

Document Symbol:
E/1682

Best copy available

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/1682
11 May 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Eleventh session

RELATIONS WITH AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

	Paragraphs
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4
II. PROBLEM OF CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT AND RESOURCES	5 - 8
III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	9 - 10
IV. PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION	
A. Priorities	11 - 13
B. Fellowship programmes	14 - 15
C. Essential long-range activities for children	16 - 21
D. Housing and migration	22 - 24
E. Catalogue of economic and social projects	25
V. REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION	
A. Co-ordination of regional programmes	26
B. Consultation on regional or branch offices	27 - 29
VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION	
A. International Civil Service Advisory Board	30 - 31
B. Matters referred to the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies at recent sessions of the General Assembly and the Council	32 - 41
C. Other administrative and budgetary questions	42 - 43
VII. INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN AGENCIES AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	44 - 46
VIII. TRUSTS AND NON-Self-GOVERNING TERRITORIES	47 - 49
IX. OTHER MATTERS	50 - 58

UNITED NATIONS
ARCHIVES

162

/I. INTRODUCTION
E/1682

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee held its ninth session at Paris on 2 and 3 May 1950, the necessary groundwork for this session having been undertaken by the Preparatory Committee of deputies.
2. Members present were Mr. Trygve Lie (Chairman), Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. David A. Morse, Director-General of ILO; Mr. Norris E. Dodd, Director-General of FAO; Mr. J. Torres-Bodet, Director-General of UNESCO; Dr. G. Brock Chisholm, Director-General of WHO; Mr. Eugene R. Black, President of the International Bank; Mr. Edward Warner, President of the Council of ICAO; Mr. A.N. Overby, Deputy Managing Director of the Fund (representing Mr. C. Gatt); Mr. Gerald Gross, Assistant Secretary-General of ITU (representing Mr. L. Mulatier); Mr. F. Redice, Vice-Director of UPU (representing Mr. F. Hess); Mr. F. Blanchard, Director of Office of Liaison and Planning of IRO (representing Mr. D. Kingsley); and Mr. E. Wyndham White, Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission of ITO.
3. The importance of the questions relating to programmes and administrations, examined and acted upon at this session, is brought out in the following sections of this report. The Committee was satisfied that great improvements have been made in the arrangements for inter-agency co-ordination and that substantial results had been achieved.
4. In the course of their discussions, the members of the ACC joined in expressing their deep concern over the present international situation in the following statement:

"The present division of the world and the increasingly serious conflicts of policy among the Great Powers have gravely impaired the prospects for world peace and for raising the standard of living of the peoples of the world. It is of particular concern to the administrative heads of the organizations that these conditions threaten the very basis of their work.

"The United Nations and the specialized agencies are founded upon the principles that lasting world peace can only be achieved and maintained by world organization, and that world problems like disease, hunger, ignorance and poverty, which recognize no frontier, can never be overcome unless all the nations join in universal efforts to these ends.

/"We re-affirm

"We re-affirm the validity of this principle of universality. The United Nations system makes ample room for diversity within a universal framework. We believe it would be a disaster if efforts to realize the principle of universality in practice were to be abandoned now.

"We believe that the greatest efforts should, on the contrary, be directed towards achieving in fact true universality in the membership and programmes of the United Nations and of those of the specialized agencies which are founded on that principle.

"We also believe that it is necessary for all Governments to renew their efforts to conciliate and negotiate the political differences that divide them and obstruct economic and social advancement.

"Specifically, we believe that it is essential to the future of both the United Nations and the specialized agencies that the present political deadlock in the United Nations be resolved at the earliest possible moment.

"The peace and well-being of all peoples demand from their Governments a great and sustained new effort by the nations of the world to achieve a constructive and durable peace."

II. PROBLEM OF CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT AND RESOURCES

5. The General Assembly resolution 310 (IV) on the "problem of proliferation and overlapping of the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies" requested the Secretary-General through the ACC to "assist the Council in the discharge of its responsibility in this regard by putting before it any relevant recommendations". It specifically endorsed the Council's recommendations contained in resolution 259 (IX) relating to a greater concentration of effort and available resources.

6. As reported to the Council in its sixth report (E/1572), the Committee, immediately after the adoption by the General Assembly of the above-mentioned resolution, initiated studies of measures that might contribute to achieving the objectives of the Council and the General Assembly, with a view to formulating recommendations which it might place before the Council at its eleventh session. These recommendations are now before the Council in the document (E/1683) entitled "Concentration of Effort and Resources of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies".

/7. The members

7. The members of the ACC attach great importance both to the subject of that report and to the report itself. They have discussed the problem not merely with a view to the formulation of proposals to the Council, but also to determining what action they might appropriately take in their respective agencies to deal with it. With this end in view, they have continued to work out internal procedures both within their own organizations and as between various organizations in order to ensure that their staffs play their full part in concentrating effort and making the most effective use of the resources available.

8. The ACC hopes that the report submitted will assist the Council in its consideration of action that may be taken in the Council and other inter-governmental organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and that it may also be able to recommend action that might usefully be taken by Governments to achieve the objectives outlined in the General Assembly's resolution.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9. The Technical Assistance Board, which had been set up by the ACC at its eighth session in accordance with Council resolution 222 (IX) and General Assembly resolution 304 (IV), held its first session on 23-24 February and its second session on 20-21 April 1950. As provided for in the above mentioned resolutions the Board will be reporting to the Council's Technical Assistance Committee.

10. The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies availed themselves of the opportunity of the ACC session to review the development of technical assistance with special reference to the expanded programme. The acting Chairman of the TAB and the Executive Secretary gave an account of the work that has been initiated as a result of the two sessions of the TAB so far held. It was noted that the existing machinery of the ACC is being used by the TAB for the resolution of problems common to the expanded programme and the regular programmes of the United Nations organizations. The Committee felt that the work done by the TAB on the foundation laid by the Council at its ninth session was providing a most satisfactory basis for co-operative action. It expressed appreciation of the work of the TAB as well as of the co-operative spirit which has prevailed and which is essential to

/ensure that

ensure that the programme is operated as a common enterprise of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

IV. PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION

A. Priorities

11. At its ninth session, the Council, having set forth a number of principles relating to the establishment of priorities, recommended that "urgent attention should be given to the above principles by the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and that the ACC should report to an early session of the Council on the measures taken". The Council's recommendations were duly brought to the attention of the governing organs of the specialized agencies and the commissions of the Council which have met in the meantime. The action which has been taken in this matter is described in the Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects, and is also reflected in the Secretary-General's paper on Concentration of Effort and Resources, and in the reports of the various commissions and of the specialized agencies.

12. The difficulties both of defining priorities and of introducing any standard procedure for establishing them are mentioned in the paper on Concentration of Effort and Resources. In a number of agencies, owing to the stringent budgetary limitations now imposed on the scope of their activities, the establishment of the programme itself may be considered as tantamount to the establishment of priorities, the end result differing little, if at all, from the setting out in so many words of a priority list.

13. Clearly, the practicability of establishing detailed priorities must be judged by the organs directly responsible for the work of a given agency and no rule of thumb can be established to cover the whole United Nations family. It is thus important when discussing the question of priorities to distinguish clearly between priorities among specific projects and priorities among fields of work and broad objectives. It is in this latter field that any general recommendations by the Council might contribute much to aligning international effort in the economic and social fields and thereby assist in concentrating the efforts of the United Nations and specialized agencies towards agreed objectives.

B. Fellowship programmes

14. The Council, in considering the report of the ACC and the special report on /co-ordination of

co-ordination of fellowship programmes at its ninth session, expressed its approval of the progress made in co-ordinating fellowship programmes, noted that further studies were being made by the ACC of other issues connected with fellowships, and asked that a report be submitted to the eleventh session of the Council.

15. Within the framework of the ACC, a working party on fellowships is engaged in further exploration of the problems relating to fellowship programmes with a view to ensuring greater co-ordination. At the request of the Technical Assistance Board, the same working party is considering co-ordination of the fellowship programmes under the expanded programme for technical assistance for economic development. Thus, these co-ordinating efforts are covering the whole field of fellowship activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. A report will be communicated to the Council.

C. Essential long-range activities for children

16. The action taken by the ACC to assist in the formulation of proposals relating to a programme of essential long-range international activities for children was described in the Committee's last report to the Council.

17. The report (document E/CN.5/201) submitted by the Secretary-General to the sixth session of the Social Commission, at its request, was drafted after consultation with the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned and of UNICEF, although it did not represent a full agreement with the views either of the specialized agencies having permanent responsibilities in this field or of UNICEF.

18. In the light of the action which had just been taken by the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council, the Directors-General of ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO made it clear at the seventh session of the ACC that, apart from relief, every aspect of such a long-range programme as had been outlined in the Secretary-General's report already formed part of the programmes either of their respective agencies or of the United Nations. The effectiveness of these programmes was dependent on far-reaching national measures of a long-term character which are usually related closely to similar measures for the general population. While the Directors-General subscribed fully to the importance of maintaining a United Nations fund-raising and supply organization, it was clearly necessary to avoid any long-term arrangement which would involve overlapping responsibilities for the formulation and execution of programmes on behalf of children. Effective international action could only be secured through adequate arrangements for co-ordinating the activities of the above organizations.

/19. While

19. While believing that the fullest advantage should be taken of the experience acquired by UNICEF in the practical handling of an operational supply programme, the ACC calls the attention of the Council to the following considerations stated in the Secretary-General's report:

20. "It is clearly necessary that any new organizational arrangements for achieving greater co-ordination must be in line with the efforts of the United Nations and specialized agencies in other fields of economic and social development, and that, both in the interests of concentration of effort, efficiency and economy, the existing regular machinery of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be used wherever practicable, especially in view of the recent resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council to this effect ... Under the direction of the Economic and Social Council, closer collaboration of all international organs concerned with activities for children should be established, while leaving the responsibility to the permanent organs for those aspects of child welfare which lie within their respective fields and necessarily constitute parts of their total activities. It would be undesirable to establish a machinery which would in fact constitute a new specialized agency."

21. The ACC^{1/} wishes to emphasize that the creation of international organizations with wide responsibilities for a particular age-group or other special section of the population would cut across the whole of the existing organizational structure of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

D. Housing and migration

22. In accordance with the Council's request that the ACC should follow up the work already undertaken on topics previously selected for programme co-ordination, the Committee noted that the Council had approved at its tenth session the programme of work in the field of housing and town and country planning for 1950 which had been proposed by the Social Commission after examination of the integrated programme originally drawn up in consultation with the specialized agencies.

23. In the field of migration, pursuant to Council resolution 156 A (VII) on the question of consulting with non-governmental organizations and trade union

1/ The Secretary-General reserved his position on this paragraph in view of the recent resolution of the Social Commission which is to be discussed by the Council.

organizations regarding the co-ordination of activities, the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the ILO jointly sponsored in January 1950 a conference of interested non-governmental organizations, at which IRO and WHO also participated. As a result of a decision by the Governing Body of the ILO at its 108th session, the Preliminary Conference on Migration was convened on 25 April 1950 at Geneva, to which countries directly concerned in migration within Europe or from Europe were invited. The agenda contained an item on the activities of international organizations to assist migration and an item on the technical assistance which international organizations can provide in this field. In this connexion, the United Nations Secretariat prepared a working paper, which included a description of the migration activities and plans of the United Nations, as they relate to the agenda of the Conference.

24. The specialized agencies have been consulted regarding their 1950 programmes in the field of migration, in order to ensure co-ordinated action and with a view to the production of the progress report which has been submitted to the Council (E/1685).

E. Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects

25. The form of the 1950 Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects is partially experimental, and comments from the Council as to the usefulness or otherwise of the Catalogue in its present form and its suggestions as to changes in this form would be welcomed. It will be observed that the contents of the Catalogue vary both in the amount of detail given and to some extent in their layout, and it may be possible for the Council to judge from those variations what will in fact be the most useful layout for the Catalogue in future years, taking into consideration the multiple purposes which it might eventually be made to serve.

V. REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION

A. Co-ordination of regional programmes

26. In a separate paper, (document E/1684), information on regional programme co-ordination is given in response to the Council's request. It is evident from that document that such co-ordination is being achieved in a substantial degree. It has been developed largely on an empirical basis and this will no doubt continue to be necessary owing to the peculiar problems involved in regional co-ordination and the range of situations in which co-operation from

/and among the

and among the different United Nations bodies is required. Regional co-ordination is, however, likely to be the more effective, and the Council's responsibility in respect of such co-ordination the easier to discharge, the more fully and consistently two recognized principles are applied - the principle that the regional activities of each organization should be closely integrated with its overall programme, and the principle that the existing arrangements for co-ordination in functional matters are applied to regional activities. The Committee attaches great importance in this connexion to the statement made in its fourth report to the Council that "effective co-ordination of regional activities depends upon adherence to the principle that the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies apply fully to such activities."

B. Consultation on regional or branch offices

27. Among the routine assignments from the Council to the ACC is its request that there should be "full consultation, as far in advance as possible, through the ACC, on the establishment of new regional or branch offices" (resolution 259 (IX) Section III).

28. It was reported to the Committee that the Executive Board of UNESCO was placing before the General Conference of UNESCO in May 1950 a proposal that a new field science co-operation office for South East Asia be established. The Director-General informed the Committee that he would draw the attention of the General Conference of UNESCO to the Council's desires in the matter of the location of regional or branch offices and that he would consult with the Committee before final selection of the location of this field science co-operation office was made.

29. In the case of the other specialized agencies, it was reported to the Committee that no new developments had occurred as regards the possible establishment of regional or branch offices, which need be brought to the attention of the ACC.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION

A. International Civil Service Advisory Board

30. The International Civil Service Advisory Board held its second session from 22-28 March 1950, representatives of the United Nations and the specialized /agencies being

agencies being present to assist it in its discussions. The ACC has received with appreciation the Board's report on "Recruitment methods and standards for the United Nations and the specialized agencies". It notes that the Secretary-General intends to bring this report to the attention of the General Assembly; the other members of the Committee likewise propose to transmit it to the competent organs of their respective agencies for information. As the Board points out in its report, the recruitment of highly qualified specialists presents special problems which are not dealt with therein.

31. The Committee noted that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had agreed generally with the recommendations on the International Centre for Training in Public Administration which had been the chief subject of the Board's first report in May 1949, and that the General Assembly had appropriated funds for the operation of this Centre during 1950 along the lines which had been recommended. The Board has expressed the hope that full implementation of the Centre's programme might be carried out as soon as possible.

B. Matters referred to the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies at recent sessions of the General Assembly and the Council

32. Through the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, studies have been made of such matters as reserve funds, utilization of "soft" currencies, common form of budget, organization of administrative and financial services, and standards of conference services, which were requested by General Assembly resolution 311 (IV) of 24 November 1949. While a final report on these matters will be submitted to the fifth session of the General Assembly, a summary of the progress so far achieved is reported now to the Council for its information. At the same time progress is also reported on studies of certain matters referred to the ACC at the ninth and tenth sessions of the Council.

33. Through the above machinery, a set of common draft permanent financial regulations for the United Nations and the specialized agencies has been drawn up which will be submitted by the executive heads of the organizations concerned to the competent bodies of their organizations.

34. The Committee has prepared a set of principles governing the composition, purposes, and conditions for the use of working capital funds which its members

1/ The studies and decisions referred to in this section, unless otherwise indicated, were made by UN, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, ICAO and IRO.

will recommend to the appropriate legislative bodies in the respective organizations.

35. The Committee exchanged information regarding methods for increasing the utilization of soft currencies by their organizations over and above the direct expenditures made in support of regional or branch offices, and its members agreed to arrange for review of the expenditure programme of their agencies, particularly for certain items such as salaries, printing and other procurement, and travel where greater possibilities for utilization of soft currency might be found. It is understood that each agency, while taking these administrative actions, will inform its Member Governments that use of numerous soft currencies would involve an increase in its administrative and financial workload and in some cases might result in some increase in total expenditures.

36. The Committee also devoted considerable attention to possible methods for collecting and disbursing soft currencies, and considered that any overall plan for the collection of soft currencies should be limited to a few currencies, the selection of which should be made on the basis of certain criteria such as the total amounts used, convertibility into other usable currencies and availability early in the financial year. The Committee is exploring the various aspects of the proposed plan as to its feasibility and acceptability.

37. The Committee exchanged information regarding practices being followed for the collection of arrears in contributions, including the United Nations monthly press release which has played an effective part in this matter.

38. It was also noted that General Assembly resolution 311 C (IV) on the subject of arrears in contributions, in which a recommendation is made that each specialized agency keep its expenditure each year within the amount of funds reasonably expected to be received in respect of that year, had duly been brought to the attention of the organs of the agencies concerned, and that some agencies had already taken action along the lines of that recommendation.

39. The Council at its ninth session recommended that certain principles and provisions be added to the plan for a Joint Panel of Auditors, namely, (a) in the "Principles to Govern Audit Procedures" it should be provided that the external auditor appointed from the Panel by an agency should be present when his report on that agency's accounts is being considered by the agency's annual conference, and (b) in the Plan for the Panel, it should be provided that the Panel of Auditors should be invited to submit from time to time any observations

or recommendations it might wish to make on the co-ordination of the accounts and financial procedures of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. These provisions have duly been added to the principles and the plan. With the adherence of five organizations to the Plan (UN, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO), it was agreed that the Panel should be considered as established as of 1 July 1950, and that a first meeting be held in August. Among the matters which will be brought to its attention for study will be the question of uniformity of internal financial controls including internal audit procedures, which was raised in the discussions of the Council at its tenth session.

40. Various problems in connexion with the form of budgets have been under examination in the light of proposals submitted by the United Nations and specialized agencies. The Committee considered that it would be practicable to give certain information on (a) operational expenditure classified according to regions and (b) expenditure in different currencies, as suggested by the Economic and Social Council at its ninth session, after the close of the current financial year.

41. In accordance with the wish expressed by the Council, it should be possible to transmit to Governments a consolidated set of budgetary estimates of the specialized agencies earlier than in the past.

C. Other administrative and budgetary questions

42. Upon the proposal of UNESCO, a new study was made of travel and per diem rates, and common standard drafted (i) on the system to be used, (ii) on normal travel rates and on percentage of full rates to be used while aboard train, plane or ship and (iii) on the provision of machinery for revising normal rates and establishing uniform special subsistence rates, the United Nations to assume a central co-ordinating function for the collection and analysis of data, recommending rates after consultation with all agencies concerned and notifying the agencies of effective dates for establishment or change in rates.

43. Studies are proceeding on the possibility of establishing a common set of draft permanent staff regulations. The Secretary-General has kept the agencies informed on the steps he is taking to implement during 1950 certain aspects of the plan contained in the Report of the Committee of Experts on Salary, Allowance and Leave Systems. Negotiations for admission to the Joint

Staff Pension Fund have been or are being completed with WHO, UNESCO, ICAO and FAO, and, as soon as the respective agreements have been signed, the Joint Staff Pension Board will be constituted, and the first meeting expected to be held in September 1950. The Governing Body will be constituted, and the first meeting expected to be held in September 1950. The Governing Body of the ILO has authorized the making of arrangements for uninsured staff members to join the Fund.

VII. INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
AGENCIES AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

44. The Committee took note of the proposed Agreement between the International Labour Organisation and the Organization of American States, the text of which had been communicated to the Secretary-General by the Director-General of the ILO for the information of the Council in accordance with Article XVI of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation.

45. It had been informed of the nature and scope of a proposed Agreement between UNESCO and the Organization of American States. The Director-General of UNESCO has informed the Secretary-General that in accordance with Article XIX of its Agreement with the United Nations, the exact terms of the proposed agreement will be communicated before its conclusion.

46. With reference to the Council's recommendation regarding the procedure for studying agreements concluded or contemplated between specialized agencies and between specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations, the members of the ACC wish to emphasize the importance they attach to ensuring that in any such agreement the position of the United Nations or the other specialized agencies should in no way be prejudiced. They agreed to undertake such consultations as may be necessary to this end.

VIII. TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

47. There has been close co-operation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO, WHO and ILO, with regard to economic and social problems connected with the Trust Territories.

48. Similarly, in respect of information on Non-Self-Governing Territories,

/the requests

the requests contained in resolution 329 (IV), 330 (IV), 331 (IV), 333 (IV), and 336 (IV) of the General Assembly were considered by the Executive Board of UNESCO, and by the Governing Body of the ILO, whose views have been communicated to the Council.

49. The United Nations Secretariat has made informal working arrangements with UNESCO in connexion with studies on education, and with WHO, in connexion with studies on medical training, to be submitted to the Special Committee on Information Transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter, meeting in August 1950. Consultations with FAO are likewise being planned, in connexion with the study on facilities for the training of agricultural technicians in Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be submitted to the Special Committee. Further discussions are proceeding.

IX. OTHER MATTERS

Question of revision of agreements

50. General Assembly resolution 309 (IV) requested the Economic and Social Council to report to the next session of the General Assembly on the subject of the revision of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. At its ninth session in February 1950, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit any suggestions he or the ACC might have on the matter.

51. After consideration, the ACC concurred with the opinion of the Secretary-General that there have been no developments to warrant action being taken at this time with a view to the revision, partial or total, of the agreements.

Questionnaires and requests to Governments for information

52. At the tenth session of the Council, the ACC was invited to study and report on the question of requests to Governments for information, with a view to ensuring that requests on the same subject should not be made by more than one international organization. The Committee considered methods for preventing any possible duplication of this kind. It noted that the clearance of questionnaires dealing with statistical matters through the United Nations Statistical Office was working satisfactorily. With regard to non-statistical questionnaires, the existing practice is for each agency to consult with other appropriate organizations before issuance of questionnaires which would seem to

/involve them.

involve them. While this procedure is believed to have avoided any obvious duplication, it was agreed to strengthen it as follows: agencies and departments of United Nations will keep a designated central point in the United Nations Secretariat informed of the title and substance of all questionnaires under preparation, and will send to all other interested specialized agencies and to the United Nations Secretariat, information copies of questionnaires and, so far as practicable, of other important requests for non-statistical information which are despatched to the Governments of all members. The United Nations Secretariat will keep a register of such requests for reference purposes for the benefit of all the organizations concerned.

Statistical matters

53. In addition to the publications being produced regularly, a number of documents covering different fields of statistics are being prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office with the assistance of the specialized agencies concerned, including studies called for by Council resolutions 40 (IV), 114 (VI), 149 (VII) and 231 (IX), and those requested by the Statistical Commission during its third and fourth sessions. Inter alia, the documents include an inventory of statistics available to international agencies; a compilation of notes contributed by the specialized agencies on their current activities in the field of statistics; publications relating to various aspects of the improvement of international trade statistics including a revision of the minimum list of commodities for international trade statistics; a progress report on vital statistical methods and a report on standardization of transport statistics.

Public information

54. The machinery which the United Nations and the specialized agencies have set up to discuss matters relating to public information and films has been further rationalized. Through this machinery, problems have been studied concerning information policy in regard to the expanded programme of technical assistance problems concerning the provision by the specialized agencies of information material to the United Nations Information Centres, as well as general arrangements for better co-ordination and liaison.

Publications, library, registry and terminology services

55. Considerable progress has been made in regularizing the mutual exchange of documents and in studying such matters as common procurement of paper supply, contract-sharing, typographical standards and sales agencies.

/56. The "Index of

56. The "Index of United Nations and Specialized Agencies Document and Publications" is now being published monthly.
57. Following a study made by the registry experts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, a plan is being studied for the exchange of information between agencies on their registry systems.
58. Similar progress is being made on a glossary of financial terms used in administration but work on the glossary of terms relating to personnel administration has been suspended pending implementation of the plan of the Committee of Experts on Salary, Leave and Allowance Systems.
