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NEW YORK

POPULATION COMMISSION

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Corrigendum

Page 55

The list of States Members of the United Nations represented by observers  
should read

Argentina

China

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**POPULATION COMMISSION**  
**REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION**  
(26 January-4 February 1981)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1981**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 3**



**UNITED NATIONS**

# **POPULATION COMMISSION**

## **REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION**

(26 January-4 February 1981)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1981**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 3**



**UNITED NATIONS**

**New York, 1981**

**NOTE**

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

E/1981/13  
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POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO REVIEW POPULATION DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIRST DECADE SINCE THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, WITH THE AIM OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROCESS OF QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION, AND TO THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION: REPORT OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION . . . . . 60

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Population Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I 1/

Convening of a World Population Conference in 1984

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on the World Population Conference,

Recalling also Council resolution 1979/32 of 9 May 1979 on the strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action,

Taking note of the discussions of the Population Commission at its twenty-first session on the monitoring of population trends and policies and the recommendation of the Population Commission that a new international population conference should be held,

Noting with appreciation the policies and programmes adopted by United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and many States pursuant to the provisions of the World Population Plan of Action, 2/

Observing that some aspects of population trends and their interrelationships with the process of development are significantly at variance with the goals of the World Population Plan of Action,

Concerned at the magnitude and urgency of the tasks still remaining for the more effective implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the national, regional and global levels,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980 on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in which the Assembly stated, inter alia, that the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action should be strengthened during the 1980s and that the international community should increase the level of population assistance in support thereof,

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1/ See paras. 68-69 of the present report.

2/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.



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1/ See paras. 68-69 of the present report.

2/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

Having regard to General Assembly resolutions 35/5 and 35/10 C of 20 October 1980 and 3 November 1980 respectively,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly the convening of a World Population Conference of representatives of Member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, to be held in 1984 under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind that it should be conducted with economy in size of delegations, duration and other cost factors;
2. Decides that the Conference shall be devoted to the discussion of selected issues of the highest priority, giving full recognition to the relationships between population and social and economic development with the aim of contributing to the process of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and to its further implementation;
3. Decides further that the Conference shall work within the framework of the existing World Population Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continue to be fully valid;
4. Urges States participating in the Conference to ensure representation by high-level policy-makers and experts in population and related fields;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the substantive contribution to the Conference by the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system and other appropriate international governmental and non-governmental organizations;
6. Decides to designate the Population Commission as the preparatory committee for the Conference;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to designate the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to be responsible for the co-ordination of substantive aspects of the preparations for the Conference, including the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure a significant contribution by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to the Conference and to take full account of experience gained through technical co-operation activities in assisting in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action;
9. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities also to assume a significant role in organizing the Conference, with particular reference to international co-operation in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, and further requests him to seek financial support from external sources for the Conference;
10. Authorizes the Secretary-General, as necessary, to convene small expert groups or to call upon individual experts, in the preparatory work for the Conference;
11. Requests the Conference to report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1985 on the findings and recommendations of the Conference.

Draft resolution II 3/

Strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment  
of the World Population Plan of Action

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/32 of 9 May 1979, in which it called upon the governmental representatives of States Members of the United Nations responsible for drafting and adopting the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the action programme to be produced by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology, and other international instruments for economic, social and technological progress to include in such documents full recognition of the interrelationships of population factors and social, economic, cultural and political development, and the need for full and urgent action to deal with population problems; these interrelationships should also be borne in mind in all instruments developed for the implementation of a new international economic order,

Noting with satisfaction the role given to population factors in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 4/ which declares that population policies will be considered as an integral part of over-all development policies and that all countries will continue to integrate their population measures and programmes into their social and economic goals and strategies,

Also noting with satisfaction resolution 1 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 5/ in which the Conference called upon Governments to take all appropriate measures to provide information, education and means to enable women and men to exercise freely the right to determine their family size and to set aside an appropriate proportion of their resources for population programmes,

Recalling that its resolution 1979/32 included 14 priority areas for action identified in the first review and appraisal of the progress made towards implementation of the World Population Plan of Action,

Emphasizing the important role of technical co-operation in implementing the World Population Plan of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population trends, 6/ which shows that, although there has been some decline in the rate of growth of the world's population, there are indications that some developing countries are not succeeding in reducing infant and general mortality to

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3/ See para. 55 of the present report.

4/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

5/ See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I.

6/ E/CN.9/347 and Corr.1.

the levels set out in the World Population Plan of Action and that, although there have been significant declines in fertility in some countries, there have been relatively slight or no such declines in some less developed countries and that others have increased their rate of population growth,

Conscious of the magnitude and urgency of the tasks remaining,

1. Urges all Member States and regional and international bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, to develop and strengthen further activities designed to implement the World Population Plan of Action, in particular to recognize that together with social and economic factors, population is a central element in any strategy designed to improve the quality of life;
2. Urges governmental representatives of States Members of the United Nations responsible for formulating new development strategies, for the organization and conduct of relevant international conferences or for the drafting of international instruments for economic, social and technological progress, to give full consideration to the interrelationships of population factors and social, economic, cultural and political development in dealing with population problems;
3. Calls upon the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system which have not yet given due attention to population, to take steps to include population matters in the deliberations of their periodic and special conferences and to integrate population questions more fully into their regular work programmes;
4. Urges international organizations, including the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Health Organization, and national Governments to give high priority to research on human reproduction and the development of more acceptable, safer, and more effective means of fertility regulation, to promote the establishment of projects in which research workers in developed and less developed countries would co-operate fully in such research, and to emphasize to public and private donors the great importance of such research;
5. Requests the Population Commission to continue with the process of monitoring, review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and requests the regional commissions and specialized agencies to continue to contribute to that process;
6. Requests the Secretary-General, taking account of experience gained through technical co-operation projects in the field of population in implementing the World Population Plan of Action, to strengthen efforts to meet requests for assistance in its implementation from the developing countries.

Draft resolution III 7/

Work programme in the field of population

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which the Assembly affirmed that the World Population Plan of Action 8/ was an instrument of the international community for the promotion of economic development, quality of life, human rights and fundamental freedoms within the broader context of the internationally adopted strategies for national and international progress,

Taking due cognizance of the population policies and programmes adopted by international agencies, non-governmental organizations and many countries pursuant to the provisions of the World Population Plan of Action,

Taking note of the discussions of the Population Commission at its twenty-first session on the progress of work and the work programme in the field of population,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the progress of work, the work programme for the biennium 1982-1983 and the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989;

2. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue vigorously the work on monitoring of population trends and policies and of the work necessary for the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action;

(b) To continue the work on population trends and structure, paying particular attention to studies of fertility, mortality, internal and international migration;

(c) To strengthen the work on demographic estimates and projections;

(d) To continue work on interrelations of population and development, paying due attention both to the implications of population trends for development and the impact of social and economic change on demographic trends, with a view to promoting the integration of demographic factors in national and international development strategies and plans, and to expedite the preparation of manuals for the use of national planners on methods of incorporating demographic factors in development planning;

(e) To arrange for the timely publication and wide dissemination, in all working languages, of the manual for estimating basic demographic indicators from incomplete data;

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7/ See para. 220 of the present report.

8/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

(f) To effect the more timely publication of all population studies and projections;

(g) To continue work on the assessment of levels and trends of fertility, and studies designed to explain causes of fertility change, including those dealing with the impact of family planning programmes, and the condition of women, making full use of data from the World Fertility Survey, other relevant sample surveys, population censuses and data from vital registration systems;

(h) To continue to promote co-operation within the United Nations system in the international comparative analysis of World Fertility Survey data through the United Nations Working Group on Comparative Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data;

(i) To continue the analyses of population policies and their implications for national and international development planning;

(j) To pursue research on the impact of population policies other than family planning programmes on population trends and to co-ordinate the work on population policy with that in other subprogrammes;

(k) To continue work on the interrelations of population, resources, environment and development;

(l) To facilitate, in collaboration with the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the establishment of a Population Information Network (POPIN), in collaboration with national and international information programmes;

(m) To continue the United Nations programme of technical co-operation in the field of population to countries requesting this assistance, in co-operation particularly with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and, in the event of a forthcoming world population conference, to take full account of experience gained through technical co-operation projects in the field of population;

(n) To strengthen the United Nations programme of training in population, through the work of the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres sponsored by the United Nations, support for national training institutions, and the continuation of the programme of fellowships for training in the population disciplines, particularly in relation to development planning;

(o) To assist Governments, on their request, in establishing or strengthening national institutions whose purpose is to co-ordinate population activities, particularly those relating to development planning, to study techniques of incorporating population factors in national development, and to advise Governments in the formulation, implementation, follow-up, and evaluation of population policies and programmes;

(p) In the event of a forthcoming World Population Conference, to carry out a population inquiry among Governments at a time that would enable a report on the results of the inquiry to be submitted to the Conference;

3. Urges Member States to ensure that methods of evaluation and analysis of population census and survey data and their use form an integral part of national census programmes by establishing and strengthening national population organizations and institutions;

4. Emphasizes the need for the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen their collaboration and co-ordination in the planning and execution of their population programmes, as well as the need for organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen collaboration and co-ordination with national research organizations and other organizations outside the United Nations system in the planning and execution of their population programmes.

B. Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Commission

2. At its 394th meeting, on 4 February 1981, the Commission adopted a draft provisional agenda for its twenty-second session, together with the requested documentation and decided to submit it to the Council for its review, pursuant to paragraph 2(e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979. For the text of the provisional agenda, see chapter VII of the present report.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

3. Pursuant to Council resolution 1979/32 of 9 May 1979, the Population Commission considered the possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference with the aim of contributing to the process of the quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and to the further implementation of the Plan. The report of the Commission on this issue is appended to the present report and is submitted to the Council for its consideration. (Draft resolution I, on the convening of a world population conference in 1984, emerged from the discussion of that report and is before the Council for adoption.)

4. Pursuant to Council resolution 1347 (XLV) of 30 July 1968, its decision adopted on 8 August 1969 and its decision 87 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the summary and conclusions of the concise report of the world population situation in 1981 is being submitted to the Council for transmission to the General Assembly.

## II. OPENING STATEMENTS

### A. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs

5. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, addressing the Commission at its 381st meeting, on 26 January 1981, noted that the international community had faced a number of serious problems in relation to development since the convening of the last session of the Population Commission. He emphasized that the 1980s had begun in an atmosphere of crisis. The world economy was in a state of structural disequilibrium, as shown by a slowdown in growth, persistent inflation and high unemployment in the North, and paralleled by malnutrition and massive unemployment in the South.

6. The developing countries, with their vulnerable economies, had been particularly affected, while some 900 million inhabitants of the least developed countries continued to live in absolute poverty. Faced with such a disturbing situation, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade emphasized the need to greatly accelerate the development process in countries of the third world, in order to reduce the growing gap that separated them from the industrial countries.

7. The Under-Secretary-General further emphasized the fact that the current economic crisis could not be resolved merely by economic and financial measures, but rather by acting upon an entire complex of economic, social and ecological factors, which were linked to one another, as well as to the population issue. In that context, he stated, noting that it was extremely important to understand better the links between population, resources and the environment, as well as between population and development, that additional research was required at the regional and national levels in order to be able to assist countries better in their development planning.

8. He noted further that a major problem was the fact that since the middle of the present century the rapid growth of population had been concentrated in the poorest and most populated world regions, while the considerable growth in economic activity had occurred largely in the most affluent region. An essential problem related to that imbalance was the increasingly asymmetrical distribution of population in respect of capital and resources, which could not fail to have repercussions on international migration. It was emphasized that the solution to those problems required not only an understanding of the trends and policies involved, but also assistance in effectively resolving them. It was there that the Population Commission had an important role to play, particularly in the light of its support of national and international population institutions.

9. In its task of examining the medium-term and short-term work programmes (for the period 1984-1989 and the biennium 1982-1983), the Commission could suggest important changes and open up new directions for future work, as well as assist the Secretariat in responding to the needs defined by the new International Development Strategy. That was particularly important at a time when budgetary constraints made such choices necessary.



10. The Under-Secretary-General noted that the Commission at its current session had the important mandate of considering the question of the possibility of holding an international conference that would examine and evaluate demographic developments in the 10 years since the previous World Population Conference, held at Bucharest from 19 to 30 August 1974. Such a meeting, if carefully prepared, could stimulate the development of new national policies and innovative programmes of international co-operation. The Commission, which had acquired considerable experience in the preparation of previous conferences, was requested to advise the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat on the decisions to be taken concerning the modalities, organization and objectives of such a conference.

11. The Under-Secretary-General also informed the Commission of the close collaboration maintained with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in responding to the challenges posed by current demographic trends.

12. The Under-Secretary-General concluded by expressing his confidence that the work of the Population Commission would contribute to the advancement of research in the population field, and would respond to the needs of the international community and the developing countries in particular.

B. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development

13. The Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development, also addressing the Commission at its 381st meeting, stated that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development fully appreciated the constructive role that the Commission played in acting as a forum for formulating ideas and priorities and providing advice to the United Nations. The demographic factor was a very important element in the process of economic and social development, a fact that had been recognized in the recommendations of the last World Population Conference and the World Population Plan of Action, <sup>9/</sup> and had been set forth prominently in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session (resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, annex). It was within that context, and with the object of assisting Governments at their request in the implementation of those plans, that the Department implemented a wide range of technical co-operation projects in developing countries in the field of population.

14. The Under-Secretary-General recalled that, following upon the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations in response to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, responsibility for substantive support and management of technical co-operation activities in population had been transferred to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and that the Population Programmes and Projects Branch of the Division of Development Administration had been specifically charged, within the Department, for substantive support to projects in that field of activity. At the same time, close collaboration had been established with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, particularly with the Statistical Office and the Population Division.

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<sup>9/</sup> Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chaps. I and II.

15. The United Nations, with funds supplied primarily by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), had undertaken a variety of technical co-operation projects in population to countries requesting assistance in that field, which were designed to strengthen existing national demographic services or to help establish new ones, and were equipped either to evaluate and analyse data from population censuses and demographic surveys and study the interrelation among demographic, economic and social factors and their policy implications with regard to national development plans, and/or to train the personnel who would staff those services. The main focus of the programme, in summary, was to develop national capacities for self-reliance in dealing with population matters by building institutional capabilities in demographic analysis, in the formulation of population policies and in training. The emphasis of the work was on demographic evaluation and related analysis of census and survey data, demographic estimates for total and sectoral projections, support for research into relations between demographic and socio-economic variables and between population policies and general development planning systems, and interdisciplinary approaches to training.

16. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development welcomed the prospect, under consideration by the Commission, of holding a world population conference in 1984, and believed that technical co-operation aspects of population matters should be indicated as an important component of its agenda. The Department would be glad to offer its collaboration for the preparation and realization of such a conference. The Under-Secretary-General also hoped that support for technical co-operation programmes would be reflected in the Commission's recommendations for the review of population developments in the first decade since the 1974 World Population Conference.

17. Referring to the fact that the need had never been greater for concerted international action in co-operation with developing countries, the Under-Secretary-General stated that priority areas and issues identified by the Commission could have a significant impact in the 1980s on national priorities for action relating to population questions, and could determine the nature and magnitude of technical co-operation requested by developing countries from international sources.

C. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities

18. In his statement to the Population Commission at its 387th meeting, on 29 January 1981, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities stated that a major development within the United Nations system since the Commission had last met was the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex). The Fund welcomed this document, especially the importance it gave to the subject of population and its integration into over-all development policies.

19. The Executive Director emphasized that UNFPA had always believed that the integration of population programmes into a country's development policies could only have a beneficial impact, as aspects of development were all interrelated parts of a whole complex. This interrelationship was recognized by the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, held in Sri Lanka in September 1979, and by the International Conference on Population and the Urban Future, held in Rome in September 1980, both of which were sponsored by the Fund as

opportunities for focusing global attention on problems emerging from rapid population growth and other population trends.

20. The Executive Director pointed out that much of the credit for the positive acceptance around the world of population as an essential component in development planning and as an important area of international assistance belonged to the Population Commission and the foundations it had laid for a United Nations programme in that area during its 34 years of work.

21. Referring to item 6, regarding the possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference, the Executive Director was convinced that the Commission would consider not only the necessity for such a conference, but also its costs and benefits. If the Economic and Social Council agreed to the holding of such a conference on the recommendation of the Commission, he said, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities would submit for the consideration of its Governing Council proposals regarding the extent of the Fund's financial support.

22. With regard to assistance to population programmes, the Executive Director noted that the demand for such assistance continued to grow and that, while UNFPA was funding projects in 137 developing countries and territories, it was able to meet only two thirds of the requests for assistance. The Fund was encouraged by the report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, which recognized that "the needs for population assistance are great" <sup>10/</sup> and called for international assistance "to meet the unmet needs". <sup>11/</sup> That was also a major recommendation of the Colombo Declaration on Population and Development, adopted on 1 September 1979 by the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, which called for an annual target of \$1 billion in international population assistance to be achieved by 1984.

23. In concluding his statement, the Executive Director recalled that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1763 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, had stated that one of the major aims of UNFPA was to "play a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes". He noted that the Fund was concerned with all aspects of population, and would continue to work with the United Nations and other organizations within the United Nations system concerned with specific areas in the population field, with the goal of making countries self-reliant in integrating population into their development efforts.

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<sup>10/</sup> See North-South, A Program for Survival: The Report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues under the Chairmanship of Willy Brandt (Cambridge, Massachusetts, MIT Press, 1980), chap. 6, p. 107.

<sup>11/</sup> Ibid., p. 116.

III. ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974: MONITORING OF  
POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES

24. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it two concise reports summarizing the findings of the biennial monitoring exercise: one on population trends (E/CN.9/347) and the other on population policies (E/CN.9/348). <sup>12/</sup> In introducing these reports, the Director of the Population Division pointed out that this was the third biennial monitoring exercise carried out in accordance with paragraph 107 of the World Population Plan of Action, and noted that the reports of the two previous exercises had been published and distributed. The report on the third round of monitoring will also be published.

25. The 1981 round of monitoring provided a survey of population trends and policies as they relate to growth, fertility, mortality, age structure, urbanization and international migration. The report also highlighted some studies dealing directly with population and development interactions.

26. In discussing recent trends, the Director pointed out that the last few years had witnessed not merely a confirmation but a reinforcement of the deceleration in the rate of world population growth. Recent estimates by the Population Division indicate that the annual rate of growth may decline to 1.5 per cent by the end of the century, from 1.7 per cent in 1980 and 2.0 per cent 15 years ago. Nevertheless, a substantial population increase will persist and will continue to be among the major factors influencing the future of humanity. The total population of the world, estimated at 4,434 million for 1980, is expected to become 6.1 billion in the year 2000, 7.0 billion for 2010 and 8.3 billion for 2025, according to the medium variant projections of world population prepared by the United Nations.

27. In many industrialized countries there has been a continuing fertility decline in the 1970s, but this trend has not been uniform, with some countries showing a stabilization of levels and others showing recent increases. In 17 of the countries with free market economies, fertility was below the replacement level of 2.1. However, the large number of young adults born during the 1950s was responsible for maintaining a positive balance of births over deaths in many developed countries.

28. The Director noted that the socialist countries of Europe had not followed the same trends as other industrialized countries. In seven out of eight Eastern European countries, the most recently recorded fertility levels are now above replacement level.

29. With regard to mortality in developed countries, the Director noted that the range of life expectancy at birth between countries had narrowed since 1950.

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<sup>12/</sup> Two working papers (in English only) containing the findings of the monitoring of population trends (ESA/P/WP.68) and monitoring of population policies (ESA/P/WP.69) were made available to the Commission members during the session.

Whereas this range was 18 years for men and 20 years for women at that time, current differentials were only 9 years for both sexes. In several countries, female life expectancy had reached 78 years.

30. Turning to the developing countries, the Director stated that the decrease in fertility had become apparent in an increasing number of countries. However, the gap between fertility in the third world and in the developed countries remained large, exceeding an average of three births per woman.

31. The decline in the birth rate of the developing countries from about 41 per thousand during 1960-1965, to its current level of 32 per thousand was largely brought about by declines in China and in several East-Asian, East-South Asian and Latin American countries. However, in other areas, particularly in Africa and Middle and Western South Asia, there has been no significant decline. Fertility levels among developing countries are enormously heterogeneous at present. Furthermore, these disparities are likely to remain pronounced, as some countries rapidly move through the demographic transition while others proceed more slowly. In this connexion, it was pointed out that the World Fertility Survey had shown that differentials in fertility typically exist within countries which have entered into the transition.

32. In spite of an anticipated decline in the over-all birth rate for these countries from 32.3 per thousand in 1980 to 25.7 in the year 2000, the population of developing countries will continue to grow rapidly. These countries add about 70 million people annually. By the end of the century, an annual increase of 84 million is projected. If this trend continues, the population of the developing regions will increase by almost 50 per cent between 1980 and the year 2000.

33. With regard to mortality in the third world, the Director noted that there was considerable variability between countries. Furthermore, the difference in life expectancy at birth between the developed and developing countries (which was almost 20 years in the 1970-1975 period) may have increased. It was not possible to be precise about mortality. However, the meagre information currently available indicates that variations in mortality between social classes are larger in developing than in industrialized countries.

34. Despite the difficulty of obtaining reliable data, all estimates indicate that mortality in sub-Saharan Africa is still very high and will probably fall far short of the 1985 targets set by the World Population Plan of Action. Infant mortality also remains most critical in Africa and South Asia where levels up to 200 per thousand have been prevalent. In contrast, a number of developing countries have made impressive gains during the last decade and have brought infant mortality rates below 30 per thousand.

35. In reviewing the geographical distribution of the populations of developing countries, the Director noted that the rural populations in those countries had more than doubled in the last 50 years. Even more dramatic is the growth of cities in the third world which are increasing at rates of from 4 to 6 per cent. Projections indicate that, by the turn of the century, a quarter of the urban population will be living in cities of 4 million or more.

36. Turning to the matter of population policy, the Director observed that almost all industrialized countries wanted to increase their rate of growth or at least not see it decrease further, whereas 36 per cent of the population of more developed

areas lived in countries where the rate of growth was considered too low. However, it is important not to exaggerate the concerns arising from the decrease of fertility. Many countries readily accept the current situation, in the expectation that the trends could evolve naturally, as was the case after the Second World War.

37. Regarding the perception of the rate of growth, the Director noted that the contrast between the developed and developing countries was very large. All of the developed countries either considered their rate of growth as satisfactory or would like it to increase. By contrast, almost 80 per cent of the population of less developed areas lived in countries which felt their rates were too high. Only a few countries from the developing areas changed their perception recently: the greatest number of countries which perceived their rate of growth as unsatisfactory were to be found in the Asian region. The more populous countries, such as China, India and Indonesia, strengthened their declarations on the need to lower birth rates.

38. In Africa, 19 countries perceived their rate of growth as too high, 6 perceived it as too low, while 26 considered it satisfactory. Among the 19 countries that wanted to decrease the rate, 12 had policies to achieve this purpose. Only Western Asia among developing regions was characterized by the fact that no Government wished to decrease the rate of growth. Among the 126 developing countries, only 9 limited access to modern methods of contraception, while 81 Governments gave direct support for service in this area. There was also an increasing national interest in influencing the age at marriage.

39. Turning to the matter of mortality, the Director observed that a contrast between developing and developed countries could also be found. Among the 39 developed countries, 30 considered their mortality rate as acceptable, while 98 out of the 126 developing countries considered the level as too high. All 50 developing countries with a life expectancy at birth of under 50 years of age, considered their current levels of mortality as unacceptable.

40. The Director noted that there was a broad consensus among Governments that the spatial distribution of their population was inappropriate. The growth of metropolitan areas was almost universally perceived to be excessive. Only 6 of 126 developing countries considered their spatial distribution as satisfactory. At the world level, 67 countries characterized their spatial distribution as highly unacceptable; 101 Governments expressed the wish to slow down the influx of population from the rural areas, while 21 wished to reverse this influx. Thus, the problem of spatial distribution of the population was considered among the most serious challenges that Governments would have to face in relation to demographic growth.

41. The Director pointed out that many Governments were becoming aware of the sensitive problems of international migration in relation to the increasing disparities of demographic pressures. While the economic crisis in many developed countries leads to a decrease or a stoppage in immigration, some countries exporting manpower considered emigration as a solution to problems of unemployment.

42. In this connexion, he called attention to four facts. In the European countries of immigration, the inward movement of workers had stabilized, though the stocks were still substantial. The flow of migrants to the oil-exporting countries had gained momentum. There appeared to be an increasing international flow of undocumented migrants. Finally, there was an increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons, the total number of which was estimated to be 10.5 million at the beginning of 1980.

43. The Director informed the Commission that comments on the monitoring of trends and policies would be taken into account at the final stages of the preparation of the report.

44. The Commission commended the Population Division for its efforts in carrying out the work which had culminated in the preparation of the reports on population trends and policies. The view was expressed that the monitoring of trends and policies provided an essential service to countries as well as to the international community. It was pointed out that the monitoring exercise not only provided a growing body of useful data, but also served as a stimulus to Governments, encouraging them to adopt appropriate economic and social policies. In order that this purpose might be served more effectively, it was suggested that these reports be prepared in a form that would be readily usable by policy-makers.

45. The Commission noted that the treatment of selected topics on population and development was a particularly valuable component of the monitoring exercise for planners and administrators. However, the emphasis placed on GDP in some studies raised important questions of interpretation, since GDP was an imperfect measure of economic welfare and the concept of welfare could not be limited to its economic dimensions. It was suggested that a hierarchical scale of values, for example, the feeling of satisfaction gained from the environment, might be useful in explaining certain aspects of demographic trends, that is, international migration.

46. It was suggested that, in future, these reports should give greater weight to trends in the characteristics of the population. In particular, attention should be given to the ways in which the status of women, nutrition, morbidity and other such characteristics were linked with fertility and mortality. Furthermore, population characteristics must play a central role in the analysis of population/development relationships, since development was a comprehensive process involving all aspects of the human condition, not the least of which were spiritual values.

47. In discussing the low levels of fertility in developed countries, the view was expressed that they did not represent a cause for concern. It was also noted that there was still great diversity in European fertility levels and trends and that there had been substantial recoveries in fertility rates in several European countries. It was pointed out in this connexion that the resurgence of births observed in 1979 in several developed countries was not necessarily the beginning of new trends in fertility, but could be due to calendar effects of delayed births or to particular economic circumstances, although it was mentioned that there was no consistent relationship between unemployment and fertility. There would seem to be no clear association between this resurgence and changes in socio-economic conditions.

48. Though the Commission indicated intense interest in recent declines in world fertility, as well as the indications of a resurgence of fertility in some developed countries, the Commission stressed that it would be short-sighted to feel that demographic problems were no longer pressing. Despite recent declines, fertility levels in many developing countries were too high. Most delegates were convinced that unless fertility levels in these countries were reduced, they would have an adverse effect on social and economic development in the countries concerned. Given the momentum of population growth, which implies that population size in many countries may double, or even triple, within the next few decades, there was no room for complacency.

49. In discussing recent trends in fertility and mortality, it was emphasized that obvious similarities should not obscure the very significant differences in demographic trends among the individual countries within a region. It was mentioned in this connexion that, owing to large intra-country differentials, nations of a given region might be highly heterogeneous with regard to fertility, mortality and population characteristics. The Commission noted that in many developing countries there had been considerable health gains, but only a few countries had shown improvement in nutritional status.

50. It was suggested that the monitoring reports should focus more closely upon countries experiencing the greatest declines in fertility with a view to analysing the effectiveness of population policies.

51. Some delegates stated that more attention could be given to the examination of problems of large villages within the study of spatial distribution problems. The impact of changes in the status of women, nutrition, education, productivity, and so on, as related to demographic parameters should receive more attention in the future. International migration was also recognized as a main concern requiring further analysis, particularly of such aspects as social integration and social relations of immigrant communities, as well as the various refugee problems.

52. The Commission reaffirmed that the basic responsibility with regard to population policy rested within each country, while recognizing the basic right of individuals and couples to determine the number and spacing of their children. The aim of population policies should be the well-being of individuals and families, and they should be integrated into the general strategy for socio-economic development.

53. The Commission at its previous session had recommended that the Economic and Social Council should request the Secretary-General, in the preparation of a new international development strategy, to take account of the World Population Plan of Action with the aim of helping the General Assembly to give due weight to the role of population and population policies and activities in their relationship to the establishment of a new international economic order, and also of ensuring that population policies and activities would be integrated into the goals, objectives, policy measures and targets to be contained in any new strategy. The Commission expressed satisfaction that the role of population had been given due emphasis in the newly adopted International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. However, some members considered that, although the International Development Strategy now included population and demographic factors, those considerations should be further strengthened. More attention should be given to the growth of the working-age population and to how urban and rural development strategies could be designed to accommodate it.

54. Some delegates pointed out that a four-year rather than a two-year period for detailed reports might be more appropriate in the case of the monitoring of population policies, as changes over a two-year period were often not great enough to warrant repetition of the exercise. Reports prepared at two-year intervals could be more selective in the issues they dealt with.

55. The Commission was informed that the Secretary-General would submit to the Economic and Social Council in 1981, the summary and conclusions of the report on the population situation in 1981.



### Consideration of a draft resolution

56. At the 394th meeting, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action" (E/CN.9/L.144). The draft resolution was sponsored by France, Greece, Indonesia, Norway, Thailand and the United States of America. Oral amendments were proposed by Egypt, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Ukrainian SSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The draft resolution as amended was adopted without a vote (see chap. I, draft resolution II).

57. In connexion with the Commission's consideration of this draft resolution, the Secretary of the Commission read the following statement of financial implications: "In accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedures of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General wishes to state that he does not envisage any financial implications with respect to the regular budget for the draft resolution entitled 'Strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action'" (E/CN.9/L.144).

#### IV. POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO REVIEW POPULATION DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIRST DECADE SINCE THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

58. At its 383rd meeting, on 27 January 1981, the Population Commission decided to have an early preliminary exchange of views on agenda item 6 concerning the possibility of holding an international population conference in 1984 before the full consideration of that item, which was scheduled to take place after the preceding items had been discussed.

59. The Director of the Population Division, in his introductory remarks, drew the attention of the Commission to the note by the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.9/355) and, in particular, to the objectives of a possible conference outlined therein. As background, he described the world population conferences that had been organized by the United Nations in the past, mentioning in detail the respective roles of the Population Commission and other United Nations bodies in the preparation of those conferences since the first one in 1954. He also described the substantive and policy results of the first review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, which had been undertaken by the Population Commission at its twentieth session.

60. He then elaborated on the three options for organizing such a conference, presented to the Commission in the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/355). Those options helped to indicate the range of possibilities in respect of level of participation, relative level of importance given to scientific and policy matters, and in the structure of activities. He stated that the Commission, in the event that a conference were recommended, would be called upon to identify and define the issues of higher priority to be dealt with. He concluded by observing that the considerable time required for the successful preparation of a world conference made it a matter of importance that a decision should be taken so that the necessary steps could begin.

61. At its 385th meeting, on 28 January 1981, the Commission decided to set up a Working Group of the Whole to discuss the matter and to prepare a report for adoption by the Commission and for subsequent presentation to the Economic and Social Council. The Working Group's report was placed before the Commission in document E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.3. The document was reviewed in detail at the 389th and 391st meetings and appears, as revised by the Commission, as an annex to the present report. It was adopted without a vote at the 390th meeting, on 2 February 1981.

62. A few representatives expressed reservations about holding an international conference in 1984, especially since the principles, objectives and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action remained valid and existing mechanisms could be used to carry out actions needed to implement the goals and objectives of the Plan of Action. It was added that the resources needed for a conference could be more usefully devoted to programmes directed to the implementation of the Plan of Action. It was also observed that the proliferation of international conferences might have the effect of impeding the attainment of their goals.

63. On the other hand, most representatives welcomed the possibility of a conference since they felt that it would strengthen and provide an important impetus to the work that was being implemented or planned in their countries since the adoption of the Plan of Action in 1974. This view was considered to be of particular importance with reference to developing countries.

64. A large majority of the Commission felt that if a conference were to be held, it should not only review population trends and policies between 1974 and 1984, but should also emphasize what actions were needed for the future. All members of the Commission welcomed the suggestion of the Working Group that the Conference should be limited in size, duration and cost.

65. At the request of the Commission, the Director of the Population Division, at the 395th meeting of the Commission, further elaborated the possible issues and arrangements for dealing with the substantive aspects of the Conference. He suggested that the issues be dealt with in the context of economic, social and political interrelationships and not as isolated demographic phenomena. The substantive component should be concerned with full range of economic, social, demographic and political consequences; it should be action-oriented, interdisciplinary and clearly accessible to the widest possible audience.

66. The procedure could be to request from experts substantive papers on specific topics assigned to them. These papers would be reviewed and synthesized by the Secretariat and submitted for consideration at four expert group meetings. The four subjects to be dealt with by the expert groups could be:

- (a) Interrelations between population, resources, environment and development;
- (b) Economic, social, demographic and political factors related to health and mortality, especially in high-mortality countries;
- (c) Economic, social, demographic and political factors related to family life cycle, especially in high-fertility countries;
- (d) Population distribution and development strategies with reference to rural development and urbanization, possibly including international migration.

67. The Commission welcomed the Director's remarks and agreed with the usefulness of the small expert groups. The Commission felt that the four subjects to be dealt with by the expert groups could also form the basis of an agenda for the conference. The Commission underscored the need for those expert groups to be interdisciplinary and concerned with the interrelationships between economic, social and political factors in population and development. Some representatives noted that the Secretariat itself had considerable substantive expertise to make a major contribution to the preparation of scientific inputs to a conference and this could be a valuable economy measure. A balanced approach to the range of substantive issues and a problem-solving orientation were emphasized. Some members of the Commission felt that explicit attention should also be given to the concerns of developed countries which are experiencing low fertility.

68. The Commission felt that it could serve as the preparatory body for a conference and that this would not necessarily require a special session. The Commission noted that the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) was planning conferences and seminars during the next few years and would be available to co-operate in the scientific preparations for a conference.

## Consideration of a draft resolution

69. At the 392nd meeting, on 3 February, the representative of Egypt withdrew a draft resolution submitted under agenda item 6 on the "Possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference" (E/CN.9/L.143) and indicated that he would co-sponsor another draft resolution on the item (i.e. E/CN.9/L.145).

70. At the 394th meeting, on 4 February, the representative of Egypt introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convening of a World Population Conference in 1984" (E/CN.9/L.145). The draft resolution was sponsored by Egypt, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Zaire. Oral amendments were proposed by the Netherlands and Nigeria. The draft resolution was adopted as amended without a vote (see chap. I, draft resolution I).

71. In closing, several members added statements to the record of discussion of the Conference. One delegation expressed the view that the Conference was still premature and inadvisable, and raised a question about the procedures by which the decision to recommend the Conference had been taken. Another delegation indicated that although it had serious misgivings as to the effectiveness of global theme conferences, it supported draft resolution I in large part because of the interest in a World Population Conference in 1984 evinced by a great many developing countries and on the understanding that the Conference would be conducted with economy and with attention focused on selected high priority issues of population. A third delegation recalled to the Commission that population was an issue of great concern to all countries, developed as well as developing, and that the success of the Conference would ultimately depend on the efforts of the countries themselves.

72. In connexion with the Commission's consideration of the draft resolution "Convening of a World Population Conference" (E/CN.9/L.145), the Secretary of the Commission read the following statement of financial implications: "In view of the limited information currently available on the substantive issues of focus for the Population World Conference, the preparatory activities required, the auspices, date and expected degree of co-operation inter and intra the United Nations system, the Secretary-General is unable to provide the Population Commission at this time with a statement of financial implications on the order of magnitude for the Conference. However, in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General hopes to be able to determine the most effective and economic means of implementing the proposals and/or recommendations of the draft resolution following consultations with the relevant organizations, and then submit the statement of financial implications to the next session of the Economic and Social Council when this item will come up for consideration."

## V. PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION

73. At its 383rd to 388th meetings, from 27 to 29 January 1981, the Commission considered the progress of work in the field of population (agenda item 4). The Commission had before it two reports on the progress of work during 1979-1980 of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (E/CN.9/349 and E/CN.9/350, respectively), which presented activities undertaken with the appropriate programme budgets and upon the recommendation of the Population Commission. A number of documents reflecting progress of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs dealing with specific areas in the population programme were also submitted: "Recommendations of the Second Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility" (E/CN.9/351); "Recommendations of the Meeting on Socio-Economic Determinants and Consequences of Mortality" (E/CN.9/352); and "Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Development Modelling" (E/CN.9/353).

### A. World demographic analysis

74. The Commission was informed that the report on levels and trends in mortality since 1950, jointly undertaken by the Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) had been completed, edited and was being printed. This was the first such comprehensive review of mortality dealing with both developing and developed countries published by the United Nations since 1962. In addition to aggregate levels and trends, attention was given to patterns of mortality in the particularly vulnerable periods of infancy and early childhood; to the study of differentials by age and sex, by urban/rural residence, by other geographic divisions, by socio-economic characteristics such as educational attainment, income and occupation; and by causes of death. It had been possible in this study to give considerably more attention to mortality conditions in developing countries as a result of the significant increase during the last decade in information about the mortality experience of these countries. Thus, the study contributes to a better understanding of mortality change, including the nature of the slowdown of mortality declines observed in many developing countries between the 1960s and the 1970s.

75. In June of 1979, an expert group meeting was convened at Mexico City by the Secretariat and WHO to consider the socio-economic determinants and consequences of mortality. Issues covered were: gaps in both substantive understanding and in methodology, policy implications and guidelines for further research. A general theme of the meeting was the importance of differential mortality, both international and intra-national, as a major unresolved problem in both developing and developed countries. The Commission noted the usefulness of the recommendations of the working group and suggested that the report be widely distributed.

76. A revised set of United Nations model life tables were completed and, along with accompanying text, were being prepared for publication. Different from earlier model life tables constructed by the United Nations and other institutions, which had been based mainly on historical European experience, these are based

entirely upon the most reliable estimates of mortality experience in developing countries. In addition, a set of stable age distributions implied by the model life tables had been prepared and would be published. Drafts of tables and texts were made available to the Commission. Members of the Commission expressed strong interest in the new life tables and expressed the wish that they be put to the test of general use and that they be continuously evaluated as reliable new data from developing countries become available.

77. An additional project was launched, jointly with WHO, and with the support of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to intensify work on the problem of levels, trends and differentials in mortality in developing countries. Among its major components would be an attempt to develop better data and analytic procedures for estimating levels, trends, differentials and determinants of mortality; a series of case studies in five developing countries in order to study determinants of mortality change and differentials; a study of socio-economic differentials of mortality in developing countries; and an expanded monitoring of mortality. The project is particularly timely since it provides the possibility of making use of the 1980 round of censuses as a source of data on mortality differentials. Case studies would be carried out and reported by researchers in local institutions in collaboration with the Population Division, which would also prepare a report assembling and synthesizing results.

78. The Commission was informed that a comprehensive study of sex differences in mortality had just been started. This study will be a systematic analysis and review of data and existing information on the topic for both developed and developing countries.

79. In the area of urbanization, two documents were prepared. The first was a working paper, entitled "Age-sex distributions in rural and urban areas". In this volume, the number and the percentages of persons by sex and five-year age groups for urban and for rural areas are estimated for all countries and territories, as of 1975. In addition, projections of urban and rural population by age and sex for regions are presented for the year 2000. A second working paper in the series was entitled "Urban, rural and city populations, 1950-2000, as assessed in 1978". Projections for all cities approaching 100,000 are presented at five-year intervals to the end of the century.

80. Another project under way in this area was the study in depth of components of population growth and changes in occupational structures by sex in 25 very large cities in developing countries (7 in Africa, 10 in Asia and 8 in Latin America) for which reliable data are available.

81. A workshop on population-distribution policies in development planning, organized jointly with UNFPA, was held at Bangkok in September 1979. The topics dealt with included the definition of population distribution goals; the role of direct and indirect policy intervention in modifying population distribution; institutional frameworks and policy implementation; programmes and instruments directed to urban populations, urban hierarchies and to rural populations; and data and methods needed for programme evaluation. The papers presented to the Workshop are now being printed.

82. In order to strengthen work in the area of internal migration, a project was elaborated to carry out a series of case studies on patterns and levels of internal migration in relation to social and economic conditions in developing countries. The Commission was also informed that discussions were now under way between the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the initiation, subject to the availability of funds, of a detailed study on international migration.

#### B. Demographic projections

83. The Commission was pleased to learn of the completion of the United Nations demographic estimates and projections, as assessed in 1980, and stressed the importance and value of such estimates and projections. In contrast to the previous five-year intervals between revisions, the 1980 assessment was conducted after a two-year interval, as recommended by the Commission at its twentieth session.

84. The Commission was informed that during the two-year interval, new census results became available from 27 countries as well as detailed tabulations from a number of countries for which only totals were known previously. In addition, China released an official population estimate that substantially altered the data used in appraising the population prospects for Asia and the world.

85. The Commission was also informed that the expected difficulties regarding the increased workload resulting from the frequent revisions of the population estimates and projections did not occur. This was primarily owing to the continuity of the work of the preceding revision and the more efficient and easier collection and evaluation of demographic data facilitated by the co-operation of the regional commissions and national Governments.

86. The Commission was informed that meetings, such as the Interagency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections which met in February 1979 and in November 1980, had contributed significantly to the strengthening of the co-ordination and collaboration of activities among the various bodies of the United Nations system regarding the preparation and utilization of demographic estimates and projections.

87. Some representatives inquired about the preparation of population estimates and projections, specifically noting that there were differences between the United Nations projections and the national projections. It was explained that some of these differences resulted from the adjusting procedures that are used for the purposes of comparability and consistency; other differences may have been a result of the unavailability of the most recent national figures at the time of the preparation of the estimates and projections. Nevertheless some members of the Commission thought that the United Nations should maintain close contact with countries particularly concerning shorter-term projections, in relation to which countries often had more information than the United Nations could be expected to have available for formulating such projections.

88. The Commission noted that the work on the projection of the number of households which had been temporarily delayed was resumed and that the preparation of the report is near completion.

89. The Commission was informed that demographic models for projections were being developed which would permit the inclusion of specific variants of population projections reflecting demographic effects of government interventions through social and economic development planning and population-policy implementation and changes in socio-economic variables, such as education, urbanization, labour force participation and changing status of women. The Commission was informed that these models would be reviewed by an expert group meeting on projections, to be held in 1981, and that preparations were also under way for field tests of these models.

90. The Commission was informed that a complete report of the training workshop on demographic estimates and projections, which was a joint project of the Government of Hungary and the United Nations with the financial assistance of UNFPA, would be published shortly.

### C. Factors affecting patterns of reproduction

91. The Commission was pleased to be informed that the Secretariat continued to maintain up-to-date estimates of birth-rates and other fertility measures for developing countries that lack reliable vital statistics and that, for this purpose, wide use had been made of data collected in the World Fertility Survey. It was noted that the work was an aid to the reporting of fertility levels and trends in connexion with the biennial monitoring exercise.

92. Several studies, aimed to fulfil the Commission's programme of work on relationships between fertility and other demographic, social and economic phenomena, had been completed or were under way. In developing them, the Secretariat had made extensive use of the rich data produced by the World Fertility Survey (WFS) for as many as 20 developing countries. Published statistics from some of the developed countries participating in WFS had also been utilized. The Commission noted with appreciation that, in carrying out these studies, the Secretariat had completed work on several topics of the Minimum Research Programme for analysing World Fertility Survey data and had developed useful methodological studies. It commended the Secretariat for the large volume of work done and expressed the wish that wide distribution be given to the studies.

93. The Commission noted that the Secretariat had continued to work in close collaboration with members of the United Nations Working Group on Comparative Analysis of WFS Data, a body it had organized in 1977 to ensure full exploitation of the data in international comparative analysis and to avoid duplication of work by members of the United Nations system. It recommended that the Secretariat, including its co-ordination of the activities of the Working Group, should continue; as presently organized, the programme facilitated both higher quality research and more efficient use of resources. The Commission recommended that continued strong support be given to all phases of the Secretariat's work on comparative analysis of WFS data, including the Working Group, and expressed the wish that other traditional sources of data should also be fully utilized in the Secretariat's studies.

94. The Population Commission at its twentieth session urged the Governments participating in the World Fertility Survey to co-operate in the United Nations project of international comparative analysis of WFS data by making their data tapes available to the United Nations for comparative analysis purposes. The Commission was informed that, in compliance with this recommendations, the



Secretariat had written to the countries participating in WFS requesting use of their data tapes. Ten of the developing countries had not replied and one had delayed granting permission. It was noted that most of the developed countries that were participating in WFS had sent their tapes to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The Population Commission strongly re-emphasized its wish that all Governments involved in the survey would release their data tapes to the United Nations for the purpose of international comparative analysis. It also expressed the wish that the tapes obtained by the United Nations should be utilized in ways mutually beneficial to the countries and to the Secretariat's work programme.

95. The Commission was informed that the study of factors affecting family-planning programmes had been completed with data from 20 developing countries that had participated in WFS and was being published under the title, "Use and non-use of contraceptives: a comparative analysis of world fertility survey results of 20 developing countries". When data for 15 or more additional countries become available, the report will be revised and work on the topic completed.

96. In view of the importance of evaluating family-planning programmes, the Commission was pleased to note the results of the Second Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility, which had been convened in March 1979, in co-operation with the Committee on the Analysis of Family Planning Programmes of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and was particularly pleased to note its progress towards determining the causes of variance in evaluation results. The Commission acknowledged the report of the meeting and recommended that the Secretariat implement the recommendations outlined in document E/CN.9/351, paragraph 25, but that, as proposed by the Secretariat, the order of activities under subparagraphs 25 (a) to 25 (d) should be changed so that the case studies might be developed following a meeting of the third Expert Group, which would deal with the remaining causes of variance in evaluation research. The Commission was informed that this change would effect greater efficiency and possibly require fewer case studies. The Commission proposed that besides including some of the larger developing countries, the activities recommended in paragraph 25 (b) should include some developed countries that might have target groups in need of family-planning services.

97. It was noted that the analytical report of the Second Expert Group Meeting convened in 1979, along with six new national case studies of evaluation, would soon be published. The Commission noted that the Secretariat's two earlier reports in this series had received wide favourable response from national experts and others. A value of the project, apart from its yield in educational material, was the experience that the national researchers on the project gained by developing case studies according to guidelines prepared by the Secretariat. The Commission strongly urged that resources be secured to enable the Secretariat to complete this work at an early date. After successful completion of this phase, the item could be removed from the work programme.

98. The Secretariat's support of the World Fertility Survey was noted with approval. The Commission also noted with approval that a post of regional technical adviser had been created at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) corresponding to those already serving the regions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). It noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat continued to serve on the Programme Steering Committee of the World Fertility Survey and had

contributed substantively to the work of WFS, among other things, by serving on the Ad Hoc Committee on Illustrative Analysis and acting as referee for research publications. The Commission noted that some of the substantive papers prepared by the Population Division to further the activities of the United Nations Working Group on Comparative Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data had been adopted for use by WFS and could also serve as a useful guide for other researchers using WFS data. It hoped that the documents would be given the widest possible circulation.

#### D. Population and development

99. The Commission was informed that the major portion of work in the area of population and development had been devoted to providing Governments with quantitative assessments of the interrelations between demographic, economic and social factors.

100. In the Secretariat's study of the interrelations between social and economic factors and the components of demographic change (see E/CN.9/349, para. 35) a regression analysis of those relations had been carried out, using 4 demographic and 10 socio-economic variables for 85 developing countries. Work was also continuing on a study, based on data for more than 100 countries, of the interrelations between population trends and intercountry income disparities. It reviewed the association between economic, social and demographic conditions in 1965 and 1975 with possible implications for the year 2000. Work was also being continued on intercountry comparisons of consumption and associated economic and demographic factors based on household data for Pakistan and the Philippines. The information had then been used to project future levels and patterns of consumption. An assessment was being made of the current state of knowledge concerning the distribution of income within a country and its association with selected socio-demographic indicators.

101. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the work of the Interagency Task Force on Population and Development. The meetings of the Task Force which had been held in 1979 had been devoted to refining the "mapping" or systems approach used to identify key population and development interrelationships. The mapping had been computerized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Task Force had also undertaken a preliminary analysis of three areas: population and income distribution, the status and participation of women in development, and interrelations between population and consumption.

102. The 1980 meeting of the Task Force had largely been devoted to preparing two documents for publication. The first describes the full range of activities of the Task Force. The second document was devoted to a description of the systems approach to providing a framework for the analysis of population-development interrelations.

103. The Commission was informed about the Expert Group Meeting on Population-Development Modelling, organized jointly by the Population Division of the Secretariat and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and held at Geneva in September 1979.

104. The Commission considered the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population-Development Modelling (see E/CN.9/353) to be a useful basis for further research in that area. In particular, the Commission concurred with the recommendation that emphasis should be placed on model building at the micro level. It was, however, the view of the Commission that the recommendations gave insufficient attention to alternative modes of research, such as scenario analysis, and to problems related to the data required for model building. It was emphasized that an accurate picture of the interrelations between population and development required that attention be paid to the qualitative aspects of developments, which could not be represented in numerical models. The Commission also noted that national and international statistical offices should play a prominent role in building models that were to be used for integrating population into development planning.

105. The Commission was informed of the work being undertaken with a view to synthesizing, integrating and advancing knowledge on the relationships between population, resources, environment and development. In compliance with a request from the Economic and Social Council, a substantive report on those issues (E/1979/75) had been prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with other United Nations organizations, and submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1979.

106. While discussing the monitoring of population trends (E/CN.9/347) some delegates drew attention to the fact that there were inaccuracies in paragraphs 99 and 100 of the report and requested that corrections be made.

#### E. Population policies

107. The Commission was informed that the activities of the Secretariat in population policy were not limited to population growth but also included problems relating to the distribution of population, excess mortality among certain groups, international migration, and imbalanced age structures.

108. The Commission noted with approval the expansion of the population policies data bank which continued to be an important task. The role of the data bank had become even more important now that inquiries among Governments were being conducted at less frequent intervals. Furthermore, the data bank could provide more detailed information on government measures taken to affect population.

109. In order to disseminate rapidly basic information from the data bank, two publications would be published annually.

110. The Commission was informed that the Secretariat was producing two series of reports at the national level. The first series, entitled National Experience in the Formulation and Implementation of Population Policies (ST/ESA/SER.R/-), presented the experience of various developing countries in a detailed manner. The second series, entitled Population Policy Compendium, discussed in concise form the most important aspects of various countries' population policies. The work on those publications was being carried out as a co-operative project with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

111. At the sectoral level, a number of studies were attempting to analyse certain specific aspects of population policy within the context of development. The first

such study focused on international migration policies, examining a number of selected topics within the context of development.

112. The monitoring of population policies, 1981, which represented a major contribution of the subprogramme, concentrated on four topics: growth, fertility, mortality and international migration.

113. In co-operation with the regional commissions, an inquiry was conducted in 1980 on institutional arrangements for the formulation and implementation of population policies. A report on the subject would be published in 1981.

114. Finally, a working paper on policies in relation to the status of women and population policies in developing countries was in progress.

115. With regard to the dissemination of information, the Commission noted with approval that in 1979 the Population Division had organized a seminar in Togo on population policies and development planning in Africa, in collaboration with the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS). With respect to training, assistance had been provided and lectures given at the United Nations Centre operated in conjunction with the University of Moscow, and at IFORD.

#### F. Population, resources, environment and development

116. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/49 of 1 August 1979, in which the Population Commission was invited to present its views to the Council on the subject of interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, the Director of the Population Division introduced the preliminary draft of the report to be submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1981. He referred to developments that had taken place since the preparation of the earlier report on interrelationships (E/1979/75), namely, the convening of the United Nations Symposium on Interrelations between Resources, Environment, Population and Development (held at Stockholm from 6 to 10 August 1979), the recognition in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex) of the need to intensify research on the subject and the subsequent adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/74 of 5 December 1980, in which the Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the elaboration of a programme of work in that area for the United Nations system. He noted that the draft report before the Commission had been prepared by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in direct consultation with concerned United Nations organizations, and that it would need to be further elaborated, particularly to take into account interorganizational consultations in respect of General Assembly resolution 35/74.

117. The Director pointed out that there was a broad consensus that the study of interrelationships provided the wide, multidisciplinary perspective essential for assessing the full implications of population trends, the necessary priority to be attached to population programmes and the need for corresponding policy actions in a number of related disciplines. Earlier attempts at defining such a holistic or systemic perspective had relied too heavily on long-term global models, which, being implicitly based on the premise that present trends and their interrelationships were unchangeable, provided too limited a framework for policy

discussions. It was necessary to focus on what needed to be done to modify existing trends and their interrelationships, and to identify the respective responsibilities and actions to be undertaken, individually or jointly in several areas and disciplines, at the global, regional and national levels. Such a focus was provided by interrelating the issue of population, resources and environment with that of development.

118. Some members of the Commission stated that the preliminary draft submitted seemed to adopt a stance that was too systematically pessimistic. The possibilities for increased production and the development of new resources should at least be mentioned. The hypotheses on future population trends should be consistent with those adopted by the Secretariat in its population projections. It would be appropriate, in particular, to use the three variants, "high", "medium" and "low".

119. Some members of the Commission stated that the most recent assessment of population trends showed no prospect for stabilizing world population by the end of the century. That meant that actions aimed at accommodating future levels of populations and their rising needs had to be intensified. Such actions included the intensification of production and the development of new resources through the application of technology; the strengthening of human capabilities and the evolution of new livelihoods; the improvement of spatial population distributions and human settlement patterns; and the promotion of environmental management. Particular attention would need to be given to instituting effective mechanisms for accommodation: social management of resources; decentralization at local levels; global co-operation in the use of shared resources; resource transfers between nations and social groups; and resource reallocations between competing uses, particularly away from armaments expenditure and towards more productive purposes.

120. The Commission stressed that population policies and programmes had an important role to play, not only with regard to slowing population growth, density, age structure, spatial distribution, but also to such questions as accommodation, social and urban problems, congestion and pollution. It would be desirable in particular to draw greater attention to policies of preventive health care, education and related services. Furthermore, the qualitative dimension of population programmes was central to problems of development and rapid social change, and to processes of self-reliance, decentralization and participation.

#### G. Monitoring and review and appraisal

121. The progress of work in the monitoring of population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action are dealt with in chapter III of the present report.

#### H. Dissemination of population information

122. The Commission commended the Secretariat on the publication of its research activities, noting that many publications had been released since the twentieth session. However, the Commission particularly stressed the importance of the biennial concise report on the world population situation which, being less technical in language, provided a useful tool for policymakers, as well as for promoting awareness of the population question among the general public. The

Commission stressed, however, that greater efforts must be made for the wider and more effective dissemination of valuable information on United Nations research and other activities in the field of population.

123. The Commission was pleased to be informed that the Population Information Network (POPIN) Co-ordinating Unit called for by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1979/33 had been established in the Population Division, to be developed as envisaged by the Population Commission. The Commission was also informed that a POPIN Advisory Committee would be set up to assist the Secretariat in the development of the project with particular attention being paid to the work of the Co-ordinating Unit on technical, methodological and substantive issues for the effective operation of the Network. Preparatory to the setting up of the Advisory Committee, a consultation meeting would be convened at Geneva from 21 to 24 April 1981 to discuss, among other matters, the criteria for membership in the Advisory Committee, the work programme of the Co-ordinating Unit, the possible maintenance of the multilingual population thesaurus within the framework of POPIN, means of effective exchange of information among members and modes of operation of the Network.

124. Some delegations informed the Commission of population information activities in their countries and some representatives of United Nations-sponsored demographic training and research centres reported on the information activities of their centres. It was requested that close working relationships should be developed and maintained among the systems and the newly established POPIN Co-ordinating Unit.

125. One member of the Commission stressed the need for more effective dissemination of population information not only to experts and research workers but also to government officials and the public in general.

#### I. Demographic statistics

126. The Commission was briefly informed by the representative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations about the work of the Office and developments in the field of demographic statistics. Since the twentieth session of the Commission, the Demographic Yearbook, 1977 <sup>13/</sup> had been published, featuring for the first time, international migration statistics as a special topic. To commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Yearbook, a special issue, the Demographic Yearbook - Historical Supplement, <sup>14/</sup> had been published. That supplement which, in effect, contained the special topic tables of the Demographic Yearbook, 1978 <sup>15/</sup> presented data on natality, mortality and nuptiality, as well as on the size and age-sex structure of population for the past 30 years.

127. The Commission was also informed that, as part of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses <sup>16/</sup> had been published. Further, it was noted that 74 countries or areas had carried out a population census during the period 1975 to 1979 and,

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<sup>13/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.78.XIII.1.

<sup>14/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.79.XIII.8.

<sup>15/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.79.XIII.1.

<sup>16/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.8.

in addition, 130 countries or areas planned to undertake a population and/or housing census during the period 1980 to 1984. Some 28 countries or areas had not indicated any plan to carry out a census during the 1980 round.

128. Regarding migration statistics, the Commission was informed of three recent publications: Statistics of Internal Migration: a Technical Report; 17/ Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration; 18/ and Improvement of Statistics on the Outflow of Trained Personnel from Developing to Developed Countries: a Technical Report. 19/ Towards the implementation of recommendations on international migration statistics, the Statistical Office planned to develop, as an illustrative model, a phased national programme for the collection, tabulation and publication of comparable international migration statistics. Further, the Office had initiated an international co-operative programme with a view to collecting immigrant stock data from the 1980 round of population censuses and compiling an immigrant stock matrix by country of birth and country of presence. That compilation was expected to meet the growing demand for such data, as well as to provide some indirect statistics on emigrants of a given country or group of countries.

129. The Commission welcomed the international co-operative programme of the Statistical Office and expressed its support for all other developments in the area of international migration statistics; it commended, in that connexion, the useful work done by the Working Group on the Methodology for the Study of International Migration of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). In addition to population censuses, members of the Commission also laid emphasis on sample surveys, administrative records, including vital statistics, and the establishment of demographic data banks in order to meet the data needs of population studies and programmes. Several members stressed the need for international recommendations on abortion statistics and expressed the hope that the Statistical Commission would take up this matter. It was indicated that the work of IUSSP in that area would be very useful for that purpose.

130. Regarding publications of the Secretariat in respect of demographic statistics, the view was expressed that the data shown for several countries in a number of tables were more in the nature of projections than estimates. Furthermore, a question was raised concerning the usefulness of very frequent reporting of demographic data which change comparatively slowly, such as those found in the tables presenting the total population of countries in every issue of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.

#### J. Technical co-operation

131. The Commission's attention was drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation activities in population of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development during 1979-1980 (E/CN.9/350). The main focus of the programme, which the Department, through the Population Programmes and Projects Branch of its Division of Development Administration had carried out with financial

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17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XVIII.3.

18/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.18.

19/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.16,

support provided primarily by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), was to develop national capacities for becoming self-reliant in dealing with population matters by promoting institutional development at the national level in three basic areas: training in demography and population; evaluation and analysis of basic population and demographic data; and population policy planning and development planning. Support had also been provided for new-dimension activities, including those dealing with women's participation in population programmes. More than 120 projects had been supported over the biennium in 80 developing countries.

132. The Department had supported activities in population training through its intercountry demographic training centres and programmes at Bucharest, Romania (the United Nations-Romania Demographic Centre (CEDOR)), Egypt (the Cairo Demographic Centre) and Moscow, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the United Nations-USSR Interregional Demographic Training and Research Programme in Population and Development Planning). The regional training centres had been decentralized to the regional commissions as of 1 January 1980. Concurrent with the process of decentralization, there had been a steady increase in the number of requests for country projects in population training. The Department had also continued to provide technical backstopping for a programme of fellowships for population study at other than United Nations-supported centres, in order to strengthen the staff resources of the national population-teaching institutions, to train personnel in connexion with other types of country projects in population, and/or to train persons working in government offices or institutions. Approximately 115 fellowships had been awarded in demography, population or family planning during 1979-1980 and an equal number in population statistics.

133. It was noted that technical co-operation activities in the evaluation and analysis of basic population and demographic data in all the developing regions had constituted the largest segment, in terms of projects, of the population programme of the Department. The Department was also collaborating with the Statistical Office and the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to assemble computer-software packages to be made available to developing countries for use in the analysis of census data and the preparation of population projections.

134. Note was also taken that technical co-operation activities in population policy and development of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had sought mainly to establish or to strengthen national institutional arrangements designed to conduct research and studies on the interaction between demographic variables and social economic factors, to formulate and implement population policies, to integrate demographic factors in the development planning process and/or to improve the collection and dissemination of data and information on population and development.

135. The new-dimension types of technical co-operation in population to which the Department was giving increasing emphasis were related to urgent priority areas identified in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; these included, in particular, women's participation in population programmes, technical co-operation among developing countries in population and the integration of population issues in rural development activities. A significant aspect of the new-dimension approach was the Department's ongoing in-depth evaluation of its population activities as part of its continuing efforts to improve the quality of services offered and to establish a built-in evaluative capability.



136. The Commission also noted that the Department, as part of its evaluation programme, had prepared and published the first two documents in a series on aspects of technical co-operation in population, intended for the guidance of government officials and United Nations field staff: Demographic Evaluation and Analysis of Population Census Data: Aspects of Technical Co-operation 20/ and Population Policy and Development Planning: Aspects of Technical Co-operation. 21/

137. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the progress of work in technical co-operation activities in population and was particularly pleased to note the emphasis put upon the training of specialists and new-dimension activities in the field of women and population. The Commission urged that the United Nations continue to give high priority to its population training activities. It welcomed the fact that the scope of the United Nations-supported demographic training centres was being expanded to include greater coverage of population and development and recommended that the centres should also give particular attention to the management aspects of population questions, in light of the importance of good management to successful population programmes.

138. The Commission welcomed the information it was given on the Department's programme of evaluation of its technical activities in population training, through the use of, for example, post-fellowship questionnaires.

139. The Commission noted that the United Nations-sponsored demographic training centres had reached their peak of capacity in terms of what could be accommodated within the limits of present funding and expressed the hope that means could be found to avoid a possible situation in which qualified students would have to be turned away for lack of funds. It welcomed the quantitative data on training activities which had been submitted to it and requested that such data also be included in future reports submitted to the Commission. The Commission also requested that more quantitative information on the Department's non-training activities should be included in future reports.

140. The Commission welcomed a statement made by the representative of the Statistical Office, in which he emphasized the close and effective collaboration between the Statistical Office and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, with which it co-operated on a daily basis regarding statistically-oriented population projects; he also enumerated a number of activities carried out by the Statistical Office relating to the improvement of statistics, including population statistics, pertaining to the role and status of women.

141. The Commission also heard statements by the Directors of the two United Nations-sponsored interregional centres in Cairo (Cairo Demographic Centre) and Bucharest (CEDOR), the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) at Santiago, Chile, and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra, Ghana, summarizing their programmes and highlighting new developments in the centres' activities.

142. The Cairo Centre, which was in its eighteenth year and had trained 700 students from developing countries of Africa, Asia and West Asia, was pressing its efforts to strengthen its research component as well as the advisory services which it provides to Governments as part of its technical co-operation activities.

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20/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XIII.3.

21/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.II.A.1.

143. The centre at Bucharest (CEDOR), which had been established as part of the follow-up to the emphasis on population and development at the World Population Conference, had adopted an interdisciplinary, rather than a multidisciplinary approach, in training planners with regard to the formulation of integrated population policies. It trained between 20 and 30 students annually from French-speaking countries of Africa, Asia and West Asia.

144. In addition to initiating arrangements for the training of English-speaking students from Caribbean countries and for Portuguese-speaking students from African countries, CELADE was introducing into its curriculum a new M.A. programme in social studies related to population.

145. During the nine years since its establishment, RIPS had trained some 214 persons from nearly all the English-speaking countries of Africa, and nearly all of them were working in the population field either in government offices or national universities. The Director also mentioned that women students comprised 20 per cent of those taking the basic course and 40 per cent of those going on to the M.A. course at RIPS.

146. The representative of ECA, referring to the decentralization of RIPS and of the United Nations-sponsored Institut de formation et de recherche démographique (IFORD) in Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroon, informed the Commission that a regionalization process was being initiated with regard to those two African institutes by which their statutes would be changed to effect greater participation by countries of the region in the Governing Councils of the centres and greater sharing by those countries in the financing of the institutes.

#### K. Population activities of other United Nations bodies

147. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) informed the Commission that the current work programme of ECE was focused on three aspects. In the light of the dominant role of fertility in the current and, probably, future demographic evolution of the region, the principal project had been in the area of fertility. The study encompasses the analysis of past and recent fertility trends based on the results of some 16 fertility surveys which were held in countries of the region since the mid-1970s in the context of the World Fertility Survey. Apart from the longer-term demographic developments, current trends in the ECE region were of special interest. Work in that area had been mainly concerned with the analysis of prevailing trends in the over-all demographic situation, especially fertility and nuptiality. In addition, analyses of the impact of short-run demographic changes, particularly those in age distribution, were being carried out.

148. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) informed the Commission that the population activities of ESCAP, usually referred to as the Asian and Pacific Population Programme, covered three main areas: population and development, population policies and family planning, and population information. Those activities all served to assist member countries in increasing their understanding and awareness in such areas as the interrelationship between population changes and movement and socio-economic development; management, motivation and evaluation of family planning programmes and related population policies; and strengthening population information networks in the countries of the region. As part of its 1982-1983 work programme, ESCAP would hold the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference at Colombo in

November 1982, and it was expected that the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference would also serve as important and substantial inputs for the proposed international conference now under consideration by the Commission.

149. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) said that the programmes of ECLA were unique in that they were based on a system of three institutions. Regional population activities were carried out by one of those institutions, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). International migration was a priority area for research and a study was being carried out in several Latin American countries. CELADE was conducting, with the Statistical Office of Barbados, a methodological study on the effect of migration in the country of origin. A series of 16 studies dealing with infant and early childhood mortality had been carried out. Programmes in the area of education and training were being undertaken. In the field of research and training, efforts were being made to introduce demographic aspects into policy formation and planning. The Commission was informed that the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom had provided assistance, and forms of co-operation with other Governments were being explored. With the co-operation of the Government of the United Kingdom, training for demographers, conducted in the English language, was being provided at Port of Spain, starting in 1981.

150. In reporting on population activities in Africa, the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa pointed out that awareness of population issues among Governments had been increasing, as reflected in the Lagos Plan of Action adopted at the second extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in April 1980. He added further that efforts devoted to population activities were being strengthened but that more resources were necessary to meet the needs of the region and to implement fully the decentralization exercise recommended by the General Assembly.

151. The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population informed the Commission of the co-operative arrangements between the Institut de formation et de recherche démographique, the Groupe démographique africain and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population to hold a series of one-month advanced training courses at the post-graduate level for French-speaking African demographers. The first one will take place at Yaoundé in July 1981. Similar arrangements for Latin America are under discussion between the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).

152. The representative of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) described the region's unique development situation as one in which there was an abundance of capital resources and a shortage of human resources. Because of this, the very high rates of population growth prevailing in the region had not been translated into a policy concern. Most countries of the region have become importers (some being at the same time exporters) of population and manpower. The unique development situation of the region has also had major implications in the field of internal migration and urbanization, particularly in promoting the primacy of capital cities and their economic, social and cultural dominance over their respective countries. The population programme of work of ECWA reflected that peculiar development situation, in that less emphasis was placed on problems of population growth and fertility, although some work was taking place in that regard, including work related to the World Fertility Survey. More emphasis was placed on the socio-economic correlates of differential mortality. The greatest emphasis

in the next two years would be in the fields of internal and international migration, and two major regional meetings were being planned in 1981 and 1982. The progress of work of ECWA also emphasized the publication of material relevant for undertaking population research in the region, as well as material relevant for university training.

153. The representative of the International Labour Organisation indicated that its current research in the field of population focused on developing methods to study demographic change, the role of women in the labour force and the socio-economic aspects of migration processes and policies. Technical co-operation projects in those activities, as in the broader field of integrating population into development planning, now covered 20 countries. Family welfare and education projects in the organized sector were now carried out in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

154. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations informed the Commission that the FAO population programme continued to give support to Governments for building population elements into their rural development policies and programmes, and to provide assistance in strengthening their capabilities for implementation. The main activities could be divided into four major areas: (a) basic data collection on population groups related to the rural sector; (b) research linking population and rural development policies and programmes; (c) population aspects of rural/agricultural development planning and (d) population communication and education to introduce population considerations in agricultural education, training and related rural development programmes. In all those major areas, increased attention had been given to matters relating to rural women.

155. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's population programme, the largest part of which received financial support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, included applied research in social demography, education and information, together with the development and provision of related materials, training and advisory services in support of the population programmes of member States.

156. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) informed the Commission that WHO gave priority to the promotion of primary health care. Among the basic elements of primary health care was maternal and child health care, including family planning. The provision of training programmes, information and services related to family planning had long received high priority in the WHO programme. Mortality studies were being carried out in collaboration with the Population Division.

157. The representative of the World Bank drew attention to the fact that it continued to support activities dealing with population growth and economic and social development. Those activities related to such areas as employment, health, nutrition, family planning, education, rural and urban development. The Bank had placed much emphasis on programmes that had clear demographic goals with regard to moderating fertility levels.

158. The Commission was informed by the representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) that a number of important programmes had to be rephased or reduced owing to the shortage of funds. At present 70 per cent of its programme resources were devoted to assistance to developing countries, and

30 per cent to intercountry activities, but in future the share for country programmes would be increased. Proposals would be made to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council to clarify the role of UNFPA in support of activities related to the status of women, migration and spatial distribution and the problems of the aging. In collaboration with other international organizations, UNFPA was preparing to hold an international conference on family planning in the near future. Furthermore, it was convening regional meetings for parliamentarians in Asia, Africa and Europe, as a follow-up to the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development held at Colombo in 1979.

VI. PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1984-1989 AND  
PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

159. For its consideration of item 5 of its agenda, at its 383rd to 388th meetings, from 27 to 29 January, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989 and the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 for the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/354). 22/

A. World demographic analysis

160. The Commission recognized the importance of this subprogramme and endorsed its continuation as proposed in the biennial programme of work and the medium-term plan, but raised some specific points which are presented below.

161. The Commission welcomed the increased emphasis being given to work in the area of mortality. For the biennium 1982-1983, a major focus of attention would be the continuing implementation of activities associated with the mortality projects launched earlier. One leading issue to be pursued in the work would be the investigation in greater depth of the causes and consequences of current and prospective levels, trends and differentials in mortality. Reports were planned for the biennium on sex differentials in mortality in developing and developed countries and on child and adult mortality conditions in the developing regions. Other publications would report on a systematic review of the data bases necessary for the estimation of levels, trends and differentials and on a review of differential mortality in developing countries.

162. For the period 1984-1989, it would almost certainly remain necessary to emphasize work on ways to measure levels, trends and differentials in mortality where data were defective. Special attention would be given to measurement of differential mortality. A subject to which increasing attention would be given is the impact of prevailing mortality conditions, including differentials, on population growth and structure and on social and economic development.

163. Regarding urbanization during the biennium 1982-1983, it was planned to issue, in the form of computer tapes and as printed material, updates of estimates and projections for urban, rural and city populations. In addition, there were plans for publication of a report on patterns of labour force participation by sex in primate cities of the developing regions and a report on urban-rural differentials in household size in developing countries.

164. For the period 1984-1989, continuing attention would have to be given to analysis of the relationship between shifts in population distribution and social and economic change, both in developing and developed countries. A major focus would certainly continue to be on distribution changes (in both directions)

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22/ See annex III for additional documentation on this item.

between urban and rural areas, but in addition shifts between rural areas of different regions and between urban areas would increasingly need to be considered. In all cases, emphasis would be placed on the relationship of changes in population distribution to social and economic conditions and policies.

165. Two studies treating aspects of population structures were scheduled for the biennium 1982-1983: a comprehensive report on the world's child and youth population and a similar comprehensive report on the world's aged population. Each would deal with both demographic and socio-economic aspects of the age group in question.

166. Another programme element to be dealt with under this rubric was the concise report on the world population situation. This study would be based largely on the reports on the monitoring of population trends and policies prepared by the Secretariat, but was intended for a larger and less specialized audience. The Commission expressed its view that the concise report was a programme output of considerable value and that it should therefore be accorded high priority. It should focus on the fact that the population prospects for countries with high fertility are more serious than ever before.

167. For the longer term, work in the area of population structure analysis and its relation to the needs of social and economic development planning would be strengthened. Continuing attention would be given to the development of procedures for the analysis and reporting of policy-relevant information about population structures and characteristics, especially for countries where population structures were changing rapidly. The Commission stressed the importance of work on population structures and characteristics and recommended that appropriate emphasis should be given to the interrelationships among the demographic variables that determine population structure and with population structure itself.

168. The Commission welcomed the increased attention to be given to work on internal and international migration. It was reported that in the area of internal migration, subject to the availability of funds, work during the biennium 1982-1983 would be largely organized around the case studies project that had been elaborated. Attention would be given to the full range of directions and durations of migration and to the consequences for both net sending and net receiving areas. Case studies were to be carried out and reported by local institutions, with co-ordination, substantive support and a synthesis of findings provided by the Secretariat. A report on data and estimation techniques required for development and implementation of distribution policies would also be produced. In addition a review of patterns of internal migration in relation to varying "styles" of development would be carried out.

169. For the longer term, the focus would continue to be on the more precise direct measurement of migration flows and on analysis of consequences of migration for regions of origin and destination as a component of the development process. Emphasis would be given to the development of methodologies, including fuller exploitation of existing data and the best possible uses of all possible sources of data, including some newer sources such as multi-round household surveys, to ensure the timely availability of information needed for planning purposes.

170. On international migration, during the biennium 1982-1983, a major initiative would be the launching of a global review of international migrant stocks and their social and economic consequences. This work would be strengthened by the

opportunity to draw upon a new project being started by the Statistical Office of the United Nations to assemble and facilitate comparison of estimates of migration flows by countries of origin and destination. The project would also be able to make use of data as they began to appear from the 1980 census round. Those data would be supplemented wherever possible by information from other sources, especially in reference to groups difficult to measure using census techniques.

171. As noted earlier, subject to the availability of funds, a series of case studies, and associated activities may also be launched.

172. Over the longer term, the Commission urged that work in the area of international migration should be substantially expanded to deal with its impact on net sending and net receiving countries and at the broader level as a major factor in the international division of labour and terms of trade. Particular attention would have to be given to improved methods of obtaining more timely and accurate information about the various flows of international migrants, including special groups such as undocumented migrant refugees, flows of migrant workers organized under governmental or private contractual arrangements and the movement of highly skilled workers.

#### B. Demographic projections

173. The Population Commission recognized the importance of this subprogramme and endorsed its continuation as proposed in the biennium plans and medium-term plans, but raised some specific points which are presented below.

174. As recommended by the Commission at its twentieth session, the Population Division would undertake in 1982 a revision of population estimates and projections for countries, regions and the world. As in previous revisions, the projections would include total population by size, age and sex composition and other demographic indicators of fertility, mortality and international migration. It was noted that the medium-term projections had been extended to the year 2025 and, as has been the case in the past, at least four variants would be calculated. Following the 1982 revision, the next round would be in 1984 and successive revisions would be conducted with two-year intervals.

175. The Population Commission discussed its recommendation for revisions at two-year intervals at its twentieth session. While some members doubted the utility of such frequent revisions and suggested a four-year or five-year interval between revisions, others felt that it would be necessary to have frequent revisions as proposed earlier. The Secretariat reported that the two-year interval would not be a burden for the work on projections and that, in some respect, it would make the work more efficient.

176. The Commission stressed that the core of the work of the Division was the provision of factual information and that this was an extremely valuable activity.

177. A suggestion was made that the United Nations should increase and strengthen its co-ordination with national population bodies through direct contact. Such co-ordination would help the Secretariat to concentrate its attention on the broader problems in the area of population projections.

178. The Commission noted that the manual for estimating basic demographic indicators from incomplete data was assigned a low priority and questioned



its low priority relative to other programme elements, such as the proposed work on estimation and projection of household and family sizes. One representative remarked that, while the estimation and projection of household and family sizes should not be neglected, the area was a difficult one owing to differences in definitions and the complexity of the determinants of household size. It was generally felt that the manual for estimating basic demographic indicators from incomplete data should have a relatively high priority.

179. The Commission was informed that the success of population estimation and projection activities would rest in large part on the continued close co-ordination among the Population Division of the Secretariat, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies. In particular, the contributions of the regional commissions were essential not only in respect of data collection and evaluation but also for refinement of assumptions and communicating with national Governments. Efforts should also be made to strengthen co-operation with national Governments through the regional commissions, as appropriate.

180. The Commission was informed that estimates and projections would be made of infant mortality rates in the case of the 1982 round of projections. National statistics supplemented by indirect estimates based on life tables would be primarily relied upon in the preparation of these estimates and projections.

181. The Commission was informed that the short-term projections covering the approximately 10 years following the base year would be strengthened. Questions arose regarding the merit of such projections given that many countries have calculated their own for the short term. In response to those queries, it was pointed out that the preparation of the short-term projections by single year was basically an interpolation procedure that had been conducted previously. In addition, it was mentioned that increasing numbers of requests from Governments were being received for short-term, single-year projections for not only total population but also for population analysed by age and sex.

### C. Population policies

182. In the area of data collection, there were proposals for the computerization of the data bank and for a fifth population inquiry, to be undertaken in 1983.

183. Regarding research on population policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, major studies are planned for the 1982/83 on the topics of spatial distribution and of morbidity and mortality.

184. To assist Governments in implementing population policies within the context of previously adopted socio-economic policies, two seminars are planned: the first, with the collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO), on population policies and health policies; the second, with the collaboration of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on population policies and integrated rural development.

185. For dissemination of information and training, it is anticipated that assistance to United Nations demographic training and research centres will be continued. Further regional seminars of the type held in Africa are planned for the ESCAP and, possibly, ECLA regions.

186. In commenting on the programme, the Commission commended the work accomplished and felt that it significantly contributed to the achievement of the work programme of the Population Division. It was felt that the Division was dealing with very critical and pertinent issues in line with the recommendations of the Bucharest Conference and thus had extensive and important contributions to make, particularly in the event of another world population conference, and that therefore this area of activity would require to be considerably strengthened in the future.

187. The Commission suggested that further efforts should be made to integrate work in the area of population policy with work in other areas concerned with population trends, specifically population and development.

188. The Population Inquiry among Governments and the subsequent monitoring report were considered by some members to be carried out too frequently, since few significant changes could be observed at two-year intervals and the Inquiry also seemed to yield relatively little useful information, particularly given its costs. It was suggested that, perhaps, the data bank was ultimately a more important and valuable resource.

189. Finally, an issue considered to be of great importance to many members of the Commission was the necessity of evaluating the effectiveness of policies and being able to determine the exact causal relationship between population policy and demographic change. It was felt that although the work had greatly contributed to the evolution and advancement of the relatively new field of population policy analysis, it was now time to proceed further and examine the effects of specific policies and delineate the determining forces. In this context it was considered essential to examine issues such as national development strategy and numerous other variables, including human rights, the status of women, etc.

190. Several representatives on the Commission pointed out the necessity of evaluation and stated that it was essential that the work programme should consider this in the future, for instance in relation to the spatial distribution studies to be undertaken in 1982/83. It was also suggested that the questionnaire used for the Fourth Population Inquiry represented a considerable burden for the Governments and others concerned, especially since most of the documentation of the subprogramme was based primarily on other research, governmental and non-governmental. Nevertheless, the importance of the appropriate form of inquiry as an occasion for Governments to re-examine and reaffirm their positions was mentioned. The problem of determining the scope of studies was emphasized, whether limited or broad. It was indicated in this connexion that the subprogramme attempted to work within the guidelines advocated at Bucharest.

#### D. Population and development

191. The Commission reviewed the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 and the proposed medium-term plan relating to the activities of the Secretariat in the field of population and development and recommended that the Secretariat should implement the work programme. In this connexion, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of that work and expressed its satisfaction with the proposed work programme.

192. The Commission noted with approval that in order to promote the incorporation of demographic factors in national and international strategies, plans and

programmes, the work programme had addressed itself to both the implications of different population trends for development and the impact of social and economic change on demographic trends. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that the work programme was linked to the new International Development Strategy as well as the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on a new international economic order.

193. The Commission also noted with approval that the work programme gave increased emphasis to studies at the micro-level to provide insights into population/development linkages which could not be elicited from macro-level analyses. The members of the Commission also underlined the need for the appropriate treatment of qualitative factors involved in the growth process in addition to quantitative analysis. It was also pointed out that the analyses should not be confined to individuals or countries, but should consider the role played by social groups. A reference was made to research work in the field of the social sciences which could be useful when considering the quality of relations between individuals and groups.

194. The Commission was informed that the project concerning socio-economic development and fertility decline would investigate the consequences of social and economic change on demographic trends. The investigation would be conducted in six case-study countries which represented varying development settings and in which fertility transition was well under way.

195. The Commission was also informed that studies were in progress to consider the social and economic consequences of population trends and structure, including analyses of the likely consequences of future demographic developments at the global and regional levels. Of particular concern would be the interaction between demographic variables and the distribution of income and other socio-economic indicators.

196. The Secretariat reported that it would continue its activities involving the review, appraisal and elaboration of population development models. This work would involve the development of selected partial models on specific subjects. Special attention would be paid to the use of partial models for the study of the demographic aspects of income distribution and consumption as well as the endogenization of fertility, mortality and migration. The Commission expressed its approval of continued work in the field of population development modelling in accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population-Development Modelling.

197. The Commission emphasized the importance of undertaking demographic studies designed to meet the specific needs of planning and noted with approval the resumption of work on the preparation of a manual describing specific techniques for integrating population factors into development plans at the national level. This work would include a discussion of the relationships of population to different areas of planning, methodologies to be applied to each area and examples illustrating how the recommended techniques could be applied.

198. With regard to the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, the Commission was informed that a project was being undertaken which involved the creation of a conceptual framework along the lines of the social accounting matrix approach, making development the central issue and expanding it in successive stages to incorporate considerations of population, resources and the environment.

199. The Commission noted with approval the steps taken to enhance understanding within the United Nations of the interrelations between population and development and to foster co-operation between related research activities through the Interagency Task Force on Population and Development. The representatives were informed that the future work of the Task Force called for refining and expanding the mapping of interrelationships, the development of a facility for co-ordinating information exchanges, and carrying out illustrative studies of interrelationships in connexion with the mapping approach.

200. The Commission viewed with approval the activities concerned with population and development proposed by the Secretariat in the medium-term plan. There would be a more precise quantification of the linkages between demographic and developmental variables. The methodologies developed for integrating population factors into development planning would be tested, evaluated and modified accordingly. The development of socio-economic demographic models would be monitored and manuals prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population-Development Modelling. A framework for an integrated analysis of those development issues which link population to resources and the environment would be refined and used as a basis for drawing up practical guidelines for development planning.

#### E. Monitoring and review and appraisal

201. The monitoring of population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action are dealt with in chapter III of the present report.

202. Some members of the Population Commission suggested that it was not necessary to have a fully detailed report on the monitoring of population policies every two years. However, the Commission would recommend that the monitoring of population trends should continue to be undertaken in detail since it provided a wealth of information on the global demographic situation and developments.

#### F. Factors affecting patterns of reproduction

203. The Population Commission reviewed the work programme for 1982-1983 in the biennium programme budget and recommended that the Secretariat should implement the work.

204. The Commission considered that in 1984-1989 the Secretariat, in addition to furthering knowledge of the conditions of fertility change in developing countries, should carry out research to advance understanding of the causes of the continued markedly low fertility in many of the economically more advanced countries. In so doing, the Secretariat should examine causes of the increasing disparity in fertility levels and patterns within categories of countries at similar levels of development as well as between the developed and developing countries.

205. The Commission considered that, to facilitate their work, a reassessment of some of the principal hypotheses upon which the fertility research over recent decades had been based should be undertaken after completion of the Minimum Research Programme for Comparative Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data, which should provide an adequate basis for such assessment.

206. The Commission expressed the wish that, in testing these hypotheses, the Secretariat should carry out micro-level studies of ways in which the interrelations of demographic, social, economic and cultural conditions and norms were transformed during the transition from high to low fertility. In that connexion, one useful analytical framework would be the comparative fertility levels and patterns in countries that represented varying socio-economic, demographic and other pertinent conditions. Particular emphasis should be given to the role of cultural phenomena.

207. A principal component of the work programme should be the study of the interrelatedness of women's work history, their fertility and important cultural and other related influences. In carrying out that work, the Secretariat should deal with conditions in the developed countries, as well as those in the economically less advanced countries.

208. The Commission recommended that studies should be made of the comparative success or impact of population policy measures to increase fertility and of measures to reduce it, with due regard for the methodological issues involved, particularly in the developed countries, although some attention should also be given to the influence of both types of measures when implemented in developing countries. The Commission further recommended that in carrying out the studies, use should be made, inter alia, of the data bank on national population policies which was maintained in the Population Division.

209. The Secretariat should continue monitoring levels and trends of fertility, as specified in the World Population Plan of Action.

210. The Commission considered that, to facilitate the work of national researchers, the Secretariat had contributed greatly to standardizing technical aspects of evaluation. This enabled programme administrators to obtain a more reliable assessment of the effect of the programmes on fertility. Because a number of developing countries had begun to integrate family planning with other development programmes, making it necessary to develop evaluation methodologies suitable for those conditions, the Commission expressed the wish that, when resources permitted, and other related projects had been completed, the Secretariat should undertake such work, adopting as a framework the development of national case studies with the aid of an expert group. The Commission felt that that was an important component of the work programme, and it hoped that the necessary resources would be provided.

211. When data for a considerably large number of additional countries participating in the World Fertility Survey become available, the Secretariat should revise its analysis of use and non-use of contraception and carry out a second study that would include the developed countries.

212. The Commission emphasized strongly that the Secretariat should continue support for the World Fertility Survey through its headquarters and regional technical adviser posts. Active membership in the Programme Steering Committee of the Survey and in technical bodies and meetings organized by the Survey should be continued. The technical advisers should intensify aid to Governments in country-level analysis. The close working relationship that the Secretariat had effected with the staff of the Survey contributed positively to the Secretariat's work. The Commission hoped that the established arrangements would be continued.

213. The Commission recommended strongly that the United Nations Working Group on Comparative Analysis of World Fertility Survey Data, with the guidance of the Secretariat, should continue its important work in ensuring that United Nations agencies, in fully exploiting Survey data for international comparative analysis should continue to collaborate closely by sharing staff and data-processing resources, exchanging technical information and co-ordinating research to enable speedy completion of the work. The Commission expressed the wish that the technical materials which the Secretariat provided to the Working Group in order to enhance the quality of the work should be published and widely disseminated. The Commission strongly recommended that the Working Group should be convened on a regular basis and that adequate resources be provided.

214. The Commission hoped that data about fertility which would in due course be yielded by the 1980 round of censuses, as well as data obtained from vital registration systems, where practicable, would also be drawn on to contribute to the Secretariat's research programme.

#### G. Dissemination of population information

215. The Commission noted that in addition to the regular programme concerning publication and dissemination of the Population Division's research studies and activities, a Population Information Network Bulletin would appear quarterly as part of the population information system (POPIN) which has been established within the Division.

#### H. Resource allocation

216. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination in his statement on the population programme of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 (E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.1) drew the attention of the Commission to the new and important changes which had been decided upon by the General Assembly. He emphasized that the medium-term plan was intended to provide for the organization, orientation and direction of the population programme during the plan period and outline the thrust of the programme, its objectives and the strategies to be used for its implementation for a six-year period. The programme of work is executed on the basis of biennial programme budgets. He stressed that the two exercises were complementary, thereby ensuring that the programme of work flowed from the objectives of the medium-term plan.

217. The General Assembly's decisions had also outlined the systematic and formal involvement of technical, sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies in the preparation of the plan. The views and comments of those bodies would be valuable inputs to its substantive content. He informed members of the Commission that the longer preparation time now available permitted better internal co-ordination and improved allocation of tasks among various units of the Secretariat and made possible system-wide consultations and co-ordination. Further, a progressive insertion of an evaluation system would ensure more effective implementation and help in phasing out activities which might prove to be marginal.

218. A representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, in introducing the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, drew the attention of the Commission to the request of the General Assembly that intergovernmental and

expert bodies should give their views on the relative priority of the various subprogrammes and programme elements contained in the programme budget. 23/

219. In their consideration of the programme budget for 1982-1983 and the medium-term plan for 1984-1989, the members of the Commission considered that the lack of information on resource allocations and financial information on the various project elements considerably hampered their making suggestions regarding the relative priority of various activities to be carried out by the Secretariat. The Commission was informed that the programme budget for 1982-1983 was currently under preparation and had not been approved by the Secretary-General, and so the Secretariat was not in a position to provide such information. Several members stated that the documentation for the programme budget for 1982-1983 provided at the meeting did not, as at previous sessions of the Commission, give the necessary details on the methodology and technical procedures to be followed by the Secretariat in respect of the various studies to be carried out in the immediate future.

220. In the light of the programme levels based on recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the level of resources available to the Division would be around 0.5 per cent below that pertaining to the biennium 1980-1981. It was stated in this connexion that there had been no increase in the regular budget supported staff since 1976.

221. In response to questions raised by a number of the members regarding the low level of allocations under the regular budget to the subprogrammes in population policy and population and development, it was stated that this was being offset to a large extent by extrabudgetary support. Some members of the Commission expressed concern at the extent of the reliance of the work programme on extrabudgetary support and felt that this work would be more appropriately allocated to the regular budget. The Commission's views on priorities of specific subprogramme and programme elements have been indicated elsewhere in the present chapter.

222. The setting of priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes was considered (E/CN.9/354, para. 4). The Commission expressed the view that since each subprogramme had been established to deal with aspects of population that the Commission felt were crucial, relative priorities could not be set at the subprogramme level of organization of work.

#### I. Technical co-operation

223. No proposed programme of work for the biennium 1982-1983 or proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989 in technical co-operation was submitted to the Commission. In reply to an inquiry from one member, the Commission was informed that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was still working on its proposed medium-term plan and that the plan would reflect the continuing nature of the Department's activities, and the fact that they were formulated and carried out in response to Governments' requests for technical assistance, which could not be foreseen in advance. Because of the special nature of the Department's work, the question of the review of its programme by functional commissions was still under discussion.

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23/ Resolution 35/9.

J. Consideration of a draft resolution

224. At the 392nd meeting on 3 February, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution entitled "Work programme in the field of population" (E/CN.9/L.142). The draft resolution was sponsored by Egypt, France, Japan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and the United States of America. Oral amendments were proposed by the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted without a vote (see chap. I, draft resolution III).

225. In connexion with the Commission's consideration of this draft resolution, the Secretary of the Commission read the following statement of financial implications:

"In accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General wishes to state that he does not envisage any financial implication with respect to the regular budget for the draft resolution entitled: 'Work programme in the field of population' (E/CN.9/L.142)".



VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION  
OF THE COMMISSION

226. At its 394th meeting, on 4 February 1981, the Commission considered the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-second session (E/CN.9/L.139), submitted by the Secretary-General in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), paragraph 3. The representative of the Netherlands suggested that item 6 should be rephrased to read "Preparation of the World Population Conference, 1984".

227. The Commission adopted the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-second session, as revised, together with the requested documentation, and decided to submit it to the Council for its review, pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979. The provisional agenda reads as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Documentation

- (a) Agenda and annotations
  - (b) Organization of work
3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974: monitoring of population trends and policies

Documentation

- (a) Concise report on monitoring of trends
  - (b) Concise report on monitoring of policies
  - (c) Working paper on monitoring of trends (English only)
  - (d) Working paper on monitoring of policies (English only)
4. Progress of work in the field of population

Documentation

- (a) Progress of work, 1981-1982, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
- (b) Recommendations of expert groups (approximately four reports)
- (c) Progress of work, 1981-1982, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

5. Programme of work in the field of population for the period 1984-1985 and medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989

Documentation

- (a) Programme of work, 1984-1985, and medium-term plan, 1984-1989
- (b) Medium-term plan (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development), 1984-1989

6. The preparation of the World Population Conference, 1984

Documentation

- (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General
- (b) Report of preparatory committee
- (c) Reports of expert groups
- (d) Reports of regional meetings
- (e) Draft agenda for the World Population Conference
- (f) International co-operation for the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (provisional)

7. Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the Commission

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-second session

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

228. The Commission considered its draft report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/L.141 and Add.1-17) at its 390th to 394th meetings from 2 to 4 February. It adopted the report, as a whole, as amended, at its 394th meeting on 4 February 1981.

## IX. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening and duration of the session

229. The Population Commission held its twenty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 January to 4 February 1981. The Commission held 14 plenary meetings (381st-394th meetings).

230. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Commission at its twentieth session, Dirk J. van de Kaa (Netherlands)

### B. Attendance

231. All States members of the Commission were represented at the session. Observers of States Members of the United Nations and a non-member State, representatives of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A complete list is given in annex I to the present report.

### C. Tribute to the memory of a former representative on the Population Commission

232. The Commission observed a minute of silence in tribute to a former representative of Egypt on the Population Commission, General Gamal Askar, who died on 13 January 1981.

### D. Election of officers

233. At its 381st meeting, on 26 January 1981, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation: Chairman: W. Weerasooria (Sri Lanka); Vice-Chairmen: H. Araica (Panama), K. Sipponen (Finland) and A. A. Zhuk (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic); Rapporteur: F. J. Falodun (Nigeria).

### E. Agenda

234. The Commission considered its agenda at its 381st meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/346 and Add.1) drawn up by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions. The agenda was adopted without objection.

235. The agenda adopted by the Commission (E/CN.9/346) is reproduced in annex II to the present report.

236. The Commission, at its 382nd meeting, on 26 January 1981, also approved the organization of work of its session, contained in document E/CN.9/L.140.

F. Resolutions and recommendations

237. The draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the decisions taken by the Commission of special relevance to the Council are reproduced in chapter I of the present report.

G. Documentation

238. The documents before the Commission are listed in annex III to the present report.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE a/

Members

BARBADOS	E. L. Straughn, Ricardo Brown*
ECUADOR	Eduardo Santos Alvite
EGYPT	Aziz Bindary, Mostafa El Guindi*, Hassan Gadel Hak*, Mohamed Khalil*
FINLAND	Kauko Sipponen, Marjatta Rasi*, Anna-Liisa Korhonen*
FRANCE	Alfred Sauvy, Jean Bourgeois-Pichat*
GREECE	B. Valaoras
HONDURAS	Juan José Cueva
HUNGARY	Barnabás Barta, András Klinger*
INDIA	Serla Grewal, Mr. V. V. Nevrekar*
INDONESIA	Ali Bustam, Hidayat Mukmin*, Mr. Poerwanto*, Nursin Rigin*, Purbo S. Suwondo
JAPAN	N. Shinozaki, M. Wakasugi*, M. Atoh*
MALAWI	E. F. Ching'Anda
MOROCCO	Mohamed Bijaad
NETHERLANDS	Dirk J. van de Kaa, E. J. N. Brouwers, S. E. Ramondt
NIGERIA	O. O. Olaifa, F. J. Falodun*, J. A. Otokiti
NORWAY	P. J. Bjerve, Mette Ravn*
PANAMA	Hildebrando Araica
PERU	Carlos Muñoz Torcello

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\* Alternate.

a/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2836 (XXVI), para. 3 (f), the full list of names of participants is not given in the present report.

RWANDA	Niyibizi Silas
SIERRA LEONE	R. Forde, Chris Jasabe*, W. S. Bangura*
SRI LANKA	W. Weerasooria
THAILAND	V. Boonyakesanond
UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC	A. A. Zhuk, I. M. Turjanskiy*
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS	A. A. Isupov, N. I. Yevdokeyev*, A. S. Anikushin
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	J. H. Thompson, C. D. Walker*, W. G. Ehrman*
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Richard E. Benedick, Conrad Taeuber*, P. P. Claxton, Patricia Baldi, Samuel Baum, Frank Brecher
ZAIRE	Bagula Maneno, L. Kalupala

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina

Chile

Non-member State represented by an observer

Holy See

United Nations bodies

Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Economic Commission for Latin America  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Economic Commission for Western Asia  
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
World Bank

Intergovernmental agencies

Commonwealth Secretariat  
Organization of American States

Non-governmental organizations

<u>Category I</u>	International Planned Parenthood Federation
<u>Category II</u>	International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics International Statistical Institute International Union for the Scientific Study of Population World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
<u>Roster</u>	Committee for International Co-operation in National Research in Demography Population Council



Annex II

AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974: monitoring of population trends and policies
4. Progress of work in the field of population
5. Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: population programme
6. Possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference
7. Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Commission
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-first session

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.9/346	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.9/346/Add.1	2	Report on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session
E/CN.9/L.140	2	Organization of the work of the session
E/CN.9/347	3	Concise report on monitoring of population trends: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/348	3	Concise report on monitoring of population policies: report of the Secretary-General
ESA/P/WP.68	3	Report on monitoring of population trends
ESA/P/WP.69	3	Report on monitoring of population policies
E/CN.9/349	4	Progress of work, 1979-1980, of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in the field of population: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/350	4	Technical co-operation activities in population of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, 1979-1980: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/351	4	Recommendations of the Second Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/352	4	Recommendations of the Meeting on Socio-Economic Determinants and Consequences of Mortality: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/353	4	Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population-Development Modelling: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/354	5	Proposed medium-term plan for 1984: population programme: note by the Secretary General

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.1	5	Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: population programme - Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.1/Corr.1	5	Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: population programme - Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.2	5	Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: population programme - Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1982-1983: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/355	6	Possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.3	6	Report of the Working Group of the Whole on the possibility of holding an international population conference
E/CN.9/L.139	7	Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Population Commission
E/CN.9/L.141 and Add.1-17	8	Draft report of the Commission on its twenty-first session
E/CN.9/L.142	5	Work programme in the field of population - Egypt, France, Japan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.9/L.143	6	Possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference - Egypt: draft resolution
E/CN.9/L.144	3	Strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action - France, Greece, Indonesia, Norway, Thailand and the United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.9/L.145	6	Convening of a World Population Conference in 1984 - Egypt, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Zaire: draft resolution.

## APPENDIX

Possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade since the World Population Conference, with the aim of contributing to the process of quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and to the further implementation of the Plan of Action

Report of the Population Commission a/

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1979/32 of 9 May 1979 on the strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action, requested the Population Commission, at its twenty-first session, to consider and advise the Council on the possibility of holding an international conference to review population developments in the first decade following the World Population Conference, with the aim of contributing to the process of quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and to the further implementation of the Plan of Action. b/
2. The Population Commission, having heard a number of preliminary comments on agenda item 6, constituted a Working Group of the Whole to carry out further deliberations and to report to the Commission at its 389th meeting.
3. There was broad consensus but not unanimity that the Commission should recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should convene a world population conference at the intergovernmental level to be held in 1984.
4. A few members of the Working Group expressed the view that an intergovernmental world conference at the indicated time was not needed, and argued that its expense could be better used for strengthening and extending population action programmes. They stressed that the objectives for further work had already been determined by the World Population Plan of Action which recognized that economic and social development was a central factor in the solution of population problems. Some questioned whether such a conference was the most effective way to address the issues concerned. It was also suggested that the subject of review and appraisal could be dealt with by the Population Commission and that if high-level attention to the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action was needed, it could be given by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly.
5. However, the large majority of the Working Group, including representatives of all the developing countries on the Working Group, agreed on the view that the subject of population had become more complex and urgent since 1974. They noted

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a/ This text was presented to the Commission as "Report of the Working Group of the Whole on the possibility of holding an international population conference" (E/CN.9/XXI/CRP.3).

b/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/32, para. 4.

that although some aspects of population trends showed improvement at an aggregate level, at the regional and country levels many trends, such as fertility, infant mortality, morbidity, life expectancy, population distribution, and trends in the relationship of population to education, status of women, nutrition, and the whole process of development, were significantly at variance with the goals of the World Population Plan of Action. Those adverse trends aggravated an already serious and sometimes alarming situation. Furthermore, the relative decrease of the level of funding of population programmes might jeopardize development efforts at country levels. They pointed out that an intergovernmental conference involving governmental policy makers with adequate technical and scientific support, would strengthen the work already being done. A particular concern, reflected by many of these factors, was the continuing problem of excessive population growth, in so far as it impeded many countries in their attainment of national social and economic objectives. The Conference would give greater recognition and confidence to the concerned United Nations and other international agencies already at work in the field. It would help to revitalize work already started which might have slackened since commitments had been made in 1974. They also noted that the Conference, in addition to reviewing what had happened between 1974 and 1984, would emphasize actions needed for the future.

6. The members of the Working Group were concerned that the Conference should not be diffuse but that it should concentrate on a very limited agenda of issues directed towards the further implementation of the Plan of Action and that it should be conducted with economy in size of delegations, time involved and in other cost factors.

7. In recommending a conference, it was agreed that it should work within the framework of the existing World Population Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continued to be fully valid. A 1984 conference would therefore mainly be concerned with actions needed at the national, regional and international levels for the more effective implementation of the Plan of Action during the decade 1985-1994.

8. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness, it would be necessary for the Conference to focus its attention on selected issues of the highest priority, giving full recognition to the relationship between population and social and economic development. c/ Actual identification of the specific issues to be placed on the agenda for the Conference might be accomplished progressively through the functioning of the organizational arrangements to be outlined in the following paragraphs.

9. Documents placed before the Conference should be limited in size and number. They would draw upon the main findings and recommendations from preparatory work for the Conference.

10. Arrangements for the Conference should include steps to ensure the possibility of a significant contribution by the regional commissions. That might be effected by means of a request by the Economic and Social Council to the regional commissions that their contribution to the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action and to the 1984 World Population Conference should be placed on the agenda at an appropriate time in their existing calendar of meetings. That would give the desirable increased emphasis to regional aspects in the Plan of Action.

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c/ The list of five issues contained in document E/CN.9/355, para. 8, provides a useful guide.

11. Steps should also be taken to ensure the co-operation of the specialized agencies and appropriate non-governmental organizations.
12. It is recommended that the Economic and Social Council should request the Secretary-General to establish expert groups when necessary.
13. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/10 C of 3 November 1980, the Population Commission should be designated the preparatory committee for the Conference.
14. It is recommended that the Economic and Social Council should request the Secretary-General to designate the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to be responsible for the co-ordination of substantive services for the preparation of the Conference and for their co-ordination with other activities in the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action. In those activities, close collaboration should be maintained with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.
15. As regards the organization of the Conference itself, for maximum effectiveness and the limitation of costs, it was agreed that:
  - (a) It should be limited in duration, say, five or six days;
  - (b) It should meet in plenary only, with the possibility of constituting itself a working group of the whole;
  - (c) Delegations should be kept small, preferably comprised of high-level policy-makers and experts in the field of population and related fields.
16. The Working Group was pleased to note that a number of countries were considering the possibility of acting as host to the Conference, should such a conference take place.

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