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# PROVISIONAL GUIDELINES ON STANDARD INTERNATIONAL AGE CLASSIFICATIONS



#### NOTE

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#### PREFACE

This publication sets out provisional guidelines on standard international age classifications, as approved by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session, held in January 1981, and contains a statement of the purpose of standard international age classifications, as well as recommended standard international age classifications for demographic, social and related economic data.

The provisional guidelines were developed on the basis of existing national practices (see annex) and international recommendations concerning age classification, as well as the comments and suggestions made by the members of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session.

#### CONTENTS

Chapt	<u>er</u>		Paragraphs	Page
1.		PURPOSE OF STANDARD INTERNATIONAL AGE SSIFICATIONS	1 - 4	, <b>1</b>
II.		OMMENDED STANDARD INTERNATIONAL AGE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR OGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED ECONOMIC DATA	5 - 39	2
	Α.	Population	15 - 19	4
	В.	Family formation, families and households	20 - 21	8
	C.	Learning and educational services	22 - 24	9
	D.	Earning activities and the inactive	25 - 26	10
	Ε.	Distribution of income, consumption and accumulation	27	10
	F.	Social security and welfare services	28 - 29	10
	G.	Health, health services and nutrition	30	10
	н.	Housing and its environment	31 - 32	11
	I.	Public order and safety	33 - 35	11
	J.	Time use	36	12
	К.	Leisure and culture	37 - 38	12
	L.	Social stratification and mobility	39	12
Annex	۲.	Existing international recommendations on age classifications	ation	. 13

#### I. THE PURPOSE OF STANDARD INTERNATIONAL AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

- 1. Age is among the most frequently collected and reported characteristics of persons in a wide variety of social, demographic and related economic statistics, and it is almost universally employed as a classification variable. Despite its wide usage as a classification variable, and its cardinality, linkage and comparison of age data are extremely difficult at both the national and international levels as a result of the lack of co-ordination among age classifications used for data from a wide variety of sources and subject areas.
- 2. Age classifications are tools for the meaningful presentation of age information, cross-tabulated by demographic, social and related economic data. They seek to provide a reasonable middle ground between the presentation of data by single years of age and the utilization of endless varieties of age classifications for different purposes. Standard age classifications facilitate linkage and comparability of data from different sources, over time, and within and among different subject areas.
- While standardization and harmonization of age classifications is desirable at 3. both the national and international levels, the provisional guidelines are geared toward the need for improved data comparability at the international level. It is intended that the provisional guidelines be used to modify or complement, not to replace, existing national age classifications used for the presentation of summarized data. Wherever possible, national demographic, social and related economic data, cross-tabulated by age, should be presented, utilizing existing national age classifications to the extent that they are identical and complementing them to the extent necessary with the ones shown in chapter II. The latter may be accomplished by substituting the recommended standard international age groups for those used nationally, or by subdividing nationally used age groups in a manner which permits the reader or analyst to regroup the data in conformity with the international age classifications. Beyond that, the provisional guidelines might stimulate the development of national standard age classifications where none exist.
- 4. To avoid any possible confusion, it should be emphasized that the use of standard international age classifications relates only to the presentation of data and not to their collection and storage.

- II. RECOMMENDED STANDARD INTERNATIONAL AGE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED ECONOMIC DATA
- 5. The classifications set out in this chapter were developed after careful consideration of exiting national practices and international recommendations. A review of current national practices relating to age classifications 1/ showed that while many countries have made efforts to standardize age classifications, many different age classifications are in use and that they vary in group size (number of years grouped together), group boundaries (ages defining group) and age range (lowest and highest age). However, apart from the inherent differences stemming from the various national legislative and administrative policy needs and practices, several important common elements were apparent. They include the widespread use of five- and ten-year age groups, with the boundaries generally beginning at multiples of five and ten and ending at four and nine. The existing international recommendations, presented in the annex exhibit similar patterns. The existence of those common elements has a positive impact on the feasibility of the design and use of standard international age classifications.
- 6. Bearing in mind the considerable agreement in approach at the national and international levels, the following objectives were taken into consideration in developing the age classifications:
- (a) To permit maximum integration of data and comparability with and among different subject areas and over time;
- (b) To follow, as closely as possible, the existing international recommendations and national practices concerned with age classification;
- (c) To provide and preserve as much as possible of the originally collected information in the presentation of data;
- (d) To permit the identification of client groups, i.e., subgroups of the population, which are of policy interest;
- (e) To minimize the impact of errors in age reporting such as age heaping, digit preference and the like. 2/
- 7. Classifications were developed in 12 subject areas, for a total of 34 topics. It is hoped that the topics covered provide sufficient guidance for related topics.

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{l}/$  Social and Demographic Statistics: Classification of Age (E/CN.3/550), United Nations, New York.

<sup>2/</sup> For a detailed discussion, see <u>Principles and Recommendations for</u>
Population and Housing Censuses, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.8.

- 8. The development of the age classifications set out in table 1 was influenced by the recognition that countries have varying needs and capabilities for data collection, storage, analysis, utilization and presentation. Countries may want to use, or be able to provide, data classified by age at varying levels of detail depending on the subject area, the purpose and the level of present or future over-all statistical need and capability. Therefore, the recommended international age classifications were developed at three different levels of detail.
- 9. The first set of age classifications provides the highest level of detail, but at the same time, it requires the highest level of statistical capability. It utilizes combinations of single years and five-year age groups ending on four and nine, affords reflection of national circumstances, and permits maximum flexibility for further aggregation as well as easy identification of crucial client groups, regardless of their varying national age criteria. Potential client groups are, for example, the elderly and the school population. At this level of detail, the integration or comparison of data from different subject areas is also the least problematic. Classifications in the different subject areas consist of between 18 and 54 age groups, counting single years as separate age groups and excluding the classification of population by size and geographical distribution (which consists of 100 single-year categories and an open-ended group).
- 10. The second set of age classifications is a scaled-down version of the first. With some exceptions, it replaces single years with five-year groups, and five-year with ten-year groups. It is compatible with the first set of age classifications in that data from the first set can be aggregated to the second level of detail without requiring splits of age groups in the first set, and it also still permits fairly accurate identification of major client groups. In that respect, the most significant difference between the first and second set is that the second, in some instances, may camouflage the precise division between two distinct subgroups of a population. For instance, if the normal retirement age is 66 years, the identification of persons working one, two or three years beyond the normal retirement age would be difficult. Except for the population base, classifications at this level of detail consist of between eight and fourteen age groups.
- 11. The third set of classifications deals essentially with six broad population groups roughly equivalent to infancy, youth, young adulthood, middle adulthood and older adulthood to average retirement age, retirement (under 1, 1-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years). Those age groups allow aggregation from the two previous sets of classifications, without the necessity to split age groups. In spite of the limited number of age groups, some client groups can still be identified, at least in broad terms. With the exception of some variation in the lower age limit, the classifications at this level are identical for all subject areas.
- 12. As mentioned above, the most detailed set of classifications affords the highest degree of flexibility. It is something to strive for whenever data availability and/or quality, confidentiality requirements, size of table and purpose of presentation permit, and particularly where frequently used data are concerned. The third set of classifications, on the other hand, represents a minimum level of detail which should be feasible under most circumstances. If necessary, more detailed data can be aggregated to this level to ensure data comparability.
- 13. The effort to accommodate a wide variety of national circumstances (e.g., laws and average life expectancy) and the need for standardization, harmonization and

international comparability, is reflected in the choice of the age ranges for the different subject areas. Extremes at both ends have to be taken into account. As a result, empty categories may occur in some cases for topics for which the lowest and/or highest age vary considerably among countries. Likewise, age ranges are not identical for all subject areas and topics, but rather, they reflect national circumstances or existing international recommendations.

14. The three sets of classifications are shown in table 1; they are discussed below for each of the 12 subject areas. This discussion provides the rationale for the standards and points out instances where the provisional guidelines deviate from existing international recommendations.

#### A. Population

#### 1. Size and geographical distribution

15. Given that the population constitutes the data base from which the data for all other topics are generated, or to which they are related, it is recommended that data concerning the size of the population be presented by single years for the first level of detail, in five-year groups for the second and in eight age groups for the third. Even at the third level, the first five-year group should be subdivided into the population under one year and from one to four years old to permit an analysis of infant morbidity and mortality. The age range for this item is 0 to 99 and 100+.

#### 2. Births by age of mother

- 16. For the highest level of detail data should be presented in single years from ages 10 to 49. The single-year data are considered important for fertility analyses and for detailed cross-tabulations with education, employment, morbidity/mortality and social security/welfare services data. At the second level of detail, single years are replaced by five-year groups. While less detailed, this classification still permits policy-oriented analyses, such as the relationship between childbearing and educational attainment, participation in the labour force among young mothers, or mortality and morbidity among women from the oldest five-year groups.
- 17. Even at the lowest level of detail, child-bearing women can still be identified in groups of potentially greatest policy interest, e.g., very young mothers and women of ages during which the majority of first births occur. In addition to under 15- and 15 to 24-year olds, women aged 25-44 are identifiable. The complete age range covers ages under 10 years to 45+ years.

#### 3. Infant deaths and other deaths

18. While age classifications for mortality data have been developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and appear to be widely used by national statistical offices, the most detailed set of age classifications recommended here for other than infant deaths is more detailed than that of WHO, in that it extends single years to age 89. This was done to meet the needs of demographers for the

s.y. = single years y.gr. = year groups a = day(s) m = month(s) u = unger

		Level of detail	
Subject area	1-Highest	2-Medium	3-Lowest
A. Population			
<pre>1. Size and geographical     distribution</pre>	s.y. 0-99; 100+	u l; l-4; 5 y.gr. 5-99; 100+	1 u 1; 1-4; 5 y.gr. 5-14; 15-24; 20 y.gr. 25-64; 65+
2. Births by age of mother	u 10; s.y. 10-49; 50+	u 10; 5 y.gr. 10-49; 50+	u 10; 10-14; 15-24; 25-44; 45+
3. a. Deaths other than infant	s.y. 0-89; 90+	u 1; 1-4; 10 y.gr. 5-74; 75+	u 1; 1-14; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
b. Deaths - infant	u la; s.a. 1-6; 7-13 d; 14-20 d; 21-27 a; 28 d - u 2 m; s.m. 2-12 (but under 1 y)	u la; l-6 d; 7-27 a; 28 d - u 3 m;   3-5 m; 6 m - u l Y	u 7 a; 7-27 à; 28 à - u 1 y
4. Internal migration	s.y. 0-24; 5 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; 10 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
5. International migration	s.y. 0-24; 5 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; 10 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
6. Institutional population	s.y. 0-24; 5 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; 10 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
B. Family formation, families and households			
1. Marriage and divorce	u 15; s.y. 15-29; 5 y.gr. 30-84; 85+	1 u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr. 25-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
2. Family and household composition	u 15; s.y. 15-29; 5 y.gr. 30-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
C. Learning and education services			
<ol> <li>Enrolment in regular and adult education</li> </ol>	s.y. 2-24; 5 y.gr. 25-74; 75+	2-4; 5 y.gr. 5-24; 10 y.gr. 25-64;   65+	2-14; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
2. Educational attainment	s.y. 15-24; 5 y.gr. 25-74; 75+	   5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr. 25-64; 65+	15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
3. Illiteracy	s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-74; 75+	5 y.gr. 10-24; 10 y.gr. 25-64; 65+	1 10-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
D. Earning activities and the inactive		•	
1. Labour force participation	u 10; s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54; s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
<ol> <li>Employment/unemployment/ underemployment</li> </ol>	u 10; s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+ 	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+

		Level of detail	
Subject area	1-Highest	2-Medium	3-Lowest
3. Employment compensation	u 10; s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54; s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr. 25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
4. Inactive population	u 10; s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54; s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
E. Distribution of income, consumption and accumulation			
1. Total household income	u 15; s.y. 15-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
<ol><li>Current transfers and social benefits</li></ol>	u 15; s.y. 15-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
<ol> <li>Household consumption expenditure</li> </ol>	lu 15; s.y. 15-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	lu 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr. 25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
F. Social security and welfare services			
1. Coverage by social security and similar schemes	u l; s.y. l-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; l0 y.gr. 25-54;   5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
<ol> <li>Recipients of social security, social assistance and similar benefits</li> </ol>	u l; s.y. 1-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; l0 y.gr. 25-54;   5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
G. Health, health services and nutrition			
<pre>1. Morbitiy and handicaps   (for mortality see I)</pre>	u 1; s.y. 1-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u l; 1-4; 10 y.gr. 5-74; 75+	   u l; l-14; l5-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+ 
2. Usage of health services	u 1; s.y. 1-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54; s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u l; l-4; l0 y.gr. 5-74; 75+	u l; l-l4; l5-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
3. Food consumption	u l; s.y. 1-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 1; 1-4; 10 y.gr. 5-74; 75+	u l; l-14; l5-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
4. Malnutrition	u 1; s.y. 1-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54; s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 1; 1-4; 10 y.gr. 5-74; 75+	u l; l-14; l5-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
H. Housing and its environment			
<ol> <li>Characteristics of occupied living quarters</li> </ol>	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
2. Time used for travel	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	i   u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+ 

		Level of detail	
Subject area	l-Highest	2-Medium	3-Lowest
<ol> <li>Public order and safety</li> </ol>			
<ol> <li>Characteristics of offenders and dispositions</li> </ol>	u 10; s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-64; 65+	u 10; 5 y.gr. 10-24; 10 y.gr.   25-64; 65+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
2. Characteristics of victims	5 y.gr. 0-84; 85+	u 15; 10 y.gr. 15-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
3. Persons in correctional institutions	u 10; s.y. 10-24; 5 y.gr. 25-64; 65+	u 10; 5 y.gr. 10-24; 10 y.gr.   25-64; 65+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
J. Time use			
1. Time budgets	5 Y.gr. 0-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; 10 y.gr. 25-54;   5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
K. Leisure and culture			
<ol> <li>Participants in, and users of, leisure and cultural activities</li> </ol>	5 y.gr. 0-84; 85+	5 y.gr. 0-24; 10 y.gr. 25-54;   5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
<ol> <li>Consumption expenditure on leisure and cultural activities</li> </ol>	u 15; s.y. 15-24; 5 y.gr. 25-54;   s.y. 55-74; 5 y.gr. 75-84; 85+	u 15; 5 y.gr. 15-24; 10 y.gr.   25-54; 5 y.gr. 55-74; 75-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
L. Social stratification and mobility			
1. Socio-economic groups	5 y.gr. 0-84; 85+	i u 15; 10 y.gr. 15-84; 85+	i u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+
2. Intra-generational mobility	   5 y.gr. 0-84; 85+	u 15; 10 Y.gr. 15-84; 85+	u 15; 15-24; 25-44; 45-64; 65+

construction of life tables in order to permit accuracy checks of age information with regard to age-heaping, as well as to match the level of detail provided for in a number of other subject areas whose data are frequently cross-tabulated with mortality data. Age classifications shown here for infant deaths on all levels and, on the second level of detail, those for deaths other than infants', are identical to those recommended by WHO. At the third level of detail, the age classification for deaths other than infants' deviates, from the lowest level of detail recommended by WHO, in that it separately identifies the 15 to 24-year olds, in addition to the age groups under 1, 1-14, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+. This was considered desirable because many characteristics of 15 to 24-year olds differ sufficiently from those of the 25 to 44-year old population to cause considerable loss of information in cross-tabulations of mortality data with data from other subject areas. The age range is 0-89 and 90+ at the first level; under 1, 1-74 and 75+ at the second level; and under 1, 1-64 and 65+ at the third level of detail.

#### 4. Internal and international migration and institutional population

19. Identical age classifications are used for the remaining three topics in the subject area of population. The first set of classifications provides for single-year data for the population under 25, and five-year groups thereafter; in the second set, five-year groups replace single years and ten-year groups replace five-year groups; and the third identifies five separate groups, namely, those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The detail for the under 25-year olds permits, inter alia, the analysis of the relationship between migration and entry into the labour force, or the assessment of the impact of migration on school enrolment projections. The age ranges are 0-84 and 85+ for the first and second sets, and 0-64 and 65+ for the third set. While not specifically covered under this subject area, characteristics such as origin, ethnicity, language and religion might also lend themselves to classification by age according to the groupings recommended for migration and institutional population.

#### B. Family formation, families and households

- 20. Identical age classifications are used for marriage and divorce, and family and household statistics. At the highest level of detail, the recommendation is to present data in single years for ages 15-29 and in five-year groups for ages 29-84. As indicated for other topics, this set of classifications permits detailed cross-tabulations with data from many other subject areas. Providing single-year data for ages 15-29 should be sufficient to accommodate the nationally varying legal age for marriage and its impact on fertility patterns.
- 21. At the second level of detail, single-year data have been replaced with five-year age groups, and five-year groups have been replaced with ten-year age groups (with the exception of the 25-29-year olds) to permit comparison and cross-tabulation of data from other relevant subject areas for corresponding ages and age groups. Likewise, the age groups recommended for the third level of detail are compatible with those for other subject areas by distinguishing among those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The age range for this subject area is under 15 to 85+ years for the first and second set of classifications, and under 15-65+ for the third.

#### C. Learning and educational services

#### 1. Enrolment in regular and adult education

22. Age groupings in this area require maximum flexibility because of the varying minimum ages for both compulsory and pre-school education. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommends the tabulation of population data from age two onwards for use in relation to enrolment in regular education, and that recommendation is reflected in table 1. Thus, at the first level of detail, presentation of data by single years is recommended for ages 2-24, followed by five-year groups from age 25-74 and 75+ (for use in relation to adult education as well). While that set of classifications exceeds the level of detail in the UNESCO recommendation 3/ for purposes of compatibility with other topics, it does not as such contradict UNESCO recommendations, since its age groups can be aggregated to those recommended by UNESCO without requiring any disaggregation. The second level of detail, with three-year-groups for the 2- to 4-year olds, five-year groups for the 5- to 24-year olds, and ten-year groups for the 25- to 64-year olds and 65+, corresponds exactly to the classification recommended by UNESCO. The third level of detail contains five age groups identifying the population aged 2-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+.

#### 2. Educational attainment

23. At the first and third levels of detail, the age classifications for data on educational attainment follow the same patterns as those for enrolment, except that the population aged 15-75+, rather than 2-75+, is classified. At the second level of detail, the UNESCO recommendation is followed - namely, 15-19, 20-24, ten-year groups for the 25- to 64-year olds and 65+. The third level of detail contains four age groups identifying the population aged 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+.

#### 3. Illiteracy

24. For illiteracy data, the classifications follow the patterns for educational attainment; however, the population aged 10-75+ - rather than that 15-75+ - is covered. The age ranges for this subject area vary by topic. For enrolment they are 2-75+ years for the first level of detail, and 2-65+ years for the second and third levels. For attainment they are 15-75+ years for the first level of detail, and 15-65+ years for the second and third levels. For illiteracy they are 10-75+ years for the first level of detail, and 10-65+ years for the second and third levels.

<sup>3/</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "Revised recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics", Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session, vol. I, annex I, p. 18.

#### D. Earning activities and the inactive

- 25. Identical age classifications are used for the topics under this subject area, that is, labour force participation, employment/unemployment/underemployment, employment compensation and inactive population. Age groupings for this subject area take account of varying minimum legal or lowest actual ages for entry into the labour force, and of changing retirement ages in both developing and developed countries. As a result, the age classification at the highest level of detail calls for more single-year categories than any of the previous subject areas. Thus, at the highest level of detail, data presentation by single years is recommended for ages 10-24 and 55-74, with five-year groups for ages 25-54 and 75-84. At the lower end of the spectrum, single-year data are recommended for ages 10-24, to permit detailed analyses concerning child labour and the population entering the labour force after completion of tertiary education.
- 26. At the second level of detail, single years have been replaced by five-year groups and five-year groups by ten-year groups. The third level identifies five groups those under 15, and those 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old, in accordance with the other subject areas. The age range for this subject area is under 10 to 85+ years for the first level of detail, under 15 to 85+ years for the second, and under 15 to 65+ years for the third.

#### E. Distribution of income, consumption and accumulation

27. Because of the close relationship between this subject area and the preceding one, age classifications used are identical to those discussed under D above.

#### F. Social security and welfare services

- 28. Eligibility for social security and welfare services, in many instances, appears to be tied to age and/or employment status, as is the case, for instance, with programmes for children, unemployed or retired workers. Age criteria connected with childhood and employment status vary from country to country, and it appears that significant amounts of single-year data are required to permit detailed and accurate analysis of coverage by, and receipt of, social security and similar benefits and the relationship between those and other personal characteristics.
- 29. Thus, the age classifications, which are identical for both topics covered under this subject area, call for single-year data for ages under one to 24 and ages 55-74 at the first level of detail. Five-year groups are recommended for ages 25-54 and 75-84. At the second level of detail, single-year data have been replaced with five-year groups, and five-year data with ten-year groups. At the lowest level of detail, five groups are identifiable those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The age range for this subject area is 0-85+ for the first and second levels of detail, and 0-65+ for the third.

#### G. Health, health services and nutrition

30. Identical age classifications are used for the topics covered under this subject area - morbidity and handicaps, usage of health services, food consumption

and malnutrition. Data collected under this subject area are potentially closely connected with data from most of the previous subject areas. The age classifications for this subject area should, therefore, permit ready crosstabulation and comparison with data from other subject areas. To achieve that objective, the set of classifications with the highest level of detail requires an extensive number of single-year categories. Thus, single years are used at this level for ages 0-24 and 55-74, with five-year groups for ages 25-54 and 75-84. At the second level of detail, the recommended age classification is identical to that recommended by WHO - under one, 1-4, and ten-year groups for ages 5-74. The third level identifies the population aged under one, 1-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ to achieve compatibility with the age classifications for deaths other than infants'. This is a somewhat higher degree of detail than has been recommended for most of the other subject areas. The age range for this subject area is under one to 85+ years for the first level of detail, under one to 75+ years for the second, and under one to 65+ for the third.

#### H. Housing and its environment

- 31. Identical age classifications are used for the two topics covered under this subject area characteristics of occupied living quarters and time used for travel. The highest level of detail calls for five-year groups for ages 15-84, which should be sufficient for detailed comparison with data from other subject areas.
- 32. At the second level of detail, five-year groups have been maintained for ages 15-24 and 55-74 in order to permit fairly detailed analyses of relationships between data from those topics, and characteristics such as employment status or income. For ages 25-54 and 75-84, five-year groups have been replaced by ten-year groups at this level. At the third level of detail, five groups can be identified those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The age range for this subject area is under 15 to 85+ years for the first and second levels of detail, and under 15 to 65+ years for the third.

#### I. Public order and safety

#### 1. Characteristics of offenders and dispositions

33. Since the minimum age of legal responsibility varies from country to country, age classifications for this topic should provide for utmost flexibility among the younger population. Because legal responsibility for persons under the age of 10 years is rare, and possibly non-existent, the highest level of detail calls for single years from age 10-24, and for five-year groups for those aged 25-64. Single-year data are extended to age 24, because it appears that most crimes are committed by the population aged 15-24, so that any detailed analysis would particularly focus on this group. Likewise, the incidence of crimes committed after age 64 is negligible. At the second level, single years have been replaced by five-year groups, and five-year groups by ten-year groups. The third level of detail identifies five age groups - those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years of age. The age range for this topic is under 10 to 65+ years for the first and second levels of detail, and under 15 to 65+ years for the third.

#### 2. Characteristics of victims

34. The first level of detail provides for five-year groups for ages 0-84; the second level aggregates the population 0-14 with uniform ten-year groups for those aged 15-84; the third level identifies five groups - those 0-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The age range for this topic is 0-85+ years for the first and second levels of detail and 0-65+ years for the third.

#### 3. Persons in correctional institutions

35. Age classifications recommended for this topic are identical to those described under section 1 above.

#### J. Time use

36. For this subject area, five-year groups for ages 0-84 are used at the highest level of detail. At the second level of detail, five-year groups are maintained for the 0-24-year olds and 55-74-year olds, with ten-year groups for ages 25-54 and 75-84. Thus, changes in time budgets remain separately identifiable in considerable detail for the periods which broadly mark school and labour force entry and exit, involving significant changes in time use for large proportions of the population. The ten-year periods, on the other hand, are considered fairly stable with regard to time use. At the lowest level of detail, five groups are identifiable - those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The age range for this subject area is 0-85+ years for the first and second levels of detail and 0-65+ years for the third.

#### K. Leisure and culture

#### 1. Participants in, and users of, leisure and cultural activities

37. The age classifications recommended for this topic at all three levels of detail are identical to those for time use, discussed in section J above.

#### 2. Consumption expenditure on leisure and cultural activities

38. The age classifications recommended for this topic at all three levels of detail are identical to those for distribution of income, consumption and accumulation, discussed in section E above.

#### L. Social stratification and mobility

39. Identical classifications are recommended for both of the topics covered under this subject area - socio-economic groups and intra-generational mobility. For the first level of detail, five-year groups are used for ages 0-84. At the second level of detail, the five-year groups are replaced by ten-year groups, except for the population under 15 years of age. The lowest level of detail identifies five groups - those under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years old. The age range for this subject area is 0-85+ years for the first and second levels of detail, and 0-65+ years for the third.

#### Annex

#### Existing international recommendations on age classification

- 1. Over time, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the regional commissions and several specialized agencies have developed specific recommendations concerning age classifications for a number of different purposes (see below).
- 2. Contributions to the standardization of age classifications in the area of data presentation have also come from publications of international statistics, as shown below for <u>Demographic Yearbook</u>, 1977.

#### A. Statistical Office

#### 1. Vital statistics

- 3. Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System a/contains general definitions of age classifications as well as a list of recommended tabulations for utilizing them. The following classifications are recommended:
- (a) Infant age at death into 22 age groups under 24-hours; single days to six; 7-13, 14-20, 21-27 days, 28 days to under two months, and single months to 11 months inclusive;
- (b) Age at death for persons other than infants into at least 23 age groups under one year, single years to 4, five-year groups 5-84 and 85+ years;
- (c) Age of partners at marriage and age of divorcees into at least 15 age groups under 15, five-year groups 15-74, and 75+ years;
- (d) Age distribution of the population in single years and in five-year groups.

#### 2. International tourism

4. Provisional Guidelines on Statistics of International Tourism b/ includes the following age classification in the illustrative classifications for use in developing statistics of international tourism: under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years of age. For additional detail, the use of five-year age groups is suggested.

a/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XVII.9.

b/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XVII.6.

#### 3. Population and housing censuses

- 5. The recommendations concerning age classifications contained in the illustrative tables of <u>Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses c</u>/ show a clear trend towards utilization of five- and ten-year groups ending on four and nine, respectively. It appears that classifications contain fewer classes as the specificity of the tabulations increases. Where necessary, lower age limits are defined flexibly in recognition of national differences. This is, however, not true for upper age limits for example, as they relate to retirement. The recommendations are broadly compatible with those of the specialized agencies, but tend to be somewhat less detailed. They contain the following age classifications at various levels of detail (only the main substantive variables cross-classified by age are cited):
  - (a) Tabulations dealing with geographical and migration characteristics:
    - (i) Native and foreign-born population under one, one to four, five-year groups 5-74 and 75+ years;
    - (ii) Population by duration of residence under one, one to four, five-year groups 5-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
  - (b) Tabulations dealing with household characteristics:

Age of head of household or other reference member - under 25, twenty-year groups 25-64, 65+ years; other household members - under 15, 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;

- (c) Tabulations dealing with demographic and social characteristics:
  - (i) Population under one, single years 1-99, 100+ years; subtotals in five-year groups 1-84 and 85+ years;
  - (ii) Population by marital status under 15, single years 15-29, five-year groups 30-74 and 75+ years;
  - (iii) Population by country of citizenship under 15, 15-24, 20-year groups 25-64; and 65+ years;
    - (iv) Population by religion, language, national and/or ethnic group under five, ten-year groups 5-74, and 75+ years;
- (d) Tabulations dealing with fertility and mortality:
  - (i) Female population 15 years of age and over by number of children born alive/number of children living/educational attainment five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
  - (ii) Female population 15 years and over in their first marriage or married only once, by age at marriage and number of children born alive - under 15, five-year groups 15-34 and 35+ years;

c/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.8.

- (iii) Female population to 49 years of age by live births within the 12 months preceding the census and deaths among those live births under 15, five-year groups 15-49 years;
  - (iv) Population by maternal orphanhood five-year groups within the age limits adopted by the country for the investigation of maternal orphanhood;
- (e) Tabulations dealing with education characteristics:
  - (i) Population not attending school, by educational attainment ~ ...(usual age for entrance into school) to 14, ten-year groups 15-64and 65+ years;
  - (ii) Population ... to 24 years of age attending school, by educational attainment ... (usual age for entrance into the first level of school) to 9; five-year groups 10-24;
  - (iii) Population 10 years of age and over, by literacy five-year groups 10-34, ten-year groups 35-64 and 65+ years;
  - (iv) Population ... (usual age for entrance into the first level of school) to 24 years of age, by school attendance - single years to 24 years of age;
    - (v) Population that has successfully completed a course of study at the third level of education - under 20, 20-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (f) Tabulations dealing with economic characteristics:
  - (i) Population by activity status under 15, ₫/ five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
  - (ii) Economically active population, by occupation (same for industry and status in employment) - under 15, d/ five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
  - (iii) Economically active population, by occupation (same for industry) and educational attainment under 15, d/ 15-19, 20-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
    - (iv) Economically active population, by occupation (same for educational attainment) and place of usual residence (same for duration of residence) - under 15, d/ 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
    - (v) Economically active female population, by occupation (same for status in employment) and marital status - under 15, d/ 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;

d/ Should include all ages between the minimum age limit adopted by the country for census questions on economic activity and 14 years, if the minimum is below 15 years.

- (vi) Population not economically active, by functional categories under 15, d/ five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (vii) Economically active population, by hours worked during the weeks, or months worked during the year, d/ five-year groups 15-34, ten-year groups 35-64 and 65+ years;
- (g) Tabulations dealing with housing characteristics:
  - (i) Households, by type of living quarters and age of head of household under 15, 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
  - (ii) Homeless households, by age of head of household under 15, 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years.

#### 4. Migration

- 6. The recommended tabulations of migrant flow and the immigrant stock contained in Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration e/ show the following age classifications (only the main substantive variables cross-classified by age are cited):
  - (a) Tabulations dealing with arriving migrants:
    - (i) Arriving migrants, by category under 5, five-year groups 5-64 and 65+ years;
    - (ii) Long-term immigrants, by marital status (same for country of last stay of more than one year) - under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
    - (iii) Long-term immigrants at or above the usual age for entrance into school, by educational attainment - ... to 9, five-year groups 10-24, ten-year groups 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
    - (iv) Long-term immigrants who have successfully completed a course of study at the third level of education, by educational qualifications (same for country in which education at the third level was received) - under 20, 20-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
      - (v) Long-term immigrants at or above the minimum age adopted for investigating the economically active population - under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
    - (vi) Short-term immigrants, by marital status and category under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;

e/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.18.

- (vii) Short-term immigrants, by country of last stay of more than one year and category - under 15, five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
- (viii) Short-term emigrants returning after working abroad, by country in which last worked - under 15, five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
  - (ix) Nomads entering, by duration of absence and intended duration of stay - under 15, 15-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
- (b) Tabulations dealing with departing migrants:
  - (i) Departing migrants, by category under 5, five-year groups 5-64 and 65+ years;
  - (ii) Long-term emigrants, by marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
  - (iii) Long-term emigrants, by country of intended stay under 15, five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
    - (iv) Long-term emigrants at or above the usual age for entrance into school, by educational attainment - ... to 9, five-year groups 10-24, ten-year groups 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
      - (v) Long-term emigrants who have successfully completed a course of study at the third level of education, by educational qualifications (same for country in which education at the third level was received) - under 20, 20-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
    - (vi) Long-term emigrants at or above the minimum age adopted for investigating the economically active population, by economic activity status in country of emigration - under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
  - (vii) Short-term emigrants, by marital status and category under 15,
     five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
  - - (ix) Short-term immigrants departing, by marital status and category under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
    - (x) Nomads departing, by duration of stay and intended duration of absence under 15, 15-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
- (c) Tabulations dealing with immigrant stock:
  - (i) Immigrant stock, by period of arrival and country of birth 1-4, five-year groups 5-64 and 65+ years;

- (ii) Immigrant stock, by marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
- (iii) Immigrant stock at or above the usual age of entrance into school, by educational attainment ... to 9, five-year groups 10-24, ten-year groups 25-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
  - (iv) Immigrant stock who have successfully completed a course of study at the third level of education, by educational qualifications (same for country in which education at the third level was received) under 20, 20-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
  - (v) Immigrant stock at or above the minimum age adopted for enumerating the economically active population, by economic activity status under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
- (vi) Female immigrant stock 15 years of age and over, by country of birth and number of children born alive (same for number of children living) - five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years.

There are no international guidelines on age classifications for statistics of internal migration.

#### 5. Demographic Yearbook, 1977

- 7. <u>Demographic Yearbook</u> uses a number of different types of classifications. However, all classifications, except those for infant deaths and native and foreign-born population, are based on five-year groups ending on four and nine or permitting aggregation to that effect. The age classification for infant deaths conforms with WHO recommendations at the lowest level of detail. With the obvious exception of data related to infant deaths, all data are classified or classifiable by five-year groups up to age 24. The following age classifications are used:
- (a) Population, deaths and death rates under one, five-year groups 1-84 and 85+ years;
- (b) Live births and legally induced abortions, by age of mother under 15, five-year groups 15-49 and 50+ years;
- (c) Live birth rates specific for age of mother under 20, five-year groups 20-44 and 45+ years;
- (d) Infant deaths and infant mortality rates under one, 1-6, 7-27, 28-364 and under 365 days;
- (e) Marriages, by age of groom and age of bride under 15, five-year groups 15-59 and 60+ years;
- (f) Long-term emigrants and immigrants under 5, five-year groups 5-54 and 55+ years;
- (g) Native and foreign-born population under one, five-year groups 1-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years.

#### B. Regional commissions

#### 1. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

- 8. The Working Party on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics, which was convened in 1975 by the Conference of European Statisticians, "agreed that a minimum classification common to all subsystems should comprise the following broad groups defined in terms of age at the end of the year: 0-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64 and 65 and over.
- 9. Attention was also drawn to the need for a summary classification distinguishing persons below the minimum employment age, those of working age and those above the normal retirement age. Since the minimum employment age and the normal retirement age vary among countries, the Working Party agreed that countries which wish to use such a classification should determine the dividing lines between the categories, in accordance with national circumstances.  $\underline{\mathbf{f}}/$
- 10. In Recommendations for the 1980 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region, g/ the Conference of European Statisticians set out detailed specifications for all recommended tabulations. On the whole, the recommendations are compatible with the global census recommendations. c/ They include the age classifications shown below (only the main substantive variables cross-classified by age are cited):
  - (a) Population under one, single years 1-99 and 100+ years;
- (b) Population, by migration status and area or major division of usual residence five-year groups 0-84 and 85+ years;
- (c) Population aged 15 and over, by marital status single years 15-29, five-year groups 30-84 and 85+ years;
- (d) Population, by country of birth (same for citizenship) five-year groups 0-84 and 85+ years;
- (e) Population, by type of activity male, under working age single years 15-24, five-year groups 25-54, single years 55-74 and 75+ years; female, under working age single years 15-24, five-year groups 25-39, single years 40-74 and 75+ years;
- (f) Female population, by marital status and type of activity under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (g) Not economically active population, by type of activity five-year groups 0-74 and 75+ years;

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{f}$ / Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Working Party on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics, "Report of the fifth session, held at Geneva, 28 April-2 May 1975" (CES/WP.34/18).

g/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.E.6.

- (h) Economically active population, by occupation under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (i) Persons in employment by industry (same for status) under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
  - (j) Population, by socio-economic group five-year groups 0-74 and 75+ years;
- (k) Population over the minimum school-leaving age, by educational attainment under 15, five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (1) Population over the minimum school-leaving age, by socio-economic group (same for occupation and industry) and educational attainment under 15, five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (m) Population in private households (same for institutional households and other communal establishments), by position in household/marital status five-year groups 0-84 and 85+ years;
- (n) Wives and lone mothers in family nuclei, by type of activity, number of children in family nucleus and age of youngest child under 20, five-year groups 20-64 and 65+ years;
- (o) Husband/wife family nuclei in private households, by number of children under a specified age under 20, five-year groups 20-64 and 65+ years;
- (p) Private household reference members under 20, five-year groups 20-84 and 85+ years.

#### 2. Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

- ll. For users of the data bank containing the census data of the member countries of the Commission, the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (CELADE) has prepared a series of age classifications. For the 1970 censuses, seven different classifications were prepared h/ for cross-classification with other variables, as shown below (only the main substantive variables cross-classified by age are cited). The basic features of these classifications are highly compatible with the global census recommendations: c/
- (a) Population single years 0-98, 99+ years; five-year groups 0-94, 95-98 and 99+ years;
- (b) Population aged 10 years and over, by type of activity five-year groups 10-84 and 85+ years;
- (c) Economically active population aged 10 years and over, by occupation (same for industry and residence, migration and educational attainment) ten-year groups 10-49 and 50+ years;

h/ Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía, Boletín del Banco de Datos, Santiago, 1974.

- (d) Population aged 10 years and over, by literacy single years and five-year groups 10-24, five-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (e) Population aged 5-24 years, by educational enrolment single years and five-year groups;
- (f) Population aged 15 and over, by educational attainment 15-19, ten-year groups 20-59 and 60+ years;
  - (g) Population by residence five-year groups 0-84 and 85+ years;
- (h) Population aged 10 years and over, by type of activity and educational attainment (same for residence) ten-year groups 10-49 and 50+ years;
- (i) Household members, by relationship to the head of household and marital status five-year groups 15-49 and 50+ years;
- (j) Population, by orphanhood of mother and educational attainment 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, ten-year groups 20-59 and 60+ years;
- (k) Female population aged 15 years and over, by marital status (same for educational attainment and type of activity) and number of liveborn children five-year groups 15-49 and 50+ years.
- 12. Additional recommendations for Latin America were developed by the Inter-American Statistical Institute, through its Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS), which adopted standards for the 1980 Census of America (COTA-1980) as part of the Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics (PIEB). i/ The recommended tabulations which involve age classifications are shown below (only the main substantive variables cross-classified with age are cited):
- (a) Population single years 0-100; under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-84 and 85+ years;
- (b) Population, by marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-84 and 85+ years;
- (c) Heads of household and other household members, by relationship to the head of the household head of household under 29, 30-44, 45-59 and 60+ years; other members of the household 0-14, 15-29, 30-44, 45-59 and 60+ years;
- (d) Population, by place of birth under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-84 and 85+ years;
- (e) Foreign-born population, by country of birth under 5, ten-year groups 5-64 and 65+ years;
- (f) Foreign-born population by year of arrival in the country under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;

i/ Inter-American Statistical Institute, "Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics" (7398a), sects. I.A and II.A.

- (g) Native-born population, by place of birth under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-84 and 85+ years;
- (h) Population, by country of citizenship 0-14, 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years (it is recommended that the age group which includes the minimum voting age be subdivided to show persons who have attained voting age);
- (i) Population, by place of usual residence and duration of residence under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (j) Population whose usual residence in the major civil division is less than five years, by marital status (same for type of activity) under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
- (k) Economically active population whose residence in the major civil division is less than five years, by branch of economic activity (same for occupational status) under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
- (1) Population whose usual residence in the major civil division is less than five years, by level of education five-year groups 5-29, 30-39 and 40+ years;
- (m) Population, by type of activity under 15 (all ages between the minimum age limit adopted by the country for the census questions on economic activity and 14 years, if the minimum is below 15 years, when the minimum age limit adopted is below 15 years, it is suggested that it be presented year by year); single years 15-19, five-year groups 20-84 and 85+ years;
- (n) Female population, by type of activity and marital status under 15, j/five-year groups 15-84 and 85+ years;
- (o) Not economically active population, by component groups under 15,  $\underline{i}$ / five-year groups 15-84 and 85+ years;
- (p) Economically active (same for employed population), by branch of economic activity (same for occupation and occupational status) under 15,  $\underline{j}$ / five-year groups 15-84 and 85+ years;
- (q) Economically active (same for employed population), by occupation and marital status under 15, j/ 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (r) Economically active population, by occupation, place of usual residence and duration of residence under 25,  $\underline{k}$  twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;

j/ All ages between the minimum age limit adopted by the country for the census questions on economic activity and 14 years, if the minimum is below 15 years.

k/ All ages starting with the minimum age limit adopted by the country for census questions on economic activity.

- (s) Economically active female population, by occupational status and marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years;
- (t) Population 10 years of age and over, by literacy five-year groups 10-84 and 85+ years;
- (u) Population five years of age and over, by level of education single years 5-19, five-year groups 20-34, ten-year groups 35-64 and 65+ years;
- (v) Population five years of age and over attending accredited educational institutions, by level of education attained single years 5-19, five-year groups 20-29, 30-39 and 40+ years;
- (w) Economically active population, by occupation (same for branch of economic activity) and level of education - under 15, j/ five-year groups 15-34, ten-year groups 35-64 and 65+ years;
- (x) Economically active population, by level of education, place of usual residence and duration of residence under 25, k/ ten-year groups 25-44 and 45+ years;
- (y) Population 15 years of age and over, by academic degrees under 20, 20-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (z) Female population, by number of children born alive (same for number of children alive) and education under 15, five-year groups 15-84 and 85+ years;
- (aa) Children born alive during the year prior to the census date, by mother's age group and marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-49 and 50+ years;
- (bb) Population by maternal orphanage under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-59 and 60+ years.

#### 3. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- 13. In "Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses" (ST/ESCAP/52), the Commission lists the tabulations to be prepared and cites the age classifications to be used in the tabulations. The age classifications shown below are compatible with the global census recommendations  $\underline{c}$ / (only the main substantive variables cross-classified by age are cited):
- (a) Population, by geographical distribution single years 0-99, 100+ years; under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-84 and 85+ years;
- (b) Population, by marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (c) Native and foreign-born population under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-74 and 75+ years;
- (d) Foreign-born population by country of birth under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-74 and 75+ years;

- (e) Native population, by major civil division of birth five-year groups 0-74 and 75+ years;
- (f) Population, 1/ by type of activity under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (g) Population not economically active,  $\underline{1}$ / by functional categories under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (h) Economically active population, 1/ by industry (same for occupation and status) under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (i) Economically active population,  $\underline{1}$ / by occupation and marital status under 15, 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (j) Female population, 1/ by type of activity and marital status under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (k) Population 10 years of age and over, by literacy five-year groups 10-34, ten-year groups 35-64 and 65+ years;
- (1) Population 15 years of age and over, by educational attainment five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (m) Population 1-29 years of age,  $\underline{m}$ / by school attendance and educational attainment (same for ethnic or national groups) ... to 9, and five-year groups 10-29;
  - (n) Population ... to 29 years of age, m/ by school attendance single years;
- (o) Economically active population, 1/ by occupation and educational attainment under 15, five-year groups 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (p) Female population 15 years of age and over, by number of children born alive (same for educational attainment and number of children living) five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (q) Population, by religion (same for language) under five, ten-year groups 5-74 and 75+ years;
- (r) Population by duration of residence in locality and major civil division - under one, 1-4, five-year groups 5-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;

<sup>1/</sup> At or above minimum age-limit adopted by the country for census questions on economic activity.

m/ The lower age-limit should be the usual age for entrance into school, and the upper age-limit should be extended as appropriate.

- (s) Population, by country of citizenship under 15, 15-24, twenty-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years (it is suggested that the age group which includes the minimum voting age be subdivided);
- (t) Female population 15 years of age and over, by number of own children living with them for children of ages under 10 five-year groups 15-44 and 45+ years;
- (u) Female population 15 years of age and over, by age at first marriage, duration of marriage and number of children born alive under 15, five-year groups 15-34 and 35+ years;
- (v) Ever-married population 15 years of age and over, by present age under 15, five-year groups 15-54 and 55+ years; by age at marriage single years 15-29 and 30+ years;
- (w) Live births during past 12 months for women, by age, whether birth registered and number of children still living - under 15, five-year groups 15-44 and 45+ years;
- (x) Economically active population, by primary and secondary occupation under 15, five-year groups 15-24, ten-year groups 25-64 and 65+ years;
- (y) Population 10 years of age and over of ethnic or nationality groups, by literacy five-year groups 10-34, ten-year groups 35-64 and 65+ years;
- (z) Disabled population, by type of disability five-year groups 0-24, ten-year groups 25-44, 45-49, 50-59 and 60+ years;
- (aa) Population 15 years of age and over, by professional or vocational education under 20, five-year groups 20-49 and 50+ years;
- (bb) Population by main source of livelihood under 15, five-year groups 15-74 and 75+ years;
- (cc) Economically active population, by the time worked under 15, five-year groups 15-29, ten-year groups 30-59, five-year groups 60-69 and 70+ years;
- (dd) Population, by income under 15, five-year groups 15-29, ten-year groups 30-59, five-year groups 60-69 and 70+ years;
- (ee) Households and persons in households, by type of living quarters and age of head of household under 15, 15-29, 30-44, 45-64 and 65+ years.

#### 4. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

- 14. The Working Group on Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses in Africa discussed the global census recommendations  $\underline{c}$ / and in its report (E/CN.14/CPH/47) prepared a list of recommended minimum tabulations. The list includes four tabulations for which an age classification is provided, namely:
  - (a) Population, by single years of age and sex;

- (b) Population, by five-year age groups and sex;
- (c) Population 6-24 years of age, by school attendance, single years of age and sex;
- (d) Population, by five-year age groups, survivorship of parents and sex. The recommendations are compatible with the global census recommendations. <a href="mailto:c/">c/</a>

#### 5. Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)

15. The Commission's recommendations are contained in the report of its expert group on census techniques. n/ The Commission urges the countries of the region to follow as much as possible international definitions and concepts in order to permit regional and international comparisons.

## C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- 16. The General Conference of UNESCO held in November 1978, adopted a revised recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics. O/ The revision includes recommended age classifications for statistics concerning illiteracy, educational attainment and population in relation to enrolment.
- 17. According to the recommendation, data on illiteracy are to be classified by age in the following groups: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64 and 65 years and over. With the exclusion of age group 10-14, the same age groups are recommended for data on educational attainment. For data related to enrolment, the population 2-24 years of age should be tabulated by single years of age and according to the latest census and current estimates. If this is not possible, census data and current estimates should be reported at least for the age groups 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 years, and separately for the compulsory school-age population. No specific recommendations were made for ages above 24 years. Clearly those age groupings are intended for tabulations relating to enrolment in regular education, and not adult education.
- 18. The General Conference also adopted a recommendation concerning the

n/ Economic Commission for Western Asia, "Final report of the Expert Group Meeting on Census Techniques, held at Beirut, 12-16 December 1977", Population Bulletin of the United Nations, No. 15, December 1978.

o/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
"Revised recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational
Statistics", Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session, vol. I, annex I,
p. 18.

International Standardization of Statistics on Science and Technology. p/ The recommendation includes an age classification for scientists and engineers and for technicians employed in institutions dealing with scientific and technological activities. The recommended age groups are as follows: less than 29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 years and over.

#### D. World Health Organization

- 19. The International Classification of Diseases q/ includes separate age classifications for general purposes and for special statistics of infant mortality. Both sets of classifications provide for different levels of detail, as follows:
  - (a) Age classification for general purposes:
    - (i) Under one, single years to 4 years, five-year groups 5-84 and 85+ years;
    - (ii) Under one, 1-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75+ years;
    - (iii) Under one, 1-14, 15-44, 45-64 and 65+ years;
  - (b) Age classification for special statistics of infant mortality:
    - (i) By single days for the first week of life (under 24 hours, 1-6 days, 7-13 days, 14-20 days, 21-27 days, 28 days up to, but not including, two months, by single months of life from two months to one year (two, three, four ... 11 months);
    - (ii) Under 24 hours, 1-6 days, 7-27 days, 28 days up to, but not including, three months, three to five months, six months but under one year;
    - (iii) Under 7 days, 7-27 days, 28 days but under one year.
- 20. For lay reporting of morbidity and mortality data, WHO r/ recently recommended an age classification which combines elements from the classifications cited above. It recommends the following age groups: under 7 days, 7-27 days, 28 days to under one year, one to 4 years, 5-14 years, 15-44 years, 45-64 years and 65+ years.

p/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Statistics on Science and Technology", Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session, vol. I, annex I, p. 23.

g/ World Health Organization, <u>International Classification of Diseases</u>: 1975 Revision, Geneva, 1977, vol. I.

r/ World Health Organization, Lay Reporting of Health Information, Geneva, 1978.

### E. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

21. For the World Censuses of Agriculture,  $\underline{s}$ / age classifications were recommended for holders and members of their households as follows: under 10 years, 10-14, 10-year groups 15-64 and 65+ years.

#### F. International Labour Organisation (ILO)

22. In International Recommendations on Labour Statistics, t/ reference is made to the definitions adopted by the Statistical Commission at its fourteenth session, held in October 1966, concerning the economically active population and type of activity. The definitions were adopted as part of "Principles and recommendations for a population census" and "Principles and recommendations for a housing census". u/ According to those definitions, the minimum age-limit adopted for census questions on economic activity should be set in accordance with the conditions in each country, but should never be above 15 years. Any tabulations of economic characteristics not cross-classified by detailed age should at least distinguish between persons under 15 years of age and those 15 years of age and over. Beyond that, the ILO recommendations merely identify variables to be cross-tabulated by age or age group, without defining specific age classifications.

s/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture, Rome, 1976.

t/ International Labour Organisation, <u>International Recommendations on Labour Statistics</u>, International Labour Office, Geneva, 1976, chap. 2.C.

u/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/4283), para. 85.