

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
STATISTICAL WORK IN
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

A Commemoration

1. The next Session of the UN Statistical Commission, to be held in 1995 in New York, would serve as the framework for the proposed Commemoration.
2. The preparatory work for the commemoration is proposed to lead to two principal activities: (a) A commemorative meeting during the Session of the Commission early in 1995; and (b) The publication of a commemorative volume, to be issued during the second half of 1995.

Commemorative Meeting

3. In the light of the discussions of the Special Session of the Statistical Commission, and with a view to the considerable interest shown in the 50th anniversary, it would seem preferable to organize the commemorative meeting within the timetable of the 1995 Session itself. Clearly, half an hour could do no justice to the topic and indeed it would not be practicable to limit the commemoration to 30 minutes. However, because of the many other matters on the agenda, the commemoration could be limited to perhaps 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours (certainly to not less than 1 hour).
4. The following items are suggested tentatively (to be considered by the ACC Sub-Committee and by the Working Group of the Statistical Commission) for the envisaged meeting:

PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF COMMEMORATION

- (a) Opening. Chairman of the Commission (3 minutes)
- (b) Introduction. M. Milleron (8 minutes)
- (c) Historical Remarks. ISI (8 minutes)
- (c) United Nations. UNSTAT (10 minutes)
- (d) 'Larger' programs. IMF, ILO, WHO, FAO (8 minutes each)

- (e) 'Smaller' programs. GATT, IBRD, etc. (3 minutes each)
- (f) Greetings. EUROSTAT, OECD (3 minutes each)
- (g) Closing. Chairman of the Commission (2 minutes)

5. It would be desirable, if the Commemorative Meeting was held at the end of the day and if it was followed by a reception (either a special one, if that is feasible, or one of the usual events held at sessions).

Commemorative Publication

6. It is proposed to compile the historical reviews prepared by the UN and the other organizations participating in the Commemorative Meeting in a special publication. The very limited time available at the Commemorative Meeting itself would not permit presentations to go but into very-very few highlights about 50 years of activity. Even if the aim is not to give comprehensive histories, references just to the most important features of statistical progress would require more exposition than it will be feasible in the oral presentations.

7. If the materials were prepared in a standardized format, possibly in Wordperfect, ISI could undertake the formatting, final typesetting, and general editing of the individual contributions for a Commemorative Volume. However, limitations in the ISI budget would not permit assuming the costs of the printing and the distribution of the volume; yet if outside funding of the publication will be feasible, and if necessary, ISI could undertake the supervision of the printing and distributing process as well. For technical reasons, ISI could undertake the tasks mentioned if the Commemorative Volume was produced in English only.

8. ISI, in line with the role envisaged for non-governmental organizations in general for the UN 50th anniversary celebrations, and in accordance with its historical role in furthering international cooperation from the beginnings of such activities in the 19th century, will be pleased to be actively participate in the commemoration activities as they evolve.