

SA/1995/12

ACC SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES  
Twenty-ninth Session  
Geneva, 15, 16 and 19 June 1995  
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Coordination of On-going Statistical Programmes.

Report prepared by UNCHS (Habitat)

The following report gives a summary of the main statistical activities in which UNCHS (Habitat) has been coordinating with both U.N organisations and other agencies.

I. Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics

The United Nations Statistical Commission at its sixteenth and twenty-first sessions concluded that the United Nations should compile and publish statistics of housing and human settlements. As a result of this, the first Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire was launched in 1981 and data were compiled in the first issue of the compendium of Human Settlements Statistics 1983, published in 1985.

UNCHS (Habitat) in close collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) (formerly UNSTAT) convened an Expert Group Meeting in October 1987 on Human Settlements Statistics. The meeting reviewed the quantity and quality of data of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics 1983; discussed at length the problems of data collection, compilation and dissemination in the area of human settlements statistics; and also made specific comments and suggestions regarding the next issue of the compendium. The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its twenty-six session held in February 1991, endorsed the development of housing and human settlements statistics, including work on methodology and data collection and compilation by UNSD. This work was to be undertaken in close cooperation with UNCHS (Habitat).

On the basis of the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements (ESA/STAT/AC.31.1), the Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire was jointly developed by UNSD and UNCHS (Habitat) and launched in early March 1992. This timing was set in regard to the 1990 round of population and housing censuses so that the responding offices could incorporate the most recent census data.

The Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire 1992 consists of 18 tables and requests data on total, urban, and rural level and for the four largest cities in a country/area, including the capital city. The first six tables request data on population, Households, living quarters, number of rooms, tenureship, duration of residence, housing facilities, housing construction and crime statistics at the country/area, urban and rural level. The last twelve tables request data on population by age, number of households, living quarters, economically active population by industry and occupation, school attendance, duration of residence, number of rooms, tenureship, housing facilities, housing construction, infrastructure and services, land use and statistics on crime for the four largest cities of the country/area including the capital city. The number of cities was, in most cases, fixed to four, although, depending on the size of the specific country/area, that number varied. For

countries/area with less population, data on fewer than four cities were requested, and in some cases only for the capital city.

The data collected through this questionnaire have been checked, cleaned and used for developing a database called "Datahouse"-an intermediate product for dissemination of data. The draft of the second edition of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics 1993 is under preparation. The Compendium will contain 26 tables covering a wide range of topics such as population and its characteristics, economically active population by industry and occupation, households, land use, housing units and facilities, infrastructure and services, and crime statistics. The Compendium will be produced as joint publication of UNSD and UNCHS (Habitat) during the course of 1995.

## 2. International Yearbook of Large Towns.

A massive data collection activity is in progress under the "Large Cities Statistics Project" (LSCP) jointly with five partners namely Network on Urban Research in the European Union (NUREC), International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), International Statistical Institute (ISI), United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and UNCHS(Habitat). The questionnaire was developed by Habitat within the City Data Programme funded jointly by the Government of Italy and UNCHS (Habitat). The questionnaire is very comprehensive and covers a wide range of topics including population and its characteristics, households, gender, land use, housing facilities, infrastructure and services, municipal finance and environment. A total of 76 city indicators can be derived from data on these topics. The questionnaire was reviewed and revised by all the partners of the LCSP in a meeting in Duisburg, Germany from 17-19 May 1993. UNCHS (Habitat) is responsible for supporting this project in all substantive matters including the design of the questionnaire and its translation into all the six UN official languages by the end of 1993. This questionnaire has been sent by NUREC to 3600 cities with population 100,000 and more and 200 countries offices. NUREC has received 600 filled questionnaires from cities which Habitat is expecting to receive in June 1995. Data entry will start in August 1995 after thorough checking, cleaning and editing of data which will lead to tabulation and analysis of data for publishing the International Yearbook of Large Towns 1996. The data collected through this exercise will be the main input to the International Yearbook of Large Towns 1996. They will be stored in and disseminated through UNCHS-CitiBase- a database developed by the City Data Programme of Habitat. NUREC will meet the expenses incurred in dissemination of the questionnaire, collection of data and publication of results in the Yearbook.

## 3. Household Projections.

Between 1993 and 1994 UNCHS (Habitat) in consultation with the Population Division of DESIPA undertook a household projection exercise. The main objective of this exercise was to update projections using new census data on households. Number and size of households are of particular interest for the work of UNCHS (Habitat). They are key input to central issues of human settlements such as the quantification of housing needs. Future housing needs and particularly their characteristics are analytically closely related to households than to population figures.

Households were projected up to year 2050 for many countries of the World. The projections are available by household size for those countries where data for at least two censuses were available. A computer program was written to update these projections. Household size rates were extrapolated by fitting an exponential an exponential function, using non-linear least square techniques, to historical household data. The results were presented in the Eighteenth Session of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 28-30 June 1994 to discuss the continuing collaboration in demographic and sectoral estimates and projections in the United Nations system. The participants appreciated Habitat's work on households projections and view was expressed that such work should continue in future. The future plan is to undertake another exercise using data from the 2000 round of population and housing censuses.

#### 4. Housing Indicator Programme

A joint programme of UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank started in October 1990 with the overall objective of developing conceptual, analytical and institutional frameworks for managing the housing sector as a whole. The data was collected from 52 cities of the world on various housing indicators. The preliminary results of this programme were presented to the fourteenth session of the Human Settlement Commission in Nairobi in April-May 1993. In 1993, the Commission recommended that findings based on the monitoring of the housing sector using the indicators should provide the basis for country reports on the status of human settlements to be prepared by governments in the course of the preparatory process of Habitat II. Following the Commission recommendation, both shelter and urban performances are to be assessed globally through the Indicators Programme, in collaboration with the government authorities of Member States.