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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE BETWEEN
ITS THIRD AND FOURTH SESSIONS**

1. The work accomplished by the Statistical Committee of ESCWA between its third and fourth sessions primarily included the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical data, the conducting of training activities, the exchange of experience in the field of statistics through the organization and holding of statistical workshops, expert group meetings and symposia and participation in the meetings of statistical committees and other bodies. The work of the Committee also included the provision of advisory services to the ESCWA members, on which a report entitled "Technical Cooperation in Statistics" was prepared.

A. COLLECTION, COMPILATION AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA

2. A number of databases were developed and maintained and periodical statistical bulletins were published.

3. The following are the most important databases on hand in the Statistics Division:

(a) *Labour force statistics database*: The database was updated with new data from censuses and labour force surveys carried out by member States. The data were placed on compact disks;

(b) *Database on gender statistics*: This database was converted from Excel to Access format and updated with new data from the countries participating in the project on the development of national gender statistics programmes in the Arab countries;

(c) *Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicator database*: The Common Country Assessment indicator database, which is made up of 40 indicators and 10 contextual indicators, was developed further. The Member States were requested to provide ESCWA with available data in this connection;

(d) *Spreadsheets*: In addition to the databases mentioned above, the Statistics Division has a number of bases in spreadsheet form, prepared in Microsoft Excel in a number of fields of social and economic statistics;

In addition, the Statistics Division is developing other databases on industry, financial statistics and prices;

(e) The Statistics Division has created its own Web page on the Internet, accessible via the ESCWA Web site and containing information on the Division's activities and publications and a number of country indicators in the field of economic and social statistics.

4. The following periodical statistical publications were issued and distributed:

(a) The *Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region*, nineteenth and twentieth issues (1999 and 2000, respectively);

(b) *National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region*, bulletins Nos. 19 and 20 (1999 and 2000, respectively);

(c) *Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries*, No. 4 (1999). This biennial bulletin is published in cooperation with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization in Rabat;

(d) *Bulletin on Vital Statistics in the ESCWA Region*, Nos. 2 and 3 (1999 and 2000, respectively);

(e) *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region*, No. 10 (2000);

(f) *Statistical Newsletter*, four issues during the period under study.

The following non-recurrent publications were also issued and distributed:

(a) *Women and Men in the Arab Region: a Statistical Portrait 2000* (in English);

(b) *Women and Men in Lebanon: a Statistical Portrait*;

(c) Wall chart on *Women and Men in the Arab Region: a Statistical Portrait* (in English).

B. STATISTICAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

5. ESCWA organized the following training sessions and symposia:

(a) First National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Algeria, Algiers, 31 May to 5 June 1999;

(b) Second National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Lebanon, 29 and 30 June 1999;

(c) Second National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Jordan, Amman, 5 and 6 July 1999;

(d) Second National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Tunisia, Tunis, 12 and 13 July 1999;

(e) Second National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus, 3 and 4 August 1999;

(f) Second National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Egypt, Cairo, 8 and 9 August 1999;

(g) Regional Workshop on Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems in the ESCWA Member States, Cairo, 16 to 21 October 1999;

(h) Workshop on the Compilation of Integrated Economic Accounts of the 1993 SNA, Beirut, 26 to 28 October 1999;

(i) Second Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries, Amman, 8 to 11 November 1999;

(j) Workshop on Industrial and Construction Statistics, Beirut, 29 November to 4 December 1999;

(k) First National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Oman, Muscat, 27 to 29 February 2000;

(l) Second National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Algeria, Algiers, 29 and 30 March 2000;

(m) Workshop on the Links between the Balance of Payments and the 1993 System of National Accounts, Beirut, 27 to 29 June 2000;

(n) Workshop on Economically Active Population: Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, Cairo, 17 to 21 September 2000;

(o) Regional Meeting on Social Indicators within the Framework of the Implementation and Follow-up of Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Arab Countries, Muscat, Oman, 29 October to 1 November 2000;

(p) Third National Workshop for Producers and Users of Gender Statistics in Tunisia, 23 and 24 November 2000.

C. PARTICIPATION IN STATISTICAL MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIA

6. ESCWA took part in the following meetings and symposia:

(a) Training Workshop for Trainers on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, held in Bangkok from 13 to 24 September 1999;

(b) Twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth meetings of the Standing Technical Committee on Statistics of the League of Arab States, held in Cairo on 24 and 25 November 1999, and in Amman on 15 and 16 November 2000, respectively;

(c) Twenty-third meeting of the Statistical Committee of the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), held in Amman on 14 November 2000;

(d) Second and third meetings of the Subcommittee on National Accounts of the League of Arab States, held in Cairo from 20 to 23 November 1999, and in Amman from 11 to 14 November 2000, respectively;

(e) Thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, held in New York from 29 February to 3 March 2000, and 6 to 9 March 2001, respectively;

(f) Thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, held in Madrid from 14 to 16 September 1999, and in Washington, D.C., from 20 to 22 September 2000, respectively;

(g) International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Conference on Statistics, Development and Human Rights, held in Montreux, Switzerland, from 4 to 8 September 2000;

(h) Joint ECE-EUROSTAT-ESCWA Work Session on Migration Statistics, held in Geneva from 8 to 10 May 2000;

(i) Third meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics, an offshoot of the United Nations Statistical Commission, held in Vienna from 21 to 23 March 2000.

7. The Statistics Division is pleased to announce that all the activities and outputs of the programme of work for the biennium 1999-2000 were successfully completed.