

COORDINATION OF ON-GOING STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES*

		<u>Pages</u>
12(c)	SERVICE STATISTICS	2 - 3
12(d)	THE INFORMAL/FORMAL DISTINCTION	4
12(g)	STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES FOR SOCIAL INDICATORS	5 - 8

Progress reports of the United Nations Statistical Office

* The other sub-items of agenda item 12 are covered by other documents.

ACC SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
Twenty-fourth Session
Vienna, 18-22 June 1990
Item 12(c) of the provisional agenda

7 June 1990

PROGRESS IN SERVICE STATISTICS

Note prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office

1. International collaboration on various aspects of service statistics has continued since the last meeting of the Subcommittee.
2. In August 1989, the UN and IMF Secretariats finalized their joint inquiry on national practices and selected methodological problems in trade-in-services statistics. The conclusions reveal that there is considerable divergence in country practices, that documentation is still imperfect and more guidelines as well as methodological materials must be prepared for developing countries.
3. In October 1989, the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics held its fourth meeting in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting's agenda covered classification systems in service statistics, price and quantity measurement, trade in services and survey methodology. At the invitation of the Statistical Commission to prepare a substantial report for its next session in 1991, the Voorburg Group initiated work on the description of a standard survey of the computer services industry. The aim of the survey would be to obtain prices and quantities of CPC categories of services sold domestically and abroad as well as to test the application of ISIC and CPC in collecting service statistics.
4. More recently, UNCTAD invited the participation of UNSO on a new initiative to improve the data base in services, and in particular, the collection and reporting of trade-in-services statistics. In this connection, the Director of the UNSO addressed the problem of the adequacy of available statistics on services at a meeting in February of the Group of Negotiations on Services carried out under the auspices of GATT.
5. A recent initiative in service statistics was taken by the ECE. The meeting of the Work Session on Statistics of Services, held in Geneva on 30 April - 2 May 1990, took note of the needs of statistical offices in transition countries as well as the high priority accorded to service statistics in these countries. The Work Session on Statistics of Services proposed that the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians include a range of activities in service statistics that emphasizes a coordinated approach to conceptual development, technical assistance and data collection.

6. The Voorburg Group on Services will hold its Fifth Meeting in Paris from 1-5 October 1990. According to the meeting's provisional agenda, the Group will resume its discussion of experiences in price and quantity measurement; the classification and collection of trade-in-services statistics; and the application of the revised CPC.

4

Item 12(d) INFORMAL SECTOR

/ THE INFORMAL/FORMAL DISTINCTION

1. The informal sector is referred to by many researchers and organizations in different ways. In this context it is considered useful to present the way that the informal sector is considered in the SNA Revision.

2. The issue of the informal sector was raised in two of the meetings on the Revision of The System of National Accounts.

3. The Expert Group on Household Sector and The Expert Group on Co-ordination discussed how to distinguish between formal and informal activities. In the discussion some experts considered an adequate approximation to align it with the distinction between corporations (formal) and unincorporated enterprises (informal). However, other experts thought that in view of the wide variety of country circumstances a more detailed definition was necessary. Hence, it was agreed to integrate the distinction into the system but no formal definition of the formal/informal sector was made; countries could use the distinction and adapt it to their own characteristics.

4. Further consultation will take place with ILO which is seeking a formal definition for these widely used terms. Once available this definition could be used as a basis for practical elaborations of the SNA by those countries wishing to apply the distinction.

ACC SUB COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
Twenty-fourth session
Vienna, 18-22 June 1990
Item 12 (g) of the provisional agenda

CO-ORDINATION OF ONGOING STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES
SOCIAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

Development of statistics on special populations

Report prepared by the Statistical Office
of the United Nations

1. Statistical programmes for social indicators

(a) General

1. The sub-programme on special populations, which includes children, youth, elderly, disabled, families, homeless persons, and refugees, covers three major areas of work: first, methodological work on issues targeted by governments and intergovernmental agencies for policy formulation and planning purposes; second, compilation and dissemination of national statistics for selected groups; and third, technical co-operation activities assisting countries to strengthen their capability in improving special population groups statistics.

(b) Methodological work

2. The methodological work centres on the following areas: (a) harmonization of concepts and definitions of special populations; (b) adaptation of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) of the World Health

Organization for the identification and description of special populations of disabled persons in censuses, surveys and registration systems; (c) development of data collection methods; (d) formulation of tabulation plans for the study of special populations; and (e) design and testing of dissemination programmes for statistics on special populations to meet the information and research needs of governments, non-governmental organizations and other users.

3. Work on population aging and elderly persons will provide important inputs to a special issue of the 1990 Demographic Yearbook to be published in 1992. The special issue on aging will include some new data collected such as questions about living arrangements and statistics on disability of elderly persons. These activities will be carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs the World Health Organization and UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

(c) Data compilation

4. Several outputs on data compilation are being prepared in 1990 and subsequent years inter alia on disabled persons, on population aging and elderly persons and on children. The Compendium of Disability Statistics is scheduled to be published in the last quarter of 1990. This exploratory work is being produced for the first time by the Statistical Office, reviewing national disability statistics from population censuses, national surveys and registration systems of 55 countries or areas. It is

based upon statistics stored in the International Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT, version 1), a microcomputer data base developed by the Statistical Office in 1988-1989 and disseminated to over 100 organizations worldwide. Further development of DISTAT is being planned and version 2 of this statistics data base is expected to be available in 1993.

5. As stated earlier, the collection and compilation of data on population aging and the elderly population is underway and a supplementary issue of the 1990 Demographic Yearbook will have population aging as its special topic. In addition, as part of the collaborative programme on aging and disability with WHO, the Statistical Office is producing a compilation of disability statistics for presentation in 1991 World Health Statistics Annual.

6. Work on statistics on the situation of children with an emphasis on pre-school has begun in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization and a statistical wallchart on early child development is being produced to be issued in the third quarter of 1990.

(d) Technical Co-operation

7. Two inter-regional training programmes on disability statistics, both supported by DTCD carried out in collaboration with the Governments of Hungary and Malta, the International Institute on Aging in Malta, the World Health Organization and the

Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia were implemented in 1988 and 1989 respectively. These two training programmes have broadened the international network of statistical producers and users who are responsible for the implementation of national census, survey registration programmes. The significant interaction and active participation of the international community in the discussion of disability statistics development is rapidly leading to a need for international statistical standards and guidelines for census survey and registry work in this area.