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Item 15 of the provisional agenda\*

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

Draft programme of work of the United Nations  
Statistics Division for the biennium 1998-1999  
and related information

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work contained in the present document has not yet been reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the Secretariat and is subject to change in the light of the Programme Planning and Budget Division's review of the relevant submission for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and of the decisions of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget. The programme budget of the Secretary-General is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session for consideration and approval.
2. The proposed programme budget has been prepared within the framework of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6). The programming and consequent resources allocation have been done within the level contained in the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/51/289). Within that level, programme managers are requested to set priorities and allocate resources, and are free to determine the distribution of the resources under the various accounts and objects of expenditures. Resources and posts are justified in their totality, instead of there being a justifying of marginal increases or decreases over the current appropriation.

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\* E/CN.3/1997/1.



3. The major feature of the new format of the medium-term plan is the congruence between the plan and the programme budget. Instead of the five subprogrammes of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 of the United Nations Statistics Division, the draft programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999, features only one budget section. A narrative and major activities of the United Nations Statistics Division are contained in the annex to this document.

Annex

NARRATIVE AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

Programme 7. Economic and social information and policy analysis

Subprogramme 7.1. Statistics

A.1. Introduction

7.1.1. The subprogramme will be implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division.

7.1.2. The Statistics Division, during the biennium 1998-1999, will continue to serve as a global centre for the international collection, standardization, analysis and dissemination of economic, social and related data, with particular attention to data systems on international trade, environment, energy, industrial commodity production, national accounts and demographic and social statistics.

7.1.3. Special efforts will be made to improve the usefulness and accessibility of international economic and social data to international and national policy makers. The quality of international statistics and metadata and their usefulness for policy monitoring and analysis will be enhanced through the development and application of new data-processing, network and quality control technologies to enhance coverage, reliability and timeliness in collection, processing and dissemination.

7.1.4. Efforts of the Statistics Division to expand the number of countries that implement the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) will continue. The Statistics Division, in close collaboration with other international organizations, will undertake a series of activities aimed at improving economic statistics and at promoting the SNA, inter alia, through training and other forms of technical cooperation.

7.1.5. The subprogramme will continue playing an important part in the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly with regard to the development and dissemination of integrated environmental and economic accounting statistics and indicators of sustainable development. For example, revisions to the System for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) will be produced to improve the international community's ability to measure the impact of human activity on the environment and environment-related expenditures.

7.1.6. To monitor progress in the human dimensions of development, the Statistics Division will extend the scope and dissemination of consistent and integrated sets of social statistics (including, in particular, demographic, housing, gender and disability statistics, social indicators and analysis).

7.1.7. In addition, the Statistics Division will work to coordinate and harmonize the collection and dissemination of statistical information by the international agencies.

7.1.8. The Division will continue to provide support to Member States in the development and strengthening of their institutional capabilities in the area of statistics and statistical data processing through the provision of advisory services, workshops, seminars, fellowships, and so forth.

7.1.9. A key dimension of the subprogramme will continue to be the coordination and development of international statistical standards. The thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission as well as the nineteenth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination will be convened. Reports required for their deliberations will be prepared by the Statistics Division.

## A.2. Policy-making organs

### Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 8 (I) of 16 and 18 February 1946. Its terms of reference, as set out in Council resolution 8 (I) and 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, are to assist the Council in (a) promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability; (b) the coordination of statistical work of the specialized agencies; (c) the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat; (d) advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, interpretation and dissemination of statistical information; (e) promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods in general. The responsibilities of the Commission were again emphasized by the Council in its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971.

### Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination

The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1306 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968. The Statistical Commission at its seventeenth session agreed that the terms of reference of the Working Group should be (a) to deal with questions of policy, coordination and priorities of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system; (b) to constitute a means by which the Statistical Commission could maintain contact, between biennial meetings, with the work of the United Nations Statistics Division and of the statistical services of the specialized agencies; (c) to consider current questions, relating to the United Nations system, of organization, policies, arrangements and priorities for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics, including databases; (d) to consider questions regarding the statistics required for purposes of reviews and appraisals.

B. Summary of major activities

Number	Indicator	1994- 1995 (actual)	1996-1997 (approved as adjusted in document A/C.5/50/57/Add.1)	1998-1999 (proposed)
I.	Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies			
	Substantive servicing of meetings	4	4	4
	Parliamentary documentation	23	24	16
II.	Other substantive activities			
	Mandated recurrent publications	49	42	146
	Mandated non-recurrent publications	13	13	13
	Seminars, workshops, other meetings	7	11	10
	Technical material for outside users/databases	29	54	30
III.	International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison			
	Participation in activities of intergovernmental bodies	12	12	12
	Participation in activities of non-governmental bodies	2	2	2
	Participation in activities of funds, programmes of the United Nations system	30	30	30
	Participation in activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiaries	3	3	3
IV.	Technical cooperation			
	Advisory services	76	60	60
	Group training	5	4	3
	Fellowships	14	14	14
	Field projects	60	30	30

C. Detailed list of activities

I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Statistical Commission, thirtieth session (1999).

Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, nineteenth session (1998).

Committee on Contributions and Fifth Committee (1998, 1999).

Committee on Conferences and Committee on Information (1998, 1999).

2. Parliamentary documentation

Report to the Statistical Commission of the Task Force on Environment Statistics (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission on the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS) draft standards for data structure and metadata in international data exchange and dissemination (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission on the progress of international trade statistics (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission on progress on national accounts (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission on progress on "Critical issues on economic statistics including the International Campaign Programme (ICP)" (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission on progress on international classifications (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission on progress on demographic, housing, social and gender statistics (1998).

Report to the Statistical Commission of the Working Group on International Statistical Programme and Coordination (nineteenth session) (1998).

Reports to the Statistical Commission of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (thirty-first and thirty-second sessions) (1998).

Reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on development of women's rights indicators (1998).

Reports to the Commission on the Status of Women on development of gender statistics (1998).

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Report to the Commission on Human Settlements on the development of human settlement statistics (1998).

Report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (1998).

Report to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination (nineteenth session) on the Inventory of Statistical Data Collection Activities (1998).

Report to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination (nineteenth session) containing outlines of reports for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission (1998).

## II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES

### 1. Mandated recurrent publications

Compendium on environmental indicators (1999).

2 issues of the Newsletter of Environment Statistics (1998).

2 issues of the Newsletter of Environment Statistics (1999).

Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, 1996 (1998).

Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, 1997 (1999).

Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1996, biennial, 9th edition (1998).

1996 Energy Statistics Yearbook, 40th edition (1998).

1997 Energy Statistics Yearbook, 41st edition (1999).

Demographic Yearbook, 48th edition (print format) (1998).

Demographic Yearbook, 49th edition (print format) (1999).

Demographic Yearbook, 49th edition, (CD-ROM) (1999).

4 issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report in print format (1998).

4 issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report in electronic format (1998).

4 issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report in print format (1999).

4 issues of Population and Vital Statistics Report in electronic format (1999).

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4 quarterly updates of the minimum national social data set on the Internet (1998).

4 quarterly updates of the minimum national social data set on the Internet (1999).

Disability indicators on the Internet (1998).

Update of disability indicators on the Internet (1999).

Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics (1999).

12 issues of Monthly Bulletin of Statistics in print format (1998).

12 issues of Monthly Bulletin of Statistics in print format (1999).

12 issues of Monthly Bulletin of Statistics on-line (Internet) (1998).

12 issues of Monthly Bulletin of Statistics on-line (Internet) (1999).

Statistical Yearbook, 1998 (print format) (1998).

Statistical Yearbook, 1999 (print format) (1999).

Statistical Yearbook, 1998 (CD-ROM) (1998).

Statistical Yearbook on CD-ROM, 1999 (1999).

World Statistics Pocketbook 1998 (print format) (1998).

World Statistics Pocketbook 1999 (print format) (1999).

World Statistics Pocketbook 1998 (electronic format) (1998).

World Statistics Pocketbook 1999 (electronic format) (1999).

12 monthly updates of United Nations statistics home page on United Nations Internet (1998).

12 monthly updates of United Nations statistics home page on United Nations Internet (1999).

International Trade Statistics Yearbook, vols. I and II (45th edition) (1998).

International Trade Statistics Yearbook, vols. I and II (46th edition) (1999).

Microfiches of international trade statistics (1998 and 1999).

Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics 1996 (print format) (1998).



Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics 1997 (print format) (1999).

2 issues of SNA newsletter: SNA News and Notes (in print and electronic format and on Internet) (1998).

2 issues of SNA Newsletter: SNA News and Notes (in print and electronic format and on Internet) (1999).

4 technical notes on population statistics and information systems (1998, 1999).

Wistat (version 4) (1998).

Datahouse (version 2) (1999).

Disability: Trends and Statistics (1999).

Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (Rev.5) (1999).

2. Mandated non-recurrent publications

Report on country studies in environmental accounting (1998).

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (CD-ROM version) (1998).

Indicators on Women and Men in print format (1999).

Indicators on Women and Men on the Internet (1999).

Principles and recommendations for vital statistics and civil registration systems (1999).

Guide on Development and Analysis of Criminal Justice Statistics (with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna) (1999).

Technical publication: UNESIS standards for data structure and metadata in international data exchange and dissemination (1999).

Revision of Customs Areas of the World, Series M, Statistical Papers, No. 30/Rev.2 (1999).

Compendium of country experiences with the computerization of national accounts (1998).

Technical report on the compilation of production accounts for the financial sector (1999).

Compendium of country experiences with the practical compilation of household sector accounts (1999).

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Functional classification of the System of National Accounts (SNA) (1999).

World Comparisons of Real Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power 1993 (1998).

3. Seminars, workshops, other meetings

Expert group meeting on environment statistics (regular budget (RB)) (1998).

Expert group meeting on vital statistics and civil registration systems (RB) (1998).

Expert group meeting on compilation of trade statistics (RB) (1999).

Expert group meeting on the computerization of national accounts (or other topic in support of SNA implementation) (RB) (1998).

2 expert group meetings on international economic and social classifications (RB) (1998 and 1999).

Ad hoc expert group meeting to review UNESIS draft standards for data structure and metadata in international data exchange and dissemination (RB) (1998).

Workshop/seminar on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting (1998).

Workshop on the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC, Rev.3) and the Central Product Classification, version 1.0 (CPC), and the functional classifications of the System of National Accounts (SNA) (1998 and 1999).

4. Technical material for outside users/databases

2 technical papers on environmental accounting (1998-1999).

Synopsis of inventory of activities in environment statistics (1998).

Revised commodity list for use in the area of industrial commodity production statistics (1998).

Use of statistics for monitoring national implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1998).

Second version of the microcomputer interface "COMTRADE for Windows" (CFW) (1998).

2 technical papers on conceptual issues in national and satellite accounting and analysis (1998/1999).

Training material for the implementation of the SNA (1998).

Recurrent analytical tables based on national accounts database (1998, 1999).

Correspondence tables between classifications (1998, 1999).

Alphabetical and numerical index of sections 5-9 of the Central Product Classification, version 1.0 (1999).

Update of the Inventory of Classifications (1998, 1999).

Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG, Rev.1) (1999).

Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) (1998).

Report on the Inventory of Classifications (1999).

ICP information circular (in print and Internet format) (one or two in 1998, one or two in 1999).

Update of ICP classification of expenditures based on newly revised COICOP (1999).

Completion of installation of client-server system (UNIX/Sybase) for energy/industrial commodity statistics database and for preparation of industrial production indexes (1998).

Completion of first-round tests of client-server system (UNIX/Sybase) for demographic statistics database (1998); completion of installation (1999).

Completion of first-round tests of client-server system (UNIX/Sybase) for commodity trade statistics database (1999).

Implementation of UNESIS client-server common database (CDB) on UNIX/Sybase platform (1998).

Updated databases on environment, energy statistics and general industrial statistics on mining, electricity and water, commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production and construction statistics; trade statistics; and economic statistics, and classifications, as well as demographic and social statistics (1998-1999).

Responses to ad hoc requests from Member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods as well as national practices in the fields of environment, energy and industry statistics; trade statistics; economic statistics, classifications; demographic and social statistics (1998-1999).

Provision of information on computer tapes, diskettes, printouts and customized formats, correspondence and e-mail in the fields of environment,

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energy and industry statistics; trade statistics; economic statistics, classifications; demographic and social statistics (annual) (1998-1999).

III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY  
COORDINATION AND LIAISON

1. Participation in activities of intergovernmental bodies outside the United Nations system

Substantive participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics (1998-1999).

Substantive participation in the Group on Product Classifications (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the work of the London Group on the Revision of the System for Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the sessions of the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization (1998 and 1999).

Provision of advice on scale of assessment methodology to other organizations (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group), Organization of African Unity (OAU) and so forth) (1998 and 1999).

2. Participation in activities of non-governmental organizations

Substantive participation in the session of the International Statistical Institute (1999).

3. Participation in activities of funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system

Substantive and technical servicing of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Task Force on Trade in Services (1998 and 1999).

Substantive servicing and participation in the inter-agency Task Force on Environment Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the inter-agency Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (1998 and 1999).

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Substantive participation in the inter-agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Steering Committee on the Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Conference of European Statisticians (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Committee of Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Committee of Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/Organization of American States (OAS) Committee of Statistics (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Coordinating Committee for African Statistical Development (1998 and 1999).

Substantive participation in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP)/Gender and Development Subgroup.

Substantive participation in the inter-agency Census Coordination Committee for Sub-Saharan Africa (ICCC).

4. Participation in the activities of ACC and its subsidiary machinery

Substantive servicing of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities

Thirty-first session (1998).

Thirty-second session (1999).

Substantive participation in the ACC Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. Advisory services at the request of Governments

Technical advisory services on economic statistics; demographic and social statistics; industrial, energy and environmental statistics; and trade statistics to developing countries and countries with economies in transition (1998 and 1999).

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Ad hoc provision of technical cooperation services on national accounts and computers and informatics (1998 and 1999).

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, and so forth)

Organization of training workshops for developing regions.

3. Fellowships

Provision of short-term training, fellowships and study tours, as well as on-the-job training for participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (1998 and 1999).

4. Field projects (country, regional and interregional)

Provision of technical services to country, regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics (1998 and 1999).

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