CO-ORDINATION OF ON-GOING STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES
SOCIAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

Current work on statistics and indicators on the situation of women

Note by the United Nations Statistical Office

In connection with work on the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women (SA/1986/15, p. 3), the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has requested that the following additional information and inquiries be brought to the attention of the ACC Sub-Committee.

A. Besides the wall chart "Selected Indicators on the Situation of Women 1985" and the document "Selected statistics and indicators on the status of women" (A/CONF.116/10) prepared for the Nairobi Conference, what efforts are being made by the United Nations system to disseminate data specifically on the status of women? Is information available on the use and impact of such data in various sectors for planning and programming purposes and what problems have been encountered in dissemination and use?

B. CCSQ (PROG) decided at its last session (para. 2d) that the appropriate ACC subsidiary bodies should regularly include in their agendas the question of the implementation of the relevant sections of the Forward-looking Strategies. The attention of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistics is brought to this decision.

Specifically, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies recommends in paragraph 317 (see below) that national reviews should take the form of a response to a regular statistical reporting request. What kind of report can be made available to the Commission in 1988 and in 1990? It is proposed that the outline and contents of such reports also be discussed with CSD/HA.
C. What measures are being taken by the United Nations system to produce more data by sex and age in both printed and tape/diskette forms?

What measures are being taken to ensure standardization of production of data so that micro-computers can use directly the data produced throughout the system?

Can new, revised data be made available by the United Nations system in micro-computer usable form without waiting until printed materials are made available; i.e. data in a yearbook should be available on diskette without waiting for the publication to be printed?

D. What measures can be taken by the system to encourage countries to produce the data necessary for the priority indicators on the status of women as established for example by document A/CONF.116/10?

Can a system be organized so that revisions to the data in document A/CONF.116/10 are made available to the Statistical Office and CSD/MHA as they are produced?

E. What measures are being taken by the United Nations system to encourage development of statistics and indicators on women along the lines recommended by the Statistical Office/INSTRAW studies Series F, nos. 32 and 33 (Compiling Social Indicators on the Situation of Women: Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women)?

F. The mandates relevant to the update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (General Assembly resolution 40/204, para. 6; Draft Resolution X, para. 3, for ECOSOC (see below); and Recommendation 3 of the Ad-Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women) all place great emphasis on: (a) improving the availability and reliability of data on women in the economy, and (b) the standardization and consistency of sectoral data. The sectors highlighted by these mandates include agriculture (especially in drought-stricken areas of Africa), the informal sector and population.

In view of this, the ACC could be requested for its next meeting to: (a) review the measures that have been taken and are envisaged in the United Nations system to improve data on women in the economy, on the basis of reports prepared by participants in the ACC; (b) recommend measures that could be taken at the national level with the same objective; (c) look into the possibility of inviting the Statistical Office to compile and synthesize the information on the present situation and on the above-mentioned measures with a view to drafting one chapter of the World Survey, to be submitted to the 44th session of the General Assembly.
THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

C. Measures for the implementation of the basic strategies

1. Monitoring

Paragraph 317

The implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade – equality, development and peace – and of the Forward-looking Strategies should be monitored during the period 1986 to the year 2000. Monitoring at the international level should be based on reviews, at the regional, subregional and national levels, of action taken, resources allocated and progress achieved. The national reviews should take the form of a response to a regular statistical reporting request from the United Nations Secretariat, which should include indicators of the situation of women. The statistical reporting basis should be developed by the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women. The United Nations Secretariat should compile the results of such monitoring in consultation with the appropriate bodies of Governments, including national machinery established to monitor and improve the status of women. The action taken and progress achieved at the national level should reflect consultation with non-governmental organizations and integration of their concerns at all levels of government planning, implementation and evaluation, as appropriate.

Paragraph 318

The specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, including the regional commissions, should establish monitoring capabilities and procedures to analyse the situation of women in their sectoral or geographical areas, and submit their reports regularly to their respective governing bodies and to the Commission on the Status of Women, which is the main intergovernmental body within the United Nations system concerned with women.
DRAFT RESOLUTION X OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Updating of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 40/204, invited the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session in 1986 to suggest the terms of reference for the updating of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (A/CONF.116/4) for submission to the forty-fourth session of the Assembly in 1989,

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts through the Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Institute of Training and Research for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations to improve the availability and reliability of data on women in the economy including the informal sector for the updated World Survey. In this respect, there is a requirement for standardized data and consistency between chapters of the updated World Survey;

"4. Requests also all the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, including all regional commissions and INSTRAW to co-operate in the preparation of the first update of the World Survey;

"6. Recommends that the first update of the World Survey should be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in 1989 and to the Commission at its session in 1990;

"7. Requests that the preparation of the updates draw to the extent possible on existing and already planned studies."