

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Thirty-seventh Plenary Session
(12-16 June 1989)

Report
of the thirty-seventh plenary session



UNITED NATIONS
1989

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4
II. RECENT MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION	5 - 9
A. Matters arising from the forty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe	5 - 8
B. Matters arising from the twenty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission	9
III. POSSIBILITIES FOR ENHANCING THE INFORMATIVE ROLE OF STATISTICS THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA	10 - 21
IV. USE OF MICROCOMPUTER IN STATISTICAL SERVICES	22 - 32
V. REGIONAL STATISTICAL CO-OPERATION	33 - 36
VI. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES	37 - 51
A. Use of computers for statistical purposes and design and development of statistical information systems	37 - 44
B. Other issues in the organization and operation of statistical services	45 - 48
C. Use of registers in national statistical offices	49 - 51
VII. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS	52 - 85
A. Development and linking of SNA and MPS national accounts and balances systems	52 - 59
B. International comparisons of real product and purchasing power parities (ICP)	60 - 66
C. Statistics of the distribution of income of households	67 - 69
D. Classifications of economic activities and of goods and services	70 - 72
E. Agricultural statistics	73 - 74
F. General energy statistics	75 - 76
G. Statistics of engineering industries and automation	77 - 78
H. Transport statistics	79 - 80

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
I. Statistics of services	81 - 84
J. Other projects in the field of economic statistics	85
VIII. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS	86 - 104
A. Health statistics	86
B. Statistics of education	87
C. Population and housing censuses	88 - 93
D. Labour force statistics	94
E. Housing statistics	95
F. Migration statistics	96
G. Other projects in the field of social and demographic statistics	97 - 104
IX. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED STATISTICS	105 - 127
A. Statistics of air quality	105 - 108
B. Statistics of water use	109 - 112
C. Statistics of land use	113 - 115
D. Statistics of solid wastes	116 - 119
E. Compendium of ECE environmental Statistics	120 - 123
F. Methodological problems of environment statistics	124 - 125
G. Other projects in the field of environment statistics	126 - 127
X. STATISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ECE PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND PROJECTS	128 - 129
XI. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1989/90 - 1993/94	130
XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1989/90 AND 1990/91	131 - 132
XIII. OTHER QUESTIONS	133
XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION	134

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The thirty-seventh plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians was held in Geneva from 12 to 16 June 1989. It was attended by Albania; Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Byelorussian SSR; Canada; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; Finland; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukrainian SSR; USSR; United Kingdom; United States; and Yugoslavia. A participant from Japan was also present under the provisions of paragraph 11 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe. Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the following specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations attended: Food and Agriculture Organization; International Labour Organization; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; Council for Mutual Economic Assistance; and European Economic Community. A representative of the International Statistical Institute was present. Also present at the invitation of the secretariat was the Director of the Nordic Statistical Secretariat.

2. Mr. W. Begeer (Netherlands) was in the chair. Mr. C. Malaguerra (Switzerland) was Vice-Chairman.

3. The provisional agenda (ECE/CES/83 and Addenda 1 to 3) was adopted.

4. The session was opened with an address by Mr. G. Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. Copies of his statement were distributed to the participants. The Conference expressed its thanks to the Executive Secretary for informing it on the outcome of the last session of the Economic Commission for Europe and for the interest he had shown in the work of the Conference.

II. RECENT MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

A. Matters arising from the forty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation: CES/623 and E/ECE(44)/L.19.

5. The Conference took note of ECE resolution 1 (44) and of the various decisions adopted by the forty-fourth session of the Commission, particularly decision C (44) on Statistical Activities; decision D (44) on Co-operation in the field of Energy; decision G (44) on the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development; decision H (44) on the Commission's contribution to the follow-up of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women; decision I (44) on Co-operation in the field of environmental protection and water resources; decision N (44) on Economic Co-operation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe; decision P (44) on Engineering industries and automation; and decision Q (44) on Medium and long-term economic prospects and issues: analysis of economic growth conditions.

6. The Conference was informed that general satisfaction had been expressed at the forty-fourth session of the Commission for the results of the Conference's work on developing and harmonizing statistics and improving the comparability of statistical information at the international level. It was also informed that, with respect to future work, some delegations at the

Commission's session had felt that the Conference should focus on implementing those projects which were of a more practical nature. Several participants had pointed out that due consideration should be given to the Vienna Concluding Document, and several delegations had supported the proposal for the Conference to intensify its work on harmonization of statistical terms and standards in the ECE region. In general, it had been agreed that the Conference's programme of work reflected the priorities and major objectives adopted by the Commission, and provided a sound basis for future work.

7. During discussion, several delegations noted with satisfaction that the Commission had stressed the importance to be attached to statistical activities, and they expressed the hope that adequate human resources and material support from the secretariat could be allocated to the Conference's work, as requested by decision C (44).

8. The Conference agreed to consider the parts of the decisions that refer to specific elements in its programme of work under the relevant agenda items.

B. Matters arising from the twenty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission

Documentation: CES/624

9. The Conference took note of the information provided in document CES/624. It agreed to consider questions relating to subjects covered by specific items of the agenda under the agenda items concerned, and other questions affecting the programme of work of the Conference under agenda item 11 (programme of work).

III. POSSIBILITIES FOR ENHANCING THE INFORMATIVE ROLE OF STATISTICS THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Documentation: CES/625 and addenda 1 and 2

10. The discussion revealed that the amount of data analysis carried out within statistical offices varied greatly among countries. The traditional role of statistical offices in many countries had been limited to collecting, processing and publishing numerical data while analysis and interpretation of the data were considered to be users' tasks. This was no longer the case in some market economy countries, or in countries with centrally planned economies where statistical offices are required by law to carry out a large number of analysis and studies needed for management and planning at all levels and spheres of society. It was clear that the amount of analytical work done by national statistical offices was not determined by economic systems only but that differences also existed within each system. Some statistical offices have for years created analytical units within their organizational structure, while others only recently have developed these or are still in the phase of doing so. However, irrespective of the current level of data analysis, statistical offices seemed to be experiencing a growing demand for more comprehensive analysis in their work and publications.

11. There was general agreement among the participants that analysis can greatly increase the informative value of statistics. Divergent views, however, were expressed as to how far a statistical office should go in interpretative commentaries which go beyond technical analysis of its own data. Various participants were of the opinion that a firm line should be drawn between technical analysis and other interpretation. Indeed, in most statistical offices technical analysis in the form of averages, arithmetic means and information concerning the reliability and coverage of the data have become integral parts of the regular statistical production. This minimal

level of statistical analysis was not questioned by anybody, but some participants noted that, in many instances, that level was not even reached in practice.

12. In order to improve the usefulness of data and to respond to users' demands, statistical offices are increasingly compiling 'report-type' publications. The usual aim of these publications is to give a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon concerned, and in a manner that can be easily understood by the general public. Typical examples of report-type publications are trend and structural analysis of social and economic time-series data, with a text that is easy to read and amply illustrated with charts, diagrams and maps. The usual experience of statistical offices with this type of publication has been that they sell well and receive favourable attention in the media.

13. To make more extensive use of their data stocks and their resources, some national statistical offices have decided to produce 'research-type' publications. In these studies data and scientific methods are brought together, thereby supplying more in-depth interpretations and information on a specific topic. Important considerations in these publications are scientific theory and methodological development, and cause-effect analysis is not avoided. It was suggested, however, that if a statistical agency wishes to engage in research, it should ensure that these activities are conceptually, if not organizationally, separated from the production of official statistics. When published, it should clearly be stated that the particular release is scientific research and not a set of official statistics. Further, the results of such an exercise should be open to scientific criticism.

14. Several participants expressed the fear that interpretation of data could affect the objectivity normally associated with official statistics and hence endanger the public image of the statistical office. Others, however, were of the view that value-free statistics do not exist anyway, since all statistics are products of the system which created them. In this context, one participant expressed the view that, if a contradiction exists between objectivity and analytical work, the best thing to do was to live with it. It was however generally agreed that analytical studies published by national statistical offices should avoid reflecting or furthering the interest of any party or group of society.

15. It was noted that it was the duty of statistical offices to provide the public with data of the highest information potential. Statistical offices have a full knowledge of data weaknesses and have access to all the data collected; they are therefore in a very strong position to analyze and evaluate the data. It was further pointed out that it may not be objective to leave out statistical analysis completely and that, if statistical offices refuse to analyze their own data, others will do it and may not do it as well. One participant noted that, while the needs of business circles and researchers for data analysis may also be covered by interested groups outside the statistical office, the information of the general public would in any case remain the responsibility of the statistical office. Since this last group is the least able to understand and analyze the data, it should be the task of the statistical office to present the data to them in as user-friendly a way as possible.

16. During discussion, it was noted that risks of conflicts with research institutions could arise when a statistical office engages in research-type activity. A solution could be to invite these institutions to co-operate and to undertake 'joint ventures'. In this respect, one participant suggested that to have multiple economic analysis may solve the objectivity problem and would stimulate each side to produce better work.

17. Among the measures cited which could be taken to enhance the informative value of statistics was the improved presentation of printed publications. It was noted that statistical tables by themselves are not user-friendly. Some countries had made special efforts in the area of publications and had released a number of new publications concentrating on analysis written in a popular style. In other cases, regular publications had been made more readable by adding text, charts, and maps to the tables and by including a section in which the main findings were highlighted. Some countries reported that this approach had also proved to be very useful for the media. It was also noted that the application of sophisticated statistical methods does not make redundant the presentation of the frequency distributions underlying the statistical results. Finally, it was mentioned that some statistical offices had taken measures to encourage analytical work inside their offices by creating research units that cut across subject-matter boundaries and by inviting outside researchers to work on their data bases.

18. Reference was also made to the fact that the statistical information required by some users was increasingly of a specialized nature. Consequently, producers of statistics find themselves under pressure to meet customers' special requirements. There is also a growing demand from users to get access to micro-data in order to perform their own calculations and analysis. There was general agreement among participants that the confidentiality of the data should be protected at all costs, and that only anonymous and unidentifiable data should be made available to external users. In this respect, one participant mentioned the experience of his country, where a synthetic data base had been created that was equipped with software which allowed researchers to simulate various policy changes.

19. The representative of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) informed the Conference that the ISI was also giving consideration to these problems, and that it had established a committee to study the role of statisticians in society.

20. During discussion, it was noted that this topic was of interest to most statistical services, and it was suggested that an exchange of experience on analytical methods take place, either at a future plenary session (as an item for substantive discussion), or at an ad-hoc meeting of experts.

21. In concluding its consideration of this agenda item, the Conference warmly thanked the authors of the papers for providing an excellent basis for discussion of this topic.

IV. USE OF MICRO-COMPUTERS IN STATISTICAL SERVICES

Documentation: CES/626 and addenda 1 and 2

22. The Conference discussed this topic against the background of an explosive development in the use of micro-computers in statistical offices in recent years. This experience was shared by virtually all offices in the region. Several aspects of the introduction of micro-computers into statistical services were distinguished. In a first instance, important differences were identified in the objectives being pursued through the use of micro-computers. Secondly, a number of organizational schemes were being implemented together with micro-computers, which could be defined in terms of the level of communication between micro-computers on one side and between micro-computers and mainframes on the other. Thirdly, the actual use of micro-computers has developed over time. Fourthly, the increasing use of micro-computers has created new opportunities for staff and additional demands

on their qualifications. Fifthly, typical problems are associated with any large-scale use of micro-computers, which necessitate that special measures be adopted in order to safeguard the quality attributes of statistics. Last but not least, the Conference also considered the likely development of the use of microcomputers in statistical services during the foreseeable future.

23. At the most general level, the tasks assigned to micro-computers depend on the ways in which mainframe computers have been used historically in the statistical production process. Unsatisfactory mainframe resources make it likely that the use of micro-computers be planned, from the very beginning, for all phases of the statistical production process. On the other hand, offices that have developed satisfactory mainframe production of statistics are more likely to focus on applications in which the micro-computer offers clear advantages in terms of user-friendliness (e.g. word processing) or which cannot be performed through the mainframe alone (e.g. desktop publishing). It should be noted, however, that all offices plan for an increased use of micro-computers irrespective of the broad strategy pursued.

24. The introduction of micro-computers often starts with the purchase of a number of stand-alone computers. The Conference agreed that the disadvantages of an organizational model that relies entirely on stand-alone work stations are prohibitive in the long run. Accordingly, most offices either have installed or envisage the establishment of local area networks (LAN) as the most adequate way towards the expansion of computer resources. Some of these LANs have a gateway to mainframe computers. Mainframe connections are a prerequisite for organizational models in which statistical processing relies on a partitioning of functions between mainframe and micro-computers.

25. The Conference also noted that the introduction of micro-computers calls for significant changes in the functions of EDP specialists. Their tasks have shifted somewhat away from the development of application software towards an advisory role for subject-matter specialists. This development may result in a decrease in the number of "pure" application programmers. However, the quantitative effect on staffing requirements cannot always be easily assessed.

26. The ways in which micro-computers are actually used in statistical services obviously correspond largely to the general objectives pursued and to the organizational models implemented. Word processing and computer-assisted publishing systems were mentioned as fields of wide application. Several countries also perform data entry, editing and coding on micro-computers, but others consider these tasks as mainframe operations. In addition, data storage, survey design, statistical analysis, tabulation, the management of some well-defined data bases, the compilation of certain statistical indicators, the preparation of graphs, and mathematical or econometric modelling are functions that are more frequently being performed on the micro-computer. In general, it seems that any aspect of the statistical production process can be - and is being - performed on micro-computers. The micro-computer also favours the integration of functions that had previously been performed separately. The joint production of text, tables and graphs, the combined design of surveys and processing of survey results, etc. are cases in point.

27. The implications of these developments for the qualifications of staff are felt in all offices. On the one hand, the adequate training of staff in the use of micro-computers is essential for successfully introducing micro-computers into the statistical production process. On the other hand, the integration of functions during the production process helps to alleviate stress on selected categories of staff who otherwise suffer from monotonous work.

28. The problems typical for any extensive use of micro-computers in statistical services are primarily created by the great variety of existing hardware and software. The resulting "managerial" problem resides in the preservation of necessary standardization at all levels. Such standards relate, inter alia, to the statistical concepts used across different departments, to the administration of different statistical systems, to the shaping of user support, to the structuring of intra-office exchanges of data, to relations with outside users as well as sources of data, etc. The development of satisfactory solutions to these problems constitutes an important step towards the maintenance of statistical quality. The Conference noted that the experience gained so far points in the direction of improved quality of statistical products. However, current experience does not seem to be entirely conclusive as to whether a centralized or a decentralized management of the organization of computer services inside a statistical office is the most advantageous form of organization in all cases. Some countries reported on the successful operation of a centralized scheme, in which the "computer centre" is responsible for the system and apportions its costs to user departments in accordance with an agreed costing scheme. Other countries have been hesitant to follow such an example in their own circumstances. Several participants reported on their difficulties in developing an agreed costing scheme for computer services.

29. The Conference, when discussing the efficiency of the statistical production process in a mixed technological environment, (i.e. a network of mainframes and micro-computers) underlined the need for portable software. Experiences demonstrate that in the case of tailor-made software developments, micro-computers could become an efficient tool for the preparation and testing of portable software packages.

30. The preservation of data security and statistical confidentiality in the light of an extensive use of micro-computers constitutes perhaps the most important problems in this context. In principle, the use of micro-computers increases the related risks. It appeared from the discussion that those offices that have implemented a model of distributed processing in which some of the functions within a given task are performed on the mainframe and others on the micro-computer have controlled these risks. In those circumstances, the essential functions for the preservation of confidentiality remain on the mainframe, thereby allowing the stringent regulations that govern access to and handling of sensitive data to be upheld.

31. In conclusion of this discussion, it was agreed that micro-computers will play an increasing role in statistical work. It was felt that the ongoing advances in the user-friendliness of software and in hardware capacity will widen the fields of application, thereby exacerbating some existing problems, reducing other ones, and/or causing new ones. Furthermore, it had been impossible to explore all aspects of the introduction of micro-computers into statistical services, whether inside or outside national statistical offices. The Conference therefore agreed that the topic should continue to receive appropriate attention in the Conference's work programmes.

32. The Conference commended the authors of the discussion papers for their excellent work. They had succeeded to present an overview of the main aspects of a complex issue, while illustrating different stages of the introduction of micro-computers into statistical services at the same time.

V. REGIONAL STATISTICAL CO-OPERATION

Documentation: CES/627 and Addenda 1 to 4; CES/628.

33. In addition to the above-mentioned documents, a report by the Nordic Statistical Secretariat on Statistical Co-operation between the Nordic Countries and a report by the International Labour Office on Current and Planned Work Programs of the Bureau of Statistics of the ILO were made available to participants during the session (in English only).

34. The Conference took note of the reports prepared by regional international organizations active in Europe on their statistical activities, and invited interested organizations to provide further information on their work for the next plenary session.

35. The Conference also took note of recent developments in the co-operation between the ECE secretariat and international organizations, as well as the projects which are carried out jointly. It agreed to discuss specific aspects of co-ordination under the agenda items concerned.

36. Under this agenda item, the Conference was informed of the outcome of the Seminar on the post-1992 European Statistical Information System, which had been organized by EUROSTAT in April 1989. The Conference noted that the creation of an internal market within the European Economic Community would have an important impact on statistical work, and requested EUROSTAT to present a detailed report to the next plenary session of the Conference on the measures envisaged to deal with this new situation.

VI. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES

A. Use of computers for statistical purposes and design and development of statistical information systems

Documentation: CES/WP.9/259; CES/629

37. The Conference approved the report of the twenty-first session of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing. During discussion, several participants stressed the importance for national statistical offices of the exchange of experience that takes place at the sessions of the Working Party and at the ISIS Seminars. However, some participants found that replying to the questionnaires used to collect information on statistical software and on data base management systems required too much effort from national statistical offices (particularly in countries with a decentralized statistical system), and requested the ECE secretariat to study means of reducing the response burden of countries.

38. The Conference noted that two items on the proposed agenda for the twenty-second session of the Working Party were similar to items on the proposed agenda for the next Seminar on Statistical Methodology. The item on new data processing techniques includes the question of computer-assisted interviewing (CATI, CAPI, etc) which is on the agenda of the Seminar; and the question of automatic detection and suppression of disclosure of confidential information (to be considered by the Working Party) is part of the more general question of methods for ensuring the confidentiality of data (including techniques for rendering statistics anonymous and disclosure problems) to be discussed at the Seminar. The Conference considered the planned Seminar to be in a better position than the Working Party to discuss in general terms the protection of confidentiality of data, and, therefore, it agreed to delete

this topic from the agenda of the next session of the Working Party. It also agreed to delete from the agenda of the forthcoming meeting on Statistical Methodology the topic on new developments in computer-assisted interviewing, and to convene this meeting as a regular meeting, instead of as a Seminar.

39. During discussion, the delegation of Czechoslovakia informed the Conference of the readiness of its Government to host the next ISIS Seminar in Bratislava, in May 1990. The Conference expressed its thanks to the Government of Czechoslovakia for this offer.

40. The Conference took note of the information provided on the work accomplished within the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project (SCP-2). Several participants expressed the support of their Government for this work and stressed the importance of the results achieved and the efficiency of the methods of work applied by the Project. They expressed the wish that the forms of international co-operation that had developed within the Project could continue in the future, and requested the ECE secretariat to study the ways and means of ensuring this continuation.

41. The Conference noted with satisfaction that, with the agreement of the participating countries, the ECE secretariat had approached the UNDP with the request to extend by one year the duration of the Project (i.e. till the end of 1991), and that the main purposes of this extension were to better prepare the final outputs of the Project in view of their dissemination to developing countries, and to enable a Workshop on SCP-2 products aimed at informing developing countries of SCP-2 achievements to be organized.

42. Under this agenda item, the Conference was informed that the ECE secretariat was at present engaged in a series of tests of telecommunication links between several national statistical offices and the ECE secretariat. The Conference was also informed of the work of the Technical Working Group on Statistical Data bases of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. The Conference noted with appreciation the results achieved, and stressed the need to fully co-ordinate the activities of the ECE secretariat and of the SCP in the field of teletransmission of data with those of the United Nations Statistical Office and of other international organizations, particularly OECD and EUROSTAT.

43. The Conference was also informed that both the Working Party on EDP and the Task Force on Statistical Computing of the SCP had considered the development of international standards for the electronic data interchange (EDI) of statistical information, and had recommended the creation, within the framework of UN/EDIFACT, of a special Working Group on Statistical EDI. Several international organizations (EUROSTAT, OECD, IMF, etc) had expressed strong interest in this, and a meeting convened by EUROSTAT on 2 June 1989 had agreed to propose to the UN/EDIFACT Board the creation of such a group. During discussion, several countries noted the importance to be attached to this type of work; however, some participants expressed the fear that the UN/EDIFACT rules were too specialized and would not be fully applicable to statistical data, and stressed the need to ensure the participation of specialists from national and international statistical offices in any activity aimed at standardizing statistical messages.

44. The Conference: (a) confirmed its decision to convene a seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related questions (ISIS Seminar) in 1989/90, with the terms of reference previously adopted; (b) agreed to convene the twenty-second session of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing in 1990/91, with the terms of reference amended as

indicated in paragraph 38 above; (c) confirmed its decision to convene the next meeting on statistical methodology in 1990/91, with the amended terms of reference amended as indicated in para. 38.

B. Other issues in the organization and operation of statistical services

Documentation: CES/644

45. The Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government of Hungary for its offer to host the next Seminar for Executive Officials of National Statistical Services. The Conference agreed that the Seminar would focus on(-GL-)o adapt the services rendered by national statistical offices to the requirements of users of statistics. It also agreed to convene the Seminar late in March 1991. Within this broad orientation, the Conference approved both the substantive as well as the organizational proposals contained in CES/644. It was noted that reports dealing with staffing requirements could be submitted under broad topic B as described in CES/644 (Optimization of technical equipment in respect of service requirements).

46. The Conference confirmed its earlier selection of the following topics for substantive discussion in 1990:

- (i) the relations between statistical services and the mass media; and
- (ii) the role of statistical offices in satisfying statistical needs for research purposes.

The Federal Republic of Germany (basic paper), France and Yugoslavia will provide the documentation for the first of these two topics; Sweden (basic paper), Canada and Denmark will do the same for the second.

47. Professional, in-depth considerations of selected fields of statistics continue to be of great interest to the members of the Conference. It was decided that foreign trade statistics would be suitable for such a review in the near future. A first discussion was decided to be held at the 1990 plenary session. It will be based upon a paper by EUROSTAT on plans and expected problems for foreign trade statistics in EEC member countries after 1992 and on a report by the CMEA secretariat on actual and planned changes in foreign trade statistics of CMEA member countries (see also paragraphs 36 above and 72 below). In addition, Canada and the United States were invited to contribute a short report on their experience with the current changes in their bilateral trade statistics. The Conference noted that its plans for discussing in-depth foreign trade statistics correspond also to operative paragraph 5 of Commission Decision C(44).

48. The Conference selected the following topics for possible substantive discussion at the 1991 plenary session:

- (i) the social role of official statistics as compared to other systems of information;
- (ii) development of environmental accounting systems; and
- (iii) statistical information systems of land use.

The final selection of the topics will be made at the 1990 plenary session.

C. Use of registers in national statistical offices

49. Under this agenda item, the Conference was informed of the work done by the secretariat on the preparation of the inventory of national practices in the creation and maintenance of registers of businesses. The Conference was also informed of the work on business registers done by EUROSTAT and by the International Round-Table on Business Survey Frames.

50. The Conference stressed the importance it attaches to this programme element, and agreed that all efforts should be made to ensure a rapid progress of work on this project and to avoid duplication of work with other bodies.

51. The Conference noted that the title of the meeting planned to be held in 1990 was not explicit enough, and suggested it be changed to: "Meeting on the Use of Business Registers in National Statistical Offices". It confirmed its decision to include this meeting in its programme of work for 1989/90, with the terms of reference previously approved.

VII. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

A. Development and linking of SNA and MPS national accounts and balances systems

Documentation: CES/WP.22/104

52. Under this agenda item the Conference was informed of work underway on the revision of the SNA and of the results achieved in several global and regional expert group meetings held since the last plenary session, as well as on the development in the links and comparisons between the two national accounting systems, the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS). Reference was also made to the decisions of the Statistical Commission as outlined in paragraphs 16 to 28 of document CES/624.

53. It was noted that the Statistical Commission had supported the proposal of including environmental accounts as satellite accounts in the revised SNA and of preparing a Handbook on Environmental Accounting. In this respect the necessity of co-ordination with the ongoing work in the field of environment statistics in the ECE region was stressed by the Conference.

54. According to the work plans of the United Nations Statistical Office, the draft of the revised SNA should be ready in English towards the end of 1989, and the French and presumably the Spanish versions during the summer of 1990. The Russian translation of the draft of the revised SNA would be available shortly before the next session of the Statistical Commission.

55. As regards the integration of the two accounting systems, various interpretations of the term "integration" were mentioned. Several participants stressed that the two systems would continue to exist in the future. Some participants proposed to develop an "integrated system of macro-indicators of SNA and MPS". Most participants agreed that integration should aim at specific procedures for minimizing differences between the two accounting systems.

56. The Conference was informed of the outcome of the meeting held in the framework of the CMEA on issues regarding the System of Balances of the National Economy. The meeting had suggested that the CMEA Standing Committee on Co-operation in the Field of Statistics include the integration of the two accounting systems into its programme of work.

57. Participants expressed their gratitude to the authors of the "Comparison of total consumption of the population between Czechoslovakia and Finland". The Conference endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances, that the final version of this report be used in the preparation of the Expert Group on SNA/MPS links and comparisons.

58. The Conference was informed of the results of the multilateral work undertaken on the conversion of the national accounts of Yugoslavia in terms of SNA, as well as of the work done on this subject by Yugoslavia in co-operation with EUROSTAT. The Conference was also informed that Finland and the CMEA intended to prepare a glossary of the terms used in the SNA and MPS.

59. The Conference took note of the conclusions reached by the Working Party at its fourteenth session. It agreed to postpone the fifteenth session of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances from 1989/90 to 1990/91, with the terms of reference previously approved, and to include in its programme of work for 1991/92 a work session on National Accounts, to consider the content of the Handbook on SNA/MPS links.

B. International comparison of real product and purchasing power parities (ICP)

Documentation: CES/630

60. The Conference noted that the report on the European Comparison Programme, 1985, had been published in the Statistical Standards and Studies series.

61. The Conference was informed about the decisions of the Statistical Commission as outlined in paragraphs 40 to 43 of document CES/624. It noted that the Commission had requested the United Nations Statistical Office to convene a meeting of an intersecretariat working group on ICP and that this meeting was planned to be held in July 1989.

62. The Conference noted with satisfaction that four European countries - Czechoslovakia, Iceland, Switzerland and the USSR - which did not participate in the previous phases of the comparison programme have decided to join the present phase of ECP. The USSR expressed its willingness to join the programme in terms of a bilateral comparison conducted with Austria or another European country.

63. Several participants stressed that high priority should be given to the European Comparison Programme in the programme of work of the Conference.

64. The Conference expressed its gratitude to Austria for having hosted the consultation on ECP, and noted with pleasure that Austria was ready to host the next consultation as well.

65. The Conference approved the conclusions of the consultation, as presented in document CES/630, and agreed to convene a further consultation on the European Comparison Programme in 1991/1992 with the terms of reference suggested in CES/630.

66. During the session, a report by Austria and Poland on a "Comparative analysis of social expenditures and its finance" was made available to participants. The Conference welcomed this report. It was noted that the two countries would continue their work, presumably with the involvement of additional countries.

C. Statistics of the distribution of income of households**Documentation: CES/643**

67. In addition to the summary report on the comparison of income distribution between Hungary and the Netherlands presented in CES/643, a detailed progress report on the comparison was made available to the participants at the plenary session. The Conference expressed its gratitude to the authors of the study and noted that this report will also be submitted to the work session on income distribution statistics, planned to be held in September 1989.

68. It was pointed out that income distribution of households constitutes an important part of the statistical practice of the two countries and that both countries have a relatively well developed system of income statistics, which offered a good basis for the comparison. The experience obtained in carrying out the study had been very instructive for the two countries.

69. The Conference confirmed its decision to convene a work session on income distribution statistics in 1989/90, with the following terms of reference: (i) review of the present stage of work on statistics of the distribution of income of households and main directions of future developments; and (ii) bilateral comparisons of distribution of income.

D. Classifications of economic activities and of goods and services

70. The Conference was informed of the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission regarding the revision of the ISIC and the development of the CPC. The Conference was also informed that the Economic and Social Council had adopted these two classification systems.

71. The representative of the CMEA informed the Conference that the working material for a conversion key between the SFTC and SITC, Rev.3 was now ready and would be sent to the ECE secretariat shortly.

72. The Conference noted that several CMEA member countries intended to make use of either the Harmonized System or the SITC, Rev.3 in their foreign trade statistics, and that a meeting of experts on foreign trade statistics, convened by the CMEA, was planned to be held in June 1989. The Conference noted that the question of foreign trade statistics will be considered in-depth at its next plenary session, and therefore it requested the CMEA secretariat to present a report on changes in foreign trade statistics in CMEA member countries at its next plenary session.

E. Agricultural statistics

73. The Conference noted that, due to the late availability of documents, it had been necessary to postpone the nineteenth session of the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe. It therefore confirmed its intention to convene the nineteenth session of the Study Group with the terms of reference previously agreed, but in 1989/90 instead of 1988/89.

74. The Conference agreed to convene the twentieth session of the Study Group in 1990/91, with the terms of reference suggested in CES/622.

F. General energy statistics

Documentation: CES/631

75. The Conference approved the results of the consultation by correspondence as set out in document CES/631. The concentration of work in the near future on the publication programme of ECE in the field of energy was appreciated and its value emphasized. The Conference noted with satisfaction the increasing role of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics in harmonizing both the concepts used in international data collection and the data collection mechanisms. The Conference endorsed the approach to seek reduction in national response burdens through co-operation in the Intersecretariat Working Group, which was seen as complementing in practice the co-ordination achieved through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

76. The Conference expressed the view that an integration of all conceptual work done under the Commission's work programme on energy statistics would further promote the international comparability of energy data and improve the efficiency of international collection of energy data. The Conference felt that such an integration could best be achieved under the heading of general energy statistics. The secretariat was asked to explore all possibilities for such an integration and prepare a detailed written report about the results of this exploration for consideration at the 1990 plenary session.

G. Statistics of engineering industries and automation

Documentation: ENG.AUT/AC.1/16; CES/AC.57/20

77. The Conference took note of operative paragraph 7 of Decision D (44), by which the Economic Commission for Europe "requests the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, in collaboration with the Conference of European Statisticians, to compile statistics for sectors of the engineering industries which are of commercial importance". In this respect, the Conference was informed of the results of a Task Force on the revision of the ECE/OECD questionnaire on engineering industries and automation. The Task Force, which had been convened by the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, was held in Geneva from 8 to 9 June 1989.

78. The Conference approved the report of the second joint meeting on questions of statistics concerning engineering industries and automation and agreed to convene a joint meeting on statistics of engineering industries and automation in 1989/90 with the terms of reference suggested in CES/622.

H. Transport statistics

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/115; CES/AC.62/32 and TRANS/WP.6/R.15; CES/AC.62/29

79. The Conference approved the report of the Work Session on Price and Quantity Indices in Transport and the report of the thirty-ninth session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics, both held under the joint auspices of the Inland Transport Committee and of the Conference.

80. The Conference agreed to convene the fortieth session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics, jointly with the Inland Transport Committee, in 1989/90, with the terms of reference suggested in CES/622.

I. Statistics of services

Documentation: CES/632; E/CN.3/1989/7

81. Information on the discussions and decisions of the Statistical Commission regarding the statistics of services, as reflected in paragraphs 29 to 33 of CES/624, was given to the Conference.

82. During discussion, several participants stressed the importance of statistics of services, and requested that work on statistics of services in the framework of the Conference progress as soon as possible towards practical application. It was also requested that countries not participating in the Voorburg Group receive the working material submitted to meetings of the Group as soon as it becomes available.

11. The Conference agreed to convene a work session on statistics of services in the first half of 1990 with the following terms of reference: (i) review of the progress made to date by the various bodies active in this area (including the Voorburg Group); and (ii) further work by the Conference on statistics of services. This work session should be asked, inter alia, to submit to the next plenary session concrete proposals as regards the topics to be included on the agenda of a "full" meeting, to be convened in 1991.

84. The Conference noted that the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments had decided to convene a Seminar on personal and collective services, with the recommendation that all the other organizations involved in the study of this subject be invited to participate and make a contribution. The Conference encouraged national statistical offices to participate in the Seminar.

J. Other projects in the field of economic statistics

85. No questions were raised under this agenda item.

VIII. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

A. Health statistics

86. The Conference agreed to convene the fifth ECE/WHO Joint Meeting on Health Statistics in 1991/92. It also approved the proposed terms of reference for the meeting, but agreed that the topic relating to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) should be amended to read "problems encountered by countries in implementing or planning to implement the ICD (Tenth Revision) and the ICIDH".

B. Statistics of education

Documentation: CES/AC.23/48; UNESCO/CONF.88/ST.001/16

87. The Conference took note of the conclusions of the Fifth ECE/UNESCO Joint Meeting on Statistics of Education and approved its recommendations for future work by the Conference.

C. Population and housing censuses

Documentation: CES/SEM.25/9

88. The representative of the United Nations Statistical Office informed the Conference of the Statistical Office's recent and planned future work in the field of population and housing censuses. Reference was also made to the outcome of the discussion on censuses which took place at the 1989 session of the Statistical Commission (see CES/624, paras. 44-45).

89. The Conference took note of the conclusions reached by the participants at the Seminar on the Relevance and Importance of Population and Housing Census Data which had been held in Wiesbaden at the invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

90. The Conference approved the Seminar's recommendations for further work, including its recommendations: (i) that provision be made in the Conference's programme of work for the publication of a statistical volume containing basic tables from the 1990 round of population and housing censuses using inter alia the recommended core tabulation programme in the regional recommendations for the 1990 round of censuses in the region; (ii) that the ECE secretariat serve as a clearing house to facilitate member countries exchanging census questionnaires and other relevant information on censuses; and (iii) that the Conference establish a Group of Rapporteurs to study costing aspects of population and housing censuses in ECE countries. The following countries expressed possible interest in forming the Group of Rapporteurs: France; Sweden; United Kingdom.

91. The Conference agreed to convene a meeting on population and housing censuses in 1991/92 with the terms of reference shown in CES/SEM.25/9.

92. There was also general agreement that provision should be made in the Conference's programme of work at a future date for work on the evaluation of census data.

93. The Conference expressed gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany and to the Federal Statistical Office for having hosted the Seminar and for the warm hospitality which had been provided to the participants.

D. Labour force statistics

Documentation: CES/633

94. The Conference confirmed its decision to convene the Third ECE/ILO Joint Meeting on Labour Force Statistics in 1990/91, and approved the terms of reference suggested in CES/633.

E. Housing statistics

Documentation: CES/AC.55/14; HBP/AC.8/2

95. The Conference took note of the conclusions of the Second Joint Meeting on Human Settlements Statistics, which had been convened jointly with the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. It also approved the meeting's recommendations for future work by the Conference shown in ECE/CES/33/Add.1, and its recommendation that the title and description of programme element 12.4.6 be changed to refer to human settlements statistics. (See also para. 114 below).

F. Migration statistics**Documentation: CES/634**

96. The Conference took note of the statistics on international migration flows for 1985 and 1986 shown in matrix form in CES/634. It also confirmed its decision to convene a work session on migration statistics in 1989/90 with the terms of reference suggested in CES/622.

G. Other projects in the field of social and demographic statistics**(a) Framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics**

97. The representative of the United Nations Statistical Office informed the Conference of the planned future work of the Statistical Office on the development of statistics and indicators on women and special population groups such as children, the elderly and the disabled. The Conference also noted that at its 1989 session the United Nations Statistical Commission had noted the increasing awareness of the need for social statistics and indicators in both developing and developed countries to assess socio-economic trends and problems and to provide relevant inputs for policy formulation and programme managements, and that this recent development followed a period in which there had been lesser interest in this field in comparison to economic statistics (CES/624, paras. 46-48).

98. The Conference agreed with a suggestion to combine two topics - the topic on specific aspects of the SNA revision and the topic on links among economic, social and demographic statistics with particular reference to satellite accounts and the linking of micro- and macro-data - in the proposed terms of reference for the meeting on the FSOS planned for 1990/91.

(b) Statistics and indicators on women

99. The Conference confirmed its decision to convene the Second ECE/INSTRAW Joint Meeting on Statistics of Women in 1989/90, with the previously approved terms of reference.

(c) Demographic projections

100. The Conference was informed of the results of the International Workshop on National Population Projections in Industrialized Countries, which had been organized by the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Netherlands Interuniversity Demographic Institute in October 1988. The Conference thanked the three national organizers for organizing this Workshop as preparatory work for the Conference's planned Seminar on Demographic Projections.

101. The Conference confirmed its decision to convene a Seminar on Demographic Projections in 1989/90, with the previously approved terms of reference.

102. The Conference noted with interest that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, in his opening address to the Conference, had referred to the possibility of the ECE collaborating with the UNFPA in convening a regional meeting of experts on population to discuss the demographic and economic consequences of changing population age structures in ECE countries. It also noted that such a meeting, if held, would be convened under the provision of Commission decision G (40) of April 1985 in which the

Commission requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with UNFPA in convening periodically, but not more than every two years, a regional meeting of experts on population for consultations among Governments and for the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region, and that it would be a follow-up to the meeting that was held under the provision of that decision in Hungary in February 1987. The Conference further noted that some delegations at the 5-9 June 1989 resumed session of the Economic Commission for Europe had given support to further work by the Commission on the economic aspects of aging of population. It also took note of the Executive Secretary's request that the Conference give the matter its consideration during its current plenary session.

103. A large number of participants expressed support for a suggestion from the delegation of Canada that the Conference convene a seminar on demographic and economic consequences and implications of changing population age structures in ECE countries under programme element 12.4.9, and therefore the Conference agreed to this proposal. It also noted that the seminar would be interdisciplinary in nature and therefore that it would likely be of considerable interest to national statistical offices, demographic institutes and other governmental institutions. Consequently, it requested the secretariat to confer with participants at the September 1989 Seminar on Demographic Projections in order to devise more precise terms of reference for the seminar which would be of sufficient interest and relevance to all these various types of governmental institutions.

104. The delegation of Canada informed the Conference of the willingness of the Government of Canada to host the seminar on demographic and economic consequences and implications of changing population age structures in ECE countries in 1990/91. The Conference accepted this generous offer with gratitude and appreciation.

IX. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED STATISTICS

A. Statistics of air quality

Documentation: CES/635

105. Under this agenda item, the Conference was informed of the result of the discussion on environment statistics that took place at the twenty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission (as summarized in CES/624) and of the progress accomplished in this area of work by the United Nations Statistical Office.

106. The Conference took note of the request of the Economic Commission for Europe, as expressed in operative paragraph 6 of Decision C(44) that the Conference, in collaboration with the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, intensify its work directed towards the methodological development and harmonization of environmental statistics.

107. The Conference approved the conclusions reached at the Work Session on the subject as set out in document CES/635. It was noted with appreciation that contributions have been received from the Nordic countries as well as from the United States as input into the current revision of the draft ECE classification of ambient air pollution. The corresponding suggestions are taken into account in the preparation of the forthcoming meeting on the subject (Geneva, 4-6 September 1989) to the maximum extent possible.

108. The Conference confirmed its decision to convene a meeting on statistics of air quality in 1989/90, with the previously approved terms of reference. It agreed to convene a work session on noise statistics in 1990/91 and a work session on radioactivity statistics in 1991/92.

B. Statistics of water use

Documentation: CES/AC.63/6; CES/636

109. The Conference approved the results of the Meeting on Environmental Classifications as a whole and the parts concerning water use statistics in particular. Accordingly, the ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Water Use was approved as presented in CES/636.

110. In a more general discussion, the Conference stressed the need for international co-ordination regarding all aspects of environment statistics. It was particularly mentioned that the ECE classifications in this field of statistical work should henceforth be used in relevant international data management.

111. The Conference was informed of the discussions at the session of the Statistical Commission relevant to environment statistics. The intention to use the results of the Conference's work for the work at the global level was noted, and support was expressed for the current plans of the United Nations Statistical Office for organizing the related work.

112. The Conference agreed to delete the planned work session on statistics of water use from its programme of meetings for 1990/91.

C. Statistics of land use

Documentation: CES/AC.63/6; CES/636

113. The Conference approved the parts of the report of the Meeting on Environmental Classifications dealing with land use statistics. The ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Land Use was approved as set out in document CES/637.

114. The Conference agreed that future work on land use statistics should be brought to the attention of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, so that such work could be undertaken jointly whenever required.

115. The Conference agreed to convene a work session on land use statistics in 1991/92.

D. Statistics of solid wastes

Documentation: CES/AC.63/6; CES/638; CES/639

116. The Conference approved both the conclusions reached at the Work Session on the subject as set out in CES/639 and the parts of the report of the Meeting on Environmental Classifications dealing with solid waste statistics.

117. The Conference noted that the time available at the Meeting on Environmental Classifications for dealing with this classification was considered insufficient by several participants. In view of this, the Conference stressed that the draft status of the waste classification needs to be maintained. The Draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Wastes was approved as set out in CES/638.

118. The statistical offices of Finland, Hungary and Sweden offered to test the Draft Classification in the autumn of 1989 with actual data. The Conference expressed its appreciation for this offer. It was hoped that the results of the test would lead to the reduction in the level of detail in the classification for purposes of the preparation of the next Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics.

119. The Conference agreed to delete the planned work session on statistics of solid wastes from the programme of meetings for 1989/90.

E. Compendium of environment statistics

Documentation: CES/640

120. The Conference selected the topic "Environmental impact of agricultural activities" for treatment in Part II of the 1991 compendium and the topic "The motor car and the environment" for treatment in Part II of the following issue of the compendium.

121. The Conference agreed to convene a meeting on the preparation of the 1991 compendium in 1989/90. The purpose of the meeting is to determine the detailed contents of the compendium as well as the organization of its preparation.

122. The Conference noted with appreciation that the proposals to be submitted to the meeting will be developed from the following three aspects:

- (i) Prefilling of questionnaires should be retained particularly in view of the stimulating effects it has on respondents and the occasion it provides for the secretariat to get fully acquainted with national sources and relevant practices.
- (ii) Data collection should be adapted as much as possible to the situation in each country through bilateral contacts between the national statistical office concerned and the secretariat. The ultimate aim of this "bilateralization" of data collection is the maintenance of a continually updated ECE environmental data base. That aim is in turn instrumental to the fully-fledged implementation of an International Environmental Data Service in the Conference's programme of work.
- (iii) Provisions should be made for the possibility of using electronic media for transmitting environmental data.

123. In this connection, the Conference was informed of the results of the last meeting of the Participants in the Co-ordination of International Environmental Data Collection. The work of this group is organized to complement the work done within the framework of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. Of particular interest to the Conference was the intention of the group to designate further lead data bases for practical purposes of international data collection. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the intention to seek the broadest possible co-ordination through this group. The plans to exhaust existing international sources when preparing the next compendium prior to requesting data directly from countries were strongly supported. Finally, the Conference expressed its hope that all international environmental data bases, whether existing or emerging, will agree to participate actively in this co-ordination.

F. Methodological problems of environment statistics

Documentation: CES/641

124. The Conference approved the conclusions reached at the 1988 Work Session on this subject, except those relating to concepts and classifications for use in noise statistics. The excellent organization of the Work Session at the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands was noted by several participants, and the Conference extended its thanks to the organizers of the meeting.

125. The Government of Sweden offered to host the 1990 Work Session under this programme element, and the Government of Canada extended an invitation for the 1991 Work Session. The Conference expressed its gratitude for these generous offers and included the work sessions concerned in its programme of meetings. The invitations were seen to reflect the high value of methodological discussions for advancing work on environment statistics in general. The view was held that methodological discussions organized in an analogous way could also benefit the future work of the Conference on energy statistics.

G. Other projects in the field of environment statistics

126. Under this agenda item, the Conference was informed of the results of past work on the trilateral co-operation between Finland, Hungary and Sweden on methodological problems in environment statistics, as well as the orientation of its further work. Over seven years, the participating countries have held regular consultations, which they consider to have been extremely useful to them. The consultations gave rise to the publication of five jointly prepared books, the last of which is currently nearing completion. In the future, the three offices will test, on a case-by-case basis, draft classifications prepared under the Conference's work programme. The first of these tests will concern the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Wastes and will be undertaken in autumn 1989.

127. The Conference confirmed its decision to convene a work session on statistics of water quality and a work session on statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection in 1989/90, as well as a work session on statistics of fauna, flora and their habitats in 1990/91. It agreed to convene a meeting on statistics of water quality in 1991/92.

X. STATISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ECE PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Documentation: CES/642

128. The Conference took note of the information provided in CES/642, and invited its members to assist in the provision of the statistical information required for ECE studies and projects and for the publication of the ECE statistical bulletins.

129. During discussion, the importance of the Methodological Supplement to the Statistical Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes in ECE Countries was stressed, and the secretariat was invited to accelerate its publication.

XI. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1989/90-1993/94

130. Under this agenda item, the Conference considered in detail the programme of meetings for 1989/90 and 1990/91 resulting from the decisions taken during the discussion of the previous items of its agenda. It considered that the programme of meetings was well balanced between the different areas of work and adapted to the available resources.

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1989/90 AND 1990/91

131. In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Conference elected its officers for 1989/90 and 1990/91. Mr. C. Malaguerra (Switzerland) was elected Chairman. Mr. N. Borissenko (Ukrainian SSR), Mr. S. Johansson (Sweden) and Mr. S. Tassev (Bulgaria) were elected Vice-Chairmen.

132. The Conference expressed its appreciation to Mr. W. Begeer for the valuable services he had provided to the Conference by serving as a member of the Bureau for six years and as a Chairman of the Conference for the last two years.

XIII. OTHER QUESTIONS

133. No other questions were raised.

XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

134. The present report was adopted by the Conference at its concluding session, on 16 June 1989.

ANNEX I

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1989/90-1991/92

12. STATISTICS

SECTION A. PROGRAMME ELEMENTS ON WHICH WORK IS PLANNED IN 1989 AND/OR 1990

SUB-PROGRAMME 12.1: REGIONAL STATISTICAL CO-OPERATION

12.1.1 Review and promotion of co-ordination of statistical work in the ECE region

Description: Review of statistical work of the intergovernmental organizations in the ECE region, with a view to promoting co-ordination of statistical activities, to achieving greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reducing to a minimum the burden on national statistical offices.

Work to be undertaken: Continued co-operation with intergovernmental organizations active in the ECE region on statistical projects of common interest through inter-secretariat consultations and the conduct of joint projects. Consideration at the Conference's plenary sessions of reports on the statistical work of intergovernmental organizations active in the ECE region.

Duration: Continuing

SUB-PROGRAMME 12.2: ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES

12.2.1 Use of computers for statistical purposes and design and development of statistical information systems

Description: Study of important problems, exchange of national experience and promotion of international co-operation in these fields.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related matters (ISIS '90) to consider (i) experiences in the use of new techniques for data collection and data capture; (ii) automatic coding of descriptive data; (iii) experiences in the use of artificial intelligence methods and tools for the development of statistical applications; and (iv) progress achieved in the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project (1989/90).

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

(b) Twenty-second session of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing to consider: (i) new data processing techniques (by national statistical offices); (ii) use of data base management systems for statistical applications (by national statistical offices); (iii) Statistical Computing Project (SCP-2) (by the ECE secretariat); and (iv) Standards for the electronic data interchange of statistical data (by the ECE secretariat) (1990/91).

Duration: Two years (ending 1991)

(c) Preparation of further sessions of the Working Party on (i) strategic planning; (ii) statistical data bases; and (iii) impact of new technologies on statistical data processing.

Duration: Continuing

(d) Preparation of further ISIS Seminars on (i) precision of data on statistical data files; (ii) systems and tools for data modelling; (iii) automatic coding of descriptive data; and (iv) artificial intelligence.

Duration: Continuing

12.2.2 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of statistical data

Description: Study of methodological and practical problems and issues common to various types of statistics and to different data sources (surveys, censuses, registers and other sources), particularly in connection with the development and application of mathematical statistical methods; and exchange of experience on factors affecting the quality, accuracy and timeliness of statistics and on the techniques and methods used to collect, analyse and present them.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Meeting on Statistical Methodology (1990/91) to consider: (i) sampling frames for surveys of establishments; (ii) methods for the evaluation of the sampling variance of estimates from complex samples and for the concise presentation of sampling errors; and (iii) methods for ensuring the confidentiality of data (including techniques for rendering statistics anonymous and disclosure problems).

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

(b) Preparation of further meetings on (i) quality and analysis of survey data; (ii) methodology for the establishment of budgets of households with minimum income levels and their statistical calculation; (iii) data modelling, conceptual frameworks and storage of meta data with data; (iv) principles concerning data dictionaries and directories; (v) comparison of results obtained from surveys with voluntary and with compulsory participation; (vi) small area estimation techniques; (vii) methods for the evaluation of complex sample designs; (viii) organization and methodology of multi-purpose surveys; (ix) techniques for linking data from different sources (including synthetic estimation and matching techniques); (x) development of mathematical models and estimation procedures for the transformation of administrative data for use by statistical offices; (xi) elaboration of guidelines for the use of administrative data sources by statistical offices; (xii) consideration of options in combining sample surveys and administrative data sources; (xiii) problems in measuring change by means of registers, panels, repeated surveys and retrospective surveys (including problems of handling reliability deficiencies in such surveys); (xiv) problems of memory recall in retrospective questions in surveys, and techniques of adjusting for them; and (xv) revision of time series.

Duration: Continuing

12.2.3 Other issues in the organization and operation of statistical services

Description: Study of problems relating to the organization, operation and management of statistical services requiring top-level decisions.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Consideration at the thirty-eighth plenary session of (i) the relations between statistical services and the mass media (basic paper by the Federal Republic of Germany; supporting papers by France and Yugoslavia); (ii) the role of statistical offices in satisfying statistical needs for research purposes (basic paper by Sweden; supporting papers by Canada and Denmark); and (iii) problems encountered in foreign trade statistics (papers by EUROSTAT and the CMEA secretariat).

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

(b) Consideration of substantive topics at subsequent plenary sessions:

(list of topics to be decided later)

Duration: Continuing

(c) Preparation of a Seminar for executive officials of national statistical services, to consider: (i) services required by different user groups (including the identification of typical cases, in which statistics are used for purposes of determining economic benefits, payment scales of various kinds, etc); (ii) optimization of technical equipment in respect of service requirements; (iii) optimization of office organization with regard to both service requirements and technical equipment (including proposals for a standard terminology relating to the organization of statistical services); (iv) marketing of statistical services.

Duration: Two years (ending 1991)

12.2.4: Use of registers in national statistical offices

Description: Study of the problems raised by the creation, updating and use of registers in national statistical offices.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Preparation of an inventory of national practices in the creation and maintenance of registers of businesses (including information on the scope, content and sources of business registers and on the techniques of register maintenance).

Duration: One year (ending 1989)

(b) Meeting on the Use of Business Registers in National Statistical Offices (1989/90) to consider the following subjects: (i) use of registers of businesses (use as a survey basis; use for supplementing and/or correcting survey data; access to outside users); (ii) structure and maintenance of business registers (scope, content, and sources of business registers; quality of registers and measures of quality control; techniques of register maintenance and their effects (including costs of register maintenance));

(iii) demography of enterprises (definitions of births, deaths, changes in status of enterprises, etc; longitudinal studies (including study of mergers and conglomerates)); (iv) effects of changes in the content of registers of enterprises on the continuity of economic statistics; (v) statistical units; and (vi) classification of enterprises.

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

SUB-PROGRAMME 12.3: METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

12.3.1 Development and linking of SNA and MPS national accounts and balances systems

Description: Further development of the systems of national accounts and balances: application and review of implementation of the systems; use of the systems as a basis for harmonizing and co-ordinating statistics in different fields.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Fifteenth session of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances (1990/91) to discuss the first draft of the revised SNA (Blue Book).

Duration: One year (ending 1991)

(b) Work session (1991/92) to consider the content of the Handbook on SNA/MPS links.

Duration: Two years (ending 1992)

(c) Continuation of the review of MPS and further study of SNA/MPS links; testing of the conceptual framework for inter-system comparisons in terms of actual figures by pairs of countries (France/Hungary; and Czechoslovakia/Finland, possibly followed by other bilateral studies); further development of the conceptual framework and extension to related areas, e.g. balance sheets, satellite accounts.

Duration: Continuing

(d) Consideration of problems of co-ordination of manpower statistics with the national accounts and balances (work to be conducted in the context of programme element 12.4.5); further study of problems of co-ordination of economic statistics with the national accounts and balances.

Duration: Continuing

12.3.2 Promotion of publication and dissemination of internationally comparable statistics on production, national income, productivity and purchasing power parities (ICP)

Description: Promotion of bilateral and multilateral comparisons of corresponding national accounting aggregates, productivity, etc.; comparison within the ICP framework for the European region (ECP); and other comparisons of corresponding aggregates.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) European Comparison of real values and purchasing power parities (ECP), in co-operation with the world programme and with EUROSTAT and OECD. Consultation with interested national and international statistical offices on the methods of the comparison (whenever required) and meeting (1991/92).

Duration: Four years (ending 1992)

(b) Bilateral comparisons of basic economic aggregates and analysis of the results concerning levels, structures and prices; bilateral comparisons of levels of productivity and analysis of the results; and comparisons not involving the recalculation of data into a common price system.

Duration: Continuing

12.3.3 Statistics of the distribution of income of households

Description: Development of statistics of the distribution of income; study of related methodological problems.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Work session (1989/90) to: (i) consider the present stage of work on statistics on the distribution of income of households and main directions of future developments; and (ii) bilateral comparisons of distribution of income.

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

(b) Further work on: procedures for dealing with non-response biases; adjustments for gaps resulting from non-reporting, under-reporting or omission of incomes; elaboration of consumption units suitable for income studies. Depending on the success of this work, conduct of bilateral and/or multilateral comparison(s) of relative income differences. Testing of the "Provisional guidelines on statistics on the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation of households". Meeting on the subjects on which sufficient progress has been made (date and terms of reference of the meeting to be decided later).

Duration: Four years (commencing 1990)

12.3.4 Development and harmonization of statistical nomenclatures relating to economic activities and goods and services

Description: Participation in the work of the Statistical Commission on the preparation of international classifications relating to economic activities and goods and services; harmonization of United Nations and CMEA classifications in these fields.

12.3.4(i) Classifications of economic activities and of goods and services (see section B).

12.3.4(ii) Conversion key SITC/SFTC

Description: Preparation of a detailed correspondence table between the SITC, Rev. 3, and the fourth revision of the SFTC.

Work to be undertaken: Development of a key for the conversion of SFTC data into SITC categories and an "inverse" key for the conversion of SITC data into SFTC categories (by the ECE secretariat, in co-operation with the CMEA Secretariat).

Duration: Two years (ending 1991)

12.3.5 Price and quantity statistics (see section B)

12.3.6 Agricultural statistics

Description: Improvement and development of food and agricultural statistics (jointly with FAO and ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Nineteenth session of the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (1989/90) to review national experiences in applying the European Handbook of Economic Accounts for Agriculture and other international recommendations, and to consider in general the co-ordination of data collection and harmonization of international questionnaires in the field of agricultural statistics.

Duration: One year (ending 1989)

(b) Twentieth session of the Study Group (1990/91) to consider (i) supply and demand of agricultural statistics: assessment of methods and practices of publishing and disseminating agricultural statistics (including the frequency of statistics); (ii) quality control in European countries (including data derived from mail surveys and farm registers); (iii) the use of computers in agricultural statistics; and (iv) monitoring developments in remote sensing.

Duration: Two years (ending 1991)

(c) Twenty-first session of the Study Group (1991/92) to discuss national experiences and practical issues associated with agricultural censuses, including possible links with population and housing censuses and use of computers, and to consider forecasting in relation to agrarian structures, livestock herds and animal production.

Duration: Two years (ending 1992)

(d) Economic accounts for agriculture: further work on income and outlay accounts and capital finance accounts (jointly by the FAO and ECE secretariats) (timing to be defined later).

(e) Study of methodological developments in farm bookkeeping schemes and on the possible use of data from alternative sources to supplement accounting data; in-depth discussion of national experiences and of harmonization possibilities at a seminar (timing to be decided later).

12.3.7 General energy statistics

Description: Improvement of national contributions to and quality of ECE energy statistics; reduction in national response burden to ECE questionnaires for energy statistics; further development of concepts, definitions and classifications with a view to harmonizing international energy statistics.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Preparation of a report on the possible integration of ECE work on energy statistics under "general energy statistics" for submission to the 1990 plenary session (secretariat); (ii) Elaboration of an interim progress report on improvement of national contributions to and quality of ECE energy statistics and on reduction of national response burden for submission to the 1990 plenary session (secretariat); (iii) development of proposals for harmonizing the activities and products distinguished in the various ECE bulletins of energy statistics (secretariat); (iv) development of a common classification of final uses of energy for international energy statistics (secretariat, in co-operation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics); (v) review of the energy balance format with a view to further harmonization with the balance formats of the SOEC and the IEA/OECD (secretariat, in co-operation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics and national rapporteurs); (vi) study of the possibilities to develop statistics in terms of useful energy (secretariat); (vii) co-ordination of existing energy statistics and data needed for the study of environment effects from energy statistics (secretariat). Work session (1991) to consider improvements in coverage and quality of ECE energy statistics; measures to reduce national response burden and items (iii) to (v) above. Further meeting(s), if and when required.

Duration: Four years (ending 1993)

12.3.8 Statistics of engineering industries and automation

Description: Development and improvement of statistics of engineering industries and automation (jointly with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation).

Work to be undertaken: Joint meeting with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation on questions of statistics in engineering industries and automation to consider (i) work accomplished on the Bulletin on World Trade in Engineering Products 1987 and the Draft Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation 1988; (ii) revision of the questionnaire for the 1989 Annual Review; (iii) methods of collection and publication by the ECE secretariat of data and information concerning statistics on engineering industries and automation; and (iv) methodological aspects concerning statistics on engineering industries (1989/90).

Duration: One year (ending 1989)

12.3.9 Transport statistics

Description: Development and harmonization of international transport statistics in selected fields (in co-operation with the Inland Transport Committee).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Fourtieth session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (1989/90) (jointly with the Inland Transport Committee) to consider (i) methodological development, harmonization and reconciliation in the field of transport statistics; (ii) publication of the Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics in Europe; and (iii) publication of Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe.

Duration: One year (ending 1989)

(b) Review of the Commodity Classification for Transport Statistics in Europe (GSTE).

Duration: Two years (ending 1990)

(c) Initial work on the preparation of a guide to transport statistics in Europe (secretariat, with the assistance of international organizations concerned).

Duration: Two years

(d) Development of a manual on price and quantity indices for transport statistics.

Duration: Three years (ending 1991)

12.3.10: Statistics of services

Description: Study of methodological problems in the field of statistics of services, including the measurement of prices and quantities in services.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Work session (1989/90) to consider: (i) the progress made so far by the various bodies active in this area (including the Voorburg Group); and (ii) further work by the Conference on statistics of services.

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

(b) Meeting (1990/91) to consider: (list of topics to be defined after the work session)

Duration: Two years (ending 1991)

SUB-PROGRAMME 12.4: METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

12.4.1 Framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics

Description: Participation in the work of the Statistical Commission on the co-ordination of social, demographic and related statistics and on statistics and indicators on special population groups; elaboration of concepts, definitions and classifications for use in integrating social and demographic statistics; development of links among different fields of social and demographic statistics and with the systems of national accounts and balances; and work on related subjects.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Meeting (1990/91) to consider (i) development of social indicators and of statistics and indicators on special population groups (progress report by the United Nations Statistical Office); (ii) specific aspects of the SNA revision, including links among economic, social and demographic statistics, with particular reference to satellite accounts and the linking of micro- and macro-data (by the ECE secretariat, the United Nations Statistical Office and national rapporteurs); and (iii) methods applied by countries in conducting time-use surveys (by national rapporteurs).

Duration: One year (ending 1991)

(b) Continuation of the work on (i) development and harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications in specific fields of social and demographic statistics; (ii) links among economic, social and demographic statistics; (iii) statistics of time use; (iv) social indicators (including models for building up data bases for social indicators work); (v) statistics and classifications of socio-economic groups, including the socio-economic structure and social mobility of the population; (vi) data quality problems in social and demographic surveys; and (vii) statistics of the dynamics of life cycles.

Duration: Continuing

12.4.2 Development and harmonization of statistical nomenclatures in the field of social and demographic statistics (see section B)

12.4.3 Co-ordination of selected social and demographic statistics within the FSDS and with national accounts and balances

Description: Elaboration of the objectives and contents of selected fields of the FSDS; study of the links between these fields and other fields of the FSDS and with the systems of national accounts and balances.

12.4.3(i) Health statistics

Description: Elaboration of the objectives and contents of the health field of the FSDS and the links between it and other fields and with the systems of national accounts and balances; elaboration of existing standards and development of new standards for the statistics needed for meeting these requirements (jointly with WHO).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Fifth ECE/WHO Joint Meeting on Health Statistics (1991/92) on (i) problems encountered by countries in implementing (or planning to implement) the ICD (Tenth Revision) and the ICIDH (by national rapporteurs); (ii) development of indicators for evaluating the WHO Regional Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 (by the WHO secretariat); (iii) integration of social and economic statistics in the field of health (including the development of health accounts) (by national rapporteurs and the ECE secretariat) (refer also to paras. 42 and 54 of CES/AC.36/41); (iv) development and use of statistical information systems for monitoring health services (including the dissemination of data from such systems) (by national rapporteurs) (refer also to para. 57 of CES/AC.36/41); and (v) methods of measuring consumer satisfaction in health surveys (by the WHO secretariat).

Duration: Two years (ending 1992)

(b) Further work on (i) development and use of health indicators; and (ii) new developments in utilizing information systems for the planning, management and evaluation of health services (including systems which attempt to relate health inputs to health outputs).

Duration: Continuing

12.4.3(ii) Statistics of education (see section B)

12.4.3(iii) Cultural statistics (see section B)

12.4.4 Population and housing censuses

Description: Study of methodological problems and issues in the collection, production, presentation and dissemination of population and housing census statistics; participation in the work of the Statistical Commission on the development of improved recommendations for population and housing censuses; elaboration of regional recommendations for future rounds of censuses; development and improvement of concepts, definitions and classifications of households and families for use in censuses and other data sources.

Work to be undertaken

(a) Creation of a group of national rapporteurs to study costing aspects of population and housing censuses in ECE countries (work by interested countries).

Duration: Three years (ending 1993)

(b) Meeting on population and housing censuses (1991/92) to consider: (i) recent developments in census data dissemination; (ii) developments in and plans for census products directed towards users' needs; and (iii) uses made of census data (including the preparation of a consolidated list of users and uses).

Duration: One year (ending 1992)

(c) Publication of a statistical volume containing basic tables from the 1990 round of population and housing censuses based inter alia on the core tabulation programme in the ECE census recommendations; and exchange among ECE countries of census questionnaires and other relevant information on censuses.

Duration: Two years (ending 1993)

(d) Preparation of further meetings on (i) quality of census data (including coverage errors, content errors and editing and imputation); (ii) expenditures for censuses (including developments in census and computer technology and census products and markets); (iii) topics difficult to capture in censuses (e.g. place of usual residence; marital status; consensual unions; ethnicity, languages and religion; economic characteristics); (iv) issues concerning concepts, definitions and classifications of households and families (see CES/583, Annex, paras. 35-37); and (v) problems and issues involved in using registers and administrative records for censuses and other similar statistical purposes.

Duration: Continuing.

12.4.5 Labour force statistics

Description: Elaboration of the objectives and contents of the field of earning activities of the FSDS and links between it and other fields and with the systems of national accounts and balances; elaboration of existing standards and development of new standards for the statistics needed for meeting these requirements (jointly with ILO).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Third ECE/ILO Joint Meeting on Labour Force Statistics (1990/91) to consider: (i) progress at the conceptual and practical levels in developing a Labour Accounting System and related types of statistics; (ii) revision of the classification of status in employment (as employer, employee, etc.); (iii) statistics on labour turnover; and (iv) statistics of employment vacancies.

Duration: One year (ending 1991)

(b) Further work on (i) manpower statistics for small areas (including regional aspects of labour accounting); (ii) the definition and identification of groups on the fringes of the labour market, such as those who change status frequently (e.g. "turbulent" groups); (iii) treatment of multiple job holders; (iv) methodology of calculating wage-bill at constant wage rates; (v) time-use statistics; (vi) identification of non-marketed activities which tend to be replaced by marketed activities; (vii) the use of seasonal adjustment techniques in manpower statistics (e.g. modelling and multi-variate techniques); (viii) impact of non-sampling errors (including the error in the estimation of seasonal components) on labour statistics; (ix) other aspects of a labour accounting system; and (x) statistics of total compensation.

Duration: Continuing

12.4.6 Human settlements statistics

Description: Development and improvement of statistics relating to human settlements; study of the relationships between human settlements statistics (particularly housing statistics) and related types of statistics (e.g. construction statistics; geographical distribution of population; and land use statistics); elaboration of the objectives and contents of the housing field of the FSDS and the links between it and other fields and with the systems of national accounts and balances; improvement and further development of housing, construction, and planning statistics (jointly with the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning).

Work to be undertaken

(a) Work session (1989/90) on housing statistics (jointly with the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning) to consider the development of statistics on renovations, improvements, repairs and maintenance.

Duration: One year (ending 1990).

(b) Preparatory work on inputs to the planned updating of the European Programme of Current Housing Statistics, particularly in the fields of housing renovations, improvements, repairs and maintenance, housing distribution and land use (by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, and jointly, where relevant, with the Conference of European Statisticians).

Duration: Three years (ending 1992).

- (c) **Third Joint Meeting on Human Settlements Statistics** (jointly with the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning) to review the draft of an updated version of the European Programme of Current Housing Statistics (timing to be decided later, on the basis of progress made in the preparatory work referred to in (a) and (b) above).

Duration: Continuing.

12.4.7 Statistics and indicators on the role and situation of women

Description: Development and improvement of statistics and indicators on the situation of women in the economic, social, demographic and other relevant spheres, suitable for characterizing similarities and differences between women and men and between different groups of women; elaboration of existing standards and development of new standards for the statistics needed for meeting these requirements.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) **Second Joint Meeting on Statistics of Women (1989/90, convened jointly with INSTRAW)** to consider (i) improved measurement of women's labour force participation (including estimates of the under-enumeration of women in the labour force and estimates of the under-employment of women) (by national rapporteurs and international organizations); (ii) measurement of labour inputs in domestic, informal and related activities and valuation of their outputs (by national rapporteurs and international organizations); and (iii) statistics and indicators required for the implementation, review and appraisal of the Forward Looking Strategies in countries in the ECE region (by national rapporteurs and international organizations).

Duration: One year (ending 1989)

(b) Further work on: (i) time use studies; (ii) life cycle studies, related to the demographic and economic situation of women and men, and cohort and other longitudinal analysis and social mobility studies; (iii) indicators and methods of measuring inequalities between women and men.

Duration: Continuing.

12.4.8 Migration statistics

Description: Participation in the work of the Statistical Commission on the implementation of revised international recommendations for statistics of international migration and on the development of guidelines for statistics of internal migration; improvement of migration statistics in general.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Regular exchange of statistics of long-term migration by country of last or intended residence.

Duration: Continuing

(b) Further bilateral and multilateral studies to examine reasons for differences between data for corresponding flows.

Duration: Continuing

(c) Work session on statistics of migration (1989/90) on (i) results of additional bilateral and multilateral studies (including efforts to improve the quality and international comparability of international migration statistics); (ii) results of evaluation studies of data from various sources (including comparisons between flow and stock data and the derivation of emigration estimates); and (iii) measurement of the effects of country of nationality and of return migration on the comparability of international migration statistics.

Duration: Two years (ending 1990)

(d) Further work on (i) classification of purpose of travel; (ii) content and processing of national arrival/departure forms and cards; (iii) strategies for linking flow and stock data; (iv) use of field inquiries and related sampling issues; (v) comparisons between actual and intended duration of stay or absences of migrants; (vi) methods for dealing with adjustment of status (e.g. from short-term to long-term migrants); (vii) internal migration statistics; and (viii) analysis of practices in compiling statistics of the alien and immigrant stock for inter-censal periods and possible action to organize a regular exchange of these statistics (by the ECE secretariat with the help of national rapporteurs). Meeting on the topics for which sufficient progress has been made.

Duration: Continuing

12.4.9 Demographic projections

Description: Development and improvement of projection techniques and models used to produce demographic and related projections; promotion of international comparability in the presentation of projection results.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminar on Demographic Projections (1989/90) on the following subjects: (i) statistical and methodological problems and issues in making (a) traditional types of demographic projections (components of change; total population; distribution by sex, age, rural and urban areas, etc.) and (b) specialized types of projections (families and households, labour force, school enrolment, agricultural population, etc.); (ii) techniques and models used for producing (a) traditional and (b) specialized types of projections; (iii) evaluation studies of projection results; (iv) users and uses of projections (including the servicing of user requests for special projections); and (v) other aspects of projections.

Duration: One year (ending 1989)

(b) Seminar (1990/91) on demographic and economic consequences and implications of changing population age structures (in co-operation with UNFPA) (more precise terms of reference to be defined, if necessary, by the September 1989 Seminar on Demographic Projections).

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

12.4.10 Fertility surveys

Description: Collaboration in the work to be organized by the ECE Population Activities Unit in a UNFPA-funded project aimed at developing a framework for internationally comparable family-based fertility surveys in the ECE region and at designing standard core questionnaires and tabulation programmes for such surveys.

Work to be undertaken: Meeting on fertility and family surveys (1990/91) to consider results achieved in preparatory work conducted by the Population Activities Unit and groups of interested ECE countries on developing the framework and the core questionnaire for such surveys (more precise terms of reference to be defined later, if necessary, on the basis of progress achieved in the preparatory work).

Duration: One year (ending 1990)

SUB-PROGRAMME 12.5: METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED STATISTICS

12.5.1 Development of concepts, definitions and classifications in individual areas of environment statistics

Description: Development and revision of statistical nomenclatures in individual areas, either in the form of standard international classifications or for the purpose of their use in international data collection. (In close co-operation with the relevant Principal Subsidiary Bodies and international organizations).

12.5.1(i) Statistics of air quality

Description: Revision of the draft ECE Standard International Classification of Ambient Air Pollution. Preparation of international standard recommendations for noise and radioactivity statistics.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Preparation of a revised classification at a meeting in September 1989; (ii) Proposals for international recommendations on noise statistics (secretariat); work session on noise statistics in 1990/91; (iii) Possibilities to arrive at international recommendations on radioactivity statistics (secretariat); work session on radioactivity statistics in 1991/92. Further meeting(s) if and when required.

Duration: Three years (ending 1992)

12.5.1(ii) Statistics of water quality

Description: Development of an ECE Standard International Classification of Water Quality.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Review of environmental concerns with emissions, loadings and concentration of water pollutants with a view to determining resulting requirements for the classification (secretariat); (ii) assessment of the possibility to include recommendations regarding the use of statistical parameters and the statistical recognition of measurement practices in the classification (secretariat); (iii) elaboration of proposals for a draft classification (secretariat). Work session to discuss items (i) and

(ii) above in 1989/90. Meeting to consider item (iii) in 1991/92 or earlier, if possible, in the light of progress on other projects linked with this programme element.

Duration: Three years (ending 1992)

12.5.1(iii) Water use statistics (see section B)

12.5.1(iv) Statistics of land use (see section B)

12.5.1(v) Statistics of fauna, flora and their habitats

Description: Revision of the draft ECE Framework of Fauna, Flora and Habitat Statistics.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Review of the definitions of status categories and of categories of area protection (secretariat); (ii) support to international organizations developing a classification of ecosystems (secretariat); (iii) development of concepts and definitions for use in statistics on the characteristics of habitats (secretariat); (iv) review of the relationship of the classification with the development of a European Red Data Book (secretariat); (v) study of the possibility of further detailing the residual category of the list of species groups and of incorporating the concept of "conservation care" in the framework (secretariat); (vi) elaboration of proposals for a revised draft framework (secretariat). Work session on items (i) to (v) above in 1990/91. Meeting to consider item (vi) in 1992/93.

Duration: Three years (ending 1993)

12.5.1(vi) Waste statistics

Description: Revision of the draft ECE Standard International Classification of Wastes.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Comprehensive test of the draft classification in connection with the preparation of the next Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs); (ii) evaluation of the results of the test (secretariat); (iii) preparation of a proposal for an ECE Standard International Classification of Wastes (secretariat); (iv) evaluation of the presentation of the proposal from the point of view of its suitability for data collection (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs); (v) evaluation of the possibilities to calculate recycling ratios (secretariat); (vi) assessment of ways to provide for coverage of pretreatment of wastes in the classification (secretariat). Work session on (ii), (v) and (vi) in 1991/92; consultation by correspondence on (iii) in 1992; meeting in 1992/93. Further work session if and when required.

Duration: Four years (ending 1994).

12.5.1(vii) Statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection

Description: Development of the conceptual foundations for the inclusion of economic data on environmental protection into international data collections.

Work to be undertaken: Elaboration of concepts and definitions for use in statistics on (i) capital and current expenditure for environmental protection; (ii) construction of protection facilities; (iii) goods and services for environmental protection; (iv) control programmes, consent conditions and enforcement; and (v) implementation of low-waste technologies (secretariat). Work session to consider items (i) to (ii) above in 1989/90. Test of concepts and definitions in connection with the preparation of the 1991 Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics. Meeting when required.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.1(viii) Statistics on chemicals from an environmental point of view
(see section B)

12.5.2 Development of an international environmental data service

Description: Organization of the collection, compilation, storage and dissemination of environment statistics to national and international users. Promotion of mechanisms of international data collection that minimize national response burden (in close co-operation with the relevant international and intergovernmental organizations).

12.5.2(i) Computerized ECE data base of environment statistics

Description: Maintenance of a computerized data base of environment statistics by the ECE secretariat.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Continuous updating of the ECE data base (secretariat); (ii) development of updating methods in bilateral contact between the ECE secretariat and individual ECE member countries.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.2(ii) Compendia of ECE Environment Statistics

Description: Publication of Compendia of ECE Environment Statistics at regular intervals of two to three years, starting around 1990.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Development of a proposed structure and contents of the forthcoming Compendium (secretariat); (ii) meeting to consider the draft structure and contents of the next Compendium early in 1989/90; (iii) collection, compilation and publication of the next issue of the Compendium (secretariat).

Duration: Continuing

12.5.2(iii) Statistical environmental monographs

Description: Preparation of statistical monographs on policy-oriented complex environmental issues, which are well-suited to comprehensive statistical presentation.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Preparation of a monograph on "Environmental Impact of Agricultural Activities" for the 1991 Compendium (secretariat, with

the assistance of national rapporteurs); and (ii) preparation of a monograph on "The motor car and the environment", for the following compendium (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs)

Duration: Continuing

12.5.3 Methodological problems of environment statistics

Description: Consideration of issues of a methodological nature and development of guidelines for the maintenance of adequate quality of environment statistics.

12.5.3(i) Specific methodological issues

Description: Consideration of specific methodological issues at work sessions.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Work session (1989/90) on (i) environmental aspects of statistics of human settlements; (ii) linkage of environmental statistics with social and demographic statistics and through land information; and (iii) quality control and quality assessment.

(b) Further work sessions in the near future (1990/91 or 1991/92) on (i) problems encountered in the compilation and use of ecosystem information and biological indicators and (ii) methods used to obtain statistical information from habitat monitoring.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.3(ii) Broad multi-disciplinary issues (see section B)

12.5.3(iii) Quality measures (see section B)

12.5.3 (iv) Bilateral and multilateral projects

Description: Promotion of bilateral and multi-lateral projects in the field of general methodology of environment statistics. Testing of draft standard international classifications in the field of environment statistics as a whole.

Work to be undertaken: (i) organization of a test of the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Wastes (jointly by the statistical offices of Finland, Hungary and Sweden (fall 1989); and (ii) organization of further tests as required and agreed.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.4 Frameworks for environment statistics

Description: Development of systematic relationships between sub-areas of environment statistics and of statistical instruments that enhance such relationships.

12.5.4(i) Environmental indicators (see section B)

12.5.4(ii) Emerging systems of environment statistics (see section B)

12.5.4(iii) Co-ordination of sub-areas

Description: Co-ordination of the work undertaken under individual programme elements in the work programme of the Conference, including the co-ordination with the relevant work done by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Submission of reports on issues of co-ordination at meetings convened under the Conference's work programme (secretariat); (ii) information of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, particularly the SAEWP, of relevant aspects of the Conference's work (secretariat).

Duration: Continuing

SUB-PROGRAMME 12.6: STATISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ECE PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

12.6.1 Publication of statistical bulletins

Description: Publication of statistical information in selected areas of statistics and on short-term economic changes.

Work to be undertaken: Collection of data for and publication of the monthly bulletin of Statistical Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes in ECE Countries and of the Annual Bulletin of General Energy Statistics for Europe.

Duration: Continuing

12.6.2 Support for the statistical work of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (including support for the publication of statistical bulletins by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies)

Description: Support for the development of statistical standards and methods by other PSBs related to their fields of activity; support for the publication of statistical bulletins by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies in the fields of energy, housing and building, steel, engineering and transport statistics.

Work to be undertaken: Continued co-operation with other Principal Subsidiary Bodies in the development of statistical standards, methods, concepts and definitions in their fields of activity, and in the preparatory work for the publication of statistical bulletins.

Duration: Continuing

12.6.3 Provision of statistical information for ECE studies and projects

Description: Development and improvement of the statistical basis for the work of ECE and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies; provision of statistical information for ECE studies and projects.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration at plenary sessions of questions concerning the development and improvement of the statistical basis for the work of ECE (see other items in the programme of work); provision of statistical data for ECE studies and projects (by national statistical offices).

Duration: Continuing

12.6.4 Substantive support for statistical activities financially supported by UNDP

Description: Support for UNDP regional and interregional projects in the field of statistics.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration at plenary sessions of proposals and support for statistical activities in the ECE region financially supported by UNDP.

Duration: Continuing

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SECTION B. PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK ON WHICH NO WORK IS PLANNED BEFORE 1991

12.3.4(i) Classifications of economic activities and of goods and services

Description: Development of international classifications relating to economic activities and goods and services.

Work to be undertaken: To be defined later.

Duration: Continuing

12.3.5 Price and quantity statistics

Description: Study of problems in particular areas of price and quantity statistics in relation to the system of price and quantity statistics.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Joint ECE/ILO meeting to consider (i) use of sample-based methods (such as interpenetrating samples) for estimating the precision of CPIs;
- (ii) problems in price observations and in basic aggregations;
- (iii) treatment of financial and insurance services; and (iv) treatment of quality changes mandated by government (such as antipollution devices). (Date to be fixed.).

Duration: One year (starting 1991)

- (b) Continuation of work on selected aspects of statistics of consumer prices, notably (i) classification of consumer goods and services;
- (ii) treatment of long-term quality changes; (iii) problems of sampling;
- (iv) definition of product specifications; (v) updating of the basket of goods

and services; (vi) balancing of quality against cost of consumer price indices; (vii) treatment of shortages; and (viii) measurement of non-sampling errors (including biases).

Duration: Continuing

12.4.2 Development and harmonization of statistical nomenclatures in the field of social and demographic statistics

Description: Participation in reviews of classifications in the field of social and demographic statistics: preparation of new classifications in fields in which they do not exist; study of the similarities and differences between the United Nations and CMEA classifications in the field of social and demographic statistics and the preparation of conversion keys where required.

Work to be undertaken: A comparative study of United Nations and CMEA classifications in the field of social and demographic statistics, and preparation of conversion keys in areas where they are needed (by the secretariat, in co-operation with the Secretariat of CMEA and with the assistance of national rapporteurs).

Duration: (duration and timing to be decided later)

12.4.3(ii) Statistics of education

Description: Elaboration of the objectives and contents of the educational field of the FSDS and the links between it and other fields and with the systems of national accounts and balances; elaboration of existing standards and the development of new standards for the statistics needed for meeting these requirements (jointly with UNESCO).

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Sixth ECE/UNESCO Joint Meeting on Statistics of Education (1992/93) on (i) issues in the interpretation, implementation and application of ISCED (report by UNESCO); (ii) adult education statistics (report by UNESCO); and (iii) exchanges of information on selected topics of national and international interest (national reports on selected topics in para. 47 above). (More specific terms of reference to be defined later, if necessary, on the basis of progress achieved by UNESCO in its planned work.)

Duration: Two years (ending 1993)

- (b) Further work on (i) education finance statistics; (ii) functional illiteracy; (iii) enrolment projections; (iv) education indicators; (v) computerization of education statistics.

Duration: Continuing

12.4.3(iii) Cultural statistics

Description: Development and improvement of cultural statistics; elaboration of the objectives and contents of the leisure field of the FSDS and the links between it and other fields and with the systems of national accounts and balances; elaboration of existing standards and the development of new standards for the statistics needed for meeting these requirements (jointly with UNESCO).

Work to be undertaken: Fourth Joint Meeting to review developments of the FCS and in the elaboration of cultural indicators (timing and terms of reference to be decided later).

Duration: Two years

12.5.1(iii) Water statistics

Description: Development of concepts, definitions and related statistical tools required for purposes of water management; elaboration of statistical concepts, definitions and classifications of marine waters.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Review of data requirements for purposes of water resource studies and water demand management (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs); (ii) development of a format for water balances (secretariat); (iii) development of statistical concepts for use in relation to emerging concerns with in-stream water uses (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs); (iv) development of statistical variables suitable for facilitating linkage between water statistics and other statistical systems (secretariat); (v) development of statistical variables enabling the estimation of water use statistics escaping measurement (secretariat); (vi) development of statistics on losses of waste-water during transport (secretariat); (vii) assessment of the possibilities to refine further the statistics on sludges from waste-water treatment (secretariat); (viii) identification of needs for statistics on marine waters (secretariat). Work session in 1993/94. Further work session(s) and/or meeting(s) when required.

Duration: Four years (ending 1995).

12.5.1(iv) Statistics of land use

Description: Further development of statistical concepts, definitions and nomenclatures needed in land use information.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Development of a land cover classification for use in remote sensing (secretariat); (ii) exploration of the possibilities to describe statistically the degree of reversibility of land use changes (secretariat); (iii) evaluation of the possibility to use the concept of "sealing of land" in relation to land use in human settlements (secretariat); (iv) study of the possibilities to include information on limitations of land use due to area quality (i.e. contamination of soil, exploitation of underground resources) in land use statistics (secretariat); (v) assessment of needs and possibilities to identify statistically forest stands of exotic species, particularly fire-prone forest areas and water surfaces in harbour areas (secretariat). Work session in 1992/93. Meeting(s) when required.

Duration: Three years (ending 1994)

12.5.1(viii) Statistics on chemicals from an environmental point of view

Description: Evaluation of current practices in the field of statistics on the production, storage, transport and use of chemicals.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Inventory of relevant practices in the field of statistics on chemicals and evaluation of these practices from an environmental point of view (secretariat); (ii) Evaluation of the need to

develop concepts, definitions and classifications in this field (secretariat). Work session/meeting to consider item (i) above if and when required.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.3(ii) Broad multi-disciplinary issues

Description: Consideration of broad multi-disciplinary topics of methodological and related concerns at seminars.

Work to be undertaken: Specification of terms of reference and convening of seminars when required.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.3(iii) Quality measures

Description: Development of quality measures of environment statistics and of their presentation.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Identification of relevant quality aspects of environment statistics (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs); (ii) definition of measures that can help to describe the quality aspects of environment statistics (including the development of ways to present these quality aspects) (secretariat, with the help of national rapporteurs); (iii) evaluation of the implications of (i) to (ii) above for internationally reported environment statistics and of the possibility and need to develop a standard international recommendation on this subject (secretariat). Work session(s) or meeting(s) when required.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.4(i) Environmental indicators

Description: Development of the draft ECE Set of Environmental Indicators. Evaluation of the general possibilities of incorporating biological indicators into environment statistics. Possible subsequent specification of biological indicators.

Work to be undertaken: (i) Review of the existing draft ECE Set of Environmental Indicators (secretariat); (ii) exploration of general possibilities to include biological indicators into the draft Set or other environment statistics (secretariat, with the assistance of national rapporteurs). Work sessions/meetings as required.

Duration: Continuing

12.5.4(ii) Emerging systems of environment statistics

Description: Consideration of emerging systems or frameworks of environment statistics that may be suitable for international use.

Work to be undertaken: Observation of such emerging systems (secretariat). Methods of work to be determined once the need for further work appears.

Duration: Continuing

ANNEX II

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS (BY SUBJECT)

I. 1989/90

A. Meetings

<u>Programme element</u>		<u>Dates</u>
12.2.1	ISIS Seminar (Bratislava, Czechoslovakia)	14-18 May 1990
12.2.4	Use of Business Registers in National Statistical Offices	12-16 February 1990
12.3.6	Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (jointly with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems)	17-20 July 1989
12.3.8	Statistics of engineering industries and automation (jointly with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation)	16-18 October 1989
12.3.9	Working Party on Transport Statistics (jointly with the Inland Transport Committee)	20-23 November 1989
12.4.7	Statistics on Women (jointly with INSTRAW)	13-16 November 1989
12.4.9	Seminar on Demographic Projections (Balatonöszöd, Hungary)	25-29 September 1989
12.5.1(i)	Statistics of Air Quality	4-6 September 1989
12.5.2(ii)	Compendium of ECE environment statistics	20-23 March 1990

B. Work sessions and consultations

12.3.3	Income distribution statistics	25-27 September 1989
12.3.10	Statistics of services	April 1990*
12.4.6	Housing statistics	14-16 May 1990
12.4.8	Migration statistics	9-11 April 1990
12.5.1(ii)	Statistics of water quality	4-8 December 1989
12.5.1(vii)	Statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection	11-13 December 1989
12.5.3(i)	Specific methodological issues in environment statistics (Budapest, Hungary)	8-13 September 1989

C. Plenary session

Thirty-eighth plenary session 11-15 June 1990

II. 1990/91

A. Meetings

<u>Programme element</u>	<u>Dates (tentative)</u>
12.2.1 Working Party on Electronic Data Processing	25 February - 1 March 1991
12.2.2 Meeting on Statistical Methodology	7-11 January 1991
12.2.3 Seminar for executive officials of national statistical offices (to be held in Hungary)	March 1991
12.3.1 Working Party on National Accounts and Balances	10-13 September 1990
12.3.6 Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (jointly with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems)	17-21 December 1990
12.3.8 Statistics of engineering industries and automation (jointly with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation)	15-17 October 1990
12.3.9 Working Party on Transport Statistics (jointly with the Inland Transport Committee)	26-29 November 1990
12.3.10 Statistics of Services	18-22 March 1991
12.4.1 Meeting on the FSDS	29 April - 3 May 1991
12.4.5 Labour Force Statistics (jointly with ILO)	4-8 February 1991
12.4.9 Seminar on Demographic and Economic consequences and implications of changing population age structures (in co-operation with UNFPA) (to be held in Ottawa, Canada)	Fall 1990
12.4.10 Meeting on Fertility and Family Surveys (in co-operation with UNFPA)	8-11 October 1990
B <u>Work sessions and consultations</u>	
12.3.7 General energy statistics	March 1991
12.5.1(i) Noise statistics	May 1991
12.5.1(v) Statistics of fauna, flora and their habitats	May 1991
12.5.3(i) Specific methodological issues in environment statistics (Stockholm, Sweden)	September 1990
C. <u>Plenary session</u>	
Thirty-ninth plenary session	17-21 June 1991

III. 1991/92

A. Meetings

Programme
element

- 12.2.1 ISIS Seminar
- 12.3.6 Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (jointly with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural problems)
- 12.3.8 Statistics of engineering industries and automation (jointly with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation)
- 12.3.9 Working Party on Transport Statistics (jointly with the Inland Transport Committee)
- 12.4.3(i) Health Statistics (jointly with WHO)
- 12.4.4 Population and Housing Censuses
- 12.4.7 Statistics and indicators on the role and situation of Women
- 12.5.1(ii) Statistics of water quality

B. Work sessions and consultations

- 12.3.1 National Accounts and Balances
- 12.3.2 International comparisons
- 12.3.7 General energy statistics
- 12.5.1(ii) Radioactivity statistics
- 12.5.1(v) Land use statistics
- 12.5.3(i) Specific methodological issues in environment statistics (Ottawa, Canada)

C. Plenary session

Fortieth plenary session

ANNEX III

List of meetings to be held from July 1989
to December 1990
(in chronological order)

<u>Programme element</u>	<u>Sub' ject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12.3.6	Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (jointly with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems)	17-20 July 1989
12.5.1(i)	Meeting on Statistics of Air Quality	4-6 September 1989
12.5.3(i)	Work session on Specific methodological issues in environment statistics (Budapest, Hungary)	8-13 September 1989
12.3.3	Work session on Income distribution statistics	25-27 September 1989
12.4.9	Seminar on Demographic Projections (Balatonöszöd, Hungary)	25-29 September 1989
12.3.8	Meeting on Statistics of engineering industries and automation (jointly with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation)	16-18 October 1989
12.4.7	Meeting on Statistics on Women (jointly with INSTRAW)	13-16 November 1989
12.3.9	Working Party on Transport Statistics (jointly with the Inland Transport Committee)	20-23 November 1989
12.5.1(ii)	Work session on Statistics of water quality	4-8 December 1989
12.5.1(vii)	Work session on Statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection	11-13 December 1989
12.2.4	Meeting on Use of Business Registers in National Statistical Offices	12-16 February 1990
12.5.2(ii)	Meeting on the Compendium of ECE environment statistics	20-23 March 1990
12.4.8	Work session on migration statistics	9-11 April 1990
12.2.1	ISIS Seminar (Bratislava, Czechoslovakia)	14-18 May 1990
12.3.10	Work session on Statistics of services	April 1990 <u>1/</u>
12.4.6	Work session on Housing statistics	14-16 May 1990
-	Thirty-eighth plenary session	11-15 June 1990

<u>Programme element</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12.3.1	Working Party on National Accounts and Balances	10-13 September 1990
12.5.3(i)	Work session on Specific methodological issues in environment statistics (Stockholm, Sweden)	September 1990 <u>1/</u>
12.4.9	Seminar on Demographic and economic consequences and implications of changing population age structures (in co-operation with UNFPA) (Ottawa, Canada)	Fall 1990 <u>1/</u>
12.4.10	Meeting on Fertility and Family Surveys (in co-operation with UNFPA)	8-11 October 1990
12.3.8	Meeting on Statistics of engineering industries and automation (jointly with the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation)	15-17 October 1990
12.3.9	Working Party on Transport Statistics (jointly with the Inland Transport Committee)	26-29 November 1990
12.3.6	Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (jointly with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems)	17-21 September 1990

1/ Dates to be confirmed later.