ACC SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
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Item 12 (a), 12 (c), and 12 (f) of the provisional agenda

COORDINATION OF ON-GOING STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES*

12 (a) PRICE STATISTICS INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAMME (ICP)
12 (c) POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES
12 (f) TOURISM AND MIGRATION STATISTICS

Progress report by the United Nations Statistical Office

* The other sub-items of agenda item 12 are covered by other documents.
12 (a) Price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (ICP)

1. Phase V of the ICP (with 1985 as reference year) progresses approximately as planned. The results on 22 OECD countries (and within it the results on the 12 EEC countries) became available in early 1987; the results for three Eastern European countries (linked to the other European countries) and results of the African comparison (23 countries) will be available shortly. The results of the ESCAP regional comparison (10 countries) will be available around the end of 1988, and those of the Caribbean comparison (6 countries) in the beginning of 1989.

2. Unexpected difficulties were experienced in connection with the core comparisons (binary comparisons between countries belonging to different regions); even developed countries could not find sufficient resources to visit their partner countries and some of these comparisons could not start as planned or had to be interrupted. The minimal number of comparisons which is needed for linking the regional comparisons and for building up the world comparisons will be available; however, such a small number of core comparisons does not provide sufficient control of the links, and the inter-regional results in the world comparison may therefore become substantially influenced by incidental factors.

3. While the interest in respect of the ICP continues to grow and a number of additional countries are considering their entry into the programme in phase VI (1990), for the time being there is no sign whatsoever that the resource conditions of the ICP will improve. This raises the question of whether it is still realistic to reckon on a world comparison in phase VI. The alternative would be to start regional comparisons (where resources are available), and to link them where additional resources would permit it. The Statistical Office of the United Nations at present is conducting a series of consultations on this question.

Agenda item 12 (c) Population and housing censuses

4. The Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/8 entitled "1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme", inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary preparations with a view to assisting interested Member States to plan and carry out improved censuses in the 1990 census decade. As part of its preparations, work of the Statistical Office continued on "Draft supplementary principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses" which were adopted by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fourth session with comments. The Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses are now being finalized for separate publication as Series M. No. 67, Add.1 and it will be a supplement to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Series M. No.67).
5. For the 1990 census round, only a few regions would still need training in general census topics. Many developing countries would, however, need training workshops/seminars on specialized topics including various software applications for data analysis. In the context, a large census training programme for the Sub-Saharan African region has been approved by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) effective 1987 and is being carried out by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD), with the substantive support of the United Nations Statistical Office and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The programme includes three components: (a) international fellowship in universities and other advanced research institutions, (b) national training courses in census-taking and data processing including the preparation of training documents, and (c) sub-regional training workshops in census cartography and data analysis. The training programme will be carried out during 1987-1992 and is expected to train approximately 750 census personnel from about 35 countries of the region.

6. The supplementary principles and recommendations particularly focus on collection of improved census economic statistics in line with new ILO standards concerning the measurement of the economically active population. To achieve this objective, it is proposed, in collaboration with ILO, to organize a series of specialized training workshops on this subject. The workshops will deal with new concepts and definitions concerning the measurement of the economically active population and revised international classifications of occupation and industry and their use in the 1990 censuses.

7. Other activities including the provision of technical advisory services through country, regional or inter-regional advisers, the provision of training particularly through fellowships and study tours, the provision of funds for the purchase of equipment and, in special circumstances, for other components of census costs. Activities are expected to continue in connection with the 1990 World Population and Housing Census, subject to availability of funds from UNFPA and other international agencies.

**Agenda item 12 (f) Tourism and migration statistics**

8. The United Nations Statistical Office has nothing to report on migration statistics but would like to inform the Sub-Committee of the views relevant to tourism statistics, that were expressed by the United Nations Expert Group on Harmonization of Economic Classifications held in New York from 25-29 April 1988. The World Tourism Organization had submitted to the Expert Group, revised proposals on tourism related activities and products, including proposed annexes for the ISIC and CPC, but unfortunately could not participate in the meeting because of resource problems. The following is an extract from the report of the Expert Group, concerning the proposed annexes:

9. "Concerning the annex on tourism and related activities, it was stressed that the industry is highly relevant for some developing countries in which tourism is a major source of the national income, and therefore a dominant part of their economy."
10. It was agreed that although tourism statistics are of great interest, the list of industrial activities identified in the proposed annex does not enable countries to make a direct estimate of the importance of tourism. It only indicates which industries may be affected by tourism. A more complete picture would require the use of surveys to identify the products comprising tourism expenditure. An assessment of the usefulness of the annex for compiling tourism statistics for a particular country would have to be made in the light of such information. The representative of OECD proposed to provide the United Nations Statistical Office with a note from its Tourism Committee commenting on the annex.

11. It was finally agreed that the annex should be shortened and the text should be modified. The Group stressed that it had strong reservations about the annex on tourism related activities in its present form. The Secretariat was requested to explore the possibility together with the WTO and OECD to develop an improved annex."