

**Administrative Committee
on Coordination**ACC/1996/10
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ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES
AND PROJECTIONS ON ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

(Geneva, 25-27 June 1996)

INTRODUCTION

1. The nineteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections was held at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, from 25 to 27 June 1996, to discuss the continuing collaboration in demographic and sectoral estimates and projections in the United Nations system. The issues that were discussed and the points that were agreed upon are presented below. The agenda of the meeting, the list of participants, the list of background documents and provisional agenda for the twentieth session are contained in annexes I-IV to the present report.

2. The Director of the Health Situation and Trend Assessment Division of WHO, as acting Assistant Director-General, welcomed participants on behalf of WHO. He emphasized the importance of the continuing effort to prepare global and sectoral estimates and to coordinate such activity in the face of current difficulties throughout the United Nations system. He commended the Subcommittee for its emphasis on the technical substance of its mandated area of work, noting that its deliberations ensured a common programme of work within the United Nations system, with a clear division of labour that was successfully implemented. In addition, Subcommittee meetings provided an opportunity for exchanging ideas in order to improve the collective output of demographic estimates and projections, and ensure that there was no duplication of work or effort and greater overall efficiency.

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

3. The attention of ACC is drawn to the actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee (paras. 8-12), its substantive discussions (paras. 13-71 and 75) and the timing and venue of its twentieth session (para. 74).

4. The matters set out below are particularly brought to the attention of ACC.

5. The Subcommittee decided to recommend to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) that Mr. Loganaden Naiken (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) be renewed as chairman for

a further two-year period until June 1998, and that Mr. Joseph-Alfred Grinblat (United Nations) be appointed Secretary of the Subcommittee for a two-year term, June 1996-June 1998.

6. The Subcommittee agreed that it was essential to continue inter-agency coordination in the field of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections in order to strengthen the United Nations system database, maintain consistency of coverage and timing, and ensure homogeneity in the presentation of results. The Subcommittee emphasized the importance of the unique set of coordinated and consistent demographic and sectoral estimates and projections produced by the United Nations system.

7. The Subcommittee agreed on a provisional agenda for its twentieth session (see annex IV) and recommended that it be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York in June 1998.

II. WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

A. Actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee

8. The most important actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee at its nineteenth session are summarized in paragraphs 12-17 below.

9. The Subcommittee successfully arranged a schedule for coordination and dissemination of the 1996 rounds of consistent demographic and sectoral estimates and projections, which were undertaken by the Population Division in cooperation with the regional commissions (for demographic estimates and projections), the International Labour Organization (ILO) (for labour force estimates and projections), FAO (for agriculture population estimates and projections), Habitat (for household estimates and projections), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (for literacy estimates and projections) and WHO (for mortality parameters for demographic estimates and projections).

10. The Subcommittee discussed arrangements for the coordination of the 1998 rounds of estimates and projections, according to the plans of the Population Division, the ILO, FAO, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNESCO and WHO.

11. The Subcommittee once again deplored the absence of the regional commissions of the United Nations, as well as the regional offices of WHO. All the regional commissions submitted written reports of their activities and plans but none were present to receive comments, answer questions or engage in an exchange of ideas. The Subcommittee recommended that the heads of the divisions or units from which the representatives of the regional commissions and of the regional offices came should be informed by letter by the Secretary of the Subcommittee that their input into the system-wide coordination of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections was very valuable, and that in their absence the work of the Subcommittee was seriously hampered.

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12. Two organizations outside the United Nations system were invited to attend the session as observers because of the relevance of their work to the Subcommittee. Based on the guidelines provided by CCPOQ and the formal application of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for admittance as observers to the Subcommittee, and after a number of comments and opinions were expressed, both Eurostat and IOM were admitted. They will be so informed by the Secretary of the Subcommittee and will be invited to the twentieth session, in 1998.

B. Summary of discussion

1. Recent activities and plans

Population Division

13. The Subcommittee was informed by the representative of the Population Division that, since the eighteenth session of the Subcommittee, the Population Division/Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat had completed and published the 1994 revision of its biennial series of global population and urban/rural and city population estimates and projections.

14. The global population estimates and projections had been published in two volumes: World Population Prospects: The 1994 Revision, issued in September 1995, and The Sex and Age Distribution of the World Populations: The 1994 Revision, issued in November 1994. Selected data from those publications had been prepared in a wall chart, World Population 1994, issued in August 1994. Advanced copies of the computer printouts from the 1994 revision had been sent to all members of the Subcommittee. As in previous revisions, the data had been made available earlier on magnetic tape, available in August 1994, and on microcomputer diskette for IBM-compatible computers.

15. The 1994 revision was characterized by a number of improvements and innovations. The projection horizon for the 1994 revision had been extended to 2050. The 1994 revision had continued the process of lowering the population size criterion for providing sex- and age-specific population estimates and projections, providing data for countries with a population size of 150,000 or more persons in 1990. For smaller countries, estimates and projections were provided for total population only. For the 1994 revision, all data tables contained for the first time a line item for the least developed countries. Numerous changes in the classification by regional areas were necessary due to the emergence of newly independent countries. Full sets of population estimates and projections were included for all the newly independent States of Africa, Asia and Europe, resulting from the breakup of Ethiopia, the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia.

16. The demographic impact of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemics had been incorporated into the projections for all 16 less developed countries whose adult human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) sero-prevalence level had been estimated (in 1992) to be 1 per cent or higher. In addition, in answer

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to the needs expressed at the eighteenth session of the Subcommittee, estimates and projections of child mortality (deaths under age five) had been prepared on a country-specific basis for the periods 1990-1995 and 1995-2000.

17. The 1994 revision of the estimates and projections of urban and rural populations, including large urban agglomerations and capital cities, had also been published during the biennium. The wall chart entitled Urban Agglomerations 1994 had been issued in December 1994. The wall chart entitled Urban and Rural Areas 1994 had been issued in January 1995. The complete results had been published in May 1995 in World Urbanization Prospects: The 1994 Revision. The results of the 1994 revision had also been made available on microcomputer diskette for IBM-compatible computers. The major changes of the 1994 revision were the extension of the projections of city populations to the year 2015 and the publication of data for urban agglomerations with 750,000 or more inhabitants in 1990. The urban and rural population projections had been carried out through 2025, as in previous revisions.

18. The Subcommittee was also informed that work on the 1996 revision was well advanced. Revision of all individual countries had been completed, and the results of the national population estimates and projections would be announced at the end of the third quarter of 1996. The Population Division had implemented a number of enhancements for the 1996 revision: (a) the base year for the population projections had been changed from 1990 to 1995; (b) detailed demographic estimates by age and sex would be presented for the first time for three areas, the Gaza Strip, Macau and Western Sahara; (c) the number of countries for which the demographic impact of AIDS was explicitly incorporated had been increased from 16 in the previous revision to 28 in the 1996 revision, with the inclusion of all the countries with a population of at least 1 million and a sero-prevalence of at least 2 per cent in 1994, plus two large countries with a large number of cases.

19. The results would first become available as a wall chart entitled World Population 1996 and in the form of annex tables in early fall 1996, and as a computer database on diskettes later in fall 1996. Additional computer databases and the detailed analytical report would be issued during 1997.

20. It was reported that work had also started for the 1996 revision of urban, rural and city population estimates and projections. The major change would be an extension of the projection horizon for urban and rural populations to the year 2030 instead of the year 2025. The horizon for cities would remain the year 2015, but projections would be provided for all urban agglomerations with a population of 750,000 or more persons in 1995 instead of 1990. The revision would be completed towards the end of 1996, and would be made available at the end of 1996 or in early 1997 in the form of two wall charts, entitled Urban Agglomerations 1996 and Urban and Rural Areas 1996, in annex tables and on microcomputer diskettes. The report entitled World Urbanization Prospects would be available later in 1997.

21. The Population Division would start work on the 1998 revision in early 1997. One major enhancement was currently being considered for that revision: if resources could be made available, new methodology would be developed to

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produce detailed projections by sex and age up to the age 100. The results should become available by the end of 1998.

22. The participants congratulated the Population Division on its achievements since the last session of the Subcommittee. In particular, the participants were pleased to note the lowering of the population size for small countries to 150,000, and the representative of UNESCO indicated that his agency would appreciate having age-and-sex projections for even smaller countries.

23. In addition, the participants noted that, in response to a request made at the eighteenth session, the Population Division was consulting with the regional commissions in the process of preparing the 1996 revision of urban and rural population.

24. Inquiries were made regarding an updating of the long-range projections. The representative of the Population Division answered that there were no current plans for such an updating.

Regional commissions

25. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) informed the meeting that the ECA Population Division had undertaken three major activities with respect to population estimates and projections, namely: collaboration with the Estimates and Projections Section of the Population Division at Headquarters, by reviewing and exchanging information; assisting member States in the integration of population factors into sustainable development plans, programmes and policies; and utilizing information in two publications, the Demographic Handbook for Africa and Population Profile and other ECA publications.

26. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) reported that its Population Activities Unit had assembled selected vital statistics and mid-year population estimates for the majority of central European, Baltic and Commonwealth of Independent States countries, starting with 1982 and ending with the latest available year. Those aggregate-level data series and related indicators were retrievable from the database through the Microsoft ACCESS programme. The data came from numerous sources, including archives at the United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations demographic yearbooks, national statistical offices, national population institutes, WHO and European Community publications. Additional information, such as life-tables derived by using the software package LIFETIME, was also available in the database.

27. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), regretfully, was unable to send a representative to the nineteenth session; however, it had prepared a statement on its recent activities and plans, which was noted by the Subcommittee. It was reported that ECLAC had prepared national population estimates and projections for 20 countries of Latin America through its Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), interaction with the Population Division Department and in line with the guidelines for international and regional comparisons from the Population Division Department.

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28. The Subcommittee was informed that CELADE had published Demographic Bulletin, No. 56, which presented urban and rural populations by age and sex for the period of 1970 to 2025 for 20 Latin American countries, underlining the sources and methodology used in the estimates, and projections. It had also published Demographic Bulletin, No. 57, which presented the estimates and projections for the economically active population in the 20 Latin American countries, by urban and rural areas of residence, sex and five-year age groups for 1980-2025.

29. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), regretfully, was unable to send a representative to the nineteenth session; however, it had prepared a statement on its recent activities and plans, which was noted by the Subcommittee. The ESCAP Population Division provided input and assistance to the Population Division/Department in the preparation of World Population Prospects. It also relied heavily on World Population Prospects in the preparation of an annual demographic data sheet and for data in reports to ESCAP and its legislative committees. The ESCAP Population Division also incorporated demographic estimation techniques and population projection methodology in some of its training courses and technical assistance.

30. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), regretfully, was unable to send a representative to the nineteenth session; however, it had prepared a statement on its recent activities and plans, which was noted by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee was informed that ESCWA had published Demographic and Related Socioeconomic Data Sheets for Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as Assessed in 1994, No. 8 (1995), and had organized and convened the Regional Expert Group Meeting on Population Estimates and Projections in Cairo from 10 to 12 June 1995. It had also published ESCWA Population Bulletin, No. 43 (1995), which included two technical papers on population estimates and projections.

Specialized agencies

31. The representative of the ILO reported on the activities and plans undertaken by the ILO since the last session of the Subcommittee, which had been held in New York in 1994. It was announced that the ILO had completed the fourth edition of its estimates and projections of the economically active population (1950-2010). The data were available on diskettes. The printed volumes should be published in 1996, together with a methodological companion. It was planned to include indicators of quality for each data series in the methodological publication.

32. The publication was part of the programme launched by the ILO in 1971 with the aim of providing member States and the international community with a tool that was as comprehensive, detailed and comparable (nationally and internationally) as possible. Those estimates and projections of the economically active population were also part of the joint programme of the United Nations and its specialized agencies aimed at disseminating data that were coordinated and compatible in demographic terms.

33. The next edition of the ILO estimates and projections of the economically active population was planned for the biennium 2000-2001. Meanwhile, the ILO

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would use the activity rates of its fourth edition to produce 1996-based and 1998-based estimates and projections of the economically active population, by multiplying the activity rates and the 1996-based and 1998-based population estimates and projections produced by the Population Division.

34. In the biennium 1998-1999, the ILO envisaged using the results of that project to split the labour force data into two components, employment and unemployment, and to produce annual world and regional estimates of employment and unemployment, by sex-and-age group, for current years. No projection was envisaged in that project.

35. In the discussion that followed, the ILO agreed to include, in its methodological publication for the fourth edition of the estimates and projections of the economically active population, separate references to the sources of data and information on the procedure of adjustment for producing the benchmark data for each country. The ILO also agreed to consider the possibility of undertaking retrospective adjustments for the 1950, 1960 and 1970 data for those countries that were currently presented with a time-series break between the pre-1980 and the 1980 data.

36. The representative of FAO reported that the FAO Statistics Division had incorporated the 1994 revision of the total and urban/rural population estimates and projections, as well as the revised ILO labour force estimates and projections (including the estimates of the agricultural/non-agricultural breakdowns) into its demographic database for the benefit of internal users. Estimates for recent periods would also be published in the 1995 Production Yearbook. However, due to the involvement of related staff in the preparation of papers for the forthcoming World Food Summit, FAO had not been able to prepare revised projections of the agricultural/non-agricultural population and labour force. According to plans, that would be undertaken in the fourth quarter of 1996.

37. The UNESCO representative stated that UNESCO made direct use of the population estimates and projections of the Population Division in carrying out literacy and enrolment estimations and projections. He informed the Subcommittee that a new assessment of the world literacy situation had been made in 1994, based on the medium variant of the 1994 population estimates and projections, and applying a new methodology developed in 1989 that was further refined for the 1994 assessment. The 1994 literacy assessment had been preceded by a special survey to gather the latest literacy statistics collected during the 1990 round of national population censuses. The preliminary results of the new assessment had been released in October 1994 as UNESCO Statistical Issue, No. STE-16, while in-depth analysis and interpretation had continued, leading to the publication in 1995 of the "Compendium of statistics on illiteracy" as UNESCO Statistical Reports and Studies, No. 35 (1995). The literacy projections for 1995 had also been published in the 1995 UNESCO Statistical Yearbook and World Education Report. The methodology used in the 1994 literacy estimation and projection had been summarized and released as UNESCO Statistical Issue, No. STE-18. UNESCO planned to update those literacy estimates and projections on a continuous basis in the future, as new population estimates and projections as well as national census literacy statistics became available.

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38. UNESCO had been encountering difficulties in carrying out another round of enrolment projections, mainly due to observed reversals and/or fluctuations of enrolment trends in many countries. There was a need to undertake an in-depth review of the projection methodology. UNESCO hoped to be able to overcome those problems and proceed to a new assessment of enrolment in the world by 1998, and would report to the Subcommittee at its next session on the results.

39. Another related area that UNESCO intended to look into was the estimation and projection of population distribution by educational attainment, which would draw upon the research findings of researchers based in Harvard University and Korea University.

40. The representative of WHO reported that, since the last meeting, WHO had issued "Progress towards health for all: third monitoring report", in World Health Statistics Quarterly, vol. 48, No. 3/4, 1995, which summarized the monitoring process and results of 138 member States based on national and regional reports using a common framework. Six of the indicators applied are demographic: infant mortality, maternal mortality, under-five mortality, and expectation of life at birth for each sex and both sexes combined. WHO also produced a third edition of Demographic Data for Health Situation Assessment and Projections, a brief compendium of essential demographic data prepared for use by WHO programmes that was published and distributed in June 1996 and is designed to keep WHO programmes and staff abreast of the most recent demographic estimates and to encourage reliance on a single set of demographic data within WHO so as to ensure comparability and consistency.

41. As a result of efforts to broaden the base of countries submitting mortality data to WHO, national data set on deaths by cause, age and sex had been submitted by two African countries - South Africa and Zimbabwe - and could be converted into the standard format and published in the 1995 World Health Statistics Annual. Statistical information on causes of death had been submitted by a further 17 countries and territories, and would be validated and published in a special section of the 1996 World Health Statistics Annual to illustrate the range of possible types of information that could be collected on observed mortality and causes of death in the absence of universal civil registration.

42. In the absence of a representative from the Pan American Health Organization/WHO Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO/AMRO), the representative of WHO drew the Subcommittee's attention to two important PAHO/AMRO publications that relied on demographic estimates: Health Statistics from the Americas and Health Conditions in the Americas, which were issued on a multiple-year basis.

43. The representative of the World Bank reported that the units responsible for the production of population estimates and projections at the World Bank were located in the Human Development Department (HDD), which was part of the Human Capital Development Vice Presidency, and the International Economics Department (IEC), which was part of the Development Economics Vice Presidency. In addition to estimates and projections, population sector staff in HDD conducted analysis of family planning and reproductive health programmes, provided demographic consulting to other units, and participated in family

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planning and reproductive health operations. IEC staff liaised with the Population Division/Department, especially its Population Estimates and Projections Section, and other expert groups working on technical and methodological issues.

44. The World Bank had several internal uses for population estimates and projections. Current total population estimates were required for operational purposes several times a year. They were used to calculate per capita gross national product, on which interest rates for lending operations for each country were based. Per capita figures for a large number of other indicators were published regularly in such publications as the World Development Report, World Bank Atlas, Social Indicators of Development and Trends in Developing Economies, and were included in briefing documents for the Bank's senior management. Population and vital rates were disseminated to Bank economists and project officers for use in economic analysis and project design, and population projections were included in country assistance strategies.

45. The Bank recognized the Population Division/Department as the principal agency for the preparation of the United Nations biennially revised population estimates and projections, and expected to strengthen the collaboration and interchange of international demographic data. However, given the Bank's concern with producing annual estimates for member countries, it continuously updated its database, incorporating the latest findings from censuses and surveys.

46. During fiscal year 1997 (1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997), the Bank would incorporate population estimates and projections in the redesigned World Development Indicators and would include a complete set in the CD-ROM version of World Bank Data. To complement that cross-country data, the CD-ROM would also include a set of country-specific tables. In addition, expanded efforts would be devoted to training Bank economists and decision makers to incorporate more demographic perspectives in Bank economic and sector work, and to enhance the use of demographic statistics in country assistance strategies and policy dialogue. To that end, HDD/IEC would develop modules, tool kits and training manuals to introduce the effective use of demographic and social statistics in the realm of decision-making.

Other United Nations bodies

47. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported on the publication of a report entitled "Asia administrative boundaries and human population database development".

48. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said he regretted that UNFPA headquarters had not provided him with a report on activities and plans related to population estimates and projections. He expressed UNFPA's appreciation for the high quality of work done in this area by United Nations system organizations, agencies and related bodies.

49. The representative of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS informed the Committee that the Programme had collaborated with the Population Division to incorporate the impact of HIV/AIDS on population

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estimates and projections for countries with a HIV prevalence of more than 2 per cent in the adult population. The result of that exercise would be published in World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision.

50. The representative of Habitat expressed the gratitude of Habitat for being invited to the meeting; it was the first time that Habitat had attended a Subcommittee meeting. He reported that the Habitat mandate was to obtain from Governments information on the number and conditions of refugees in their territories. The Food and Statistical Unit was entrusted with collecting and reporting on statistics on populations of concern to Habitat. Research was coordinated by the Assistant Secretary-General. UNHCR also had a technical section, dealing mainly with sectoral assistance to programmes in the field (health, nutrition, education). Statistical information was published in the annexes of The State of the World's Refugees (1993 and 1995). The annual Populations of Concern to Habitat: A Statistical Overview provided more detail and background, as well as information on definitions and methodology. In addition, population statistics were included in official documentation prepared for meetings of the Habitat Executive Committee. While international migration was already the component most difficult to gauge in population change, forced migration was even less predictable. By nature, refugee outflows were difficult to predict. Therefore, use of United Nations estimates and projections for direct operational purpose was limited. They were used, however, for general planning, analytical and research purposes. Registration was an important Habitat activity, as well as an important source of data. While Habitat had strengthened its efforts to collect and provide reliable statistics, any suggestion or comments from the Subcommittee to further enhance its data-collection efforts or data quality would be appreciated. Habitat actively participated in the revision of the United Nations international migration statistics recommendations as one means of improving refugee statistics; it fully supported the work of the Population Division in the field of demographic estimates and projections, and looked forward to further collaboration in the field.

51. The representative of Habitat reported that it was producing the comprehensive, global Human Settlements Data Base (HSDB.Stat) on a continuing basis, with the present version 4.0 available on diskette. A CD-ROM version was planned, providing funding was available. Habitat also reported that it had produced the Compendium on Human Settlements, 1995 jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division. Part of the data compiled jointly with the Statistics Division was also included in the statistical annex of Habitat's Global Report on Human Settlements 1996, which was due for publication by Oxford University Press in June 1996. The Report included material from an extensive unpublished Habitat study that was conducted during 1994 and 1995, entitled "Household projections, 1995-2050". Together with the Statistics Division and the Network of Urban Research in European Countries, Habitat was developing the City Data Base programme, currently covering 30 cities. That material was available on the Internet and also in printed format. In 1996, Habitat had produced a publication entitled Habitat Atlas: Geographical Presentation of Basic Human Settlements Statistics.

2. Coordination of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections

1996 round

52. The representative of the Population Division reported that a first round of the 1996 revision of the United Nations world population estimates and projections had been completed and the results would be announced in September 1996. The results on magnetic tapes by age and sex would be available in October 1996. It was also reported that the urban/rural projections would be finalized by the end of the year; the results in machine-readable form would be available in early 1997.

53. The ILO indicated that it would revise the benchmark estimates and projections of the economically active population and sectoral labour force estimates by updating them on the basis of the 1996 revision of population data, which would be done soon after the 1996 revision tapes were available and should be completed by year's end.

54. FAO, which had not been able to complete the 1994 revision of agricultural population estimates and projections because of competing work priorities, would apply the 1994 rates to the 1996 updated labour force projections once those had been provided by the ILO.

55. UNESCO intended to apply the 1996 United Nations population estimates and projections to the newly assessed literacy rates in updating its world literacy estimates and projections, for eventual release as a UNESCO Statistical Issue. Further updates of the literacy estimates would be made based on new census data as well as feedback from the users. The next edition of the in-depth "Compendium of statistics on illiteracy" would be published towards the year 2000.

56. UNESCO hoped to solve the problems in projecting enrolment and to proceed to a new assessment in the near future, using the latest available United Nations population estimates. The state of progress of that work and its final results would be reported to the Subcommittee at its twentieth session.

57. WHO requested that it receive the tape-based data from the Population Division in October 1996, and the earliest tape version of future revisions on a routine basis. WHO reported that Population Division revisions were being systematically integrated into its work. The internal database for everyday access and use by WHO staff would be immediately updated electronically, whereas the new edition of "Demographic data for health situation assessment and projections", which transformed and repackaged the estimates and projections for health-related approaches, would be prepared on the basis of the new data. Similarly, the data would be used to develop the global tables in the first section of the World Health Statistics Annual.

58. The World Bank expressed general concern about the two-year cycle of revisions in view of the need by the Bank for current estimates to establish its annual operational guidelines for countries, because United Nations population estimates based on the 1994 revision sometimes differed from the official

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estimates given by member States. The Subcommittee discussed the nature of the problem and possible solutions. It was noted that potential discrepancies would be minimized once the 1996 revision of the United Nations population estimates and projections were available. It was further decided that the World Bank, after integrating the 1996 revision, would review the remaining discrepancies with the Population Division/Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis as in the past.

1998 round

59. The Population Division would initiate its 1998 revision of estimates and projections in early 1997 by contacting the regional commissions. Major changes foreseen for the 1998 revision included estimates and projections for five-year age groups to 100+ years. It was expected that the results of the revision would be available in the third quarter of 1998.

60. The ILO and FAO planned to use the 1998 round to update their estimates and projections but did not foresee any new exercise in revising their respective labour force rates. UNESCO would apply the 1998 revision to its most recent literacy rates. WHO recalled that, on its own initiative, it was extending the age groups for reporting mortality data to 95+, creating a consistency that would facilitate data exchanges between the two bodies.

3. Publication of a future revision of comprehensive world demographic and sectoral estimates and projections

61. Previous discussion of the item was reviewed in the light of current resource constraints in the United Nations system, on the one hand, and the far wider availability of data through electronic means on the other. It was also recognized that certain agencies and organizations, such as the World Bank, UNDP and WHO, were already disseminating data from other sectoral exercises in a meaningful context, and in some cases, notably that of the World Bank, that involved a wide range of data. At the same time, the advantages of a consolidated volume of sectoral estimates and projections, along with the difficulty of obtaining electronically based data in developing regions, particularly Africa, was recognized. It was agreed that the need for such a publication had been greatly reduced and no longer justified the effort required. All organizations and agencies would make special efforts to ensure that their hard-copy compilations of data were well distributed in developing regions. To that end, representatives to the Subcommittee would review the mailing lists and distributions policies of their organizations and agencies.

4. Dissemination of population and sectoral estimates and projections based on the 1996 round

62. The Population Division reported that the new estimates and projections from each revision were disseminated in many forms, from the succinct wall chart to the very detailed tapes, with diskettes and hard-copy presentation intermediate to both. Accordingly, the mode of dissemination could be tailored to the specific need for detail. As to dissemination to less developed regions,

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it was pointed out that the current run of hard-copy versions of the estimates and projections might be insufficient, since the 1994 revision was already out of print, a year or more before the hard-copy edition of the 1996 revision would be available. The Subcommittee requested that consideration be given by the Population Division to the possibility of CD-ROM dissemination of the population estimates and projections.

63. The World Bank also used many forms of dissemination for many purposes. The World Bank pointed out that a selected group of tables on indicators would be included in the World Development Report. In addition, an entirely new publication on world development indicators would become available later in 1996. There was discussion of the publication of world tables that had been discontinued, and the Subcommittee noted that such a publication would nevertheless still serve a useful purpose. FAO pointed out that its production yearbook, in which population estimates were presented, was widely distributed, although the demographic and sectoral projections were disseminated only internally.

64. UNESCO had disseminated its latest 1994 literacy estimates and projections through an early release in October 1994, and the full "Compendium of statistics on illiteracy, 1995", together with extracted projections for 1995 in the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook and World Education Report. The methodology used in the 1994 literacy assessment had been disseminated in UNESCO Statistical Issue, No. STE-18. The UNESCO representative reported on the further development of dissemination of statistics and projections through the Internet, and raised the issue of obtaining the agreement of the Population Division to disseminate selected demographic estimates together with UNESCO statistics; the representative of the Population Division agreed to take up the issue upon his return to New York and to respond to UNESCO.

65. The ILO disseminated its data on diskettes, as well as through hard-copy publications. It envisaged the possibility of a CD-ROM edition of the estimates and projections of the economically active population. WHO disseminated data by electronic means, including making the available mortality database accessible through FTP worldwide, as well as hard-copy publications. WHO had a World Wide Web home page. UNHCR disseminated its data through publications; it also included statistical data on its CD-ROM, as well as on its World Wide Web home page. Habitat disseminated data on diskette, on the Internet, as well as through hard-copy publications; most material was disseminated free-of-charge to users in developing countries.

5. Technical papers

Comparison of estimates and projections of the economically active population of Latin America between the Latin American Demographic Centre and the ILO

66. An ILO representative presented a comparison of estimates and projections of the economically active population for the 20 countries of Latin America from the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the ILO. The comparison was carried out by sex and age groups for 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. The results showed that the differences were no more than 10 per cent in some cases. The

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differences were greatest for the 10-14 and 20-24 age groups. The difference was constant for the male population for all years but variable for the female population.

67. It was noted that the paper illustrated the difficulty in achieving agreement when two organizations or agencies handled the same data with different objectives and different cycles of work. With respect to the specific discrepancies noted, the importance of seeking the underlying reasons was noted.

Economically active population, 1950-2010: characteristics and methods of estimates and projections

68. A representative of the ILO explained that that set of estimates and projections would constitute a fourth edition that would replace the first three. It contained innovations and improvements in terms of both presentation and methodology, including an increase in the number of countries and/or territories for which separate estimates were produced; a larger number of tables to enable results to be understood more quickly and clearly; a change in the priority of sources from national population censuses to sample surveys or similar inquiries or economically active population in order to improve the quality of data, particularly for women; and a new projection methodology using a country-by-country or territory-by-territory approach rather than the uniform method applied in the three previous editions.

69. On the basis of specialized surveys that were both detailed and precise, the ILO had decided to adjust systematically the rates of activity of women in the countries and/or territories in which the results had not registered and still did not reflect a large portion of women working in the agriculture as "unpaid family workers". For technical reasons, those adjustments could only be made for the last two decades of the period under review: the 1980s and 1990s. The results, however, were also reflected in the projections.

70. Some participants raised the issue of differences between male and female workers in hours worked, which might influence overall perceptions on economic activity, and the role of specialized studies was noted in that regard. It was also asked whether ILO could publish the sources of data for each country, as currently done by the Population Division. ILO pointed out that that information was now available on worksheets, and could be transferred to ILO publications. ILO pointed out that annualized rates were available for 1995-2005. They also expressed their interest in harmonizing activity rates for young adults with the enrolment rates of students estimated by UNESCO.

Outline of the human population data, database management and guidelines for spatial modelling for the CGIAR and UNEP/DEIA/GRID

71. The representative of UNEP described the development of data layers of administrative boundaries with population totals, and gave general background information on data sources and estimation procedures. He presented the methodology used for constructing a set of gridded data layers of population distribution, and showed the resulting administrative boundary and population density maps.

6. Other items

72. In view of the fact that the former Secretary of the Subcommittee, Mr. Larry Heligman, had assumed different duties, the need for a new Secretary was raised. The Subcommittee decided to recommend to CCPOQ the appointment of Mr. Joseph-Alfred Grinblat for a two-year term.

73. Following the guidelines provided by CCPOQ, the Subcommittee considered the formal application by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for admittance to the Subcommittee as observers. After a number of comments and opinions were expressed, both Eurostat and IOM were admitted. They will be so informed by the Secretary of the Subcommittee, and will be invited to the twentieth session, in 1998.

74. It was agreed that the twentieth session of the Subcommittee would be held in New York in June 1998.

75. With respect to the agenda for that meeting, the introduction of a theme for the technical papers that highlighted the critical substantive nature of the Subcommittee's work was discussed. It was agreed to select the theme: "Quality of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections", and to invite the regional commissions and WHO regional offices to consider that theme in preparing their submissions to the next meeting. The provisional agenda for the twentieth session was adopted.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections, including implications of international conferences that have occurred in 1994-1996:
 - (a) Population Division/Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat;
 - (b) Regional commissions;
 - (c) Specialized agencies;
 - (d) Other United Nations bodies.
5. Coordination of the 1996 and 1998 rounds of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections.
6. Inter-agency publication of global population and sectoral estimates and projections based on the 1996 round.
7. Dissemination of population and sectoral estimates and projections through electronic networks.
8. Technical papers for further promotion of coordination.
9. Other items, including the selection of the Subcommittee Secretary, the issue of observers, and the venue and provisional agenda for the twentieth session.
10. Adoption of the report.

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Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

United Nations

Department for Economic and Social
Information and Policy Analysis of
the United Nations Secretariat

Population Division

Joseph-Alfred Grinblat, Chief,
Population Estimates and Projection
Section

Nancy Yu-Ping Chen, Population Affairs
Officer, Population Estimates and
Projections Section

United Nations Population Fund

Sjaak Bavelaar, Senior External
Relations Officer

Economic Commission for Africa

Toma J. Makannah, Chief, General
Demography Section, Population
Division

Economic Commission for Europe

Y. Michizuki, Population Activities
Unit, Division for Economic Analysis
and Projections

United Nations Centre for Human
Settlements

Lars Ludvigsen, Human Settlements
Officer

Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees

Bela Hovy, Statistician, Food and
Statistical Unit, Division of
Programmes and Operational Support

United Nations Environment Programme

Roland Witt, Manager, Global Resource
Information Database, UNEP/GRID

Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations
Programme on HIV/AIDS

Tony Burton, Department of Country
Support

ACC

Susan Toh, Programme Officer,
Consultative Committee on Programme
and Policy Questions

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Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization	Farhad Mehran, Chief Statistician, Bureau of Statistics
	Ettore Denti, Consultant, Bureau of Statistics
	Véronique Arthaud, Computing Assistant, Bureau of Statistics
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Loganaden Naiken, Officer-in-Charge, Statistical Analysis Service, Statistics Division
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	S. K. Chu, Chief, Section for the Development of Statistical Services, Division of Statistics
World Health Organization	H. R. Hapsara, Director, Division of Health Situation and Trend Assessment
	H. Dixon, Chief, Health Situation Analysis and Projection
	Odile Frank, Demographer/Statistician, Health Situation Analysis and Projection
	S. Siméant, Medical Officer, Health Situation Analysis and Projection
	Doris Mafat, Technical Assistant, Health Situation Analysis and Projection
World Bank	Sulekha Patel, Development Data Division, International Economics Department, Development Economics
	Michael Ward, International Economics Department, Development Economics

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Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title/author</u>
SCDEP/1996/INF.1	3	Provisional agenda
SCDEP/1996/INF.2		Provisional list of documents
SCDEP/1996/INF.3		Provisional list of participants
SCDEP/1996/INF.4	3	Provisional organization of work
SCDEP/1996/DOC/1	4 (b)	Excerpt of the portion of the ECE integrated presentation of international statistical work affecting countries in the ECE region relating to work in the field of demographic estimates and projections
SCDEP/1996/DOC/2	4 (b)	Recent activities and plans of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
SCDEP/1996/DOC/3	4 (c)	Estimates and projections in education: UNESCO activities and plans
SCDEP/1996/DOC/4	4 (c)	Recent activities and future plans of the World Bank in demographic estimates and projections
SCDEP/1996/DOC/5	4 (b)	Recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections: regional commissions (ECA)
SCDEP/1996/DOC/6	4 (d)	Population estimates and forecasts: related activities undertaken by the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
SCDEP/1996/DOC/7	8	Comparison des estimations et projections de la population active pour l'Amérique Latine entre CELADE et BIT
SCDEP/1996/DOC/8F	8	Population active 1950-2010: caractéristiques et méthodes d'estimation et de projection

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<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title/author</u>
SCDEP/1996/DOC/8E	8	Economically active population: 1950-2010. Characteristics and methods of estimates and projections
SCDEP/1996/DOC/9	4 (a)	Recent activities and plans related to demographic estimates and projections: the biennial revisions of total, urban, rural and city population estimates and projections (UNDP/DESIPA)
SCDEP/1996/DOC/10	4 (b)	ECLAC/CELADE activities relating to population projections
SCDEP/1996/DOC/11	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections (ESCWA)
SCDEP/1996/DOC/12	4 (d)	Paper summarizing improved human population data, database management and guidelines for spatial modelling for the CGIAR and UNEP/DEIA/GRID for the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections
SCDEP/1996/DOC/13	4 (c)	UNHCR experience in the field of demographic estimates and projections: recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections
SCDEP/1996/DOC/14	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans relative to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections (WHO)

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Reference documents

"Demographic data for health situation assessment and projections, 1996"
(WHO/HST/HSP/96.3)

Demographic and Related Socio-economic Data Sheets for Countries of ESCWA, as
Assessed in 1994, No. 8 (1995)

ESCWA Population Bulletin, No. 43 (1995)

"Statistics on adult illiteracy: preliminary results of the 1994 Estimations
and Projections", UNESCO Statistical Issues, No. STE-16 (October 1994)

"Methodology used in the 1994 Estimation and Projection of Adult Illiteracy",
UNESCO Statistical Issues, No. STE-18 (June 1995)

"Compendium of statistics on illiteracy", UNESCO Statistical Reports and
Studies, No. 35 (1995)

"Human settlements conditions: countries or areas", parts 1 and 2 (United
Nations Centre for Human Settlements)

World Health Statistics Annual 1994 (Geneva, WHO)

World Health Statistics Quarterly, vol. 49, No. 3/4 (1995)

Annex IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections:
 - (a) Population Division/Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat;
 - (b) Regional commissions;
 - (c) Specialized agencies;
 - (d) Other United Nations bodies.
5. Coordination of the 1998 and 2000 rounds of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections.
6. Dissemination of population and sectoral estimates and projections through electronic networks.
7. Technical papers for further promotion of coordination.
8. Other items, including the venue and the provisional agenda for the twenty-first session.
9. Adoption of the report.
