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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	1 - 3	1
A. Draft resolution	1	1
B. Issues brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council	2 - 3	2
II. INDUSTRIAL, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS	4 - 36	3
A. Industrial statistics	4 - 13	3
B. Energy statistics	14 - 23	4
C. Transport statistics	24 - 29	6
D. International trade statistics	30 - 36	8
III. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES	37 - 67	10
A. Review of the System of National Accounts (SNA)	37 - 44	10
B. Tangible capital assets	45 - 49	11
C. Public sector statistics	50 - 61	12
D. Links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)	62 - 67	15
IV. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROJECT (ICP)	68 - 77	17
V. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS	78 - 90	19
VI. SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS	91 - 133	21
A. 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme	91 - 108	21
B. Organization of integrated social statistics	109 - 117	25
C. Social indicators	118 - 121	28
D. Harmonization of concepts and classifications among specialized fields of social statistics	122 - 128	29
E. Statistics of time-use	129 - 133	31

CONTENTS (continued)

		<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
VII.	ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS	134 - 143	32
VIII.	STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION	144 - 151	34
IX.	TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION	152 - 209	36
	A. International technical co-operation in statistics, 1979-1983	152 - 164	36
	B. Training of statistical personnel	165 - 175	39
	C. Data processing	176 - 186	40
	D. National Household Survey Capability Programme . . .	187 - 209	42
X.	CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES	210 - 230	47
	A. Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination	210 - 216	47
	B. International statistical programmes, 1979-1983 . .	217 - 230	48
XI.	PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS . . .	231 - 245	51
	A. Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies	231 - 234	51
	B. Statistical work of the specialized agencies	235 - 237	52
	C. Statistical Office of the United Nations	238 - 245	53
XII.	OTHER BUSINESS	246 - 247	55
	A. Proposed definitions of selected terms for use by the Statistical Commission	246	55
	B. Date of the twenty-first session of the Commission .	247	55
XIII.	CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION	248 - 249	55
XIV.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	250	59

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
XV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	251 - 261	59
A. Opening and duration of the session	251 - 253	59
B. Attendance	254	59
C. Tribute to the memory of Mr. Julius Shiskin	255	60
D. Election of officers	256	60
E. Agenda	257 - 259	60
F. Resolution, decision and recommendations	260	60
G. Documentation	261	60

ANNEXES

I. ATTENDANCE	61
II. AGENDA OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION	66
III. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES, MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, 1980-1983, AND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS	68
IV. LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION	81

CHAPTER I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolution

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution.

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twentieth session and, in particular, of its strong endorsement of the National Household Survey Capability Programme and of the high priority it assigned to this programme of the United Nations, which will help developing countries to establish a national household survey capability in order to generate continuing data to plan socio-economic development and to assess the impact of such development on the quality of life of their people,

Recalling its resolution 2055 (LXII) of 5 May 1977, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme, in co-operation with the World Bank, the specialized agencies and other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, to support this necessary and important development activity,

Noting that, in accordance with the aforesaid resolution, a consultative meeting is being convened in June 1979 to consider ways and means of promoting this development activity,

Recalling further the principles of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order embodied in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, and emphasizing that technical co-operation should lead to self-reliance,

1. Reconfirms the value and importance of the National Household Survey Capability Programme as a major and much-needed development activity aimed at building enduring capabilities in developing countries to conduct their own integrated survey programmes and to generate continuous and integrated data on important social and economic subjects, in line with national needs and priorities, including population and related demographic characteristics, income and expenditure, access to social services, employment, household production and other socio-economic data pertaining to special groups of population and areas;

1/ See paras. 187-209 below.

2. Recommends that provision should be made for technical co-operation among developing countries within the Programme and notes with approval the important role to be played by the regional commissions in the operation of the Programme;

3. Strongly urges the developing countries to take maximum advantage of the Programme and to prepare long-term plans for survey data collection in a variety of areas in the context of their national and statistical development plans;

4. Strongly urges the multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to provide resources to help developing countries implement their survey development plans within the framework of the National Household Survey Capability Programme as part of their technical co-operation activities;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, to co-ordinate household survey technical co-operation activities, including the ongoing African Household Survey Capability Programme and Inter-American Household Survey Programme, within the context of the National Household Survey Capability Programme and strongly urges all donor agencies to collaborate fully and to ensure that the survey activities they may promote will be compatible with and contribute to the Programme;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the above organizations, to propose appropriate technical standards and procedures for these survey activities and to invite the International Statistical Institute and other specialized institutes as appropriate to contribute their specialized experience to this undertaking;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the above organizations, to submit a progress report to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session.

B. Issues brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision.

At its ... plenary meeting, on ... 1979, the Council took note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twentieth session and approved the objectives and work programme recommended by the Commission in its report.

3. The Statistical Commission makes the following recommendations:

A

The Commission recommends that its twenty-first session be held in the first quarter of 1981, preferably towards the end of February. 2/

2/ See para. 247 below.

The Commission recommends that the eighth session of its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination be held at Geneva on 29 and 30 October 1979. 3/

CHAPTER II

INDUSTRIAL, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

A. Industrial statistics

4. For its consideration of agenda item 3 (a), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on initial proposals for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics (E/CN.3/503), which was prepared in response to the request, made at the nineteenth session of the Commission, to include this item in the agenda for its twentieth session.
5. The report discussed the purpose and general character of the 1983 Programme and included an assessment of the national experience with the 1973 Programme, as well as an appraisal of the current state of annual industrial statistics, in order to facilitate the Commission's review of the item.
6. The Commission was informed that, subsequent to the preparation of document E/CN.3/503, discussions at the regional level indicated that a different approach to the 1983 Programme should be considered in view of the problems and limitations applying in the developing countries. The suggestion was put forward that the 1983 Programme might be more successfully implemented in the developing countries if limited to a full-scale, full-coverage canvassing operation of recognizable industrial establishments, with only a few basic items of data gathered.
7. The Commission considered the implementation of the 1983 Programme desirable for maintaining the continuity of the industrial statistics programmes. However, because of the rather disappointing results achieved in the 1973 Programme, it was believed that caution should be exercised by not attempting too ambitious a programme for 1983.
8. A number of Commission members referred to the desirability of making available technical assistance facilities, particularly for countries organizing their systems of industrial surveys for the first time. Special mention was made of such assistance in the areas of electronic data processing (EDP) and training of personnel.
9. Many members expressed the view that a reliable frame was essential for the successful implementation of such programmes, whether the inquiry was to be subsequently carried out by complete enumeration, by sampling methods or by a combined approach. It was noted that reliable registers were not generally available in the developing countries, particularly in the informal sector.

3/ See para. 216 below.

10. The need for methodological guidelines to assist in the preparation of a frame, particularly for the informal sector, was stressed. It was also noted that separate guidelines for the conduct of the inquiries in the informal sector would be useful, and it was mentioned that those might be developed within the framework of the household survey.

11. The suggestion that an attempt should be made to link establishments and their parent enterprises was endorsed by some members, but to others that appeared too ambitious. While some members indicated that the establishment should remain the primary unit for investigation, others considered the enterprise the most appropriate unit.

12. It was suggested that a survey should be taken to ascertain the specific factors that prevented countries from participating in the 1973 Programme and to ascertain their intentions for carrying out a programme for 1983 and to determine what obstacles they foresaw.

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics, along the lines of document E/CN.3/503, subject to the comments and suggestions made during the discussion of this item;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General:

- (i) To prepare, as soon as possible, a document describing the purposes and the content of the Programme and to distribute it for comment to national statistical authorities and interested regional and international organizations;
- (ii) To encourage regional commissions to organize working groups to consider the proposals; and
- (iii) To prepare a complete set of draft recommendations for the Programme for submission to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

B. Energy statistics

14. For its consideration of agenda item 3 (b), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/504), which was prepared in response to the request, made at the nineteenth session of the Commission, to include energy statistics in the agenda for its twentieth session.

15. The report outlined the progress and recent development of international energy statistics and included the recommendations of the Expert Group on Classification and Measurement in the Field of Energy Statistics, which had been convened in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission at its nineteenth

session. 4/ Particular emphasis was placed on the progress of the United Nations Statistical Office in the preparation of energy balances and the co-ordination of this work with other international bodies. In addition, the report covered the next steps in the development of international energy statistics based on the recommendations of the Expert Group.

16. The Commission was informed that at a recent meeting on general energy statistics, held by the Conference of European Statisticians in November 1978, document E/CN.3/504 had been considered and generally supported.

17. The Commission welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and expressed its satisfaction with the work done by the Expert Group. It noted that energy statistics remained an important field that continued to require further urgent consideration, co-operation and harmonization by all central statistical offices and relevant agencies.

18. Several members of the Commission particularly welcomed the reduction of the burden on their statistical offices by the exchange of data between the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Statistical Office. The representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated that the Organisation was ready to continue the co-ordination and exchange of energy statistics.

19. Attention was drawn to the final format of the energy balance. Some members of the Commission agreed with the established format, while others thought that more detail should be shown, particularly in the industrial sector, to distinguish industries that were energy intensive as well as activities such as the construction industry. While it was recognized that there were substantial differences of emphasis between regions for different energy forms, it was suggested that one balance format be established for world-wide use. The Commission was informed that the format of the ECE balances had been taken into account, particularly in the end-use categories, in the formation of the United Nations Statistical Office energy balance. It was noted that the framework of the balance, as set out in the report, was a minimum set and that subsets could be added without difficulty.

20. Attention was drawn to the importance of enhancing the available data on "non-commercial" fuels. It was noted that further work was being done by the United Nations Statistical Office in that area and that definitions of non-commercial fuels had been developed.

21. Observations were made on the complexity of the energy balance format and on the problem of tracing flows of energy between energy producers and consumers. In that connexion, it was suggested that it might be better for some countries to develop commodity accounts initially.

22. Attention was drawn to an interest in providing technical co-operation to developing countries in the form of assistance in establishing a programme of energy statistics.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2.

Action taken by the Commission

23. The Commission:

- (a) Approved the future work programme of energy statistics, as set out in detail in paragraphs 33 and 34 of document E/CN.3/504;
- (b) Recommended four tasks for implementation by the Secretariat, as follows:
 - (i) National, regional and global over-all energy balances should be developed;
 - (ii) The report of the consultant, suitably amended in the light of the discussions of the Expert Group, should be made available for circulation to national and international statistical offices and other appropriate agencies;
 - (iii) An international handbook of conversion factors and units of measurement for use in the field of energy statistics should be published; and
 - (iv) The possibility of establishing a programme of technical co-operation in the field of energy statistics should be investigated.

C. Transport statistics

24. For its consideration of agenda item 3 (c), the Commission had before it a progress report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Shipping statistics, within the framework of transport statistics" (E/CN.3/505), which discussed the work being undertaken in the field of maritime transport and outlined proposals for possible action on future work in this area where development of statistics has been slow. It proposed the compilation of up-to-date, comprehensive statistics on the flow of goods by sea in order to meet urgent short-term needs of assessing the effective demand for shipping services. It also proposed, on a long-term basis, the promotion - at least in developing countries - of a uniform system of collecting economic statistics on shipping in which the individual shipments of commodities are linked to the respective ships that carry the goods in question. The programme had been made possible by a voluntary contribution of \$680,000 from the Government of Norway for the four-year period 1978-1981. The document mentioned the strong interest shown by the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which had adopted a resolution in April 1977 requesting the Secretary-General to give priority to and provide funds for the development of shipping statistics.

25. The Commission commended the report for providing a clear perspective on a new approach to the development of shipping statistics. It supported the programme of work proposed by the Secretariat.

26. As a short-term objective, it was emphasized that the work of updating the Results of a Pilot Study in Maritime Transport for the Years 1966-1968, 5/ published in 1976, should be undertaken promptly.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XVII.9.

27. As to that part of the programme aimed at the development on a long-term basis of a uniform system of collecting economic statistics on shipping, the Commission welcomed the structure of the uniform system which, if fully implemented, would produce meaningful statistics that would provide a clear understanding of the workings of maritime transport. Although some members of the Commission felt that the system was too ambitious, that its implementation might prove to be too costly and that many important practical difficulties would prevent its adoption, other members who had had some practical experience in the implementation of the system felt that it was feasible and that the results obtained from adopting the system would justify the costs involved.

28. The Commission was informed that the chief aim of the document was to explain the capability and viability of the uniform system, as tested mainly in countries in the ESCAP region. The numerous technical problems that would inevitably arise during the implementation and their possible solutions were not covered in the document. The Commission was told that those issues would be dealt with in a manual that was in preparation. The manual would present the actual experience gained by countries that had adopted or were in the process of adopting the uniform system. It would also incorporate the work done in the area of port coding and coding of ships' names by international agencies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the International Chamber of Shipping.

Action taken by the Commission

29. The Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Norway for its contribution to the United Nations Statistical Office for the proposed project on the development of shipping statistics;

(b) Directed the attention of all Member States to the importance of developing shipping statistics;

(c) Called the attention of Member States to the potential in this connexion of the uniform system and invited interested countries to examine the possibility of adopting the framework of the system;

(d) Endorsed the proposals for bringing up to date the Results of a Pilot Study in Maritime Transport for the Years 1966-1968;

(e) Encouraged further promotional work on the uniform system among the developing countries in extending it beyond the ESCAP region;

(f) Supported the resolution of the UNCTAD Committee on Shipping;

(g) Requested the Secretary-General:

- (i) To keep the topic of shipping statistics in the long-term work programme of the United Nations Statistical Office and to submit a progress report to the Commission at its twenty-first session;
- (ii) To assess the work needed to be done in other areas of transport statistics, to update the publication International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics, 6/ published in 1950, when resources permitted and to submit a progress report to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

D. International trade statistics

30. For its consideration of agenda item 3 (d), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "International trade statistics: a review of concepts and definitions" (E/CN.3/506), which presented the recommendations of the Expert Group on International Trade Statistics concerning the revision of the publication, International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, 7/ The Expert Group concluded that in view of the multiplicity of uses to which international trade statistics were put, no single solution for their compilation existed at the world level and that the requirements of multiple recordings should be reflected in any new international standard, more particularly in so far as the system of trade, valuation and the definition of partner countries were concerned. It also concluded that international trade statistics deserved continuing attention and that more frequent meetings with representatives of international agencies would be necessary in order to promote and review progress in the international standardization of the concepts and definitions employed in the compilation of international trade statistics. The Expert Group also stressed the urgency of revising International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, in order to update the guidelines contained therein and bring them into line with current practices and circumstances.

31. The Commission welcomed a review of concepts and definitions in international trade statistics along the lines suggested by the Expert Group. It was indicated that further work was necessary and that proposals would have to be spelt out in detail according to the general guidelines set out by the Commission. It was also noted that considering the complexity and importance of the problems involved, the revision procedure should not be hurried.

32. Several members of the Commission made brief statements on problems encountered at the national level. It was pointed out that difficulties arose not so much at the processing stage but at the collection stage, and for that reason it could be difficult for some countries to collect basic data according to dual concepts. Several members therefore urged that sampling procedures providing a transformation basis (for example, from gross weight to net weight) be investigated.

6/ Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 8.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.16.

33. The Commission was informed that close contact existed between the United Nations Statistical Office and the various international organizations active in the collection of trade statistics.

34. The representative of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) explained that his organization's general policy was to encourage as many as possible of the 142 countries applying the CCC Nomenclature (CCCN) to update their tariffs on the basis of the 1978 version of the CCCN and to include in their tariffs the statistical subheadings that established a one-to-one correlation between the 1978 CCCN and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.2. The aim of that policy was to harmonize customs tariffs, thus simplifying their application by trading circles, and to improve the collection of statistics on the basis of the SITC/Rev.2 in the many cases where national statistics were extracted from customs declarations. That policy would also facilitate the future adaptation of those tariffs to the Harmonized System, since the latter was based essentially on the 1978 CCCN and the SITC/Rev.2. The Commission supported the efforts of CCC that contributed directly to the improved collection of international trade statistics and to smoothing the path for the introduction of the Harmonized System, which would serve as a basis for the harmonization of statistics nomenclature.

35. As far as training was concerned, it was suggested that joint training facilities should be available for customs officials and foreign trade statisticians in the field of foreign trade statistics and of price and quantum indexes.

Action taken by the Commission

36. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that in view of their importance, international trade statistics deserved continuing attention and that all possible avenues should be explored to foster improvements on that subject;

(b) Welcomed the revision of International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions according to the guidelines set out by the Commission;

(c) Took note with satisfaction of the work of the Customs Co-operation Council in the field of foreign trade nomenclatures;

(d) Strongly supported the collection of statistics on the basis of SITC/ Rev.2, in order to facilitate the introduction of the Harmonized System;

(e) Requested that:

(i) Detailed proposals for the revision of concepts and definitions be examined by an expert group and that the Secretary-General submit a report on the revised recommendations to the Commission at its twenty-first session;

(ii) Future work should be undertaken with the co-operation of all interested organizations, more particularly with the Customs Co-operation Council.

CHAPTER III

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

A. Review of the System of National Accounts (SNA)

37. For its consideration of agenda item 4 (a), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General reviewing the implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (E/CN.3/507 and Corr.1). The Commission endorsed the view expressed there that the revised SNA was a very flexible, general instrument. While the need for evolutionary development was stressed, it was agreed that stability in the System was essential and that basic changes could not be introduced at frequent intervals.

38. Nevertheless it was important that work should proceed in assessing the changes that would be necessary in a future revision of the System. Ten years had passed since the publication of the revised SNA, 8/ and in that time there had been many developments affecting national accounting. Some areas of policy interest had shifted, and in many countries institutional arrangements had been altered, or changed in relative importance. It was, thus, thought to be appropriate to consider the incorporation into SNA of information that was currently outside its scope. Examples would include expanded information on non-monetary activity, and many kinds of distributional information. Provision needed to be made for a more explicit inclusion of such information in ways that did not interfere with the traditional uses of the national accounts for fiscal policy and planning. There was also clearly an expanded interest in regional information, and the relevance of such developments as the social accounting matrix needed to be examined. At the same time the review indicated certain areas where particular types of accounts were not in widespread use.

39. Moreover, it had become clear that there were a number of points on which SNA was not sufficiently explicit, and needed clarification and updating. Particular examples cited included the treatment of indirect taxes, profits of public enterprises, and banking and insurance, as well as non-monetary activity. There were also some definitions and classifications where country practices departed widely from the SNA recommendations, and they should be re-examined to see whether modifications were needed.

40. The Commission strongly endorsed the proposal to provide simpler and clearer expository material of the SNA as it existed. Attention to the needs of developing countries and the uses of national accounts was thought to be important in that connexion. It was also suggested that seminars to explain the system and its applications would be very helpful for advisers working with policy-makers.

8/ A System of National Accounts (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.69.XVII.3).

41. It was considered that those kinds of issues would be appropriate for consideration by an expert group, to be convened in 1980. On the basis of the discussions of the expert group, specific issues could be developed for the consideration of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session.

42. The Commission also considered that the work of reviewing the national accounts questionnaire should proceed. In that connexion, the needs of developing countries should be given high priority, and the question of respondent burden should be carefully considered. The representative of the OECD noted that the existing questionnaire was a joint undertaking of his Organisation and the Statistical Office of the United Nations and he expressed the hope that such co-operation would continue with the revised version. He emphasized the importance, in any revision, of maintaining the continuity of statistical series and reducing to a minimum the differences between the United Nations questionnaire and the European Community questionnaire.

43. The representative of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance described related work under way in the Council, stressing particularly the development of basic principles of a system of indicators for non-material services and the improvement of principles of compilation of the balance of production, consumption and accumulation of the global product. It was noted that those developments would greatly facilitate future work on improving the comparability of SNA and the Material Product Balances System (MPS).

Action taken by the Commission

44. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the programme of work presented in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/507 and Corr.1), with the priorities noted in its discussion;

(b) Confirmed the desirability of convening an expert group in 1980, to consider the direction of future work on SNA;

(c) Agreed that work on the review of the United Nations/OECD national accounts questionnaire should proceed; and

(d) Requested that a progress report on the work on national accounts and balances should be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

B. Tangible capital assets

45. For its consideration of agenda item 4 (b), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on draft international guidelines on statistics of tangible assets (E/CN.3/508). The Commission noted that the document was among the last of the further developments of SNA envisaged at the time the System was adopted in 1968.

46. The view was expressed that the report dealt with a very important aspect of economic activity, and that the time had come to establish guidelines. It was considered, however, that the programme presented in the report was a very ambitious one, and that some time would be required to implement all aspects of it. In particular, it was thought that implementation of the recommendations on reproducible assets might be more rapid than on non-reproducible assets. The value of an exchange of national experiences as an aid to implementation was pointed out.

47. A number of areas were noted where an expanded treatment would be helpful. They included the treatment of costless quality changes, amortization, and unfinished construction, and the discussion of methods of valuation. Several additional classifications and tabulations were suggested, including unemployed assets and unused capacity, a distinction between assets used in traditional and modern modes of production, and a distinction between productive and non-productive assets. Areas identified as likely to pose particular difficulty, either because of the need to collect new data or because they called for prior basic research, included the classification of land by uses and the valuation of natural resources. A number of those areas needed further study, but it was not considered that publication of the guidelines should be delayed on that account.

48. Attention was drawn to the fact that, in the draft guidelines, the allocation of assets to economic activity classes was on a user basis, while in the provisional guidelines on balance sheets and reconciliation accounts, ^{9/} the classification was by owner. If possible it would be desirable to have tangible assets classified on both bases.

Action taken by the Commission

49. The Commission requested the Secretary-General:

(a) To revise the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/508) in accordance with its discussion and to publish it as guidelines on statistics of tangible assets;

(b) To pursue the areas in which the discussion had indicated a need for further study as a part of the general review of SNA.

C. Public sector statistics

50. For its consideration of agenda item 4 (c), the Commission had before it documents E/CN.3/509 and E/CN.3/510. Document E/CN.3/509, which was a progress report on the manual of public sector statistics (PSS), was introduced first. The report outlined the revisions being made to the original version of the manual which the Commission had discussed at the nineteenth session. It was explained that the revisions included clarifications on a number of conceptual and

^{9/} Provisional International Guidelines on the National and Sectoral Balance-Sheet and Reconciliation Accounts of the System of National Accounts (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XVII.10).

definitional points that had been regarded as ambiguous or confusing in the original version. In addition, a substantial amount of new material had been added on sources and methods of estimation.

51. The Commission was informed that a revised draft version of the public sector statistics manual had been prepared. It was being sent to Member States and interested international organizations for their comments and suggestions, and the Secretariat hoped to be able to publish a revised manual before the end of 1979. The Commission was also informed that the revision of the manual had been made in close co-operation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The representative of IMF made a statement indicating, inter alia, the steps that had been taken to avoid duplication of work in member countries. To that end its Bureau of Statistics was co-ordinating its work with the United Nations Statistical Office and other international organizations.

52. The Commission emphasized the importance of public sector statistics. It welcomed the substantial progress which the Secretariat had made in developing public sector statistics within the SNA framework, and considered that the proposed revisions would help to clear up most of the areas of confusion that had been noted in the original version.

53. The Commission stressed that the manual should offer clear and practical criteria for distinguishing between the public and private sectors. Most members of the Commission felt that the definition suggested for public enterprises - namely, that they be both owned and controlled by government - was appropriate but considered that the definition of "control" should be expanded and clarified so that it would be applicable to the wide variety of activities involved. In that connexion, some members felt that control should be redefined to extend to an enterprise's policy regarding loans. It was also suggested that reference should not be made to the criterion of control of quantities produced, which was rarely rarified. On the question of which non-profit organizations should be included in the public sector, it was felt that the criterion suggested - namely, that more than half of their current operating costs were provided by government - was too broad, and that non-profit organizations should not be included in the public sector unless they were under the active control of the public authorities. The Commission recognized that no single set of criteria would satisfy all countries for all purposes and that a subjective element was inevitable in the classification of particular institutions as part of either the public or the private sector.

54. Several members of the Commission commented on the proposals concerning the calculation of government output in constant prices. Some questions were raised on the feasibility of measuring output by reference to the volume of transactions, since that would involve a heavy programme of new data collection for many countries. The need to take quality changes into consideration was mentioned, but some doubts were also raised as to whether quality changes could be adequately reflected in real output measures for government education and health services.

55. The Commission considered the relation between the PSS manual and the IMF's Government Finance Statistics (GFS). It noted that the IMF and the United Nations Statistical Office had developed bridge tables to show the links between the two

manuals and were working to remove all unnecessary differences between them. The Commission emphasized that the long-term objective must remain the preparation of a single manual that would satisfy the needs of both organizations.

56. The Commission next considered document E/CN.3/510, which contained a detailing of the classification of the functions of government. It was explained that the classification was a revised version of the purpose classification which the Commission had reviewed at its nineteenth session. The revisions included a basic restructuring of the classification, a simplified treatment of administrative expenditures and some clarification regarding the types of units to which the classification should be applied.

57. The Commission heard a report from the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning their work on the development of statistics on research and development, and on science and technology. It was felt by UNESCO that the functional classification should be amended so that expenditures on science and technology could be separately identified.

58. The Commission welcomed the decision to increase the number of major groups in the classification from 9 to 14. It was considered that the increase made the classification more balanced and gave appropriate emphasis to economic services that had previously been confined to a single major group. Several members stated that they had detailed suggestions to make concerning the classification of particular functions, and it was emphasized that the classification should assign due importance to activities such as rural development and family planning, to which Governments in many developing countries gave high priority. It was also indicated that the degree of detail which would be kept in practice for the provision of such statistics could not be great, particularly at the international level. Consequently, it was suggested that the third level of the classification should be eliminated, with the main categories appearing in the second level.

59. There was a discussion on the principles underlying the classification. One of those concerned the unit of classification. The question was raised as to whether the functional classification was one of transactions rather than of administrative units and the Commission recalled the position in favour of this solution taken by the working group on national accounts and balances of the Conference of European Statisticians. In reply, it was indicated by the Secretariat that, in practice, the classification seemed to have been, in the majority of cases, applied to administrative units.

60. Another question concerned the treatment of administrative expenditures. The document recommended that they should be included with the main functions they served and should not be allocated to a separate group. While it was recognized that there were good practical reasons for this recommendation, some members felt that the classification would be more useful for analytic purposes if administrative expenditures were distinguished separately for each major group. A similar question was raised concerning expenditures on research and development - or, more broadly, on "science and technology". Because of their importance for developing countries, some members of the Commission felt that outlays on research and development should be separately identified under each major function so that total government outlays on such activities could be obtained.

Action taken by the Commission

61. The Commission agreed that:

(a) The manual on public sector statistics should be revised to take account of the comments of the Commission and of Member States, and should then be published as a provisional manual;

(b) The Secretariat should circulate the Classification of the Functions of Government to Member States and international organizations for comment. The classification should be revised, in the light of those comments, and should then be incorporated in the manual on public sector statistics;

(c) In view of the importance of the subject, the Secretariat should continue to promote developments in all aspects of public sector statistics and continue to co-operate with IMF with a view to the eventual publication of a joint manual.

D. Links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

62. For its consideration of agenda item 4 (d), the Commission had before it two reports prepared by the Secretary-General, a progress report on links between the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy (E/CN.3/511) and a draft technical report on total consumption of the population (E/CN.3/512 and Corr.1 and 2).

63. The Commission was informed that work on establishing links between SNA and MPS had been under way for some time; within the context of the Conference of European Statisticians, it was started in the early 1960s. Much progress had been made. The information content of each of the standard systems had been modified to move it closer to supplying the information required for the other, and classifications had been drawn up so as to avoid unnecessary differences. The nature of the conceptual differences between the two systems had been explored in detail. A publication summarizing those results, entitled Comparisons of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy; Part One, Conceptual Relationships ^{10/} had been published in 1977. Further conceptual work was being concentrated on more detailed studies of particular aspects of the national accounts and balances. The first of those was the concept of total consumption of the population, which was discussed in document E/CN.3/512 and Corr.1 and 2. That concept attempted to measure the total value of consumption goods reaching the population, or in SNA terms, households, in a way that was as independent as possible of institutional arrangements. A second project considered the concept of capital as it was used in the two systems; a third would compare the transactor units and institutional sectoring employed in the two systems; and a fourth would examine the service sector, with special attention to science and technology.

^{10/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XVII.6.

64. On the second aspect of the work, statistical comparisons, the Commission was further informed that it had proved to be unexpectedly difficult to obtain satisfactory results in the context within which the Statistical Office must work, relying entirely on correspondence to obtain data and to clarify any questions that might arise. A draft had been completed which contained a statistical implementation of the conversion of the main aggregates of each system to those of the other, for three developed and three developing market economies and for two centrally planned economies. It had become evident, however, that comparative statistical studies in greater depth could better be conducted in a different way. The Conference of European Statisticians has suggested that studies conducted by pairs of countries would be a useful approach, and two countries, France and Hungary, had indicated an interest in participating in such a project.

65. The Commission broadly endorsed the strategy for future work proposed in document E/CN.3/511, including, on the one hand, continuation in the Statistical Office of the work on the projects discussed in the document, and on the other, bilateral projects to be undertaken by countries under the aegis of the Conference of European Statisticians or other regional commissions as appropriate. The latter technique was also considered to be appropriate in further statistical experimentation. It was noted that the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) work on the system of indicators of non-material services would greatly facilitate that work, even though the approach taken there was in some respects different from that of SNA. With regard to the institution of a regular data-collection effort, there was general agreement that the possibility of including information useful for that purpose in the national accounts questionnaires should be explored, although it was noted that the further detailed comparisons proposed might well reveal additional problems.

66. With regard to the concept of total consumption of the population, the Commission considered that there also, more emphasis should be placed upon bilateral comparisons. While appreciative of the work done by the Secretariat in that area, the Commission considered publication of the report premature, and expressed the view that further experimentation with statistical implementation was called for.

Action taken by the Commission

67. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that methodological studies should continue, giving major attention to the areas discussed in document E/CN.3/511 - namely, total consumption of the population, capital formation, institutional and socio-economic sectoring, and services;

(b) Considered that work on the detailed comparison of country practices and the development of conversion keys should be centred in the regional commissions, primarily the Conference of European Statisticians;

(c) Proposed that bilateral projects should be undertaken under the sponsorship of the Conference of European Statisticians, to include both methodological and statistical comparisons, and that such comparisons should include work on total consumption of the population;

(d) Requested that the possibility be explored of expanding the questionnaires on national accounts and balances to include the data needed to convert the main aggregates of each system to those of the other.

CHAPTER IV

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROJECT (ICP)

68. For its consideration of agenda item 5, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "International Comparison Project: a review of major issues and plans for its future development" (E/CN.3/513 and Corr.1), describing work on the project from 1968 to 1978 and outlining the plan of work for the period from 1979 to 1984.

69. The Commission stressed the importance of ICP for countries and international agencies and was informed that the work on ICP in Europe was done in close co-operation with EEC. The Commission recognized the need to extend comparisons to more countries, especially in light of frequent changes in exchange rates. It endorsed continuation of the Project over the next five years, following the plan of work outlined in part IV of the Secretary-General's report, the main points of which were:

(a) Refinement of existing methodology and expansion of bench-mark comparisons to a total of about 60 countries;

(b) Establishment of a system for repeating the full-scale comparisons for those 60 selected countries, probably at five-year intervals;

(c) Development and application of methods that can be used to bring into the system countries for which bench-mark comparisons for most of the 155 countries for which data are reported in the United Nations Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics;

(d) Further improvement and application of extrapolation techniques developed in phase II to produce annual comparisons of relative GDPs for all countries in the system for years between the more detailed comparisons;

(e) Further development of methods to obtain valid intertemporal (i.e., in a constant international currency unit) comparisons between bench-mark years and for intervening years as well; and

(f) Development of techniques for obtaining comparisons within regions that reflect more closely the similarities of contiguous countries as well as comparisons among regions.

The Commission noted that the tasks outlined above implied a substantial increase in extrabudgetary resources.

70. The Commission noted that construction was a difficult area for comparison. It was informed that alternative methods of comparison for construction, based on modules of activity rather than whole projects, would be considered during the coming year, when ICP construction specifications would be revised.

71. The Commission encouraged the Statistical Office to include as part of the participation of interested ICP countries, a training function which might be

organized through the regional commissions, perhaps using training manuals prepared by the central ICP staff. It was stated that while the Statistical Office used specification manuals and detailed worksheets, their use would be simplified if there were an accompanying manual on ICP methods of procedure.

72. Another matter stressed by the Commission was the need to simplify the data requirements for some of the developing countries, with a view to extending the estimates to a larger number of countries. The Commission urged development of methods relying on less information concerning price and expenditure for countries not in a position to undertake the full-scale studies. The exploration of other methods of extending estimates to more countries was also encouraged.

73. The Commission endorsed the emphasis of the plan of work of ICP to rely more heavily in the future on the regional commissions to help organize participation within their regions. That would require additional resources for the regions. The Commission recognized that there were difficult methodological problems in integrating regional and global estimates, but the view was widely expressed that that was a most important task to be undertaken during the next five years because it would greatly improve the usefulness of the comparisons. Mention was also made of recent and planned regional meetings dealing with those problems.

74. The Commission discussed development of new methods for ICP work for several problem areas of comparisons, such as services, especially in the areas of education, health, culture and rents. Because some of these problems were parallel to those of the comparisons made by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, an interchange of information was urged. The Commission suggested that a progress report be prepared by the Statistical Office for its twenty-first session, which would include development of new methods and approaches.

75. The Commission proposed that an expert group meet periodically during the next five years to advise on methodological problems of ICP.

76. The Commission strongly encouraged those countries that were in a position to do so to make contributions to the ICP trust fund to carry out the plan of work of ICP for the next five years. It was acknowledged that many of the suggestions of the Commission could be only partly implemented with existing resources.

Action taken by the Commission

77. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the report of the Secretary-General describing the past experience and future plans of ICP (E/CN.3/513 and Corr.1);

(b) Stressed the importance of the International Comparison Project and its extension to more countries and supported efforts of the Statistical Office to raise more extrabudgetary resources;

(c) Accepted the plan of work for ICP for the period 1979-1984 (ibid., part IV);

(d) Endorsed the establishment of an expert group financed from extrabudgetary resources to advise the United Nations Statistical Office on methodology;

(e) Urged that a training component, including manuals, be integrated with participation in ICP for countries needing that support;

(f) Supported emphasis on increasing the involvement of the regional commissions in ICP work and developing comparisons within regions;

(g) Requested that a progress report on ICP, including methodological developments, be submitted to the twenty-first session of the Statistical Commission.

CHAPTER V

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS

78. For its consideration of agenda item 6, the Commission had before it a progress report (E/CN.3/514) that outlined what had been done on the harmonization of international economic classifications since the nineteenth session of the Commission, when it had approved a long-term programme of work in that field.

79. The main thrust of the programme was to establish a closer relation between activity and product classifications as well as between the various product classifications. There were two primary dimensions to the work: establishment of a closer relation between classifications of the same kind developed by different international organizations and establishment of a closer relation between different kinds of classifications developed by the same organization.

80. The Commission was informed that in accordance with its wishes, a consultative panel had been formed and had met at Brussels in November 1977. The panel - which benefited from material assistance from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) - was currently known as the Joint UNSO/SOEC Working Group on World-Level Classifications (UNSO/SOEC WG).

81. At its first session, UNSO/SOEC WG considered proposals for a revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC); the relation between ISIC and NACE (the activity classification of SOEC); and a report on the status of the work of constructing the Harmonized System (HS) of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC). It also discussed proposals for methodological approaches to the harmonization of activity and goods classifications.

82. The Commission was informed that although UNSO/SOEC WG judged many of the proposals to be well-founded, the members of the group felt that the far-reaching effects of the changes required further study by them as well as by the Secretariat. The experts agreed to prepare and send to the United Nations Statistical Office comments on the revision proposals and on methodological principles that would form the basis for reformulating the proposals and rationalizing the working methods of the Group. Comments had been received from most of the experts who had attended the first session of the Working Group.

83. The Working Group was very conscious of the important role of HS in its work, provided the industrial-origin criterion was observed. In that connexion UNSO/SOEC WG welcomed the statements of the expert from CCC to the effect that HS would take that factor into account. He emphasized, however, that the HS Committee must be provided with information on the matter if it was to act upon it.

84. Document E/CN.3/514 outlined other related work being done by the Secretariat. The construction of "common groupings" of commodities, one of the means for achieving closer co-ordination between the International Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev. 2, was well advanced and would prove useful in the harmonization exercise; preparation of ICGS for publication was going forward. Work was also well advanced on the development of the first subsystem of a computer-based system of registers of standards for statistical use. All the work on the projects mentioned in the present paragraph had been approved by the Commission at its nineteenth session. 11/

85. In the Commission's view, work on harmonization of economic classifications was potentially of great utility. Its end result should be an integrated system of economic classifications. Such a system should provide comparable data even though data sources would be different, and it would be invaluable in carrying out economic analyses. The Commission noted that the creation of such a system would be difficult, however. Even at the national level similar work had encountered difficulties. At the international level it would require careful attention to working methods, timing and staff resources. Many members of the Commission urged the United Nations Statistical Office to pursue the work vigorously and to try to augment the resources assigned to it.

86. Concerning working methods, the Commission welcomed the participation of the United Nations Statistical Office in the work of constructing HS. Even though limited staff resources made it difficult to contribute fully to that work, the influence of the Statistical Office was substantial and positive.

87. With regard to timing, the Commission noted that the period 1981 to 1985 was crucial because HS was likely to be completed by the end of 1981 or shortly thereafter and implemented beginning in 1985, and proposals had to be made to the HS Committee to amend its dissections where necessary to promote a close relation between HS and the classifications of goods by industrial origin. The closer the relation, the more likely it was that HS would become a basic reference for the creation of a co-ordinated system of economic classifications. It would be advisable, therefore, not to proceed too quickly in finalizing the revision of ISIC. Rather, the final version of ISIC would emerge from the process of adjusting the product classifications and HS - that is, ISIC should not be revised in isolation, nor need it be rushed.

88. Several members of the Commission took up the question of the types of revisions that might be under consideration. They took the view that the structure of ISIC was satisfactory and ought to be changed very little. Attention was drawn to the report of the last session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, which dealt with the need to provide in ISIC for the industrial activities of low-technology countries. Other members stressed that classification of activities should take account of technical progress and the level of the statistical and economic development of Member States. The Commission recognized that those were among the problems with which UNSO/SOEC WG would have to deal.

11/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2, para. 121.

89. The Commission was gratified to note that the Statistical Office of the European Communities was collaborating closely with the United Nations Statistical Office and that the Statistical Division of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was ready to do the same. It also noted that the United Nations regional commissions and a number of international organizations within and outside the United Nations system were closely associated with the work.

Action taken by the Commission

90. The Commission:

(a) Strongly endorsed continuation of United Nations Statistical Office work on harmonization of economic classifications and, in view of the rapid development of the Harmonized System, urged the Secretary-General to investigate the possibility of making available additional resources as appropriate. The work involved:

- (i) Intensified Statistical Office participation in the work of the Harmonized System Committee; and
- (ii) Servicing meetings of the Joint UNSO/SOEC WG on World-Level Classifications;

(b) Requested that a report be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session, outlining progress in the work of harmonizing economic classifications.

CHAPTER VI

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

A. 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

91. For its consideration of agenda item 7 (a), the Commission had before it document E/CN.3/515, dealing with the Census Programme as a whole, and documents E/CN.3/515/Add.1-3, which constituted the draft census recommendations.

92. The Commission recalled that, at its nineteenth session, it had considered and approved interim proposals with respect to the census recommendations, had requested the Secretary-General to circulate an interim report on the subject and had supported the convening of an interregional expert group to consider a first draft of the new census recommendations. ^{12/} The Commission was pleased to note that the interim report on the census recommendations had been circulated to countries in June 1977 and that a set of draft recommendations had been submitted to the Expert Group on Global Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses, which had met at Headquarters in January 1978. The Commission noted that the draft recommendations contained in documents E/CN.3/515/Add.1-3 took account comments made by them Expert Group.

^{12/} Ibid., para. 54.

93. The Commission considered the new census recommendations to be a comprehensive and valuable document that would be particularly helpful to developing countries. It expressed its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat in promptly preparing and circulating the draft census recommendations and agreed that, with the revisions proposed by the Commission, the document would provide an excellent framework for countries in carrying out population and housing censuses. Indeed, several members indicated that they were already making use of the draft document in planning forthcoming censuses.

94. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the global recommendations complemented the regional recommendations and did not supersede them. It agreed that it was more useful from a practical point of view to include the recommendations for both population and housing censuses in a single publication and that there were advantages in omitting from the title any reference to a specific census year. It also expressed the view that the recommendations dealing with operational aspects, as expanded, more appropriately reflected the use of modern technology and methods.

95. In its discussion, the Commission stressed that a population and housing census should not be viewed as an isolated statistical activity but rather should be conceived as one element of an integrated statistical system that included household sample surveys as well as statistics obtained from administrative sources. In that connexion, a number of members expressed the view that more explicit reference to the relation between the population census and household survey capabilities should be made. The Commission agreed that the discussion of the role of the population and housing census in an integrated national statistical system in the draft text should be strengthened and that this theme should also be stressed in the preface to the recommendations.

96. Many members stressed the importance of data processing in ensuring the full and timely production of census results. It was noted that the new recommendations contained an expanded treatment of that subject. However, it was agreed that there was a need for more detailed guidance on data processing procedures than was currently incorporated in the recommendations. However, in order to avoid unduly delaying publication of the document, it was proposed that the additional information might be made available to countries in further technical reports that would supplement the recommendations.

97. Many members of the Commission proposed minor changes and corrections for consideration by the Secretariat in the further revision of the document for publication. Some of those were passed to the Secretariat in writing, others were presented during the discussion. Among the suggestions were the following:

- (a) The table of contents should be shown in greater detail than at present in order to make the publication more useful for reference purposes;

- (b) More information should be included on the use of postal services in carrying out population censuses and surveys;

- (c) The importance of clearly establishing the concepts for units of enumeration such as "household" or "family" prior to carrying out the census should be more clearly stressed;

(d) More detailed instructions should be included concerning the preparation of lists of households and living quarters to be used in carrying out the censuses. That was particularly important in countries where suitable maps were not available;

(e) More information should be included concerning the use of population censuses for establishing population registers and data bases;

(f) With reference to the definition of household, the question of cohabitation should be spelled out;

(g) Censuses should include questions on year of immigration in conjunction with questions on country of birth, so that figures would be available for the "sending" countries as well as the "receiving" countries;

(h) The importance of information on place of previous residence for population projections should be mentioned;

(i) Location of place of work and of school, university and the like should be added to the list of topics, since that would be useful for estimating daily movements of the population, traffic planning and so on;

(j) The definition of income should be expanded to include non-cash income for countries where that was an important element;

(k) The recommendations should emphasize the advantages of carrying out population and housing censuses simultaneously.

98. The Commission agreed that any revisions of the text should preserve the basic approach that the recommendations were guidelines presenting sound options for countries to follow rather than inflexible prescriptions and that every effort should be made to describe the relative advantages and disadvantages of alternate procedures. In that connexion, the Commission noted that many aspects of census content and procedures - for example, cartography, the method of enumeration employed and the appropriate reference period to be used in investigating economic activity - required different approaches by individual countries because of the wide divergencies in their needs and circumstances.

99. It was noted that, at its nineteenth session, the Commission had stressed the need for urgency in making the recommendations available to countries. ^{13/} Although the various suggestions for further improvements had to be carefully considered and any existing errors in the draft recommendations corrected, it was agreed that the document should be revised and published in final form as soon as possible so that it would be available to those countries planning to carry out censuses as part of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

100. The Commission also discussed several other census-related activities being carried out as part of the 1980 Census Programme. They included the study of census staffing and cost requirements, the work on the elimination of sex-based stereotypes from population censuses and related statistics and the work on the development of local-area statistics programmes in connexion with population and housing censuses.

^{13/} Ibid.

101. Considerable interest was expressed in the study of census staffing and cost requirements, and a few members expressed a willingness to participate in the pilot testing of guidelines for the recording of cost and related information in connexion with their forthcoming census. It was noted that many countries had not recorded costs or other resources used in such a systematic way as to enable their reanalysis for purposes of international comparison. Standardization was sometimes lacking even in data collected from different parts of the same country when the census operation was not completely centralized. The Commission stressed that because of those and other difficulties, facile comparisons of census costs between countries could be misleading and hence should be avoided.

102. The Commission, nevertheless, was of the opinion that the results of the study would be of great help to national statistical authorities in their efforts to improve their census accounting systems. It was recognized that data in physical terms (for instance, work days or months, maps completed, space, vehicles and the like) could be quantified more easily than could costs, but the importance of at least estimating costs of each aspect of the census, direct as well as indirect, was stressed. It was felt that the way in which costs were recorded was important not only for subsequent census planning but also for purposes of presentation to legislative bodies that controlled census appropriations.

103. The Commission agreed that a study of that kind should focus on a standard classification of resources used in the census and on standard recording procedures, taking into account country experience with census cost accounting. It would be helpful if, in addition, it were possible to determine any correlations among levels of costs for different census activities. The scope of the study could usefully be extended to cover survey costs as well, particularly when a complete census was combined with one or more sample surveys.

104. Several members expressed the opinion that the Commission should give attention in the future to the changing relation between censuses and surveys in an integrated system of data collection and dissemination and to how the evolving relation would affect the staffing and cost requirements of each. The Commission noted that it was often very difficult to determine what costs were properly attributable to the census and what to related survey programmes or user services.

105. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the progress on the elimination of sex-based stereotypes from population censuses and related statistics. Several members suggested, however, that the term "sex-based stereotypes" was an unfortunate one and that a more appropriate term should be sought. The Commission noted that a consultant's report on the problems encountered in meeting needs for statistics better oriented to examining the roles and status of women and providing information on possible solutions to the problems would be circulated to national statistical offices for comment. It supported the convening of an expert group on that subject, involving producers of statistics and concerned users and the publication of the report as a technical report, depending upon the comments received from national statistical offices and the availability of resources.

106. The Commission recognized the need for data at the local level, in view of the enormous increase in the demand for small-area information for national development planning purposes and other uses, and expressed its support for the publication of a technical report on the development of local area statistics programmes.

107. Several members from developing countries stressed the importance of technical co-operation activities in the field of population and housing censuses, while several other members described activities they supported designed to assist countries in carrying out improved population and housing censuses. The Commission agreed to consider this very important subject under agenda item 10 (see chap. IX, below, especially paras. 160 and 178).

Action taken by the Commission

108. The Commission:

(a) Adopted the draft principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses contained in documents E/CN.3/515 and Add.1-3, modified, as required, in accordance with its discussions and conclusions and with the addition of a preface giving background information and stressing the role of the census as one element of an integrated statistical system;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to publish the principles and recommendations, as modified, as quickly as possible, and to distribute them widely as a guide to countries in their national population and housing census activities;

(c) Endorsed other activities described in document E/CN.3/515, including, inter alia:

(i) The study of census staffing and cost requirements, and requested countries to record in a systematic fashion information on the resources used in carrying out their population and housing censuses;

(ii) The convening, subject to the availability of funds, of an expert group on the problems encountered by national statistical offices in meeting the needs of users for statistics better oriented to examining the role and status of women pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2061 (LXII);

(iii) The possible publication of a technical report on the development of local-area statistics programmes;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

B. Organization of integrated social statistics

109. For its consideration of agenda item 7 (b), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Methods of collecting, organizing and retrieving social statistics to achieve integration" (E/CN.3/516 and Corr.1).

110. The Commission was informed that the report continued a long series of earlier work on the integration of social and demographic statistics. The work had developed out of the attempt to establish, in the demographic area, a framework parallel to the system of national accounts. Instead of money flows,

the system of demographic and manpower statistics dealt with flows of people, but it carried over the concepts of opening stocks, input and output flows, and closing stocks. Over time, as the demographic matrix work came into contact with the increasingly important social indicator movement, the scope of what came to be called the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) was extended to cover a wide range of social fields. The importance of the accounting structure receded, but the basic need for linkage and consistency from one field to another continued to be the core of the system. This stage of the work culminated in Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics 14/ approved for publication by the Statistical Commission at its seventeenth session. 15/

111. The next stage of work was represented by the report entitled "SSDS: potential uses and usefulness" (E/CN.3/449 and Corr.1), prepared for the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission, which sought to identify the essential characteristics that distinguished SSDS from other ways of treating social and demographic data. Three components were identified: (a) inputs; (b) principles and techniques of methodology; and (c) outputs. Both ends of this chain were open to almost limitless variation, and their exact specification was not intended. What needed to be emphasized was the middle link: a network of common or consistent classifications and the application over the whole range of social statistics of principles for structuring data. At the nineteenth session of the Commission, held in 1976, document E/CN.3/489 was considered, which further developed the ideas in "... Potential uses ...". It was at this juncture that the term "framework" was adopted as a more apt description than "system" - the latter implying a greater degree of specification than was intended.

112. The Commission at its nineteenth session requested that two further reports be prepared. One was to specify terms of reference for the various specialized working groups in particular fields of social statistics. The Commission was informed that that report would appear, together with the two earlier reports, in a publication entitled Studies in the Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics: Technical Report. 16/

113. The second report was to deal with problems of achieving integration in the collection and organization of social statistics. That paper was considered by an expert group which met in March 1978. Revised to incorporate the expert group's conclusions, it became document E/CN.3/516, which focused on one aspect only of the framework for social and demographic statistics, namely techniques for collecting, storing, managing and disseminating data. It was only very peripherally concerned with the subject-matter content of the data on either the input or the output side. It was a further development of the idea of connectedness, exploring some of the implications to which that idea leads in the light of present-day computer and sampling technology and current analytic demands. The objective of the report was to identify what was new, not to repeat

14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.XVII.8.

15/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2, para. 117 (ii).

16/ Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 24 (United Nations publication, to be issued).

what was already ongoing practice. What was new was the extent of the demands now placed upon the data, and the means that were becoming available for meeting those demands. The discussion in the document was intended to be useful to countries at all levels of statistical development, outlining a series of steps through which countries were likely to go, moving from re-usable single-source data bases to co-ordination of concepts and integration of substance and finally to composite, integrated data bases in the fullest sense.

114. The Commission unanimously agreed that the document under consideration was an important and useful summary of the state of the art; it was forward-looking but not unrealistic. However, certain members emphasized that one should not underestimate the methodological difficulties of statistical matching, the problems of confidentiality raised by exact matching or the necessary efforts and costs. Nevertheless, the Commission recommended publication and wide distribution of the report. It was noted, however, that the description of country practices in annex I of the report was preliminary and that its coverage should be expanded before publication. Several Commission members agreed to supply material for that purpose.

115. The Commission strongly supported further international work in the area, to the extent that available resources would permit. A number of high-priority areas were identified:

- (a) The further development of consistent concepts, definitions and classifications, including not only work on specific topics but also the structure of over-all linkages among classifications, and the role of national accounts as an integrating framework;

- (b) The examination and further development of statistical methodology, including sampling and survey techniques and methods of estimation, such as treatment of missing data, and exact and statistical matching techniques;

- (c) Consideration of questions of confidentiality and privacy, and their impact upon statistical collection and dissemination;

- (d) Exchange of information on country experience.

116. Some Commission members also considered that priority should be accorded to computer technology, especially for developing countries. It was noted, however, that that subject was covered under agenda item 10 (c); see paragraphs 176-186 below.

Action taken by the Commission

117. The Commission requested the Secretary-General:

- (a) To revise document E/CN.3/516 in accordance with the Commission's discussion, especially through the inclusion of additional material on country experiences, to be supplied by the countries, and to publish it as a technical report;

- (b) To continue work on methodological development, including definitions and classifications and their interlinking and questions of statistical methodology;

(c) To study the problems of confidentiality and its impact upon statistical practice;

(d) To promote the exchange of country experience through the preparation of reports and other means;

(e) To submit the results of the above-mentioned activities to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

C. Social indicators

118. For its consideration of agenda item 7 (c), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General containing a progress report on national and international work on social indicators (E/CN.3/517). The Commission noted that at its nineteenth session it had approved preliminary guidelines and illustrative series for social indicators 17/ and that those had since been published. 18/ At its nineteenth session, the Commission had also requested the Secretariat "to keep national and international work on social indicators under review and submit a summary report on recent developments in the field to the Commission at its twentieth session". 17/ Document E/CN.3/517 had been prepared pursuant to that request. It contained separate sections on national and international work on social indicators, updating and summarizing material presented in the preliminary guidelines and in the publication entitled Studies in the Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics: Technical Report. 19/

119. The Commission noted that many countries and a number of international bodies were actively pursuing programmes of work on social indicators and related social statistics and that the results of that work were of keen interest to general and specialized policy makers, planners and administrators, as well as to the general public. In some cases, the selection and development of indicators had been the subject of wide public discussion and of technical and policy-oriented reviews. The Commission also noted that programmes on social indicators were continuing to evolve rapidly at national and international levels. Even in cases where programmes had reached a phase of regular publication maintained over several years, the scope, content and organization of the publications were constantly being reviewed and revised in the light of policy interests, further work on the underlying basic statistics and consultations with users.

120. Because of the wide and increasing interest in social indicators and the variety of approaches and experiences in developing them, the Commission particularly welcomed the Secretary-General's report as a concise summary of ongoing work, which would be very useful as a way of sharing experience in that

17/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2, para. 105.

18/ Social Indicators: Preliminary Guidelines and Illustrative Series (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XVII.8).

19/ Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 24 (United Nations publication, to be issued).

complex field among interested national and international authorities. It also noted the usefulness of the role of the Secretariat in promoting and ensuring co-ordination of international work on social indicators and agreed that the role should be continued. At the same time it expressed considerable caution concerning the extent to which a broad programme aimed at the development of internationally comparable indicators would be useful or feasible in the foreseeable future. It stressed the importance of continuing work at the national level, in close collaboration with users, to achieve programmes tailored to the particular circumstances and current priorities of each country. It was only at the country level that those circumstances and priorities could be assessed and addressed effectively, and that social indicators could be co-ordinated and issued on a timely enough basis to meet the requirements of many different users. None the less, national activities could be effectively complemented in particular fields by the ongoing review and development, undertaken by the specialized agencies concerned, of statistics useful for the selection and specification of indicators and by the identification of the policy issues to which these would relate.

Action taken by the Commission

121. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on social indicators (E/CN.3/517) as providing a concise overview of the diverse national and international activities in the field;

(b) Stressed the importance and usefulness of close, timely collaboration between users and producers of the series in the development and dissemination of social indicators;

(c) Requested that:

(i) The report should be updated in the light of the Commission's comments and then made available to countries and interested international authorities;

(ii) The Secretariat should continue to keep national and international work on social indicators under review, seek to ensure co-ordination of international activities in that field and submit a summary report on recent developments to the Commission at its twenty-second session.

D. Harmonization of concepts and classifications among specialized fields of social statistics

122. For its consideration of agenda item 7 (d), the Commission had before it a progress report (E/CN.3/518 and Corr.1) on the harmonization of concepts and classifications among specialized fields of social statistics. The document consists of two parts: the first part is a review of the general problems involved in developing a coherent framework of social and demographic statistics; and the second part discusses a number of areas for Statistical Office work concerning which the Commission was requested to assign priority.

123. The Commission was informed that work had already been initiated on a classification by age group. The decision to start with age was based upon the fact that age is among the most frequently collected and reported characteristics of persons not only in social and demographic statistics but also in related economic statistics.

124. The Commission emphasized that work on concepts and classifications was one important means for achieving integration of social and demographic statistics. In its view this work could produce practical results, although several members of the Commission cautioned that in this field, even at the national level, the creation of standards was difficult; at the international level difficulties were likely to be even greater.

125. In the discussion of priority areas for Statistical Office work on classifications of social statistics, it was generally agreed that classification by age group was a good first choice. The next most frequently mentioned area was the household and related concepts. Many members also stressed the importance of bringing up to date work on labour-force concepts and were pleased to hear of ongoing work by the International Labour Organisation. Several members of the Commission mentioned ethnicity as an area to which attention should be given. There was some support for work on concepts and classifications of size and type of place.

126. The Commission emphasized the importance of conducting the work on the basis of well defined principles so that the different classifications would constitute a set of interlocking instruments. It was also stressed that linkages between areas of social concern and areas of economic interest were of equal importance.

127. Finally, in the Commission's view, the areas of concentration of the Statistical Office and of the specialized agencies should be in accordance with the existing division of responsibility. The Statistical Office should concern itself with general classifications that cut across several fields; it should work on those classifications and concepts that do not fit into the area of responsibility of any specialized agency. The Statistical Office should, however, promote co-ordination so that the whole body of social and demographic classifications is consistent and complete. The Commission was pleased to note that in the work on classification by age group, the regional commissions and a number of specialized agencies had been consulted.

Action taken by the Commission

128. The Commission agreed that:

(a) Work on the classification by age group should be continued as planned;

(b) The Statistical Office should evaluate the other areas mentioned during the discussion in terms of the priority accorded to them, the relative difficulty they pose and the outlook for positive results. Work on one or more of these areas should proceed on the basis of this evaluation.

E. Statistics of time-use

129. For its consideration of agenda item 7 (e), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Progress report on the development of statistics of time-use" (E/CN.3/519). The Commission noted that the report brought together for illustrative purposes information on methods of collecting data on time-use and on some present and potential uses of those data from a variety of selected national and international studies.

130. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the review of time-use statistics which had been prepared. It agreed that time-use was a new and important field of statistics that was closely related to many aspects of economic and social conditions but recognized that the priority attached to it varied considerably among countries in accordance with their needs. The Commission noted that among developing countries, most of which had a labour surplus, time-use statistics could be of particular interest in the study and development of concepts and methods of measuring labour-force participation, underemployment and available idle time, in devising an appropriate framework and concepts for measuring economically significant activities within households, particularly for women and children, and in measuring physical access of households to jobs and to social and cultural facilities. Among developed countries, the usefulness of time-use statistics was noted for measuring and evaluating various components of levels of living, including access to social and cultural services, availability and use of free time and leisure time and time devoted to homemaking, educational activities and children. The potential importance and usefulness of time-use statistics in identifying and measuring differences in the economic and social circumstances of different social groups and between rural and urban areas was also stressed.

131. The Commission noted the variety of methodological approaches to collecting and organizing time-use statistics presented in document E/CN.3/519. Additional information was provided by a number of members on experiences in their countries. The Commission agreed that such work was still largely in an experimental phase in most countries, particularly developing countries, and presented unusually complex methodological problems. For those reasons, further efforts by the Secretariat to promote the wide exchange and review of technical information on concepts and methods of collection and analysis would be welcome. As part of such further work, the Secretariat was requested to try to identify explicit examples of policy uses of time-use statistics, obtain examples of evaluation studies of data reliability and collect appraisals by those who had carried out such studies of the problems they had encountered in sampling, data collection, processing and analysis. The Commission also stressed that co-ordination of such work among interested international agencies should be ensured.

132. At the national level, the Commission agreed that the development of time-use statistics could provide, over the long run, a valuable body of basic statistics in supplementing other and more traditional types of statistics in several important ways. However, it noted that in most developing countries much more work was needed on an experimental and pilot scale before sufficient experience would be available for launching such surveys with national samples.

Action taken by the Commission

133. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that time-use statistics were an important, emerging field of statistics with a wide range of potential uses;

(b) Invited interested countries to study the role which those statistics might play in their own statistical development programmes and to develop further research and testing of concepts, methods and applications appropriate to their own national priorities and circumstances;

(c) Agreed that a comprehensive study of national experience in that field should be prepared by the Secretariat in the form of a technical report and published to promote a broad exchange of experience among interested countries and international agencies.

CHAPTER VII

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

134. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Commission had before it a progress report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of environment statistics (E/CN.3/520) and a progress report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/521). These documents had been prepared in response to the Commission's request, made at its nineteenth session, to include progress reports on those activities on the agenda of its twentieth session. 20/

135. The progress report on co-ordination of environment statistics (E/CN.3/520) was based on papers discussed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities at its twelfth session. It covered problems as well as progress in the co-ordination of environment statistics, in accordance with the wishes of the Commission at its nineteenth session, and outlined the current work and plans of the organizations concerned with the development of that new field of statistics. The Commission noted that the subject of environment statistics was on the agenda of the thirteenth session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, at which time an updated version of document E/CN.3/520 would be reviewed, together with the comments of the Commission, as far as co-ordination was concerned.

136. The report on environment statistics (E/CN.3/521) outlined the current work of the United Nations Statistical Office in the development of environment statistics, focusing attention on the results of a survey conducted on country practices and plans. The report outlined work in progress on the development of a process dictionary for use in the context of materials/energy balances, including the initiation of a pilot country study to test its feasibility. It discussed some problems and issues that were being encountered in the development of the programme of environment statistics and summarized the next steps proposed in the work programme.

20/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2, para. 115 (c) and (d).

137. The Commission was informed of several new approaches to data collection and analysis which had been adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including an outline of the proposed objectives and strategies in the field of environment data. Similarly, the current work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians was summarized for the Commission.

138. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress which had been achieved in the field of environment statistics since its nineteenth session. In particular it welcomed the results of the survey of country practices and plans in environment statistics. It was felt that the work, taken in conjunction with the documentation already available for member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe, provided an overview of the scope and complexity of the topic, which in turn made it necessary that the existing co-ordination of activities should continue in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

139. With respect to problems of co-ordination in the field of environment statistics, the Commission felt that there was a need to formulate specific co-ordination measures for consideration at its twenty-first session. Such measures should be included in a wider report on progress in the development of environment statistics which would be presented at its twenty-first session.

140. The Commission stressed the importance of the development of appropriate indicators on environmental topics which reflected national and regional needs for statistics of use in environmental policy and planning. At the same time, the utility of definitions and classifications was emphasized, for purposes of international comparison. It was felt that the development of statistics should be closely related to the priority areas of concern to decision makers, which in turn would necessitate a comprehensive review and assessment both of existing data and of the shortcomings in those data. A number of countries commented on the usefulness of separating statistics on pollution from other component elements of the field of environment statistics: problems of pollution were unique to that field of statistics, being unlike other existing types of statistics which could be reformulated under several topics. Also judged to be important was the development of statistics that assisted in the measurement of the impact of industrial activities, along the lines of the current work outlined in section IV of document E/CN.3/521.

141. With respect to pilot studies, the Commission emphasized the importance of devoting particular attention to the problems of co-ordinating existing statistics in an integrated framework at the national level which would meet countries' priority needs in the field of environmental policy and related issues.

142. In its consideration of the next steps in the work on environment statistics, the Commission considered the proposals outlined in paragraph 52 of document E/CN.3/521. In the light of resource constraints and in order to focus on practical steps in the short term, it was agreed that particular attention should be devoted to work on guidelines on concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies, to the development of an over-all framework or structure for the organization of statistics, to pilot country studies, and to further work on country practices and plans.

Action taken by the Commission

143. The Commission:

- (a) Noted with satisfaction the progress that had been achieved since its nineteenth session, especially with regard to the survey of country practices;
- (b) Welcomed the importance to the programme by UNEP in its funding of that work;
- (c) Requested that a progress report be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session, with particular attention to problems of co-ordination;
- (d) Requested that the programme of the United Nations Statistical Office focus on:
 - (i) Developing guidelines on concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies;
 - (ii) Exploring the feasibility of developing an over-all structure or framework for the organization of environment statistics;
 - (iii) Organizing pilot country studies to gain basic experience and to test the suitability and feasibility of the various elements of the programme, particularly (i) and (ii) above;
 - (iv) Completing the survey of country practices and plans.

CHAPTER VIII

STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION

144. For its consideration of agenda item 9, the Commission had before it a document entitled "The setting of priorities in national statistics: a review of major issues" (E/CN.3/522). It was explained that the need to find a rational basis for setting priorities was currently particularly pressing because demands for data were growing more rapidly than resources. The possibility of using a rigorous cost-benefit approach was considered but rejected in document E/CN.3/522. Instead, a systematic, disciplined framework for assigning priorities to alternative statistical programmes was proposed. Rather than trying to evaluate benefits directly, it was suggested that a kind of sensitivity analysis be used, emphasizing what was "at stake" - relief of poverty, reduction of unemployment, redistribution of incomes and so on - if one project were given priority over another.

145. The members of the Commission warmly welcomed the report. It was felt to provide an excellent overview of the various steps by which statistical directors could work for the long-term improvement of the quality and coverage of data bases, and the document as a whole formed a solid basis for discussion of the many issues involved.

146. Some members of the Commission felt that use of orthodox cost-benefit methods should not be entirely rejected. It was suggested that a classification of

statistics - by subject, quality, type of user and by detail, for example - could help to produce a more objective assessment of the benefits of different kinds of statistics. Most members, however, felt that it would never be possible to put a value figure on the benefits of statistical programmes in any meaningful way, partly because statistics were an intermediate rather than a final product, but also because most statistical programmes were multipurpose and produced long-term benefits.

147. There was substantial discussion on how to cost statistical projects. Difficulties often arose because the costs of a particular programme might be spread among several separate administrative units - national accounts were cited in that connexion. Another problem was the difficulty of properly assessing reporting costs borne by respondents. It was agreed, however, that none of those problems was insuperable and that costing of statistical work was generally feasible and was an essential tool for establishing priorities. Several members emphasized that costs should be established at a fairly detailed programme level and that costing should be regarded as a regular and continuous part of statistical administration. It was a mistake to call for the preparation of cost estimates only when priorities were being set, since that might encourage a biased accounting approach in some parts of the statistical organization.

148. The Commission members noted that there were many differences between countries in the kinds of problems they faced in setting priorities and in the solutions available to them. It was pointed out that in many countries the central or national economic plan provided clear guidance on relative priorities for many spheres of statistics, although it was also pointed out that Governments sometimes modified their plans in mid-course, thus necessitating a reordering of statistical priorities. It was suggested that in some developing countries the basic data gaps were so evident that it was fairly easy to set priorities. However, other members pointed out that in such cases resources were very limited, so that it was precisely in those countries that particular care was needed to obtain the maximum return on the funds available.

149. There was a detailed discussion on alternative approaches that might be used for resource allocation in setting priorities. The usefulness of an over-all statistical programme was stressed by many countries. Some members considered that the concept of an over-all statistical budget within which the different subject-matter statistics (e.g., educational statistics and agricultural statistics) competed with each other was not consistent with the view that statistics were an intermediate product. An alternative approach was to appraise the need for certain statistics in the context of the relevant subject-matter. The statistical aspect should be an integral part of setting priorities in the subject-matter fields and should be linked to their development. That ensured that the setting of priorities in the first instance was product-oriented rather than resource-related. Ultimately, of course, cost considerations would always be relevant. Other members, however, pointed out that many if not most statistical programmes were multipurpose and were necessarily borne by the budget of statistical offices themselves. Moreover, a central statistical office, using the many channels of communication at its disposal, was in the best position to use its knowledge objectively to maintain balance in a programme as a whole.

150. There was also considerable discussion of section III of document E/CN.3/522, concerning the types of choices that statistical directors were called upon to

consider in setting priorities. It was recognized that some of the choices listed there were not mutually exclusive alternatives but involved decisions on different relative weightings. It was, however, agreed that section II of the report was most useful as a check-list of the various points to be considered in drawing up statistical programmes. The Commission members also welcomed section IV.C of the report that outlined a framework for a disciplined approach to setting priorities. It was felt that the section provided a workable set of rules for a common-sense approach to the problem, although it was emphasized that there could be no single set of automatic rules, since there would always remain a substantial element of judgement in drawing up a statistical work programme.

Action taken by the Commission

151. The Commission:

- (a) Considered that further work on setting priorities might best take the form of an exchange of experience between Member States;
- (b) Invited Member States to submit to the Secretariat:
 - (i) Detailed descriptions of some specific instances in which setting priorities for statistical projects had been carried out on the basis of specified criteria, such as those covered in document E/CN.3/522;
 - (ii) Descriptions of experience gained in activities such as costing statistical programmes, carrying out sensitivity analyses to determine what was "at stake" in connexion with specific projects and the like;
- (c) Requested the Secretariat to consider, in the light of submissions received, the best way of disseminating the information obtained.

CHAPTER IX

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

A. International technical co-operation in statistics, 1979-1983

152. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (a), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "International technical co-operation in statistics, 1979-1983" (E/CN.3/523 and Corr.1 and Add.1), prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office jointly with the statistical services of the regional commissions, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and a number of individual countries, to assist the Commission in its deliberations concerning technical co-operation. The report sets out the activities of the United Nations system, several organizations outside the system and a number of countries in all areas of technical co-operation in statistics for the period 1974-1983.

153. As recommended by the Commission at its nineteenth session, 21/ the report included for the first time information on the nature and magnitude of bilateral technical assistance in statistics, the information having been provided by the individual donor countries. The Commission was informed that, on the basis of this information, the principal forms of bilateral technical assistance are advisory services and training. Advisory services were reported to have been provided in many fields of statistics, particularly in population censuses, industrial statistics, agriculture and forestry statistics. Substantial advisory services were provided for statistical data processing, sampling and household surveys. In addition, advisory services of a general statistical nature, where the subject-matter fields were not specified, were reported.

154. The report also included for the first time information on the technical co-operation activities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

155. The Commission stressed that the document on technical co-operation in statistics was an extremely important one. It expressed its appreciation of the work of the Secretariat and the other organizations and countries in producing a comprehensive and clear review of technical assistance in statistics, which included much reference material reflecting the scope of technical assistance and which represented a significant and most useful expansion on previous documents.

156. Several members and international organizations provided revised and additional information on their technical co-operation activities and policies. Such information was provided by Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States, the United Nations, UNCTAD, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank, IMF, Commonwealth secretariat and the Inter-American Statistical Institute. The information filled out further the picture of what is made available to countries in technical co-operation in statistics.

157. The Commission noted with appreciation that, as compared with a decline in the past five years, the projections of assistance in statistics by the international organizations showed a small rise. It expressed the hope that the level could be maintained and, if possible, raised further. It was recognized that while the level of assistance actually given depended primarily upon over-all limits on the available funds, the level of requests from countries and their ability effectively to absorb assistance, the effectiveness of communication of the information concerning the availability of assistance and access to it also played an important part. It was also recognized that the composition of technical co-operation as between advisory services, training, technical guidance, provision of equipment, etc. depended both on the kinds of requests received from countries and the kinds of services available over time. That applied in the case of both international organizations and bilateral donors. It was suggested that more attention be given to training and technical guidance to build up national capability and that advisory services pay special attention to training.

21/ Ibid., para. 149.

158. The Commission felt strongly that while there is a large amount of technical co-operation in statistics known to be available, there is a further amount potentially available, and that it was important that information on it should be circulated as widely as possible so that all interested countries could share in it. The need to improve communication between potential donors and recipients was emphasized as some countries are not fully aware of what is available from the various sources and, in some cases, information concerning technical assistance in statistics does not reach the national statistical services quickly enough for them to take advantage of what is available. The description contained in "Procedures for obtaining technical co-operation in statistics through the United Nations system" (E/CN.3/523, annex IV) was considered by the Commission to be most useful to central statistical offices in that respect. It was suggested by the Commission that information on procedures for obtaining bilateral technical assistance should be provided by the donor countries for the next report on technical co-operation in statistics in an effort to improve communication.

159. The Commission strongly endorsed the view that there was considerable scope for technical co-operation in statistics between developing countries. The experience of India as a donor country in that field was indicative.

160. The Commission noted that, in connexion with its discussion of agenda item 7 (a), 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, it had emphasized the importance of technical co-operation activities (see para. 107 above). The role of UNFPA in providing substantial support for those activities in the past was recalled with appreciation by the Commission and the hope was expressed that UNFPA would continue to provide support for them in the future. Such assistance was recognized as essential for the success of censuses in many developing countries.

161. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (a), the Commission also had before it a document entitled "Notes on procedures for evaluating technical co-operation projects and some new directions in technical co-operation in statistics" including an annex describing the experience of the United Nations Special Fund project on statistics in Malaysia (E/CN.3/524). The document outlined the procedures followed by UNDP and TCD for evaluating technical co-operation projects, described the purpose of evaluation and listed the circumstances under which an evaluation is undertaken. The document also provided some examples of new directions in technical co-operation in statistics, namely, multidisciplinary and co-ordinated approaches, technical co-operation among developing countries and training.

162. The Commission welcomed the report and emphasized (a) the importance of large-scale multidisciplinary assistance projects; (b) the need for evaluation of those projects, especially after their completion to assess their continuing impact; (c) the importance of including a training component in co-operation projects; (d) the importance of technical co-operation among developing countries and (e) the importance of a judicious application of international recommendations by advisers.

163. The Commission felt that a similar report should be submitted to the Commission periodically, reflecting experience and problems in the provision of technical assistance. A sharing of experience among the international and bilateral donors was endorsed by the Commission.

Action taken by the Commission

164. The Commission:

(a) Commended the report (E/CN.3/523 and Corr.1 and Add.1) as a comprehensive and clear review of technical co-operation in statistics, which represented a most useful expansion on previous documents particularly in that it included information on bilateral technical assistance;

(b) Requested that a document entitled "International technical co-operation in statistics, 1981-1985" be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session, taking into account the views of the Commission.

B. Training of statistical personnel

165. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (b), the Commission had before it document E/CN.3/525, which had been prepared in response to the Commission's request at its nineteenth session that an item on the training of statistical personnel be placed on the agenda for the twentieth session.

166. A number of members of the Commission, from both developed and developing countries as well as representatives of some organizations within and outside the United Nations system described their programmes for training statisticians from developing countries in terms of personnel, equipment and fellowship support. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a number of training activities were taking place in the context of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC).

167. The Commission expressed strong support for the measures taken in Africa to remedy the serious shortage of trained statisticians. It noted with appreciation the contribution of a number of African countries towards co-ordinating and strengthening the regional and national training centres which those countries use. Mention was made of the co-ordinating role of the Economic Commission for Africa, particularly with respect to the new Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA). It was hoped that this role would not restrict the training initiatives which each centre might take in the light of its particular circumstances. The Commission urged those countries and organizations in a position to do so to give all possible assistance towards the implementation of STPA.

168. The Commission touched on the training implications of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (see para. 197 below) and agreed that there was need for training institutions to reorient some of their courses towards the training needs identified in the Programme proposal. The Commission was informed that certain training institutions had already restructured their courses with that need in view.

169. The Commission recognized that the training programmes, while remaining technically sound, should take into account practical needs. It was gratified to note that all the regional institutes were working towards that end and had achieved a good measure of success. It was considered that it would not be wise to accompany that development with a general lowering of academic entry requirements.

170. The Commission expressed its strong endorsement of country courses in specialized fields (e.g., national accounts, external trade, population, sampling etc.) as a vehicle for professional training of a practical nature. It underlined the desirability of the regional training centres concentrating on professional training, leaving the training of middle-level personnel to national training centres. The Commission urged the regional training centres, however, to assume a larger role in rendering advice and assistance to national training centres.

171. While there was agreement in principle on the desirability of extending regional training facilities to include the training of systems analysts and programmers, caution was counselled by some members of the Commission. It was felt that extension of the programmes of the regional training centres in that direction might overburden the centres' facilities. It was suggested that there might be a need to pool the resources of various institutions, including those of the host Governments.

172. The Commission emphasized that the training of trainers was an important factor in the development of national training centres and that it had a multiplier effect since, for a given amount of money invested, it could yield manifold and lasting results. Attention was drawn, however, to the importance of ensuring that trainees, apart from academic excellence, had the necessary qualities to become good trainers.

173. On the issue as to whether the regional training centres should undertake research projects, the Commission felt that that activity should not currently receive high priority since the current staff strength of the regional institutes was limited.

174. The suggestion was made that consideration be given to the possibility of drawing up guidelines covering the academic and training needs for statisticians at different levels.

Action taken by the Commission

175. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed document E/CN.3/525 on the review of training of statistical personnel as a useful account of training centres within and outside the United Nations system;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its twenty-first session a comprehensive review of major training activities undertaken in the world to include not only regional and national training centres but also such training activities as seminars, workshops and short courses organized by the specialized agencies and similar international bodies.

C. Data processing

176. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (c), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General containing a survey of technical co-operation

activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in statistical data processing (E/CN.3/526).

177. There was general agreement that the report was an interesting one containing useful information and that it addressed an important area of concern. The technical co-operation support received in the area of statistical data processing was welcomed.

178. The Commission stressed the importance of co-ordinating and disseminating to countries information on various aspects of statistical data processing. It was suggested that the United Nations Statistical Office should consider assuming a stronger function in advising countries on available software and the experience of others with it. The idea was presented that the Statistical Office should initiate a periodic journal, or newsletter, containing news of statistical data-processing activities. The initiative of the United Nations in sponsoring a meeting on software for processing census data for the 1980s was welcomed, and it was hoped that similar activities could occur in the future.

179. The Commission was impressed with the software development activity that had been initiated within the United Nations Statistical Office. It was suggested that such a unit should be included in the permanent work programme of the Office not only for the development of software products but also to ensure, on a continuing basis, a thorough understanding of data-processing requirements within developing countries. Support was expressed for the development of user-oriented software by the United Nations Statistical Office that could be used more directly by professional statisticians, although it was recognized that there would nevertheless be a continuing need for computer specialists.

180. The issue of positioning data-processing facilities within national Governments was also raised. It was noted that while evolving computer technology facilitated the division and distribution of data-processing functions among multiple locations, fragmenting the limited human resources capable of operating them effectively often produced an undesirable outcome - namely, a collection of inefficiently operated and potentially incompatible computing installations.

181. Several members described specific activities sponsored by their countries in which other Governments and international organizations might have an interest. It was pointed out that many countries have developed significant expertise in data processing and useful software products within their national statistical offices that could, at little marginal cost, be made available to developing countries. It was noted that some developing countries had significant human resource assets in the profession and were in a position to play a significant role in transferring data-processing technology. The representative of Czechoslovakia indicated that developing countries had been invited to attend the ECE-sponsored ISIS (Integrated Statistical Information System) seminar series at Bratislava.

182. Concern was expressed regarding the slow rate of growth of technical co-operation budgets and the paucity of resources devoted within the United Nations system to general technical guidance and programme formulation. It was noted that the level of resources available for technical co-operation activities in

statistical data processing was not sufficient to cope effectively with the immediate operational workload, and that progress on more general and longer-run activities was unfortunately often sacrificed to more pressing and more immediate considerations.

183. There was some discussion regarding the desirability of narrowing or eliminating the separation between statisticians and computers. On the one hand, it was felt that it would be desirable both to construct software that could be used directly and easily by statisticians and to involve statisticians in the understanding and use of computer-based tools. On the other hand, particularly for large-scale projects, a preference was expressed for developing a cadre of computer-oriented intermediaries who bridged the gap between statisticians and the actual machine processes utilized.

184. Attention was directed to the need to train data archivists and to create computer-based systems to cope with the increasing production and accessibility of micro data bases. The user's effective access to data for analysis was considered critical in that area. It was felt that increasing attention should be given to the storage function, often referred to as data-base storage, so that statistical data could be retained for effective use over time.

185. It was pointed out that the report before the Commission (E/CN.3/526) dealt primarily with applications to the production and use of statistical information, and it was suggested that increased attention should be given also to application both for dissemination of data and for access to data disseminated by other organizations.

Action taken by the Commission

186. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the current efforts and procedures of the United Nations Statistical Office, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies in supporting technical co-operating activities in statistical data processing within the United Nations system;

(b) Expressed the opinion that the effectiveness of such support would benefit substantially both from having increased resources allocated to it and from having greater emphasis placed on technical guidance;

(c) Expressed the opinion that the United Nations Statistical Office should adopt a more active role within the international community in the co-ordination and dissemination of information concerning statistical data processing;

(d) Requested that a progress report on the work in that area, including, inter alia, a more detailed discussion of co-ordination, should be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

D. National Household Survey Capability Programme

187. For its consideration of agenda item 10 (d), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/527 summarizing the progress made in

respect of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) and the preparatory work undertaken since May 1977, when the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2055 (LXII) supporting the establishment of NHSCP.

188. The Director of the United Nations Statistical Office outlined to the Commission the basic philosophy of technical co-operation underlying NHSCP, namely, building up enduring national capabilities to generate integrated data according to national needs and priorities. Such an approach was not only compatible with the objective of generating internationally comparable time series but was in fact a necessary condition for the continuous generation of timely and reliable data. It represented the statistical implications of the New International Economic Order in which technical co-operation programmes were directed to promoting self-reliance.

189. The Commission was informed of the most recent developments since document E/CN.3/527 had been completed. Visits had been paid to some 27 developing countries to review the scope and magnitude of the Programme and to ascertain their capabilities and requirements. There was considerable and widespread enthusiasm for the Programme. Visits had also been paid to some 15 potential donor countries to discuss the organization and strategy of the Programme and to ascertain donor interest, and in those countries also there was widespread support for the Programme. A consultative meeting of developed and developing countries was planned for June 1979.

190. There had been detailed consultations with the regional commissions and interested specialized agencies, which gave their fullest co-operation and support to the Programme. The Programme had also been discussed with the multilateral agencies and other regional organizations, which were also strongly in support. The UNDP and the World Bank had agreed to co-sponsor the Programme, as requested in the Council resolution, and had provided seed money for the initial central promotion of the Programme, including the preparations for, and organization of, the June 1979 consultative meeting.

191. The Commission was informed about the nature and magnitude of the support that developing countries would require and about the possible funding and organizational design of the Programme. The over-all co-ordination and management of the Programme would be the responsibility of the United Nations Statistical Office, working in close collaboration with the statistical divisions of the regional commissions of the developing regions and interested specialized agencies. A small co-ordinating unit would be set up in the Statistical Office for the purpose. The statistical divisions of the regional commissions of the developing regions would be the operational loci of the Programme and would provide supporting services to participating countries through regional teams of experts. The bulk of the technical assistance would be country-based through bilateral aid provided by donor agencies. An advisory group consisting of major donors, developing countries, regional commissions, interested specialized agencies and individual specialists would advise on policy and technical issues.

192. The Commission expressed once again, and in the strongest terms, its belief in the value and importance of NHSCP as a major instrument for establishing or strengthening enduring capabilities in developing countries, which would enable

them to undertake survey programmes to obtain integrated and up-to-date statistics, on a continuing and self-sustaining basis, in accordance with their own national needs and priorities.

193. The Commission emphasized the importance of utilizing, as fully as possible, the survey and related skills and experience available in the more advanced developing countries in implementing NHSCP in the relatively less advanced developing countries. Several members representing developing countries with long survey experience offered their countries' co-operation and support in this regard, and the Commission expressed the hope that the necessary resources would be provided to enable them to implement their offers.

194. Members from developing countries urged that technical co-operation activities in the field of household surveys should be co-ordinated within the context of NHSCP and that all donor agencies should collaborate fully to ensure that the survey activities that they might promote would be compatible with NHSCP and contribute to its basic objectives. Reference was made in that connexion to one-time, ad hoc surveys on specific and unlinked subjects which often left little of an enduring nature in the developing countries concerned.

195. The Commission recognized that the Programme was an ambitious and complex one, envisaging, as it did, direct assistance to as many as 80 developing countries over a period of 10 years, and calling for a large investment of resources. The Commission, nevertheless, considered it important to adhere to that over-all target in view of the urgent need to build up national systems in most of the developing countries. The Commission stressed the importance of the efforts that developing countries would themselves provide, during the implementation of the Programme, with a view to providing for themselves permanent means for effecting household surveys.

196. The Commission recommended that the Programme be implemented in stages, covering initially a limited number of countries and, with growing experience, progressively extending to other countries, consistent with the efforts that these countries would be able to devote to the objective of the Programme. The view was generally expressed that the countries included should, as far as possible, represent different regions and different stages of statistical development, including the least developed.

197. A number of members stressed the importance of training of professional personnel as an essential element of NHSCP. Some countries had already included such training in their programmes. Long-term training programmes were especially important in survey methodology and techniques and in electronic data processing. In those fields, it was particularly necessary to improve the skills and competence of local staff and provide adequate facilities for that purpose. It was suggested that the existing training institutions at the international and regional levels be requested to redirect their programmes so as to meet the training requirements of NHSCP to the extent possible.

198. The Commission placed emphasis on the development of standards and the preparation of suitable technical manuals in respect of household surveys, in order to provide readily available guidance to national statistical offices in the

implementation of their survey programmes. In that connexion, the Commission was informed that the Handbook of Household Surveys 22/ was being revised in collaboration with the regional Commissions and the interested specialized agencies.

199. The Commission endorsed the organizational arrangements proposed for NHSCP, welcomed the proposal to establish a small central co-ordinating unit, and noted with approval that the regional commissions of the developing regions, as the operational loci, would play an important role in the operation of the Programme. This was considered to be particularly important in view of the wide divergence of needs and circumstances among the regions. In that connexion, a number of members emphasized the importance of the regional commissions working with other regional bodies active in promoting household surveys, such as the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

200. The importance of the role of the specialized agencies in NHSCP was underlined, and the Commission noted with appreciation that the interested agencies were fully supporting the Programme. In that connexion, the Commission was informed that the ILO, because of its concern with a number of subjects for which household data are needed, is allocating substantial resources to support the Programme, in spite of the general retrenchment of the organization; the ILO would make available the services of three experts who would form part of NHSCP regional teams and would also assist in the preparation of manuals and guidelines in subject areas of its special concern. The Commission was also informed of the strong support of FAO, which plans to reorient its field work both in the countries and at the regional level in order to help to generate data of direct interest to FAO, e.g. on food consumption, nutrition and agricultural activities of the household.

201. The representative of UNDP stated that, in addition to co-sponsoring the Programme and contributing seed money to support the preparatory and promotional aspects of NHSCP, UNDP had provided funds under the regional programme for Africa, and that additional funds might be available for the Programme in other regions. The funding of NHSCP projects in UNDP country programmes would depend on the initiative of the countries concerned; however, if the Statistical Commission recommended that priority should be given to NHSCP projects in country programmes, UNDP would be willing to inform the resident representatives and the Governments concerned of this. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the support that had been provided to date by UNDP and urged UNDP to take further steps to promote NHSCP and to encourage developing countries to include this programme where possible within their country Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs).

202. The representative of the World Bank referred to the Bank's role as a co-sponsor of the NHSCP and its support of the Programme through a grant of \$100,000. The Bank was at present considering how it could further assist the Programme. The Bank also attached considerable importance to the collection of

22/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 64.XVII.13.

internationally comparable data on income and the eventual development of time series and was at present considering how it could support such an effort, particularly in countries which had an established capability for carrying out household surveys. An effort of this nature, in the view of the Bank, was considered to be compatible with the objectives of the NHSCP. The Bank was prepared to work closely with the United Nations Statistical Office to achieve the twin objectives of building survey capabilities and the collection of income distribution data.

203. The representative of UNICEF stated that UNICEF had been supporting household surveys in selected countries for several years as part of its programme for promoting the improvement of social statistics and a proposal to expand its support of household survey capability was being presented to the forthcoming meeting of the Executive Board. The bulk of the UNICEF funds would go directly to countries.

204. The UNFPA welcomed the NHSCP as an important undertaking for assisting interested developing countries to establish or strengthen their national survey-taking capabilities, as called for in paragraph 74 of the World Population Plan of Action. It noted that several topics such as fertility, mortality and migration, featured in the Programme, also fell under the mandate of UNFPA. Although the nature and level of UNFPA's commitment to the Programme had not yet been determined, UNFPA looked forward to participating in the June 1979 consultative meeting.

205. The representative of the Commonwealth secretariat stated that his organization supported NHSCP and offered its collaboration in implementing the Programme. That collaboration could be realized by funding, through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, experts of Commonwealth countries and fellowships for training in developing or developed countries.

206. The representative of the International Statistical Institute stated that ISI commended and strongly supported NHSCP, and offered its collaboration in implementing it. He stated that ISI could assist the Programme by providing an important source of survey expertise, namely, experts who had worked in the World Fertility Survey of ISI. A subsidiary association of ISI, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, which could mobilize survey experience throughout the world, could also be of assistance in the implementation of NHSCP. The ISI was also engaged in training activities, conducted in several international training centres, and could assist in the training programme of NHSCP.

Action taken by the Commission

207. The Commission:

(a) Reconfirmed its belief in the value and importance of the proposals for promoting national household survey capabilities to generate integrated and up-to-date social, demographic and economic data in developing countries, as presented in document E/CN.3/527;

(b) Welcomed the convening of the June 1979 consultative meeting to consider ways and means of promoting this important development activity and urged donor agencies to provide resources for the implementation of the National Household Survey Capability Programme;

(c) Approved in principle the proposed organizational design of the Programme and in particular the important role of the regional commissions;

(d) Stressed the particular importance of co-ordination of the Programme at the national, regional and international levels, in view of the multiplicity of sources of funds, and requested the Statistical Office to take over-all responsibility for this co-ordination and to act to ensure rapid implementation of this Programme within available resources.

208. At the 360th meeting, the representative of Kenya introduced a draft resolution, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, entitled "National Household Survey Capability Programme" (E/CN.3/L.88), on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Panama and Tunisia. During the discussion of the draft resolution the representative of Kenya, on behalf of the sponsors, accepted amendments proposed by the representatives of France and the United States.

209. The Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote. (For the text, see para. 1 above, draft resolution.)

CHAPTER X

CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

A. Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination

210. For its consideration of agenda item 11 (a), the Commission had before it the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination (E/CN.3/502 and Corr.1). The Working Group held its seventh session at Geneva on 23 and 24 June 1977.

211. The Commission agreed that the substantive portions of the Working Group's report had been adequately covered in the consideration of other relevant items of the agenda.

212. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work of the Working Group, which it considered to be a valuable and effective aid to the Commission in discharging its functions. The Commission was unanimously of the view that the Working Group should continue to function, especially so as to provide a means for the Commission to maintain contact between its biennial sessions with the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and of the statistical services of the specialized agencies, to deal with questions of policy, co-ordination and priorities of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system and to carry out other functions included in the terms of reference set out by the Commission at its seventeenth session. 23/

23/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2, para. 207.

213. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the seventh session of the Working Group, as had been the case with the sixth session, had been attended not only by members of the Commission's Bureau but also by some additional members elected by the Commission to ensure the continuous representation of the developing countries.

214. The Commission agreed that the composition of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its eighth session should be as follows:

Mr. M. A. Korolev	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), (Chairman)
Mr. G. Askar	(Egypt)
Mr. J. W. Duncan	(United States of America)
Mr. I. Kerstenetzky	(Brazil)
Mr. T. P. Linehan	(Ireland)
Mr. K. C. Seal	(India)
Mr. P. Singh	(Kenya)

215. The Commission also agreed that Mr. Askar, Mr. Kerstenetzky, Mr. Seal and Mr. Singh, the representatives of developing countries, should be replaced by Mr. S. H. Jalil (Iraq), Ms. L. Boeri de Cervetto (Argentina), Mr. T. H. Khoo (Malaysia) and Mr. A. Kamoun (Tunisia), respectively, should any of the former four be unable to participate in the Working Group.

216. The Commission recommended that the eighth session of the Working Group be held at Geneva on 29 and 30 October 1979.

B. International statistical programmes, 1979-1983

217. For its consideration of agenda item 11 (b), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General that reviewed the achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1979-1983 (E/CN.3/528). That report had been requested by the Commission at its nineteenth session. 24/

218. The report was presented to the Commission as a joint report of the United Nations Statistical Office, the statistical services of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations concerning the co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes. The Commission considered the report very important, since co-ordination of international statistical programmes was one of the Commission's major tasks.

219. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the organizations involved in preparing the report for their considerable efforts. The report was strongly

24/ Ibid., Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2, paras. 181-191.

endorsed as satisfying the needs that were expressed by the Commission at its nineteenth session. The Commission was unanimous in the view that the new elements of the report made it considerably more useful than previous reports.

220. The Commission approved the new set of major statistical policy objectives developed by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its seventh session, as amended by the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The Commission agreed that those objectives should be used in future reports on international statistical programmes for the Statistical Commission. The stated objectives were as follows:

- (a) Fostering better national and international statistics:
 - (i) Statistical standards: To develop, establish and improve international recommendations concerning statistics, including classifications, guidelines and methodology;
 - (ii) Technical support and advisory services to developing countries: To assist developing countries to further develop their statistical capability and the statistics needed for evaluating and directing their economic and social development;
 - (iii) Co-ordination: To co-ordinate the statistical programmes of the various international agencies;
- (b) Undertaking statistical activities:
 - (i) Collection: To collect comprehensive, reliable and internationally comparable statistics;
 - (ii) Building data bases and dissemination: To create, maintain and co-ordinate statistical data bases in order to improve the accessibility, quality, variety and timeliness of statistical data and to disseminate the statistics;
 - (iii) Analysis and support services: To provide statistical information, analysis and support services to the United Nations system.

221. It was felt that in relation to objective (a) (i) above concerning statistical standards, there should be emphasis on problems relating to procedures of data collection in developing countries.

222. The report included, for the first time, an outline of the existing framework for co-ordination in the international statistical system and selected evaluations of that co-ordination. It also included an analysis showing what had been achieved in co-ordination in the following substantive areas of statistics: (a) reducing the statistical burden on countries, (b) national accounts, (c) international trade and (d) price statistics.

223. In connexion with price statistics, it was noted that further development was under way in the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, and it is included in the work programme of the Statistical Office.

224. For the report to its twenty-first session, the Commission decided that an evaluation of achievements in co-ordination, including an assessment of results and a review of problems, should be carried out in substantive areas selected from, among others, transport, energy, industrial production, education and classifications and nomenclatures.

225. The Commission also decided that environment should be subject to a detailed review of its co-ordination aspects, but that that would be included in the progress report on environment statistics under a separate agenda item. The point was made that co-ordination processes have to be established early in the development of new programme areas, such as environment statistics, in order to be effective.

226. The Commission was assured that the statistical questionnaires sent to countries by the international organizations were under continuous review, in order to identify and eliminate any duplication in requests and thereby reduce the reporting burden on countries. At the suggestion of the Commission's Working Group, the United Nations Statistical Office had invited reports on duplication in international statistical questionnaires from four countries: India, Japan, Mexico and Sweden. Those reports were currently being reviewed with the organizations involved. Proposals would be developed, where appropriate, for further exchange of data among the international organizations, in order to reduce any duplication. It was suggested that national statistical offices should bring to the attention of the United Nations Statistical Office any overlapping in international statistical questionnaires.

227. The Commission noted with appreciation that the report included for the first time the statistical programmes of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The Commission was informed of new developments in the statistical programmes of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Commission was also informed of the statistical work of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and it expressed the hope that the programmes of those three organizations could be incorporated in future reports of the Secretary-General on international statistical programmes.

228. The Commission reviewed and commented on the selected high-priority projects shown in the programmes for the various organizations. The Commission invited the United Nations Statistical Office and the other organizations concerned to take account of the points made in the discussion, where appropriate, in their future programmes.

229. The practice of identifying and describing for each organization a number of high-priority projects and combining all other projects of that organization into a general single summary (see E/CN.3/528, annex II) was endorsed by the Commission.

Action taken by the Commission

230. The Commission:

- (a) Agreed that the report on the achievements in co-ordination in selected

areas and international statistical programmes, 1979-1983 (E/CN.3/528) satisfied the needs of the Commission, as expressed at its nineteenth session;

(b) Approved new major statistical policy objectives (see para. 220 above);

(c) Requested that a document entitled "A review of achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1981-1985" be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session, taking into account the views of the Commission.

CHAPTER XI

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

A. Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

231. For its consideration of agenda item 12 (a), the Commission had before it a document entitled "Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies" (E/CN.3/529). The document is a progress report, presented for the information of the Commission, on the statistical activities of the regional commissions and the Inter-American Statistical Institute since the nineteenth session of the Commission, in November 1976.

232. The Commission welcomed the report, noting that the activities of the regional bodies are a very important component of international work and that the information the report contains is very useful, both for countries and for the regional commissions themselves.

233. Several suggestions were made for future reports on this topic, which it was considered would make it even more useful. First, it was considered desirable that the report should be somewhat more up to date, and the representatives of several regional commissions considered that it would be possible to provide such updated information. Secondly, it was considered that it would be very useful to indicate the relative priorities attached to the various activities reported on and to evaluate their effectiveness. Finally, it was requested that an index or table of contents be provided.

234. Representatives of the regional commissions provided the Commission with information on developments in their regions since the report was prepared. The statement of the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the proposal to merge the Conference of African Statisticians with the conferences of planners and demographers was followed by expressions of concern by a number of representatives. While recognizing the importance of full co-ordination between statisticians, demographers and planners in the region, the Commission was concerned at the possible loss of identity of the Conference of African Statisticians in the changed structure and urged that, whatever form the organization of work would take in the region in the future, the Conference retain its independent identity. The Commission requested that its views be forwarded to the Executive Secretary of ECA for transmission to the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers to be held in the latter part of March 1979.

B. Statistical work of the specialized agencies

235. For its consideration of agenda item 12 (b), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/530) containing a progress report on the statistical activities of the specialized agencies and GATT since the nineteenth session of the Commission, covering work in the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, WHO, IMF, UPU, WIPO and GATT.

236. Additional information supplied during the discussion included the following:

(a) The UNESCO General Conference, at its twentieth session, in 1978, approved a revised recommendation on the International Standardization of Education Statistics and a new Recommendation on the International Standardization of Statistics of Science and Technology. It had also agreed a draft recommendation on the international standardization of statistics on public expenditure for cultural activities should be submitted for consideration at its twenty-first session, in 1980;

(b) The World Bank is attempting to expand its collection of statistics on external debt to include private as well as publicly guaranteed debt and is providing assistance to countries for this work where needed. The Bank is continuing its preparation of price projections for primary commodities and its analyses of income distribution data, and hopes to build up an improved data base for internal and external use. The following publications have recently been issued: the 1978 World Bank Atlas, the Atlas of the Child, and the first (1977) World Development Report, which includes a statistical annex with some 70 key indicators for 125 countries. The second issue of the report will be published in 1979. A second edition of World Tables would also be published in 1979.

(c) The WIPO is continuing to develop its programme of statistics on industrial property, with particular attention to statistics on patent applications and on patents, trade marks and service marks;

(d) The IMF published the second issue of the Government Finance Statistics Yearbook in 1978, and from January 1979 the balance-of-payments data published in the Balance of Payments Yearbook will be based on the fourth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual;

(e) The FAO is devoting particular attention to new work in the field of land-use statistics, using soil maps in conjunction with geographical data on temperature and climate to identify agro-ecological zones. This work has largely been completed for Africa and population and agricultural production data are now being added to the maps for several countries to study actual and potential production and population carrying capacity;

(f) The ILO has streamlined its Year Book of Labour Statistics by limiting certain tabulations to recent data. The recently published 1978 issue contained a special table showing for 1975, for all countries and areas of the world, internationally comparable ILO estimates of labour force.

237. The Commission agreed that the large amount of information provided in the progress report was very useful. It suggested that qualitative assessments of these programmes might be added to future reports, as well as an over-all table of contents. During the discussion, the need to keep national statistical

organizations informed of the work programmes of the specialized agencies was stressed.

C. Statistical Office of the United Nations

238. For its consideration of agenda item 12 (c), the Commission had before it a progress report on the work of the Statistical Office (E/CN.3/531), a note by the Secretary-General entitled "Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1980-1983, and work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/532) and a conference room paper (E/CN.3/XX/CRP.1) on the latter subject, part of which is reproduced as amended in the light of the Commission's discussions, as annex III of the present report.

239. The Commission noted with appreciation the support of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which "expressed its satisfaction with the general direction and presentation of the programme". 25/

240. The Commission considered that the documents before it contained a clear and useful presentation of the performance, the programme activities and objectives of the Statistical Office, and provided a valuable tool for the review and analysis of the work completed by the Office since the nineteenth session of the Commission, and of the activities and outputs planned for the near future in the context of the medium-term plan.

241. The Commission unanimously expressed appreciation for the substantial outputs of the Statistical Office and strong support for the work programme. It recognized that the decisions of the Commission at its nineteenth session were fully reflected in the outputs of the Office and in the direction of the work programme and that the Office had carried out its responsibilities with commendable efficiency. The Commission commended the solid contribution that the outputs of the Statistical Office had made to statistical development, particularly in developing countries, and concluded that the whole spectrum of activities of the Statistical Office had a favourable impact on the statistical capabilities of these countries.

242. The Commission recognized the integrated character of the activities of the Statistical Office and the interrelated nature of programme 1 and programme 2 of the medium-term plan. To that end, the Statistical Office had brought about a maximum amount of feedback and integration in the execution of the various elements of its work and in the utilization of its resources. The Commission noted that both programmes were carried out by the Statistical Office as an integrated entity serving the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development as well as the United Nations system as a whole and Member States, and that this arrangement would be reviewed later in the year. The Commission made a strong appeal that, in carrying out the review, the integrated nature of the statistical programme and of the various activities should be fully recognized and that no change should be made which would in any way disturb the efficiency and effectiveness of the Statistical Office. The need for maintaining a strong Statistical Office to serve as an integrated guiding body at

25/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38, para. 617.

the centre of the international statistical community was stressed and this was recognized as being particularly important for the developing countries.

243. Concern was expressed by the Commission over the possible loss of 15 posts which had been financed from a special extrabudgetary fund that came to an end in 1979. The Commission expressed the hope that alternative means of financing would be made available in order to maintain the present, highly regarded effectiveness of the Statistical Office in providing services to national statistical offices.

244. Among detailed points raised in the discussion were the following:

(a) The work mentioned under programme element 2.2 - Promotion of linkage between economic statistics and social and demographic statistics - was closely related to the activities mentioned under programme element 4.1 - Integration and improvement of social and demographic statistics. The Commission indicated that programme element 2.2 required modification as certain aspects, especially 2.2 (b), would be better placed under subprogramme 4 as they were a continuation of the work on the Framework for Social and Demographic Statistics (FSDS);

(b) Programme element 4.7 - Statistics of the environment - should be amended to include collection (in addition to tabulation and analysis) under the proposed preliminary draft guidelines and methodology;

(c) Work on statistics of the distribution of income had been carried out by several international agencies and co-ordination should be actively pursued. The Commission was informed that co-ordination was being carried out through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, which had requested the Statistical Office to act as the focal point of those activities;

(d) The work on the development, updating and harmonizing of standard international classifications was considered of great importance. The necessary resources should be made available to the programme element to make it possible, inter alia, for the Statistical Office to influence more actively the work on the Harmonized System, if necessary with support from interested countries and through consultancy services;

(e) The Statistical Office should expand its role in describing and analysing the actual uses of statistics, particularly in developing countries.

Action taken by the Commission

245. The Commission:

(a) Approved the programme objectives and work programme of the Statistical Office as set out in annex III;

(b) Drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the vital importance of retaining the leadership role which the Statistical Office fulfilled as an integrated entity and requested the Secretary-General to avoid any organizational change which might impair the effectiveness of the Statistical Office;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to secure alternative means of financing for the 15 posts currently supported by a special fund in order to maintain the level of services provided by the Statistical Office;

(d) Agreed to submit for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft decision approving the objectives and work programme recommended by the Commission. (For the text, see para. 2, above.)

CHAPTER XII

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Proposed definitions of selected terms for use by the Statistical Commission

246. For its consideration of this part of agenda item 13, the Commission had before it document E/CN.3/533, which contained draft definitions for use in its own work, of the terms "recommendations", "guidelines", "manuals or handbooks" and "technical reports". A number of amendments to the definitions were suggested by the Commission and difficulties in determining equivalent terms in English, French, Russian and Spanish were pointed out. The Commission agreed that it was premature to formalize the usage of those terms and that the definitions proposed required further consideration by the Statistical Office and the Commission's Working Group in the light of the comments made, with a view to coming to a satisfactory solution as soon as possible.

B. Date of the twenty-first session of the Commission

247. The Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the twenty-first session be held in the first quarter of 1981, preferably towards the end of February.

CHAPTER XIII

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

248. In compliance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission discussed the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-first session (E/CN.3/L.89) under agenda item 14. The Commission emphasized that the agenda would be more fully considered by its Working Group at its eighth session and that the Commission had authorized the Working Group to make such modifications in the draft provisional agenda and the indicated documentation as might be required.

249. Subject to any modifications proposed by the Working Group, the Commission approved the following draft provisional agenda:

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Industrial, energy, transport and international trade statistics:
 - (a) Industrial statistics

(Draft international recommendations for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)
 - (b) Energy statistics

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)
 - (c) Transport statistics

(Two progress reports, one on shipping statistics in particular and one on other areas of transport statistics, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages each)
 - (d) International trade statistics

(Proposals for the revision of concepts and definitions in international trade statistics will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)
4. National accounts and balances:
 - (a) System of National Accounts (SNA)

(Proposals for further development of SNA and a report on the relation of the revised SNA to the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Manual, fourth edition, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages each)
 - (b) Links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

(A report on the treatment of capital in SNA and MPS will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)
5. International Comparison Project (ICP)

(A report on further developments in ICP will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

6. International economic classifications

(A progress report on the work of harmonizing economic classifications will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

7. Social and demographic statistics:

(a) 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(b) Classification of age

(Draft guidelines on age-group classifications will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(c) Classifications of type and size of place and related geographical concepts

(A report on national practices will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(d) Links among economic, social and demographic statistics

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(e) Housing statistics

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(f) International migration statistics

(A report on methods of collecting and compiling consolidated statistics of all arrivals and departures and further work in the field of international migration statistics will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(g) Civil registration and vital statistics

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

8. Environment statistics

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

9. Statistical organization

10. Technical co-operation:

(a) International technical co-operation in statistics, 1981-1985

(A report by the Secretary-General, prepared in co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(b) National Household Survey Capability Programme

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(c) Statistical data processing

(A progress report will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(d) Improving social statistics in developing countries

(A report of the results of a survey of pilot programmes concerning social statistics, with particular reference to statistics concerning the needs of children and youth, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(e) Training of statistical personnel

(A comprehensive review of major training activities undertaken in the world will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

11. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes:

(a) Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination

(The report of the Working Group on its eighth session will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

(b) Review of achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1981-1985

(A report of the Secretary-General, prepared in co-operation with the specialized agencies and other international organizations, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages)

12. Programme objectives: implementation and prospects:

(a) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

(b) Statistical work of the specialized agencies

(c) Statistical Office of the United Nations

(Three reports by the Secretary-General, prepared in co-operation with the relevant organizations, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages each)

13. Other business
14. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Commission
15. Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

CHAPTER XIV

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

250. The Commission considered agenda item 15: draft report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.3/L.87 and Add.1-27), at its 360th and 361st meetings. It adopted the report, as amended during the discussion, at its 361st meeting.

CHAPTER XV

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

251. The Statistical Commission held its twentieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 20 February to 2 March 1979. The Commission held 17 plenary meetings (345th to 361st meetings).

252. The session was opened by Mr. Ingvar Ohlsson (Sweden), Vice-Chairman of the Commission at its nineteenth session.

253. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

254. All States members of the Commission were represented at the session except Ethiopia. Observers of Member States, representatives of the Secretariat and of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A complete list is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Tribute to the memory of Mr. Julius Shiskin

255. At its 345th meeting, on 20 February 1979, the Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Julius Shiskin, a former representative of the United States of America on the Commission.

D. Election of officers

256. Also at its 345th meeting, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation: Chairman: Mr. Mikhail Antonovich Korolev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics); Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Joseph W. Duncan (United States of America), Mr. Isaac Kerstenetzky (Brazil) and Mr. Parmeet Singh (Kenya); Rapporteur: Mr. Thomas P. Linehan (Ireland).

E. Agenda

257. The Commission considered its agenda at its 345th meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/501) drawn up by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions. This was adopted without objection.

258. The agenda adopted by the Commission is reproduced in annex II of the present report.

259. The Commission also approved, with amendment, the organization of work of its session, as contained in document E/CN.3/L.86.

F. Resolution, decision and recommendations

260. The draft resolution and the draft decision recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the recommendations made by the Commission of special relevance to the Council are reproduced in chapter I of the present report.

G. Documentation

261. The documents which were before the Commission are listed in annex IV.

ANNEXES

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members*

ARGENTINA

Representative: Ms. Lelia Boeri de Cervetto

BRAZIL

Representative: Mr. Isaac Kerstenetzky

CANADA

Representative: Mr. Peter G. Kirkham

Alternate representatives: Mr. Guy Leclerc
Mr. Miles Wisenthal
Mr. Jeremy K. B. Kinsman
Mr. Carl Pedersen

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Representative: Mr. Jan Kazimour

EGYPT

Representative: Mr. Gamal Askar

FRANCE

Representative: Mr. Edmond Malinvaud

Alternate representative: Mr. André Vanoli

GHANA

Representative: Mr. S. W. K. Sosuh

INDIA

Representative: Mr. K. C. Seal

*Ethiopia was not represented.

IRAQ

Representative:
Alternate representatives:

Mr. Sami Hammoudi Jalil
Mr. Majid Abid Jaffar
Mr. Saleh Faraj Mohammed
Mr. Kamil Aladhadh
Mr. Adnan Nisaif

IRELAND

Representative:

Mr. Thomas P. Linehan

JAMAICA

Representative:

Ms. Carmen P. McFarlane

JAPAN

Representative:

Mr. Saburo Kawai

Alternate representatives:

Mr. Koji Shioji
Mr. Teruo Kirisawa
Mr. Takeshi Ishii

KENYA

Representative:

Mr. Parmeet Singh

MALAYSIA

Representative:

Mr. Khoo Teik Huat

PANAMA

Representative:

Mr. Juan Manuel Caballero Díaz

ROMANIA

Representative:

Mr. Nicolae Ionescu

Alternate Representative:

Mr. Ilie Dumitrescu

SPAIN

Representative:

Mr. Francisco Azorín Poch

Alternate representatives:

Mr. José Luis Sánchez Crespo
Ms. Carmen Arribas
Mr. Jorge Fuentes

SWEDEN

Representative:	Mr. Ingvar Ohlsson
Alternate representative:	Mr. Lennart Fastbom

TUNISIA

Representative:	Mr. Abdessalem Kamoun
Alternate representative:	Mr. Nouri Zorgati

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Representative:	Mr. Nikolai Artemyev
Alternate representative:	Mr. Vladimir Kryzhanovsky

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Representative:	Mr. Mikhail Korolev
Alternate representative:	Mr. Victor Martinov

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Representative:	Mr. John Boreham
Alternate representative:	Mr. K. V. Henderson

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representative:	Mr. Joseph W. Duncan
Alternate representatives:	Ms. Shirley Kallek Mr. Charles Waite Ms. Marcia Williams Mr. Edward Murphy Mr. Timothy Sprehe

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Mexico, Turkey

United Nations Secretariat

Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

Population Division

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Fund for Population Activities

Specialized agencies, IAEA and GATT

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

International Monetary Fund

World Intellectual Property Organization

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International Atomic Energy Agency

* * *

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Other intergovernmental organizations

Commonwealth Secretariat

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

Customs Co-operation Council

European Economic Community

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Non-governmental organizations

Category II

Inter-American Statistical Institute

International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics

International Statistical Institute

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Industrial, energy, transport and international trade statistics
 - (a) Industrial statistics
 - (b) Energy statistics
 - (c) Transport statistics
 - (d) International trade statistics
4. National accounts and balances
 - (a) Review of the System of National Accounts (SNA)
 - (b) Tangible capital assets
 - (c) Public sector statistics
 - (d) Links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)
5. International Comparison Project (ICP)
6. International statistical classifications
7. Social and demographic statistics
 - (a) 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme
 - (b) Organization of integrated social statistics
 - (c) Social indicators
 - (d) Harmonization of concepts and classifications among specialized fields of social statistics
 - (e) Statistics of time use
8. Environment statistics
9. Statistical organization

10. Technical co-operation
 - (a) International technical co-operation in statistics, 1979-1983
 - (b) Training of statistical personnel
 - (c) Data processing
 - (d) National Household Survey Capability Programme
11. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes
 - (a) Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination
 - (b) International statistical programmes, 1979-1983
12. Programme objectives: implementation and prospects
 - (a) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies
 - (b) Statistical work of the specialized agencies
 - (c) Statistical Office of the United Nations
13. Other business
14. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Commission
15. Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

Annex III

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES, MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, 1980-1983, AND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS a/

1. The medium-term plan in statistics for 1980-1983 is described in chapter 24 of the United Nations medium-term plan. b/ It is composed of two programmes, in line with the recent restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system: Programme 1, pertaining to the newly established Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, and Programme 2, pertaining to the newly established Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Both programmes are carried out by the Statistical Office as an integrated entity located in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and servicing both Departments as well as the system as a whole. This arrangement will be reviewed later in the year to determine whether any changes are necessary.

2. It will be recalled that, while providing statistical services to other units within the Secretariat and to other United Nations bodies, the Statistical Office serves as a focal point for the international statistical system. It carries out its responsibilities under the guidance of the Statistical Commission on behalf of the Economic and Social Council. In executing the various elements of Programmes 1 and 2, the Statistical Office works within the framework of three over-all objectives:

(a) The collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination of statistics in many diverse but interrelated sectors;

(b) The promotion of the improvement of national statistics in these sectors and their international comparability, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries;

(c) The promotion of the co-ordination of statistical activities and programmes of the United Nations system, including those of the regional commissions, and the provision of over-all leadership.

3. The outputs of the first objective are the statistical publications and statistics disseminated in various other forms. The publications are recurrent, in most cases annually, in some cases more frequently and in a few less frequently. Improvements are introduced regularly in content, presentation, appearance, accessibility to users and so on. Such improvements will continue during the medium-term plan period with increasing effectiveness as the integrated computer system and related procedures for storing and retrieving statistical data come to full fruition.

a/ See paras. 238-245 above.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6.

4. The second objective, the improvement of national statistics, involves research and development and includes studies of national practices. This objective is greatly facilitated by the fact that, with appropriate adaptations and taking into account the special circumstances of developing countries, statistical procedures, methodologies and technology are largely transferable from one country to another. The outputs of this objective take two highly interrelated forms, namely (a) direct technical co-operation and advice, including training activities and technical backstopping in the field in interested developing countries; and (b) guidelines, recommendations and technical manuals on standardized concepts, definitions and classifications, the types of information to be collected, the survey and census designs needed to produce reliable data, practical collection procedures, efficient data processing techniques, the possible range and content of the statistical outputs and so on. During the medium-term plan period, it is expected that technical co-operation projects and related backstopping activities will concentrate on providing assistance in planning, organizing and implementing national population, housing and industrial censuses; processing, tabulating and evaluating census results and strengthening national household survey and computer data processing capabilities. Assistance will, of course, continue in fields such as national accounts, industry and vital registration. Guidelines, recommendations and technical manuals will be developed or updated in these areas as well as in fields such as energy, environment, international trade, shipping and prices, with continued emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

5. The third objective, the promotion of co-ordination, is intended to ensure that maximum coherence prevails in the statistical programmes and activities of the various bodies of the United Nations system and that duplication is avoided. The outputs of this objective take the form of greater harmonization in the practices in regard to concepts, definitions, classifications and methods recommended for national as well as international use; regular exchanges of statistical questionnaires and other information and joint or collaborative undertakings.

6. The three over-all objectives described above are highly interrelated and fortify one another. As national statistical data improve and become more plentiful, more and better statistics become available for international use. A vast and very active communications network with national statistical agencies has been established and is used in carrying out the work on collection, evaluation and dissemination of statistics and the studies of country practices. In this process a great deal about national statistical agencies is learnt in the Statistical Office. The staff gains vital insights into the objectives, circumstances, needs, problems and capabilities of the statistical agencies of developing countries and elsewhere. This helps greatly in the evaluation of technical co-operation projects and in the provision of relevant technical advice and assistance. It also aids in making more relevant the guidelines, recommendations and manuals issued to help improve national statistics. As international statistical practices and concepts are harmonized, the resulting statistics in the various sectors become more compatible and more suitable for national as well as international use, thus enhancing greatly the value of the total available data base.

7. It has, accordingly, been a major goal of the Statistical Office to bring about a maximum amount of feedback and integration in the execution of the various elements of its work. This has involved the utilization of available expertise for project formulation, execution and evaluation, irrespective of the sources of finance. Thus, staff members in posts financed by the regular budget provide essential inputs to technical co-operation and other extrabudgetary projects, while staff in posts financed by extrabudgetary sources provide essential inputs to regular statistical projects. Such integrated use of resources, while maximizing cost-effectiveness, is essential in serving effectively not only the requirements of the Departments of Technical Co-operation for Development and International Economic and Social Affairs but also in responding to the statistical needs of other users, in particular Member States, other units of the Secretariat and other international bodies.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1980-1981

8. The proposed programme of work that follows is based on the 1980-1981 proposed budget for the statistical programmes, which will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at their 1979 sessions. Each subprogramme is described separately, following a detailed statement of its objective. The over-all legislative basis for the programme is contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 8 (I) and 8 (II) and, most recently, the Council's decision 220 (LXII) to take note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its nineteenth session and to approve the objectives and work programme recommended therein.

PROGRAMME 1. STATISTICS

Subprogramme 1. International trade, industry, natural resources and energy

The objective is to provide more comprehensive, reliable and timely statistics on international trade, natural resources, energy, industry, transport and related areas, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

1.1 Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive trade statistics - recurrent publications

(a) Yearbook of Industrial Statistics (1980 and 1981);

(b) Yearbook of Construction Statistics (1980 and 1981);

(c) Indexes of industrial production, indexes of industrial employment, distributive trade statistics and other data in the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1980 and 1981).

1.2 Standards and methods of industrial, construction and distributive trade statistics

(a) Revised international recommendations on the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics (1980)

(b) Instruction materials for training workshops in preparation for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics (1981)

(c) Preparatory work on the expansion of data collection on distributive trade statistics (1980)

(d) Preparatory work on the extension of the collection of industrial statistics (value of production and stocks of selected commodities) (1981)

(e) Studies to construct balances of stocks, production and trade and consumption as well as prices of major industrial non-energy commodities (1981)

1.3 Collection, compilation, dissemination and analysis of international trade statistics

(a) Commodity Trade Statistics (1980 and 1981);

(b) Yearbook of International Trade Statistics (1980 and 1981);

(c) World Trade Annual (1980 and 1981);

(d) Supplement to the World Trade Annual (1980 and 1981);

(e) Regular and special tables in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook (1980 and 1981);

(f) Special tabulations and response to ad hoc requests, including computer tapes and microfiches.

1.4 Standards, methods and classifications of international trade statistics

(a) Statistical analysis of the new distribution of commodities resulting from the implementation of SITC, Rev. 2 and of the new statistical subheadings of the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN) (1980);

(b) Expert group meeting to review the first draft of the revision of the publication entitled International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (1980);

(c) Preparation of the third revision of SITC, taking into account the results obtained by CCCN in the building up of the Harmonized System, the data on actual distribution of trade obtained in the statistical analysis carried out during the preceding year and the experience of developing countries (1981);

(d) International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (1981).

1.5 Recurrent publications and standards, methods and classification of energy statistics

(a) World Energy Supplies (1980 and 1981);

(b) Regular and special tables in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook (1980 and 1981);

(c) Publication of national energy balances for selected countries (1980 and 1981);

(d) Report to the Statistical Commission on the International Classification of Energy (1980);

(e) Publication of Guidelines for Energy Statistics and the International Handbook of Energy Conversion Factors and Units of Measurement (1980);

(f) Preparation of International Classification of Energy (1981);

(g) Response to ad hoc requests, including computer tapes.

1.6 Transport statistics

(a) Continued collection and publication of economic statistics on shipping (1980 and 1981). Efforts will be made to link the results with other related statistics such as merchant fleet, harbour reports, etc. (1981);

(b) Preliminary study of requirements and possibilities of countries (mainly developing) establishing a special framework for the collection of economic statistics of shipping, based on documents of customs and port authorities, and progress report to the Statistical Commission (1980);

(c) First proposals for the revision of International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics (1981).

Subprogramme 2: National accounts, income distribution and related statistics

The objective is to develop further and implement the system of national accounts and balances and related systems and classifications and to provide a framework for the integration of economic and social data and more comprehensive and reliable statistics on national accounts and balances and related areas, such as the distribution of income and consumption, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

2.1 Review and further development of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA)

(a) Expert group meeting to review the status and plan the future development of SNA (1980);

(b) Technical report for expert group: proposals for modifications of SNA arising from the review of country experience (1980);

(c) Technical report for expert group: proposals for extension and updating of SNA (1980);

(d) Statistical Commission document: report on the expert group meeting on SNA, with proposals for further work (1980);

(e) Statistical Commission document and technical report on the treatment of non-monetary transactions in SNA (1980);

(f) Statistical Commission document: report on the relation of the revised SNA to the IMF Balance of Payments Manual, fourth edition (1980);

(g) Handbook of National Accounting, part 6, The balance of payments and the national accounts (1980);

(h) Technical document: survey of country practices in compiling regional data in the national accounts (1980);

(i) Technical report: draft guidelines on the treatment of regional data in the national accounts (1981);

(j) Handbook of National Accounting, part 7, Income distribution (1981);

(k) Draft of technical report and Handbook of National Accounting, part 8, Balance sheets and national wealth (1981);

(l) Draft of Handbook of National Accounting, part 9, The uses of national accounts (1981).

2.2 Promotion of linkage between economic statistics and social and demographic statistics

(a) Statistical Commission document: progress report on the role of the national accounts as a framework for the integration of detailed survey and administrative data (1980);

(b) Technical report: the role of the national accounts as an organizing frame for social microdata. (1981).

2.3 Linking of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

(a) Statistical Commission document: the treatment of capital in SNA and MPS (1980);

(b) Study on the treatment of non-material outputs in SNA and MPS (1981).

2.4 Development, updating and harmonizing of standard international classifications

(a) Register of countries and areas (1980);

(b) International Classification of All Goods and Services : Indexes (1980);

(c) Meeting of Joint Panel on World-Level Classifications (1980);

(d) Progress report on concepts and classifications for income distribution statistics including, to the extent possible, the household and related concepts (1980);

(e) Draft revision of International Standard Industrial Classification (1981).

2.5 Collection, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics

(a) Recurrent publication of national accounts data and estimates in the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, Statistical Yearbook, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Response to ad hoc requests (1980 and 1981);

(b) Studies on the sources and methods of national accounts data and their evaluation at the country level (1980 and 1981);

(c) Preparation of public finance tables for the Statistical Yearbook (1980 and 1981).

2.6 Statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation

(a) Publication of statistics on the distribution of household income, consumption and accumulation (1980 and 1981).

Subprogramme 3: Price statistics and related areas

The objective is to develop further the methodology and collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on prices and related areas.

3.1 International Comparison Project (ICP)

(a) Revision of specification manuals for consumption, producers durables and construction for extension of bench-mark estimates and as reference works (1980);

(b) Report containing detailed national product and purchasing power comparisons, up-dating bench-mark estimates for 34 countries to 1978 or 1979 (1981);

(c) Preliminary report of (i) bench-mark estimates for 12-18 new countries, (ii) reduced information methodology for extending bench-mark estimates to a system of world coverage, and (iii) a methodology that will incorporate the five detailed regional comparisons into a world system, allowing comparisons between countries of different regions at a level of disaggregation useful for analysis (1981);

(d) Preliminary report of constant price series for international comparisons over time (1981).

3.2 Price statistics for commodities entering international trade

(a) Dissemination of price data and indexes on goods entering international trade through contributions to recurrent publications and in response to ad hoc requests (1980 and 1981);

(b) Publication of:

- (i) Second revision of Methods Used in Compiling the United Nations Price Indexes for Basic Commodities in International Trade (1980);
- (ii) Statistical Analysis of Unit Values (1980);
- (iii) Method used in compiling export price indexes of manufactured goods (1981).

3.3 Methodological development of price and related statistics, and co-ordination of related international activities (1980 and 1981)

(a) Establishment of a central facility for the development, co-ordination and systematization of the collection, compilation, evaluation and dissemination of price data, now dispersed in different, subject-matter areas throughout the international statistical system;

(b) Promotion of the improvement of national statistics of prices and price indexes through technical co-operation and the preparation of manuals and technical studies, including:

- (i) Manual on consumer prices (1980);
- (ii) Survey of country practices in the use of price indexes for inflation accounting and indexation (1980);
- (iii) Survey of country practices on deflation of income shares (1981);
- (iv) Technical report on price indexes for inflation accounting and indexation (1981).

Subprogramme 4: Social and demographic statistics

The objective is to develop further, systematize, integrate and disseminate statistics in the social, demographic and environmental areas, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

4.1 Integration and improvement of social and demographic statistics

- (a) Expert group meeting on household surveys and publication of the revision of Handbook of Household Surveys (Part I) (1980);
- (b) Technical report on the structure of linkages among social data bases (1980);
- (c) Study of national practices relating to concepts and classifications of type and size of place (1980);
- (d) Report to Statistical Commission on draft guidelines on age-group classifications (1980);

(e) Technical reports on national and international work on (i) social indicators and (ii) statistical classifications of special relevance to social and demographic statistics (1980);

(f) Publication of guidelines on age classifications (1981);

(g) Publication of the fourteenth report on Sample Surveys of Current Interest (1981).

4.2 Development and use of statistics for services to children and youth

(a) Expansion of the UNICEF-funded social statistics improvement programmes to an additional five developing countries (1980);

(b) Expansion of the UNICEF-funded social statistics improvement programmes to an additional four developing countries (1981);

(c) Report to the Statistical Commission of the results of a survey of pilot programmes in a selected number of countries, aimed at improving the availability, relevance and timeliness of social statistics, with particular reference to statistics concerning the needs of children and youth (1980).

4.3 Demographic statistics methods

(a) Expert group meeting on international migration statistics to consider, inter alia, a consultant's report on (i) methods of collection and compilation of consolidated statistics on arrivals and departures and (ii) further programme of work in this field (1980);

(b) Study of national experiences and plans in the construction and use of a census data base in connexion with population censuses, including provisions relating to the confidentiality and privacy of such data bases, and preparation of a technical report (1981);

(c) Ongoing work on civil registration and vital statistics, including (i) revision of Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods, Part I, and (ii) progress report to Statistical Commission (1980);

(d) Technical report on results of study of census staffing and cost requirements (1980);

(e) Joint United Nations/WHO expert group meeting to consider draft guidelines for the collection and compilation of statistics on abortion in those countries in which abortion is legal (to be financed by extrabudgetary resources) and related report to the Statistical Commission (1980);

(f) Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods, Part II, covering demographic and social characteristics of the population, including household and related concepts (1981);

(g) Technical report on methods of collecting and compiling consolidated statistics of all arrivals and departures (1981);

(h) Expert group meeting on the elimination of sex-based stereotypes from population census and related statistics (to be financed by extrabudgetary resources) (1981);

(i) Progress report on 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme to Statistical Commission (1980).

4.4 Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics - recurrent publications

(a) Demographic Yearbook (1980 and 1981);

(b) Population and Vital Statistics Report (1980 and 1981);

(c) Special tabulations and response to ad hoc requests, including computer tapes.

4.5 Housing statistics methods

(a) Report to Statistical Commission on national and international activities on housing statistics (1980);

(b) Initial report on 1980 housing census experience (1981).

4.6 Collection, compilation and dissemination of social and housing statistics

(a) Preparation of the Compendium of Social Statistics (fourth edition) (1981);

(b) Publication on housing statistics, 1978-1980 (1981);

(c) Special tabulations and response to ad hoc requests, including computer tapes.

4.7 Statistics of the environment

(a) Completion of the survey on country practices and plans and their requirements for environment statistics with a view to transferring knowledge and experience between countries in the further development of environment statistics (1980);

(b) Preliminary draft guidelines on concepts, definitions, classifications and methodology for the collection, tabulation and analysis of statistics of the environment, together with related guidelines on sources and methods of data collection (1980);

(c) Pilot country studies to gain basic experience and to test the suitability and feasibility of the guidelines and methodology mentioned in (b) above (1980 and 1981);

(d) Regional expert group meetings of producers and users of environment statistics (1980);

(e) Report to the Statistical Commission on guidelines mentioned in (b) above (1980);

(f) Report on assessment of the pilot country studies (1981);

(g) Initiation of international reporting and publication of environment statistics (1981).

Subprogramme 5: Improved dissemination of statistics

The objective is to improve the variety, timeliness and quality of the statistical data disseminated by the United Nations, including general statistical compendia and special tabulations, and to give them wider distribution.

5.1 Compendia of economic and social statistics - recurrent publications

(a) Statistical Yearbook (1980 and 1981);

(b) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1980 and 1981);

(c) Statistical Pocketbook (1980 and 1981).

5.2 Improved computerization of statistics (1980 and 1981)

(a) Continued expansion and extension of the Integrated Statistical Information System (ISIS) to provide flexible means of generating ad hoc tabulations and performing on-line data management;

(b) Further extension of photocomposition facilities to improve the presentation, timeliness and flexibility of statistical publications;

(c) Co-ordination of data-base implementation with the regions and provision of facilities to exchange data between the various bases.

5.3 Review and co-ordination of statistical publications and assessment of the consistency and quality of the data

(a) Improved presentation, timeliness and consistency of the statistical publications of the Statistical Office and co-ordination with those of the regional commissions and specialized agencies (1980 and 1981).

Subprogramme 6: Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

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

6.1 Co-ordination of statistical programmes of the United Nations (1980 and 1981)

(a) Continued technical and substantive servicing of the Statistical Commission, the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and implementation of decisions made at their sessions;

(b) Continued maintenance of close working relationships between regional commissions, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national statistical services through attendance at meetings and preparation and review of reports on matters such as questionnaires, data banks and exchange of data and concepts, definitions and classifications in use;

(c) Issuance and maintenance of up-to-date standard country nomenclature for statistical use;

(d) Preparation and improvement of reports of integrated five-year plans of (i) the regular and (ii) technical co-operation activities of the international statistical system;

(e) Continuation of interagency studies to enhance the comparability, consistency and usefulness of international statistics.

6.2 Catalogues of economic and social statistics

(a) Maintenance, updating and expansion of the Directory of International Statistics, including a classified inventory of economic and social statistics available from the United Nations system and non-United Nations international statistical organizations (1980 and 1981).

6.3 Improvement of statistical organization

(a) Consolidation and dissemination of country experience in setting priorities for statistical projects on the basis of specified criteria, experience in costing statistical programmes and carrying out sensitivity analyses (1980 and 1981).

6.4 Statistical services provided to General Assembly organs and other bodies, on request (1980 and 1981)

(a) Provision of data on national income, exchange rates, population and other data to the Committee on Contributions;

(b) Provision of substantive services and statistical expertise to various units of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, on request.

PROGRAMME 2. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN STATISTICS

Subprogramme 1. Improvement of statistical capabilities of developing countries

The objective is to assist developing countries through the relevant outputs described in Programme 1 above and, through advisory and technical co-operation activities, to further develop their statistical capability and the required statistics for monitoring and directing their economic and social development.

(a) Assistance to developing countries to establish, develop and organize their statistical services so as to provide the capability necessary to obtain data required by planners, policy makers, administrators and other users;

(b) Transfer of available statistical knowledge and techniques to developing countries, inter alia, through seminars, workshops, training institutes, technical meetings, country missions and relevant technical documents;

(c) Preparation of manuals adapted to meet required conditions and designed to assist countries in developing statistical subject-matter areas such as national accounts, income distribution, prices, energy, trade, industry, social, demographic and environment statistics; assistance to countries in the organization and conduct of censuses and establishment or strengthening of continuing household survey capabilities and vital registration systems and statistics.

Subprogramme 2: Improvement of statistical data-processing capabilities of developing countries

The objective is to assist developing countries through advisory and technical co-operation activities to establish, expand and improve their computer data-processing capabilities so as to enable them to apply up-to-date technology effectively for processing the statistical data required for their economic and social development.

(a) Continued assistance in training computer systems and programming personnel;

(b) Installation and demonstration of the use of statistical data-processing software in developing countries;

(c) Preparation of statistical data-processing and information systems manuals for use by various government departments of Member States and co-ordination and dissemination of information concerning statistical data processing.

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.3/501	2	Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/502 and Corr.1	11 (a)	Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination; report of the seventh session
E/CN.3/503	3 (a)	Initial proposals for the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/504	3 (b)	Progress report on the development of international energy statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/505	3 (c)	Shipping statistics, within the framework of transport statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/506	3 (d)	International trade statistics; a review of concepts and definitions: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/507 and Corr.1	4 (a)	Review of the implementation of the revised System of National Accounts: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/508	4 (b)	Draft international guidelines on statistics of tangible assets: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/509	4 (c)	Progress report on the manual on public sector statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/510	4 (c)	Draft detailing of the classification of the functions of government: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/511	4 (d)	Progress report on links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS): report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/512 and Corr.1 and Corr.2	4 (d)	Total consumption of the population - technical report: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/513 and Corr.1	5	International Comparison Project - a review of major issues and plans for its future development: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.3/514	6	Progress report on the harmonization of economic classifications: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/515	7 (a)	Draft principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/515/Add.1		Operational aspects of population and housing censuses: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/515/Add.2		Topics and tabulations for population censuses: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/515/Add.3		Topics and tabulations for housing censuses: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/516 and Corr.1	7 (b)	Methods of collecting, organizing and retrieving social statistics to achieve integration: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/517	7 (c)	Progress report on national and international work on social indicators: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/518 and Corr.1	7 (d)	Progress report on the harmonization of concepts and classifications among specialized fields of social statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/519	7 (e)	Progress report on the development of statistics of time-use: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/520	8	Progress report on the co-ordination of environment statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/521	8	Progress report on environment statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/522	9	The setting of priorities in national statistics - a review of major issues: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/523 and Add.1 and Corr.1	10 (a)	International technical co-operation in statistics, 1979-1983: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/524	10 (a)	Notes on procedures for evaluating technical co-operation projects and some new directions in technical co-operation in statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/525	10 (b)	Review of training of statistical personnel: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.3/526	10 (c)	Technical co-operation in statistical data processing: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/527	10 (d)	Progress report on the National Household Survey Capability Programme: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/528	11 (b)	A review of achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1979-1983: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/529	12 (a)	Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/530	12 (b)	Statistical work of the specialized agencies: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/531	12 (c)	Statistical Office of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/532	12 (c)	Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1980-1983, and work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/533	13	Proposed definitions of selected terms for use by the Statistical Commission: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/XX/CRP.1	12 (c)	Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1980-1983, and work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/INF.1	-	List of representatives to the twentieth session of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/L.86	2	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.3/L.87 and Add.1-27	15	Draft report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.3/L.87	10 (d)	Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Panama and Tunisia: draft resolution - National Household Survey Capability Programme
E/CN.3/L.89	14	Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Commission