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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/STAT/1997/IG.1/6
12 January 1997
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Statistical Committee
Second session
Amman, 24-26 February 1997

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

UN ECONOMIC
COMMISSION
3 AUG 1998
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THE ESCWA STATISTICS DIVISION WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE YEARS 1998 AND 1999

I. OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

1. The work programme of the ESCWA Statistics Division will provide support to member States in harmonizing statistics and information. It will contribute to the development of national statistical systems and to their harmonization on a regional and international basis. It will also establish and develop regional statistical databases and information systems in line with the role of ESCWA as the major regional source of statistics and information.
2. Through data collection and processing, meetings, technical assistance, human and institutional capacity-building, the work programme will establish and expand sectoral databases in the area of economic and social statistics and embark on the preparatory phase of establishing a regional statistical information system. It will further promote international concepts, standards and classifications and will implement international systems and programmes, mainly the 1993 System of National Accounts and the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. It will assist national statistical departments in the collection of specific indicators and statistics required for the follow-up of the recent global conferences and it will also provide assistance to member States in the areas of gender statistics and the International Comparison Programme.
3. Improved documentation and substantive servicing of the ESCWA biennial Commission session and the third session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee will contribute to the adoption of the proposed statistical standards. Inputs will be provided for the documentation required for the Statistical Commission. Joint activities will be expanded with the United Nations bodies responsible for statistics and information as well as other relevant international organizations. Cooperation will continue with the League of Arab States (LAS) and its specialized organizations as well as with other relevant international and regional organizations.
4. This work programme will continue to deal with the same areas as the previous biennium owing to the recurrent nature of the activities. However, in comparison with the previous biennium, the programme will be more involved in the execution of regional projects in newly emerging areas such as gender statistics. It will give greater emphasis to new dimensions in social statistics to facilitate the monitoring of implementation of the recommendations of the global conferences of the United Nations.

II. ACTIVITIES

5. The planned activities of the ESCWA Statistics Division work programme for the years 1998 and 1999 are listed below:

A. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

- (a) Servicing of the third session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee (1999);
- (b) Six reports to the ESCWA Statistical Committee (1999);
- (c) Report to the ESCWA Commission on the third session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee;
- (d) Expert group meeting on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) (1999);
- (e) Expert group meeting on the implications of the United Nations global conferences on social statistics (1999);
- (f) Expert group meeting on vital statistics and civil registration systems in ESCWA member States (1999);
- (g) Expert group meeting on industrial surveys and censuses (1999).

B. Other substantive activities

1. Publications

- (a) Statistical Newsletter (four issues);
- (b) Bulletin on Vital Statistics in ESCWA Member States (two issues);
- (c) National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region (two issues);
- (d) Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries (1999);
- (e) Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region (two issues);
- (f) Study on women and men: statistical portrait of the Arab countries (1999);
- (g) External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region (1998).

2. Technical material

- (a) Development and maintenance of the database on industrial statistics;
- (b) Development and maintenance of the database on national accounts;
- (c) Development and maintenance of the database on social statistics;
- (d) Development and maintenance of the database on labour force statistics;
- (e) Development and maintenance of the database on gender statistics and indicators;
- (f) Development of the ESCWA statistical information system;
- (g) Development and maintenance of a database on energy statistics;
- (h) Development and maintenance of a database on price statistics;
- (i) Development and maintenance of a database on financial statistics.

C. International cooperation and interagency coordination and liaison

1. Participation in activities of the intergovernmental bodies

- (a) Cooperation with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization on industrial statistics;
- (b) Coordination with the League of Arab States and its related organizations on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts;
- (c) Cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics on training in statistics;
- (d) Cooperation with the Council of Arab Economic Unity on economic statistics;
- (e) Cooperation with the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research on gender statistics;
- (f) Cooperation with the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations on household survey projects (1998);
- (g) Cooperation with the Arab Monetary Fund on financial statistics;
- (h) Cooperation with the Arab Planning Institute on statistical issues.

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2. Participation in activities of the United Nations system

- (a) Coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division at United Nations Headquarters in the areas of national accounts and the United Nations Economic and Social Information System;
- (b) Participation in the biennial sessions of the Statistical Commission;
- (c) Coordination with the World Bank on the implementation of the ICP in ESCWA member States;
- (d) Coordination with the United Nations Development Programme on statistical issues;
- (e) Coordination with the International Statistical Institute on statistical issues;
- (f) Participation in the annual sessions of the ACC (Administrative Committee on Coordination) Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

3. Technical cooperation

- (a) Advisory services on gender statistics;
- (b) Support of advisory services for national accounts and economic statistics, data processing and household surveys;
- (c) Workshop on gender statistics (1998);
- (d) Implementation of the ICP in ESCWA member States.
