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PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Overall review of the statistical work of  
the international organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains an overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization and the Inter-American Statistical Institute for the period 1986 to mid-1988. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

\* E/CN.3/1989/1.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in response to a request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fourth session. <sup>1/</sup> It contains a description of the progress made in the statistical activities of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) during the biennium 1986-1987 and the first half of 1988. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

2. The work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is described under two organizational headings (see sections I,A and I,B below). In carrying out its responsibility for the provision of technical co-operation in statistics, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has relied on the Statistical Office for substantive support, in accordance with the arrangements for collaboration that have existed for some time between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Additional information on the work of the Statistical Office is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on updated information on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1989/22) and in the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1990-1991 and information on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.3/1989/24; see also E/CN.3/1989/CRP.1).

## I. UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

3. Handbooks or manuals were issued on national accounting (public sector accounts) social indicators, criminal justice statistics and disability statistics. A classification for trade statistics by broad economic categories was issued. The System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) (vols. I and II) was submitted for printing. The draft manual for women's indicators and statistics data base was completed. A first draft of a part of the revised Blue Book was completed by a consultant and a draft SNA Framework for Environmental Accounting was prepared. Outlines of the draft handbooks on enterprise accounts and household sector accounts were prepared. Technical reports on the development of concepts and definitions of disability for use in household surveys, the development of women's statistics and household surveys and the integration of social and economic statistics on health, education and housing were issued. In addition, two manuals were issued on the compilation of indicators on the situation of women. A report describing customs areas of the world was completed. Drafts were completed of commodity indexes for sections 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Standard International Trade

Classification (SITC) Revision 3. Final drafts for interrelated classifications of economic activities (ISIC, Rev.3) and goods and services (CPC) were completed.

4. Expert group meetings were held on (a) the measurement of women's income and their participation and production in the informal sector (organized in co-operation with the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)); (b) harmonization of economic classifications; and (c) the System of National Accounts (SNA) review on production accounts and input-output tables (convened jointly with UNIDO). In addition, the Statistical Office contributed to the co-ordination of a series of SNA review expert group meetings financed and sponsored by other member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. Reports were issued on each of these meetings.

5. Two surveys were conducted in the national statistical offices on methodology and national practices in service statistics, one (in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)) on trade in services statistics, the other on quantity and price indexes of services. Preliminary summaries of the findings of the surveys were prepared.

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

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

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

8. A new procedure for updating the national accounts data base by microcomputer diskette was initiated. Microcomputer software for a national accounts compilation framework is being developed for use in technical co-operation projects.

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

9. Report on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies on general data collection activities of the United Nations system and selected non-United Nations international organizations was issued. An initiative

to better co-ordinate the ad hoc requests to member States for statistics by the non-statistical units of international organizations was also undertaken. In response to a request of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, a preliminary draft of an accounting framework for military expenditures was designed on the basis of SNA principles. Substantive servicing was provided to the General Assembly Committee on Contributions which resulted in a new scale of assessments for 1989-1991 and in reorientation of the assessment methodology.

## 2. Activities cancelled

10. Under subprogramme 1, the proposed "International standard definitions for transport statistics (revised)" and "The Handbook for compiling and processing maritime trade statistics" were cancelled, as the planned extrabudgetary resources were not available.

11. Under subprogramme 3, the 1987 edition of "National accounts statistics: Government accounts and tables" was cancelled. Resources were deployed to activities under subprogramme 1 with the highest priority. "Development of concepts and methods", the fifteenth and sixteenth editions of the Construction Statistics Yearbook, and the first edition of the "Distributive trade yearbook" were also cancelled.

12. Under subprogramme 6, "Revised survey of environment statistics" and "Compendium of immigrant stock data" were cancelled, and under subprogramme 7, the "Statistical newsletter" was cancelled.

## 3. Activities deferred or modified significantly

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

13. The Handbook of National Accounting: External Transactions was postponed, awaiting the revision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments Manual. It will be prepared as a joint United Nations/IMF manual to describe the data sources for compilation of the SNA external sector account and to incorporate the SNA/Balance of Payments reconciliation bridge tables.

14. The Handbook of National Accounting: National Accounts in Constant Prices was deferred until extrabudgetary resources are available.

15. Completion of volume I of the commodity indexes to the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev.3) has been deferred to 1989, and volume II to 1990. The proposed technical report on national practices in compiling external trade statistics has been deferred to 1990.

### (b) Subprogramme 3. National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics

16. Volume II of the technical report describing the methods used in compilation of the United Nations price indexes for external trade has been deferred to 1990.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

Major achievements, including new activities

17. Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1986-1987 amounted to \$32.6 million; the amount budgeted for 1988 is \$25.7 million. This accounted for approximately 223 projects in 92 countries, comprising, in part, 107 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 48 in statistical organization/multi-sector statistics, 13 in economic statistics, 27 in vital statistics and 28 in data processing.

18. Thirty developing countries are participating in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). Most of these countries have carried out several household surveys and are making use of the survey results in planning and monitoring development programmes and policies. A list of surveys carried out is set out in the annex to document E/CN.3/1989/18. The following additional publications have also been issued since 1987 to improve technical standards of the surveys: How to Weigh and Measure Children, Improving Statistics and Indicators on Women Using Household Surveys and Development of Statistical Concepts and Methods on Disability for Household Surveys.

C. Economic Commission for Europe

Major achievements, including new activities

19. Meetings and seminars were held on the following subjects: electronic data processing, integrated statistical information systems and related matters, statistical methodology, national accounts and balances, international comparisons, economic classifications, food and agriculture statistics, statistics of consumer prices, general energy statistics, transport statistics, statistics of engineering industries and automation, social and demographic statistics, statistics and indicators on the role and situation of women, manpower statistics, health statistics, statistics of households and families, migration statistics, environmental statistics and indicators, and ecological statistics. The plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians were also held.

20. The following publications were issued: Recommendations for the 1990 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region; Environment Statistics in Europe and North America: An Experimental Compendium.

21. Other activities included the following:

(a) A seminar for executive officials of national statistical offices in the region was held. A handbook of official statistics in ECE member countries was prepared as follow-up to the seminar, with country statements on some legal aspects of official statistics as its first section;

(b) A comparison of national accounting aggregates between Czechoslovakia and Finland was conducted;

(c) Trilateral co-operation among Finland, Hungary and Sweden on methodological problems in selected areas of environment statistics continued;

(d) Work on energy statistics focused on the improvement of country coverage in the various ECE bulletins of energy statistics;

(e) The 1983 and 1984 matrices for the flows of migrants between ECE countries were published;

(f) Work has continued on the development of a labour accounting system;

(g) The secretariat assisted the Netherlands and the United States of America in organizing an International Workshop on National Population Projections in Industrialized Countries;

(h) Work has been initiated on assisting Greece and INSTRAW to organize a national training Workshop on Statistics of Women in Greece;

(i) Work has been initiated on assisting Bulgaria to organize an International Seminar on the Theory and Development of Integrated Systems of Social and Demographic Statistics (in co-operation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat;

(j) The secretariat submitted papers on selected aspects of work accomplished by the Conference of European Statisticians to various meetings convened by external bodies (e.g. to the European Population Conference, the IUSSP Workshop on International Migration Data);

(k) The publication of the experimental Compendium of Environment Statistics was accompanied by the establishment of a small environmental data base at the ECE secretariat. These activities were followed by an intergovernmental evaluation meeting regarding the work undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians over the past 10 years in the field of environment statistics;

(l) The secretariat continued to provide support to the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project. Work continued on the joint development of software products for statistics and on the dissemination of those products to developing countries outside the ECE region.

22. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued regularly in the fields of energy, transport, road traffic accidents, steel, timber and trade in engineering and chemical products. Most having been prepared by means of various computer techniques. Volume 4 and parts of volume 5 of the Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe have also been prepared. To enhance the economic research activities, the ECE data base has been expanded, and users of statistics in the ECE region now have a growing collection of useful, well-documented and easily accessible data at their disposal.



D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Major achievements including new activities

23. A total of 94 advisory missions were carried out during the period July 1986 to June 1988. Of these, 4 missions were on statistical infrastructure development, 15 were on various aspects of household surveys, 13 were on energy statistics, 39 were on population censuses and surveys, and 23 were on data processing. During the second half of 1988 the secretariat was expected to resume its advisory services in national accounts and introduce similar technical assistance in population statistics, and government computerization.

24. The following meetings were held during the period under review:

Seminar on Review and Development of National Accounts

Workshop on the International Comparison Project Phase V Activities

Two Regional Working Groups on the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme for the Asian and the Pacific countries separately

Working Group of Statistical Experts (fifth session)

Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Education and Training

Workshop on International Comparison Project

The ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Expert Group Meeting on Computerized Information Systems for Governments.

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

26. The following technical reports were published:

(a) Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;  
(b) Fundamentals of Computer Processing for Statisticians; and (c) ESCAP Conferences for Regional Statisticians. In addition, the twenty-second and twenty-third reports on Sample Surveys in the ESCAP Region were produced and eight issues of the Statistical Newsletter were published.

27. The following publications have been released regularly: Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, and Asia-Pacific in Figures. Other statistical publications were also reviewed in 1987 in the light of the economy measures introduced in the United Nations system. Consequently the publications Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics for Asia and the Pacific and Handbook on Agricultural Statistics for Asia and the Pacific were discontinued, but important series from these were included in the other regular publication cited above, and

the two volumes, namely Series A and Series B, of Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific were consolidated into one publication.

28. In order to introduce cost-cutting measures the conference structure of ESCAP was reviewed, and it was decided to merge the Committee on Statistics with the Committee on Development Planning. The regional statisticians at the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics in November 1987 felt strongly that the merger was a retrograde step. Regional member countries of ESCAP also expressed similar views at its annual session in April 1988. Thus, although the merged Committee on Development Planning and Statistics would meet in June 1989, the conference structure is to be reviewed in 1990 by the ESCAP membership.

## 2. Activities cancelled or postponed

29. A planned seminar on design and evaluation of household sample surveys, a workshop on transport statistics, a seminar on employment and unemployment statistics and a seminar on human settlement statistics were postponed to the following biennium. The planned seminar on statistics of poverty and income distribution has been reformulated into an advanced training course on statistics related to poverty, inequality and basic needs, which was organized in July 1988. Non-availability of extrabudgetary funds was the principal cause of the postponements. None the less this factor also proved to be a relief to the secretariat in view of the staff and constraints it continued to encounter.

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

### Major achievements

30. The progress attained in the on-line data banks should be underscored, especially improvements in coverage and timeliness, and availability to both internal and external users.

31. At the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas serviced by ECLAC at headquarters during September 1987, ECLAC received responsibility for some of the five newly identified fields of co-operation and has issued technical documentation on them.

32. The transference and dissemination of innovative techniques in the statistical computing media is being channelled through the project "Estadísticas para el Desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe" (RLA/87/001), with the financial support of UNDP. A Seminar on Generalized Techniques and Systems for Statistical Data Processing was recently held at ECLAC headquarters (June 1988), with the participation of 18 country members.

33. With regard to technical co-operation at the national level, ECLAC has acted as associate executing agency in three projects with the financial support of UNDP (two in Guatemala and one in Venezuela) aimed at improving national statistical organization and the System of National Accounts. Likewise, as Executing Agency, ECLAC has pursued the development of projects in Costa Rica and Honduras funded by

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the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which addressed the establishment of permanent systems of household surveys within the framework of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). In their performance, emphasis has been placed upon the promotion of horizontal co-operation; as a result 40 consultancy missions were carried out by experts of the region. Technical assistance in different areas was also provided to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

34. Among recurrent publications, mention should be made of the 1987 edition of the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, which included new statistical areas. Progress has been made as well in the coverage and accuracy of the Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy (1986-1987).

35. The series "Statistical Background of Income Distribution", now has seven country editions available. These documents include retrospective information, covering, in some cases, the period since 1950 and up to recent times. Several other issues were included in our dissemination programme regarding regional statistical information in the fields of social stratification; consumer price indexes, international comparisons of prices; prices of the main export products of the region; household surveys; income measurement, design of household surveys according to the new recommendations; statistical development in the region; mining statistics; external trade in services, economically active population; computing systems for statistical tasks, guidelines for the use of the external trade data bank; and distribution of statistical information. Reports were issued on the regional seminars on national accounts (April 1986 and November 1987) as well as one on the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas (September 1987).

36. Seminars, meetings and conferences were organized or attended on national accounts (interregional, February 1986); adjustment policies and the most vulnerable groups, and national accounts (regional, April 1986); classification of occupations; statistical development in the least-developed, land-locked and island developing countries; public budget; economic characteristics of the population in the 1990 census round; evaluation of national accounts (national, November 1986); short-term indicators; household income and expenditure (March 1987); price indexes, enlargement of the household surveys programme (June 1987); planning statistics; external trade statistics; Directors of Statistics of the Americas; national accounts (regional, November 1987); the Statistical Computing Project, and generalized techniques and systems for the processing of statistical data. Meetings of the Permanent Administrative Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Conference (COM/CIE) were also held during the biennium.

37. Significant importance was attached as well to training programmes. In fact, training courses were delivered on: basic statistical techniques; industrial statistics; generalized data editing systems; external trade statistics; and processing of statistical data.

**F. Economic Commission for Africa**

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

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

(a) Substantive servicing was provided for the fifth session of the Joint Conference of Africa Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The conference considered a number of items including "Technical and financial assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information service"; "Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows: statistical deficiencies and recommendations"; "Evaluation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)"; and "Report on statistical activities";

(b) The Statistics Division also organized the following meetings: Fifth Meeting of Directors of the Centres Participating in STPA; First and Second Meetings on Training of Statisticians for Portuguese-speaking African Countries (jointly with the Director-General VIII and the Statistical Office of the European Communities); seminars for trainers involved in middle-level statistical training (one each for English- and French-speaking participants); and Training Workshop on the Use of Software Packages in Statistical Computing for English-speaking Government Statisticians and Planners;

(c) Twenty-three missions were carried out; 20 missions on statistical training and 3 missions on statistical data base. Extrabudgetary resources were used for most of the missions;

(d) The Division issued the following publications: Directory of African Statisticians (one issue); Statistical Newsletter (four issues); Directory of STPA Centres and Associate Centres (one issue); STPA News (four issues); and Directory of Electronic Data Processing Experts and Data Processing Centres in Africa.

39. The following activities were undertaken relating to economic statistics:

(a) About 16 advisory missions were provided to ECA member States on applying the system of national accounts and improving basic economic statistics as a prerequisite for the further development of national accounts. Extrabudgetary resources were also used for most of the missions;

(b) The Division organized the following meetings: Working Group on Capital Formation and National Accounts at Constant Prices (in two sessions, one in English and the other in French); and a Working Group on Improving the Basic Economic Statistics Required for Planning Purposes (in two separate groups: one for English-speaking and the other for French-speaking African countries);

(c) Work on external trade statistics continued and two publications were issued: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A (Direction of total trade), and Series C (Summary tables);

(d) The African Statistical Yearbook, the African Socio-Economic Indicators and the Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa were published during the period under reference.

40. Finally, the following activities were carried out in the field of censuses and surveys including the new area of environment statistics.

(a) About 95 advisory missions were undertaken during the period under consideration on planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses, processing and evaluation of census data and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection; 34 advisory missions on preparation of survey programme documents, establishment of active survey operations and training and development of staff resources, and one advisory mission on development of environment statistics programmes tailored to specific national needs. Extrabudgetary resources were also used for most of the missions.

(b) The Division organized the following meetings, seminars and workshops: Working Group on Recommendations for the 1990 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa; Training Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses for English-speaking African Countries; Sub-regional Training Workshop on Census Cartography (for French-speaking East African and Central African countries); three national workshops on census taking; four national workshops on census data processing; and two working groups on organization, content and methodology of household surveys, with special emphasis on data processing (one for the French- and the other for the English-speaking African countries).

(c) Work started on the establishment of a regional data base on environment statistics.

## 2. Activities cancelled or postponed

41. Two planned working groups on energy statistics and port statistics were cancelled owing to lack of funds. A training seminar on the use of software packages in statistical computing for French-speaking government statisticians and planners, a workshop on environment statistics for English-speaking countries and a working group on migration statistics were postponed for the same reason as above. A number of activities relating to advisory missions, technical publications and computer print-outs were also cancelled owing to the freeze on recruitment in the secretariat and the resulting lack of staff. These activities concerned mainly national accounts, international trade statistics, data base, demographic and social statistics and environment statistics fields. The environment statistics post was filled only in January 1988.

G. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Major achievements

42. The following publications were issued: (a) Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 1986 and 1987 issues; (b) National Accounts Studies, 1986 and 1987 issues; (c) Prices and Financial Statistics in the ESCWA Region, fourth issue, 1986; (e) Bulletin of Industrial Statistics of the ESCWA Region, first issue, 1987; and (f) Unified Arab Statistical Abstract, first issue, March 1988, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

43. Other major achievements included the following:

(a) Organized the second Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA region, a local workshop on the socio-demographic survey of Oman and two expert group meetings on (i) uses of household surveys in national accounts, and (ii) household surveys data required for planning of the labour force;

(b) Conducted, in connection with the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) three regional workshops on data processing, sampling techniques and the design of questionnaires respectively;

(c) Participated in the annual intergovernmental meetings of the Statistical Committee of the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the Standing Statistical Committee for the League of Arab States and the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics;

(d) Prepared two reports in Arabic: Situation of Environmental Statistics in Western Asia and Harmonization between Household Surveys Data and National Accounts;

(e) Rendered advisory services to most of the central organizations of the ESCWA region, mainly in national accounts and economic statistics, population statistics, sampling and data processing of household surveys;

(f) Within the activities of the regional household project, three technical manuals on household surveys were translated into Arabic and distributed to member States.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Major achievements, including new activities

44. The following publications were issued: 1986 and 1987 editions of Supplement to the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics; the 1986 and 1987 edition (second issue) of Yearbook of International Commodity Statistics; Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin and the Tungsten Bulletin.

45. Statistical annexes, containing detailed statistics on flows of financial resources from the member States of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting

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Countries (OPEC), to developing countries for the period 1985 and 1986 were prepared for the reports on Financial Solidarity for Development.

46. Statistical and computing support was provided to the substantive divisions of UNCTAD and its committees.

47. An Economic Time Series Data Bank (ETS) has been developed to provide a framework for storing, in a standardized manner, machine readable data available to UNCTAD to permit statistical and economic analysis to be carried out in an efficient and effective manner. ETS has been developed in-house as well as a table-generating programme for accessing the standardized data and preparing a wide variety of reports. In addition interfaces have been written to enable economists and statisticians to use the data in ETS as direct input to standard econometric and statistical computing packages.

48. Work continued on the establishment in UNCTAD, of a data base comprising statistics on production, trade and employment in services.

49. UNCTAD has developed a trade information system on trade control measures of the developing countries. The data base provides a computerized link between foreign trade statistics at the country and product level and the corresponding tariffs, para-tariffs and non-tariff measures, as well as preferential trading arrangements affecting trade among developing countries.

## I. United Nations Children's Fund

### Major achievements, including new activities

50. As a result of the continued collaboration of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, as well as the careful exploitation of data available in the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the revised set of estimates and projections on infant and child mortality was produced. With the new methodological development, namely, the elaboration of an Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR), comparable in its formulation to the Infant Mortality Rate, UNICEF has been able to put considerable emphasis on the Under-Five Mortality Rate as an advocacy and planning tool, as well as a management and programme monitoring instrument. It is supporting countries in estimating their national Under-Five Mortality Rates, as well as their internal differentials in respect of this indicator.

51. Three regular statistical compendia have been published during the period. These are an annual publication entitled Statistics on Children in UNICEF-assisted Countries, prepared for the annual meeting of the UNICEF Executive Board in April; the annex tables and charts of the publication State of the World's Children, issued annually in December; and the biannual Statistical Review of the Situation of Children in the World. In addition, work has begun on the third edition of the UNICEF Statistics Pocketbook.

52. UNICEF has also issued periodic statistical reviews on various social, economic and demographic topics and statistical assessments of programmes relating to children. These include assessments of immunization coverage and the distribution of oral rehydration salts, periodic assessments of other UNICEF programme elements, and methodological analyses of interest to UNICEF.

53. In connection with the publications listed in the previous two paragraphs, much of this activity has been made possible only as a result of the generous co-operation of the statistical bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Population Division and Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

54. An inter-agency programme for strengthening national food and nutrition surveillance systems (IFNS) has been established as a joint initiative of UNICEF, WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the support of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. The UNICEF Executive Board has approved a \$10 million project for five years and achievements to date include the preparation and dissemination of "Programme guidelines" to interested countries, the holding of regional workshops in all developing regions, the development of a number of country projects, an international agency meeting on indicators in which agreement was reached on a set of common nutritional status indicators for the IFNS programme, a report on recent trends in nutrition-related topics and a data bank for IFNS at WHO. There has been continuous collaboration with a number of interested agencies including the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the statistical offices of the regional commissions, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) etc., and co-ordination through the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistics.

55. Technical assistance to statistical activities in social and demographic subjects in developing countries has continued to be given great importance. This has been in the form of direct support of country activities, support to inter-agency technical assistance programmes, the most important of which was the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), which has received major assistance, and methodological research, including the commissioning of special statistical studies.

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

### A. International Labour Organisation

#### Major achievements, including new activities

56. The Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians Conference (ICLS) met in Geneva from 28 October to 6 November 1987. Some 73 countries and territories were represented, as were the Employers' and Workers' Group of the Governing Body. Resolutions were adopted on consumer price indexes, the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, and



strikes and lock-outs. This last one was adopted as an "interim" resolution and the subject will be dealt with further at the next ICLS.

57. Discussions were also held on: employment in the informal sector; statistics of absence from work; and implications of employment promotion schemes on the measurement of employment and unemployment.

58. The Year Book of Labour Statistics and the quarterly Bulletin of Labour Statistics were issued, as well as the October Inquiry which is now published each year as a separate edition of the Bulletin of Labour Statistics. The Bulletin included a number of articles on the methodology of labour statistics.

59. Statistical Sources and Methods series: the second edition of volume 1, Consumer Price Indices, and volume 2, Employment, Wages and Hours of Work (Establishment Surveys) were published. The third edition of the five volume Economically Active Population: Estimates and Projections (1950-2025) was issued.

60. The new Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160) comes into force on 24 April 1988, replacing Convention No. 63. To date 12 countries have ratified it.

61. The ILO labour statistics data base (LABORSTA) is now available on line internally and will be available on tape and diskette later.

62. The regional adviser on labour statistics for Africa undertook several advisory missions and the three regional advisers on household surveys provided consultancy services in Africa, Asia and Latin America. For the Middle East region, where no regional adviser is in post, short consultancies were provided on household surveys.

63. A three-month interregional project in Africa on labour statistics provided assistance to members of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (CACEU). The technical co-operation project on national manpower statistics continued in Uganda and a project was started in the United Republic of Tanzania for the development of labour market information and in Ecuador for statistical support for the formulation of employment creation policies.

64. The preparation of manuals on labour force surveys, consumer price indexes and occupational classification was initiated.

65. Conceptual work has started on the restructuring of the Year Book and the inclusion in it of new topics.

66. A working paper analysing practices with regard to statistics of net earnings from paid employment identified issues for future ILO work. Other working papers discussed the concept of a labour accounting system, problems of labour productivity statistics and the classification of status in employment.

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

**Major achievements including new activities**

67. The major elements of work included:

(a) Organization of meetings of the statutory bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on agricultural statistics, including the Statistics Advisory Committee of Experts (1986), the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (1986), the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (1987), and collaboration with other agencies for the FAO/ECE/Conference of European Statisticians Study Group on Food and Agriculture (1986 and 1987) and for the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)/FAO Working Group on Agricultural Statistics (1986). The Co-ordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics held its thirteenth session in Rome in February 1989;

(b) Conducting the United Nations/FAO International Training Course on remote sensing applications in agricultural statistics, the National Demonstration Centre on rural socio-economic statistics for some 10 Asia and Pacific countries;

(c) Development of computer-readable information from AGROSTAT, which creates files accessible by the users, and preparation of related manuals for users;

(d) Continuation of work on economic accounts for agriculture including related methodologies;

(e) Development of guidelines on socio-economic indicators for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development.

68. The new activities undertaken or initiated comprise:

(a) The pilot study on questionnaires mailed to central statistical offices with a view to improving the quality and timeliness of responses of countries to the FAO statistical questionnaires;

(b) New efforts to develop an FAO Corporate Data Base to include all computerized data bases available in FAO that may be useful to potential internal and/or external users; this would also cover AGROSTAT, which has been developed during the last five years;

(c) Development of a system to improve feed statistics at regional and possibly national levels;

(d) Preparation of a draft document on Remote Sensing and Agricultural Statistics;

(e) Preparation of the report on the 1989 World Census of Agriculture (methodology);

(f) Preparation of a report on the 1980 World Agricultural Census: analysis of results and international comparison;

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(g) Preparation of regional programmes for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture;

(h) Continuation of work to maintain and update a world-wide and long-term statistical data series on production, trade and utilization of crops and livestock products, as well as on agricultural input (agricultural population and labour force, including their projections, land use, machinery, fertilizers, pesticides), index numbers on production and trade, food supplies, prices, economic accounts;

(i) Reconciliation of data on import-export quantities and values (trade matrices), produced for the first time for all major agricultural commodities and trading partners;

(j) FAO production index numbers for country aggregates, calculated by using international (Geary-Khamis formula) prices;

(k) Case studies for developing methodology for surveys on marketing cost and margins, commissioned to member countries;

(l) Organization of an expert group meeting on statistical data needs for policy formulation in developing countries.

69. The following publications were issued: FAO Production Yearbook, 1985, vol. 39 and 1986, vol. 40; FAO Trade Yearbook, 1985, vol. 39 and 1986, vol. 40; FAO Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, vol. 9, 11 issues, and vol. 10, 11 issues; World Crop and Livestock Statistics, 1948-1985; World Agricultural Statistics: FAO Statistical Pocketbook, 1986; FAO Fertilizer Yearbook, 1986 and 1987; Prices Received by Farmers, 1986; Prices Paid by Farmers, 1987; FAO Production Index Numbers, 1986; Fifth World Food Survey, 1986; Yearbook of Forest Products (1973-1984), 1984; (1974-1985), 1985 and (1975-1986), 1986; FAO Yearbook, Fisheries Statistics, Catches and Landings, 1985 and 1986; FAO Yearbook, Fisheries Statistics Commodities, 1985 and 1986; Globefish, Highlights: a quarterly update based on the Globefish data bank, 1986 (4 issues), 1987 (4 issues) and 1988 (4 issues); Joint ECE/FAO Timber bulletin, vol. IXL (10 issues), vol. XL (10 issues), and vol. XLI (2 issues); Joint ECE/FAO Forest Products Statistics: Production, trade and apparent consumption, 1969 to 1984, Joint ECE/FAO forest products: the Direction of Trade 1976, 1981, 1982; Report on the 1980 World Census of Agriculture Census Bulletins; Bibliography of Food Consumption Surveys, 1985; Review of Food Consumption Surveys, 1987; Food and Agricultural Statistics in the context of a National Information System; Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture; Microcomputer-based Data Processing, 1990 World Census of Agriculture.

70. In the field of technical co-operation, an average of 100 projects per year assisted member countries in agricultural and fisheries statistics. The number of experts fielded was 85 in 1986 and 114 in 1987. (These figures do not include assistance in forestry statistics.)

#### Activities cancelled

71. Due to budget constraints two activities had to be discontinued: the pilot study on FAO questionnaires mailed to central statistical offices, and development of fee statistics.

72. Since the financial constraints started, the following activities were discontinued: trade matrices, animal feed balances, statistics on marketing costs and margins. The following activities originally foreseen in the work plans for 1987/88, could not be started: development of a personal computer (PC)-based data processing system, application of remote sensing for country-wide land use data.

73. Due to financial constraints the publication of the long-term series on per capita crop and livestock production and of the FAO Statistical Pocketbook 1987 had to be cancelled, and other publications had to be postponed (long-term series of per capita food supplies, 1984-86 average food balance sheets, manuals on land use statistics and on price index numbers).

#### Activities modified significantly

74. The FAO Monthly Bulletin of Statistics was replaced by the FAO Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics in 1988.

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

#### Major achievements including new activities

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

(a) With regard to adult education statistics, the first international survey on such statistics was launched; the application of sampling techniques for the collection of such data was promoted, and four statistical reports to disseminate comparative data at the international level were issued;

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

(c) Two regional and eight national training courses were organized, and with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), eight training seminars on education statistics, which were attended by 588 participants, were conducted;

(d) With financial assistance from SIDA, a sample survey in literacy was launched in Nicaragua;

(e) A statistical computation package for calculating a broad range of educational measures was developed for microcomputers, with financial assistance from SIDA. This software will be made available to member States shortly.

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

(a) An annual questionnaire on scientific information and documentation (STID) was prepared;

(b) A reference document for a regional ministerial conference, as well as three analytical studies on topics of special interest were prepared;

(c) Two regional and four national training seminars were organized. Some 230 participants took part in these seminars.

77. The main activities in statistics on culture and communication were the following:

(a) A pilot survey on sound recordings was launched;

(b) A draft manual on the collection of statistics on public financing of cultural activities was prepared;

(c) A statistical report on radio and television broadcasting was issued;

(d) Three case studies on participation in cultural activities were published;

(e) Three case studies were conducted on statistics relating to sports and games and three on private financing of cultural activities, as well as a methodological study on the adaptation of the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS) to a country of the Asian region;

(f) One regional and seven national training courses on culture and communication statistics were organized, which were attended by some 180 participants, as well as a meeting on experts on cultural indicators, in which some 13 experts participated.

78. The Statistical Yearbook and the Statistical Digest for 1986 and 1987 were issued. Both of these publications were trilingual, with major texts in Arabic also included in the 1987 edition of the Yearbook.

#### D. International Civil Aviation Organization

##### Major achievements, including new activities

79. Efforts to save human resources and to enhance the usefulness of ICAO statistics through technological improvements continued during the period under review, but progress was slow owing to shortage of programming activity.

80. The eleventh and twelfth editions of the ICAO statistical yearbook Civil Aviation Statistics of the World were issued during this period, and preparation of the thirteenth edition was started. In addition, 21 digests of statistics were

issued in the different areas of the ICAO statistics programme. Generally, the production of statistical publications was adversely affected by shortage of resources.

81. A meeting of an advisory body, the Statistics Panel, held in November 1987, reviewed the statistical activities of ICAO and specific areas of the statistical programme for the purpose of advising on the secretariat documentation to be prepared for the April 1989 session of the Statistics Division, which is a representative body of member States.

82. Regional workshops on aviation statistics were organized for States in the Eastern/Southern African region and the North American and Caribbean region. Advice on aviation statistics matters was provided by regional air transport officers during missions to various countries in their regions.

#### E. World Health Organization

##### Major achievements, including new activities

83. The Medium-Term Programme for 1984-1989 provides five specific target areas. The major achievements in those areas during the period 1986 to mid-1988 are summarized below:

##### Target 1. Strengthening of information support to national health management

84. WHO co-operated with more than half its member States in developing information support for management by reviewing the information requirements of managers and supervisors at each level of the health system and by establishing basic data and appropriate mechanisms for the collection, analysis and flow of information. This approach was tested intensively in 10 selected countries, and those that were successful will form the basis of guiding principles for member States generally.

85. WHO's co-operation with member States included also the strengthening of the use of information at the subnational level, paying particular attention to maternal and child health and family planning, which is not only an area of concern to all countries, but can also be the starting-point for ensuring that the information collected is what is required for service delivery and for developing local health targets and indicators. The use of microcomputers at this level was studied in a few countries. It has become clear that until policy and decision makers are committed to decentralization and ready to accept its consequences, and until they allow supervisors at the periphery the authority to act on the information they receive, national health information systems will not improve. The fostering of such commitment has not, however, been wholly successful.

##### Target 2. Training

86. In several regions training in the use of information for daily decision-making was provided for national, provincial, district and community personnel. A manual has been prepared and field-tested for use in training the

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trainers of primary health workers in how to collect and use health information. Another manual is being prepared on the selection and use of sets of the minimum data required for programme management, with emphasis on the needs of districts.

87. The regional courses for senior staff in epidemiology, held annually in Kenya and Mali, and the field epidemiology training programmes in Indonesia and Thailand, were evaluated and found to be fulfilling their objectives. Other regional developments in 1986 included the launching in the African Region of a programme for training district health personnel in applied epidemiology, and the organization of a WHO/ECA/UNICEF training workshop for statisticians and health managers in Zimbabwe. WHO collaborated with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in drawing up guidelines for health and nutrition surveys in developing countries.

#### Target 3. Development of methodology and standard tools

88. Work on the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) continued according to schedule. The comments of member States and non-governmental organizations on a draft proposal, and contributions from specialist groups, were consolidated in a further draft text submitted to a WHO Expert Committee in 1987. The recommendations of the Expert Committee will be incorporated in a final text to be submitted to an international conference to be held in 1989 on ICD-10 and finally to the World Health Assembly in 1990 for approval.

89. WHO and the International Epidemiological Association jointly prepared a publication on the measurement in health promotion and protection 2/ and completed the preparation of the final volume of a much-in-demand series of six manuals on community health survey methodology. 3/ A WHO manual on sample size determination and a preliminary review of indicators and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of health interventions are being tested in two countries.

#### Target 4. Monitoring and evaluation of the regional and global health situation and trends

90. On the basis of the reports submitted by member States in 1985 on the evaluation of their national health-for-all strategies, a detailed analysis was made of the information relating to each of the 12 indicators adopted by the Health Assembly for use in monitoring and evaluating the Global Strategy. Regional and global data bases were established on these indicators and several other demographic, socio-economic and health status indicators. As a result of the 1985 evaluation, the list of indicators adopted for the European Region was revised.

91. In addition to its usual functions, the Weekly Epidemiological Record was used as a vehicle for the rapid dissemination of global data on AIDS. The World Health Statistics Quarterly continued to publish information of relevance to achievement of the goal of health for all - for example on safe water supply and sanitation, on indicators for health-for-all strategies, and on the distribution of resources for health. Regional publications on monitoring and evaluation included a collection of studies on health projections in Europe 4/ and a review of health conditions in the Americas in the period 1981-1984. 5/

Target 5. Epidemiological and statistical support to WHO programmes

92. Epidemiological, health statistical and methodological support was given to more than 20 WHO programmes, including the following: assessment of morbidity and services utilization in small areas using panels of "knowledgeable" people in the community; studies on methodology for vaccine coverage surveys; schistosomiasis control; district health team management; and evaluating the AIDS situation in several African countries.

F. World Bank

Major achievements, including new activities

93. The World Bank continued in its efforts to improve the reporting of external debt statistics by member Governments. Some 30 to 40 country missions per year were carried out. In addition, the World Bank prepared overall estimates of short-term and private non-guaranteed debt not covered and captured in the Debtor Reporting System. The World Bank continued to collaborate with the regional banks, the Bank for International Settlements, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in improving the coverage of debt data. The Debt Compilers Working Group has been addressing the issue of harmonizing concepts and methodologies pertaining to debt data and a manual has been prepared and distributed.

94. During the period under review, the World Bank carried out a number of technical assistance missions in statistics to member countries, which reviewed statistical systems and made recommendations for improving and strengthening statistical systems. Several of those reviews led to the financing of statistical development projects by the Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bilateral aid agencies. In addition, the Bank's economic and sector missions to member countries engaged in discussions with statistical agencies and provided limited technical advice for improving macro-economic statistics.

95. An internal review of the functioning of the Bank's Economic and Social Database (BESD) has identified the scope for further strengthening the capabilities of the system. Collaboration with other agencies in the United Nations system and with the Fund has received close attention, and efforts are under way to obtain access to the data bases of other organizations through networking. The Bank is also putting in place arrangements whereby external users will, in the not too distant future, have direct access to BESD.

96. The Bank's programme for integrated household surveys under the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) programme has made considerable progress. Surveys are now under way in several countries and additional surveys are planned in several others. These efforts are co-ordinated with the United Nations National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). Under a new initiative covering countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) programme has been launched. With funding from the UNDP, the African Development Bank and several bilateral donors, the Bank is proceeding to set in place continuous integrated household surveys in some 25 countries. Surveys under the



SDA programme are designed to collect in an integrated manner a wide range of economic and social data for use by Governments in monitoring the impact of adjustment programmes and in designing appropriate programmes to minimize any adverse impact arising from adjustment measures.

97. As in the case of the LSMS, the SDA programme is closely co-ordinated with NHSCP and the statistical programmes of other international agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WHO etc.) both at the international, regional and national levels. It is envisaged that the information collected will also result in the compilation of new social indicators, particularly in the fields of nutrition, the role of women in development, household consumption etc.).

98. An additional initiative launched during the past two years covers the field of environment statistics. In collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Bank is preparing a set of guidelines and recommendations for the preparation of resource and environment accounts. Subject to further review by the Expert Group on the revision of the SNA, a set of satellite accounts will be developed. Concurrently, a range of environmental statistics needed for preparing country environmental profiles are being gathered.

99. Experiments designed to collect output data for major agricultural crops through a set of household surveys were conducted in a small number of countries in Africa. These experiments have demonstrated the viability of obtaining reliable and timely estimates through interviews with farmers. The findings are now being promoted through regional seminars and workshops jointly organized with other international agencies. The Bank has had active collaboration with FAO, UNICEF and the Statistical Office in undertaking this work.

#### G. International Monetary Fund

##### Major achievements, including new activities

100. Through its network of official correspondents in member countries, the IMF continued to give priority to the development and maintenance of its large-scale data base of internationally comparable economic statistics. The Fund's computerized data base system, the Economic Information System (EIS), came into operation in 1986, replacing the Data Fund System. The EIS incorporates statistics on money and banking, balance of payments, government finance, international banking and external debt, national accounts, and other aspects of the general economy.

101. Technical co-operation in statistics was again accorded high priority in the Fund's statistical programme. Co-operation included staff missions to member countries, particularly developing countries, to review and advise on compilation procedures and methodologies for the development of economic statistics, as well as training at IMF headquarters and in the field. The Fund extended its support for the training of national officials in statistical methodology and practices through the IMF Institute. In 1986, a new course on money and banking statistics was added

to the range of statistical courses at the IMF Institute, while courses on balance of payments methodology and government finance statistics continued to form an important part of the programme.

102. Through the end of June 1988, the IMF issued the following statistical publications: International Financial Statistics (IFS), monthly issues and IFS Yearbook 1986 and IFS Yearbook 1987; Balance of Payments Statistics, vol. 37 (1986) and vol. 38 (1987) and monthly issues; Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook (1986) and Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook (1987) and monthly issues; and Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, vol. X (1986) and vol. XI (1987).

103. The IMF continued to publish periodically Supplements to International Financial Statistics, containing historical data on special topics during the period under review. They included the Supplement on Government Finance Statistics (the eleventh in the series), Supplement on Prices (the twelfth), Supplement on Public Sector Institutions (the thirteenth), and the Supplement on International Liquidity (the fourteenth). A Supplement on International Trade is in preparation.

104. The IMF, working in close collaboration with the other international agencies constituting the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the Revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), sponsored specially convened expert group meetings held at IMF headquarters relating to the revision process during the period under review. The first, a meeting of experts on external sector accounts, was held in February 1987. A second meeting, which brought together experts on public sector accounts, was held in March 1988. A third expert group meeting, on financial flows and balances, is to be held in September 1988. The IMF has also participated in a number of other expert group meetings organized in connection with the revision of the SNA.

105. The Working Party on the Statistical Discrepancy in World Current Account Balances completed its work in 1986. Its report was considered by the Executive Board of the Fund in February 1987 and was published in September 1987. Steps have been taken to implement the recommendations affecting the work of the Fund, including the convening of a meeting of balance of payments compilers representing IMF member countries. This meeting, which was held at the Fund's office in Europe, in November 1987, addressed discrepancy-related issues from the standpoint of national balance of payments compilers, as well as questions of methodology in the context of the coming revision of the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual.

106. There was further progress in the IMF's work to develop a data base on international banking statistics. An IMF pamphlet, "The Fund's international banking statistics", was published in July 1986 and describes compilation methodology, sources of data and uses of international banking statistics.

107. The International Working Group on External Debt Statistics (IWGEDS), comprising representatives of the IMF, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, and the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers (the Berne Union), completed work on a joint publication reviewing conceptual and definitional aspects of the measurement of external debt and presenting the methodology and compilation procedures for external debt statistics collected by each organization. This

publication, entitled External Debt: Definition, Statistical Coverage and Methodology was issued in English, in March 1988. French and Spanish editions of the publication are planned for release later in 1988.

#### H. Universal Postal Union

##### Major achievements, including new activities

108. The statistical activities of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) have two goals:

(a) Internationally, to deduce systematically the general trends of postal traffic and the means used to deal with the traffic, as well as the interdependence of postal development and growth in the economic, social and cultural spheres;

(b) Nationally, to promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services.

109. Postal statistics in a loose-leaf binder entitled Statistique des services postaux were published for the year 1986 (those for 1987 are in preparation). Data furnished by national postal administrations are submitted to an automatic logical and chronological control; the corrections sent by countries are published each year. Statistical data collected and published in the annual UPU publication since 1984, have been stored in machine-readable form. Since the beginning of 1982, the Statistics Service has been recording the data on the disk files of the International Bureau's new computer.

110. On the basis of existing data, a report on the situation of the postal services during the five years from 1977 to 1981 was prepared for the information of the UPU Congress, held at Hamburg from 18 June to 27 July 1984. That document takes the place of the annual report on the situation of the postal services. Henceforth, only two reports will be published in the period between Congresses, one covering a shorter three-year period and the other a five-year period whose median year is that of the previous Congress. The report for 1982-1984 is ready to be printed. The report 1982-1986, prepared for the information of UPU Congress 1989, is in preparation.

111. A consultative group of statisticians has been established to give technical advice to the International Bureau.

#### I. World Intellectual Property Organization

##### Major achievements, including new activities

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

J. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Major achievements, including new activities

113. The following publications were issued: Handbook of Industrial Statistics, 1986; Africa in Figures; An Inventory of Industrial Statistics; UNIDO Data Base 1988; Comparisons between Industrial Statistics and National Accounts; Improving the International Comparability of Industrial Statistics.

114. Lectures were provided to the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, and to the Institut supérieur de technologie appliquée, Libreville, for courses in industrial statistics and industrial planning. Various missions (Barbados, Cameroon, Guyana, Jamaica, Mozambique, Senegal) were carried out for technical assistance projects.

115. The organization has undertaken the development of a software package specially conceived for processing industrial statistics (NISP) and intended mainly for users in Ministries of Industry or Planning. In view of the large demand addressed to this package, several technical assistance projects have been launched to implement NISP within national contexts.

K. International Atomic Energy Agency

Major achievements, including new activities

116. The Agency publishes annually a comprehensive overview report entitled Nuclear Power: Status and Trends, based in particular on data in the Agency's Energy and Economic Data Bank (EEDB) and the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS). A booklet entitled "Energy electricity and nuclear power estimates for the period up to 2000" (Reference Data Series No. 1) is published annually, using data from EEDB and PRIS and results of the Agency and other international demand projections.

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

L. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Major achievements, including new activities

118. Emphasis has been put on the improvement of the timeliness, comparability and internal consistency of the various production, trade, consumption and price statistics collected under the arrangements or agreements concluded under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) (textiles, dairy products, bovine meat, civil aircraft, government procurement) and of the data required for customs tariff assessments and economic research projects. For trade

statistics, intensive use is made of the data prepared and stored in the COMTRADE system by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

119. The tariff and trade data files have been updated to include the year 1986. Compilation of aggregates or other tariff and trade statistics is being routinely carried out to meet the internal needs of GATT and of the Contracting Parties. A new Integrated Data Base is being prepared. In the initial phase the Integrated Data Base will contain tariff line data on imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The tariff lines will be based on the Harmonized System. Over time it is anticipated that the World Bank will be expanded to include other categories of non-tariff measures on which information is supplied by contracting parties.

### III. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

#### World Tourism Organization

##### Major achievements, including new activities

120. The following statistical publications were issued: Yearbook of Tourism Statistics (1986 and 1987 editions); Compendium of Tourism Statistics (1986 and 1987 editions) and quarterly Main Travel and Tourism Indicators (1986, 1987 and first 1988 editions).

121. In relation to the development of concepts and methods, the following publications were prepared: "Statistical nomenclature for non-pleasure travel"; "Methodological elements for developing a tourism balance of payments"; "Computerized processing of the embarkation/disembarkation card and of the hotel survey"; "Proposal for integration of tourism in the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) of the United Nations" and "Model yearbook of tourism statistics".

122. Several technical assistance missions on tourism statistics were carried out in Africa, South America, Europe and Oceania in pursuance of the organization's programme of operational activities.

123. A conference and workshop on tourism statistics were jointly organized by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) through the two programmes of technical assistance being provided for tourism in the Pacific by the European Economic Community (EEC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Suva (Fiji) from 1 to 6 February 1988.

#### IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

##### Inter-American Statistical Institute

##### Major achievements, including new activities

124. A new Constitution was approved by referendum in April 1987; subsequently, the Executive Committee developed new by-laws. Both documents are in force since that date. The new organization is oriented: (a) to complement the work carried out by other organizations concerning the development of governmental statistics in the American region; and (b) to strengthen the role of the Institute regarding the academic and professional statistical activities. The existence of the Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas is no longer recognized in the Constitution. The Institute co-operates, instead, in the operation of the Inter-American Statistical Conference maintained by the Organization of American States (OAS) and participates in the meetings of Directors of Statistics organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

125. The activities of the Regional Programme for the Development of Household Surveys are developed in close co-operation with OAS and ECLAC. The main activities during the 1986-1987 biennium were the publication of two technical documents and the holding of a Central American Seminar-Workshop on Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, in San José, Costa Rica, from 10 to 13 March 1987, in co-operation with ECLAC, UNFPA and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

126. The second session of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, organized jointly with FAO, was held at Santiago, Chile, from 22 to 26 September 1986.

127. A new programme of seminars in applied statistics started with the Seminar on Statistical Methods for Cyclical and Seasonal Analyses, held from 31 August to 2 September 1987 at Mar del Plata, Argentina, hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata and the Argentinian Statistical Society.

128. The Institute co-sponsored a regional seminar on data processing for the Population Censuses Round of 1990, organized by the United States Bureau of the Census, and held at Boca Raton, Florida, from 29 February to 4 March 1988.

#### V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 6 (E/1987/19), para. 172 (b).

2/ World Health Organization/International Epidemiological Association, Measurement in Health Promotion and Protection, WHO Regional Publications, European Series No. 22, Copenhagen, 1987.

3/ J. Chalmers and W. Lutz, Presenting Survey Information: A Guide for Health Workers (1988). Obtainable from the Division of Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Situation and Trend Assessment (Geneva, World Health Organization).

4/ World Health Organization, Health Projections in Europe: Methods and Applications (Copenhagen, 1986).

5/ Pan American Health Organization, Health conditions in the Americas, 1981-1984, volumes I and II, Scientific Publication No. 500 (Washington, D.C., 1986).

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