formulation and management, i.e., subprogramme 9 in the biennium 1990-1991, exists under the new structure, resources under subprogramme 9 have been proportionately allocated in accordance with the new subprogramme structure.

b/ All figures shown for the biennium 1992-1993 reflect preliminary proposals that have not been reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and are subject to change in the light of the Board's review 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-sixth session for consideration and approval.

c/ Figures shown for the biennium 1990-1991 reflect, wherever possible, actual allocations. Thus, they may differ from comparable figures contained in the preliminary proposals and final budget requests for the statistics programme for this biennium.

Table 2.

Percentage distribution of regular budget resources for statistics by subprogramme for the bienniums
1992-1993 and 1990-1991

(Percentages based on work-months for professional staff and expenditures for consultancies, ad hoc expert groups and travel)

Subprogramme a/	Professional staff		Consultancies		Ad hoc expert groups		Travel	
	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/	1992-1993 b/	1990-1991 c/
1. Developing statistical concepts and methods	41.9	29.9	85.3	56.6	77.4	100.0	39.6	52.4
2. Applying advanced technology in collecting, processing and disseminating integrated statistics	23.1	22.6	14.7	22.5	22.6	-	6.8	9.7
3. Collecting, compiling and disseminating international statistics	24.0	36.6	-	20.9	-	-	8.3	-
4. Co-ordinating international statistical programmes	4.5	3.1	-	-	-	-	45.3	37.9
5. Support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing	6.5	7.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

a/ Subprogrammes shown are those that will be in effect beginning with the biennium 1992-1993. For the biennium 1990-1991, the nine subprogrammes formerly in use have been distributed to their appropriate category under the new structure. Specifically, subprogrammes 1 and 2 correspond to subprogrammes 1 and 2, respectively, in the previous biennium; subprogramme 3 is the consolidation of subprogrammes 3, 4, 5 and 6 used previously; subprogrammes 4 and 5 correspond to subprogrammes 7 and 8, respectively, in the previous biennium. Since no separate subprogramme covering programme formulation and management, i.e., subprogramme 9 in the biennium 1990-1991, exists under the new structure, resources under subprogramme 9 have been proportionately allocated in accordance with the new subprogramme structure.

b/ All figures shown for the biennium 1992-1993 reflect preliminary proposals that have not been reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and are subject to change in the light of the Board's review 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-sixth session for consideration and approval.

c/ Figures shown for the biennium 1990-1991 reflect, wherever possible, actual allocations. Thus, they may differ from comparable figures contained in the preliminary proposals and final budget requests for the statistics programme for this biennium.

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/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ See Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

4/ The actual staff resources available to the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 will be determined by the General Assembly in the context of its consideration, at its forty-sixth session, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.
