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SYSTEM OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (SSDS)  
DRAFT GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL INDICATORS

Report of the Secretary-General

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This paper is designed to meet the request of the Statistical Commission that draft guidelines should be prepared on series of social indicators within the framework of the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) for consideration by the eighteenth session of the Commission. It reviews the international work on social indicators discusses the purposes, scope and concepts of the series, and the criteria and techniques of constructing them; and delineates the role of social indicators in the SSDS, the social concerns to which they are addressed and the proposed series themselves. The draft series of social indicators and the underlying social concerns are tabulated in the annex to this paper as well as discussed in the text.

2. The draft guidelines on the series of social indicators of the SSDS in this paper are intended to extend, modify and clarify those in the preliminary and final versions of "Towards a system of social and demographic statistics".<sup>1/</sup> The proposals in this paper reflect the results of work on social indicators that was carried out after the latter documents on the SSDS as a whole were prepared.

3. As in the case of document ST/STAT.68 and its final version, the proposals in this paper are designed to furnish guidelines on goals which statistically advanced countries would find useful to consider in developing a full body of social indicators. It is recognized in the draft guidelines that for this purpose, countries will, on the whole, wish to select and adopt series from the recommended social indicators in the light of their own social concerns and statistical system. It is not intended to start international reporting of comparable social indicators until a number of countries have evolved an appreciable body of social indicators and then only in step with the pace with which they compile and issue these series. The series of social indicators proposed in this paper are not intended to serve as guidelines on goals for developing these series in the case of statistically less advanced countries. This subject is to be dealt with in the further work on the SSDS.

4. This document is to be discussed and commented on by the fourth session of the Working Party on the System of Social and Demographic Statistics of the Conference of European Statisticians, which will meet 4-8 June 1974. It is hoped that the specialized agencies of the United Nations and certain other international agencies engaged in work on social indicators will be represented at the meeting. The report of the fourth session of the Working Party will be made available to the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission.

## I. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

5. After considering this document the eighteenth session of the Commission may wish:

(a) To recommend preliminary guidelines on series of social indicators in the context of the SSDS for the use of statistically advanced countries in developing a full body of social indicators, based on this document modified, as necessary, in the light of the Commission's discussions and conclusions;

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<sup>1/</sup> The preliminary version was issued as document ST/STAT.68, United Nations secretariat, 24 July 1973. The final version will be published toward the end of 1974.

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(b) To request that the preliminary guidelines should be issued and circulated;

(c) To request that a high order of priority should be given to formulating draft guidelines on social indicators in the context of an SSDS suited to the requirements and circumstances of the statistically less developed countries.

While the preliminary guidelines on social indicators may need to be modified in the light of the further work on the full SSDS, it is thought that the number of countries now engaged in developing series of social indicators will find them useful in that work.

## II. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES CONCERNING SOCIAL INDICATORS

6. Concerted work internationally on social indicators per se began in the late 1960s, stimulated by the increased national and international concerns about the conditions and quality of life and the distribution of the fruits of economic growth. This work is being carried on by world and regional intergovernmental bodies, such as members of the United Nations family, the Council of Europe, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, by non-profit bodies, such as the Social Science Research Councils of the Nordic countries, of the United Kingdom and of the United States and the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and by individual scholars. The purposes, character and scope, and construction of social indicators are still the major subjects of attention in many of these projects; the cross-national collection and compilation of comparable social indicators has been undertaken in a few projects.

7. The Social Science Research Councils of the Nordic countries sponsored an inquiry into levels of living in these countries which, in addition to objective indicators of standards of living, gathered data on individuals' perceptions and attitudes. Work at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan has concentrated on indicators of individuals' aspirations and perceptions. The Social Science Research Councils in the United Kingdom and in the United States have convened international conferences on social indicators.

8. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations are the intergovernmental bodies which have engaged in the most comprehensive work on social indicators. The statistical arms of the specialized agencies of the United Nations - the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Office, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization - are concerned with social indicators in their own areas of responsibility; the Council of Europe and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance are devoting a certain amount of attention to social indicators on a broad range of living conditions.

9. The Manpower and Social Affairs Directorate of OECD began in 1970 to delineate the social concerns to which social indicators should be addressed. This work was completed by the publication in 1973 of a list of social concerns that had been approved by the member countries of OECD.<sup>2/</sup> The list of social concerns focuses on defining goals in respect of the various aspects of individuals' well-being, sometimes in perceptual terms. The OECD Directorate is now engaged in formulating series of social indicators for purposes of monitoring the social concerns. Emphasis is being given to delineating the series in respect of the various social concerns that are conceptually best.

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<sup>2/</sup> List of Social Concerns Common to Most OECD Countries, Social Indicator Programme, Vol. 1, Manpower and Social Affairs Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, 1973.

10. The Statistical Office of the United Nations has taken a somewhat different approach to formulating series of social indicators and the social concerns to which they are addressed. Work has been carried on simultaneously on social concerns and social indicators within the context of the SSDS. Attention has been focussed on the subjects, and not the goals, of social concerns and the series of social indicators have been geared to the structure, basic data, and linkages of the SSDS, as well as to the social concerns.<sup>3/</sup> This work on social indicators began in early 1970 and resulted in the issue of the document "A system of demographic, manpower and social statistics: series, classifications and social indicators" ST/STAT.49.<sup>4/</sup> The paper was discussed by meetings in Africa, Asia and Europe and circulated to national statistical authorities for detailed comment.<sup>5/</sup> Based on the results of these consultations and of further research, proposals on social concerns and on series of social indicators were integrated into the draft guidelines on the SSDS as a whole in the document "A system of demographic and social statistics" (E/CN.3/432) that was discussed by the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission and the third session of the European Working Party on a System of Demographic and Social Statistics.<sup>6/</sup> The present paper reflects the conclusions of those discussions, the treatment of social indicators in the latest document on the SSDS as a whole (ST/STAT.68) and the studies of social indicators conducted during the last year or so.

### III. PURPOSES, SCOPE AND CONCEPTS OF SOCIAL INDICATORS

11. This section of the paper reviews the major views of international organizations, governments and private research bodies and scholars concerning the purposes, scope and concepts of social indicators and indicates the approach proposed in the case of the SSDS.<sup>7/</sup> The views differ as to the range and kind of uses which social indicators should be designed to serve and therefore as to the appropriate scope and character of social indicators. The differences in the concepts of social indicators also stem from differences in the approach taken to measurement and degree of aggregation.

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<sup>3/</sup> This approach to social indicators is much more fully discussed and compared with that of the OECD later in this paper.

<sup>4/</sup> Statistical Office of the United Nations, April 1971.

<sup>5/</sup> "Report of the seventh session of African statisticians, 13-22 October 1971", United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; "Report of the Working Group on Social Statistics, 27 September - 6 October 1971", ASTAT/WGSS/12, United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, "Report of the second session of the Working Party on a System of Demographic and Social Statistics", Conference of European Statisticians, WG.34/7, 24 May 1971.

<sup>6/</sup> Statistical Commission, Report on the Seventeenth Session, 13-24 November 1972, E/5236, E/CN.3/440, Economic and Social Council, Official Records: fifty-fourth session, Supplement No. 2, United Nations, New York 1973. "Report of the third session of the Working Party on a System of Demographic and Social Statistics", Conference of European Statisticians, WG.34/7, 31 May 1972.

<sup>7/</sup> Other discussions of this topic appear in Wolfgang Zapf, "Social indicators: Prospects for social accounting systems", Social science information, 11 (3/4), pp. 243-277; C.A. Moser, "Social indicators - systems, methods and problems", The Review of Income and Wealth, number 2, June 1973; and Robert Parke and Eleanor Sheldon, "Social indicators one year later: An overview", paper prepared for the Social Indicators Conference 1973, Social Science Research Council, Washington, D.C., mimeo.

A. Monitoring trends in well-being or welfare1. Well-being

12. Probably the narrowest view of the purposes for which social indicators are wanted is that they should be designed for easy monitoring by governments or the society of the degree of success (or failure) in reaching generally accepted goals in respect of individuals' well-being. For this purpose, the social indicators are restricted to those aspects of individuals' conditions of living for which goals have been formulated in government policies or in social consensus; and, ideally, the goals are defined in terms of comprehensive, fundamental (ultimate) objectives in respect of the state of the various aspects of well-being, for example maintaining a healthy life, acquiring an education for individual development and successful social participation, attaining a satisfactory working life. The social indicators required to monitor the extent to which these goals are reached are usually called measures of outputs (results) in counter distinction to measures relating to subsidiary (intermediate) goals, which are generally named measures of inputs. The measures in respect of subsidiary goals relate to two different types of objectives: one concerning the components (subdivisions) of the overall state of the various aspects of well-being and the other relating to facilities, activities, events, etc. for purposes of bringing about the desired states. Examples of the first concept are health at various stages of life, children's acquisition of knowledge, skills and values for their development and adults' maintenance, adaptation and extension of knowledge and skills or satisfactory employment activity and security, employment remuneration and impact of working conditions on health. Illustrations of the second concept are the provision and use of facilities for preventive medicine, surgery, etc., the successful completion of an elementary education and the provision and use of adult education facilities, the provision of employment opportunities, the provision and use of employment exchanges and protection against occupational injuries and diseases. It is desirable to distinguish the two concepts of intermediate goals, naming the first subsidiary or constituent outputs and the second, inputs. Because it is frequently not feasible to construct measures of comprehensive, ultimate objectives, in practice, the goals of social concerns are often defined in terms of subsidiary outputs.

13. Thus, the approach outlined above results in a limited number of highly aggregated, essentially unrelated social indicators which furnish an easily understood panorama of the extent to which social goals have been attained. This is approximately the view of social indicators taken in OECD's work on the subject.

14. While the approach under discussion results in easily grasped social indicators which bear directly on current government or general concerns, it yields limited information on states of, and trends in, welfare. Aspects of living conditions concerning which there is diversity of views as to desirable goals, for example the growth of population, or relatively little immediate interest, may not be covered. Little, if any, attention is devoted to the range (distribution) of states of welfare among categories of the population, for example the aged, national or ethnic groups, socio-economic classes, or to the impact of the family or government on individuals' welfare. Nor do the social indicators furnish the data on the subsidiary components of, or inputs into, the states of welfare wanted for purposes of assessing, diagnosing or anticipating these conditions.

## 2. Levels and distribution of welfare

15. Some of the limitations in information outlined above are removed when the purposes of social indicators are considered to be the monitoring of the various facets of welfare which are, or may become, the subject of government or general social concern. Gearing the indicators to the subjects, rather than to the normative goals, of social concerns in the long run, as well as the short run, allows for the coverage of all aspects of welfare. This approach also calls for social indicators on the living levels of various categories of the population, as well as of the society as a whole, and on the key components of these living conditions. In other words use is made of both moderately disaggregated and highly aggregated indicators of outputs. Because, sometimes, it is not feasible to compile measures of outputs, recourse is taken to proxy indicators of inputs in this approach as well as in that discussed in the preceding section. Attention is also devoted to family and household welfare and their impact on individuals' living conditions. The social indicators under discussion therefore yield data which may be used to detect incipient social problems, as well as monitor recognized ones, to set goals (targets) for attaining better levels of living, and to assess certain interrelationships between the various dimensions of welfare and some circumstances with which states of, and trends in, welfare vary. However, because the series of indicators must be restricted in number in order to promote use by government policy makers and similar officials, their degree of classification and detail and therefore their analytical and predicative uses, are necessarily limited.

16. The measures of the state and distribution of welfare furnished by the social indicators proposed in this paper follow the approach discussed above. Because the indicators are structured within the framework of the SSDS and thus are co-ordinated and linked, their uses in explanatory and projection models are enhanced. None the less, these uses of the social indicators are still limited by imposing the essential restraints on the number of indicator series. These questions are more fully discussed in a later section of this paper.

### B. Monitoring social service facilities and activities

17. In addition to the indicators discussed in the preceding section, social indicators are wanted on the availability, use and output (activities) of the facilities of society especially devoted to living conditions. These series should be designed to yield a simplified running inventory of the key social service inputs of governments and other bodies into maintaining and furthering levels of living. The indicators on the social services, when co-ordinated with, and used in conjunction with, the social indicators on living conditions, will furnish valuable data for watching and assessing the performance of the social services. Easily comprehended, aggregated information on the availability and performance of the social services is wanted in order to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the available social services and to detect needs to modify, alter or expand them.

18. Providing access to social services and promoting and facilitating their use are important ways in which governments and private non-profit bodies seek to affect, in other words make inputs into, living conditions. Thus, governments often set goals, which are of course intermediate in character, in respect of the availability and use of various kinds of social services. The compilation of a relatively few telling indicators is, in general, much more feasible in the case of these intermediate inputs than in the case of outputs of the social services, that is their final inputs of

services into states of welfare. On the other hand, the links between states of welfare (benefits from the social services) and the activities of these services are of course closer; social indicators are therefore wanted to the extent that is possible on the output of the social services, to monitor and assess their performance - effectiveness and efficiency. (The indicators in question should relate to both the quantity and quality of the output, for example man-hours of instruction, etc. and rates of successful completion, respectively, in the case of a given level of education.) This involves finding that a high degree of correlation exists between states of, or trends in, a given aspect of welfare and the output of the relevant social service(s). For this purpose account must be taken of other factors and circumstances influencing the aspect of welfare in question to avoid establishing spurious correlations. Because the characteristics of receivers of a given social service may often have significant weight in determining the benefits apparently derived from the service, in this paper, the benefits (directly related state of welfare) are distinguished from the output of the social service. This distinction is often not drawn.

19. The proposed series of social indicators of the SSDS include measures of the availability, use and output of the social services. In order to keep the number of series to a minimum, these indicators, especially in the case of output, are substantially aggregative in character. As a result, while the indicators are valuable in assessing the adequacy and output of social services, they furnish little information for purposes of determining the specific character, magnitude and estimated costs of needed improvements in the services. The series under discussion may also furnish useful explanatory variables concerning levels of living.

#### C. Measuring individuals' aspirations and perceptions

20. The approaches to social indicators discussed above focus on objective (impersonal) quantitative measures of living conditions. This is a common characteristic of the predominant approaches to social indicators of government and intergovernmental bodies. As a result, aspects of living conditions, such as freedom, social participation and cohesion, or social dissatisfaction and unrest, are generally not dealt with in the systems of social indicators. Nor is information gathered on individuals' aspirations and perceptions concerning their welfare. Yet, what they consider important, as well as their goals, may differ from the conclusions reached by government officials; even their perceptions and objective measures of their state of well-being may differ. It has been said that in the final analysis, "the quality of life is in the eye of the beholder" and that he best knows his goals in this respect.

21. These considerations have brought about the emphasis in the case of certain academic circles on defining and measuring social indicators in terms of the individuals' aspirations, perceptions, satisfactions or dissatisfactions and related attitudes in respect of conditions of living.<sup>8/</sup> Individuals are queried about such matters as the importance that they attach to, and the goals they have for, various aspects of living conditions, how well off they believe themselves to be, and their extent and sources of satisfaction or dissatisfaction. Answers are usually sought

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<sup>8/</sup> Two primary sources concerning this approach are, Hadley Cantril, The Pattern of Human Concerns, (New Jersey, University of Rutgers, 1965), and Angus Campbell and Phillip Converse, The Human Meaning of Social Change, (New York, Russell Sage Foundation, 1972).



in qualitative terms, for example through selection from scaled categories, to a considerable number of interlocking queries so that the consistency of and linkages between attitudes and perceptions may be investigated, in addition to being arrayed. The questions often relate to social service inputs as well as to subsidiary and ultimate outputs. The formulation of these queries and the collection of answers to them is a difficult, costly task. Furthermore, individuals may be too vague or short-sighted in their aspirations and perceptions to yield valuable data for purposes of assessing and diagnosing their living conditions. None the less, it would be advantageous to use the approach under discussion to compile some social indicators on important aspects of living conditions for which objective, quantitative measurement is not feasible. A few social concerns in the OECD list are phrased in terms of individuals' perceptions of how well-off they are or in terms of their degree of satisfaction with their state. This approach is not used in the case of social concerns and indicators proposed in this paper; at present, the SSDS does not include basic data on individuals' perceptions or attitudes.

#### D. Measuring social structures, conditions and processes

22. As is emphasized above, the broadest concept of social indicators proposed in official work on the subject is that they are summary series concerning the state of, and trend in, living conditions and in the availability and performance of the related social services. The indicators usually do not relate to the social structures or behaviour patterns underlying these states and trends. No do they present sufficiently detailed information on welfare conditions for purposes of more than cursory analysis or projection.

23. In the work of private research bodies and scholars, the concept of social indicators has been extended to cover data on social structures, behaviour and processes, including relatively detailed data on welfare conditions.<sup>9/</sup> A distinction is apparently not drawn between social indicators, on the one hand, and social statistics and accounts, on the other. This approach to social indicators is not only the broadest in scope but also the most theoretical and analytical in concept. Emphasis is put on basing the indicators on theories about social structures, behaviour and processes and on furnishing data for purposes of social analysis, projections and forecasting, and engineering. Increasing attention is being devoted to the use of the data in devising explanatory, causal, forecasting and simulation models.<sup>10/</sup> It is considered that it is necessary to found the series of data on analytical and theoretical considerations for purposes of the coherent and effective monitoring, assessment and diagnosis of living conditions and the resolution of social problems.

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<sup>9/</sup> See, for example, Eleanor Sheldon and Wilbert Moore, eds. Indicators of Social Change, Concepts and Measurements, (New York, Russell Sage Foundation, 1968); Robert Parke and Eleanor Sheldon, "Social statistics for public policy", (Washington, D.C., Social Science Research Council, 1973) mimeographed.

<sup>10/</sup> For some examples of the use of the data for these purposes, see William G. Bowen and T. Aldrich Finegan, The Economics of Labor Force Participation, (Princeton University Press, 1969); James Coleman and associates, Equality of Educational Opportunity, (Washington, D.C., U.S. Office of Education, 1969); Duncan Featherman and Duncan, Socio-economic Background and Achievement, (New York and London, Seminar Press, 1972); H.M. Blalock, ed., Causal Models in the Social Sciences, (Chicago, Aldine Press, 1971).

24. The scope of the approach under discussion corresponds to that of the SSDS as a whole. It is too broad in scope and too long-run and theoretical in character for use in the work of governmental and intergovernmental bodies on social indicators. Delineation of underlying circumstances and factors in the state of, and trends in, welfare conditions would however be of great value for purposes of selecting and compiling efficient and powerful social indicators.

#### IV. CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL INDICATORS

25. This part of the paper deals with criteria and techniques for compiling the social indicators discussed in section A and B above.

##### A. Criteria for delineating social indicators

26. Some of the criteria that should be used in devising the social indicators under discussion follow from the purposes and concepts of these statistics that are outlined in sections A and B above; other criteria relate to statistical series in general. Considerations of the former type are: how appropriate - that is how relevant and indicative - are the social indicators to the measurement of the social concerns for which they are intended; how great is their degree and power of summarization; how well are the series of indicators co-ordinated, linked and structured? Considerations of the latter type refer to the reliability and accuracy, consistency over time, timeliness and feasibility of compilation, of the social indicators.

##### 1. Appropriateness

27. To be relevant to given social concerns about the welfare of the population or the correlated social services, social indicators should, of course, furnish measures of absolute levels or trends which conform with the aspect of living conditions or the social service in question. These measurements may be direct or indirect. The subject and unit of measurement of the former type of social indicators would be defined to coincide with the totality or the parts of the topic of the social concern in question; they would be output indicators of that state of affairs. Examples of these output indicators are rates of net increase in population in the case of concerns about the population growth or the proportion of the population economically active and expected years of working life at minimum employment age in the case of concerns about labour force participation. Sometimes, the feasible direct measures of the state of concern, for example the character, frequency and duration of disabilities in the case of the goal of a healthy life, relate to its obverse. Indirect (proxy) measures in respect of the subject of a given social concern may be indicators on inputs into it or other circumstances with which the subject in question is highly correlated. The greater the correlation, the more appropriate (reliable) is the proxy social indicator. This would also be the case when output series on one, two or so selected components of an aspect of welfare or of social service are used as indicators of the whole. In general, substitutes for direct measures of the totality of a subject of a social concern are likely to be better indicators of its trends than its absolute level.

##### 2. Summarization

28. As the number of social indicators should be kept to the essential minimum, they should be designed to incorporate information on as much of a given social concern as is feasible without blotting out information on the major facets of the

concern needed for purposes of assessing the state of affairs. The objectives of summarization and of disaggregation must therefore be balanced, one against the other, in designing social indicators.

29. A social indicator may be designed to furnish information on the whole, or a substantial portion, of a social concern through aggregating data on the components (facets) of the concern or through covering the key determinants (factors or circumstances) of the subject of the social concern. In the case of the former approach to summarization it may be necessary to assign weights to the components but information for this purpose may not be available. An example of this situation would be an attempt to devise a single comprehensive social indicator on the state of working conditions or the severity of criminal offences and victimization. The extent to which the latter approach to summarization may be used is even more limited; the strategic underlying factors or circumstances are frequently not known. An example of this would be the attempt to devise one comprehensive indicator of inter-generational mobility.

### 3. Co-ordination and structuring

30. So that they may be used in combination to monitor and assess the socio-economic situation, social indicators should form a co-ordinated, coherent and linked body of data. It should be the case for the social indicators on the various aspects of living conditions and of social services, as well as on a given aspect of welfare. This means that the social indicators should be formulated within a coherent framework structured to interrelate and link the series of data. This framework should also be used in developing the basic statistics required to compile the social indicators.

### 4. Reliability, accuracy and comparability

31. The major uses of social indicators in monitoring and assessment demand reliable and consistent series over extended periods of time but not necessarily a very high degree of accuracy. This is so because those uses of the series do not usually call for very precise comparisons or rigorous manipulation. The reliability, degree of accuracy and comparability of the social indicators will necessarily reflect that of the basic statistics from which they are compiled. At the same time, the compilation and scrutiny of the social indicators should be of assistance in evaluating the reliability, accuracy and consistency of the basic statistics.

### 5. Timeliness

32. To promote government officials' attention to and use of social indicators, they should furnish timely annual panoramas of the populations' living conditions and problems and of the social series' performance. More frequent, timely social indicators may be needed on problems of welfare which are the subject of major current interest and action. Perhaps annual publications on social indicators should be issued within at least the half year after the last year to which they relate.

### 6. Feasibility

33. In developing social indicators, attention should be devoted to the feasibility of gathering and tabulating the required basic statistics, as well as to the social concerns to which the indicators are addressed. Feasibility might be evaluated in terms of the foreseeable future and in terms of the costs of, as well as the records, techniques, operations, etc. for, gathering and compiling the required basic statistics if they are not already available. The development of a co-ordinated, coherent and linked body of practicable social indicators should be of assistance in systematizing, expanding and improving basic socio-economic statistics.

34. Not infrequently, it may be found that it is impracticable to gather and compile the basic data required to compile the "ideal" social indicator(s) relating to a given social concern. This is more likely to be the case for social indicators on comprehensive, ultimate outputs (benefits) than on narrower, subsidiary outputs and for social indicators on outputs than on inputs. Then the alternatives are (i) to re-define the social concern in terms of its subsidiary, obverse or other closely related concerns which could be served by feasible indicators or (ii) to substitute practicable input or highly correlated indicators for the "ideal" social indicator.

#### B. Statistical techniques for constructing social indicators

35. This section outlines techniques of summarizing data that are of interest in compiling social indicators. The indicators may consist of simple or synthetic summaries of basic data, for example a percentage distribution of data or a combination of a range of data in an index number, respectively. The means of summarization selected in the case of a given social indicator will depend on the message it is designed to convey and the basic data available for compiling it.

##### 1. Simple social indicators

36. Simple social indicators consist of such summaries of basic data as proportions of a population of a given characteristic, rates of incidence or of change, measures of severity, elapsed time, etc., means, medians and other figures of central tendency, percentage distribution or fractile groups and measures of skewness and kurtosis.

37. Proportions, for example on the prevalence of illiterates in a population, on the economically active among persons above minimum employment age, on households with a television set, are frequently used in compiling social indicators on the state of a given facet of living conditions. The state may relate to a point of time or a period of time; it is called a stock in the SSDS. Rates of incidence, for example birth, death or disability rates, are also commonly used proportions; they deal with the frequency of events (called flows in the SSDS) during a period of time. The proportion of a population (universe) in a given state or experiencing a given event is often relatively easily computed; the needed figures are of course the numbers (total and the portion in the given state or experiencing the given event) of the involved universe, for example, persons, households, man-hours worked, etc.

38. Rates of change in a stock or a flow, for example average annual rate of change in employment or in household available income, respectively, are less frequently needed than rates of prevalence in constructing social indicators.

39. Examples of measures of severity are average duration of events such as spells of unemployment or of hospital stays and average property loss by victims of criminal offences. Social indicators of a similar form are series on average elapsed time of shifts from one state to another, for example from the charge to the disposition of a criminal offence, from one kind of economic activity to another. The basic data for compiling such indicators may be difficult to gather because they involve longitudinal or retrospective inquiries.

40. Arithmetic means and medians are the most commonly used measures of central tendency in compiling social indicators. While arithmetic means are much more easily computed and manipulated than medians, they are of course inefficient measures of central tendency in the case of skewed distributions. Medians, quartiles, deciles, etc. are therefore frequently used in the case of social indicators on the distribution of income or consumption.

41. Means, medians, etc. of course involve cardinal measurement of the state (stock) or event (flow) in question. Many of the series on social welfare consist of classifications of persons, households, etc. according to qualitative characteristics, for example ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type of living quarters. In order to portray such distributions, percentages are shown on the population in question falling into each category.

42. In the case of attributes, the measures of which are ordinal or cardinal, fractile groups, that is division of persons, households, etc. ordered according to the magnitude of the attribute in question into a number of classes of equal numbers of persons, households, etc., are a convenient and valuable means of portraying the character of, in particular inequalities in, the distribution of the attribute. This is so, for example, in the case of distributions according to size of income, according to magnitude of consumption, according to severity of a given event, according to time available for leisure. The degree of inequality may be measured in terms of the proportion of the attribute accounted for by specific classes of the distribution, say those at the low and high extremes or by synthesized Gini or Pareto coefficients. Shifts between two points of a lifetime or between father and son from one fractile group to another on size of income are ways of measuring intra-generational and inter-generational mobility, respectively. Data for this purpose are, however, difficult to gather; long-term longitudinal or retrospective inquiries are needed.

## 2. Synthetic index numbers

43. Synthetic index numbers furnish valuable means of summarizing the subsidiary elements (components) or the underlying factors into the ultimate subjects of social concern, such as the general state of health or public order and safety. The index numbers will of course portray trends in comprehensive aspects of welfare or social services; a weighted combination of the indicators on components or underlying factors must, in general, be used in compiling them. However, because of the lack of suitable weights, very limited use can be made of synthetic index numbers in social indicators.

44. Money values may be used as weights in the case of index numbers on such matters as the output and unit-costs of the various social services, the use of those services and the consumption of goods for various aspects of welfare or the distribution of income. In the case of the output, unit-costs and consumption of the non-profit social services, the practicable money-value weights - the costs of various activities entering into the output - are not entirely satisfactory. In the case of most other aspects of living conditions, weights other than money values are wanted but are not easily obtained. It is frequently suggested that the required weights should be gathered through expert or even public scaling of the importance or contribution to the living condition in question, of the components or other elements used in compiling its index numbers.

## 3. Life expectancies

45. Expectations of attaining, on the average, a given state of welfare in the course of life or a portion of it furnish valuable summaries of the relevant events (flows) over the span of time. These synthetic social indicators are of course commonly used in the case of expectations about average length of life. They may be used in the case of many other aspects of welfare, for example expectations about the length and achievements of education, the frequency and severity of health disabilities, the

length of working life or the growth of income. The expectance in each case may be classified according to various determining factors and/or compiled for various categories of the population. They may be derived from basic data on the events experienced by a cross-section of the population during a year or on the events experienced by population cohorts over an extended period of time. It is, on the whole, more feasible to gather and compile cross-sectional data than cohort data.

## V. SOCIAL INDICATORS IN THE SSDS

46. This section of the paper deals with the general character and role of the proposed social indicators in the SSDS and the major features of the social concerns to which these indicators are addressed, in comparison with those of the OECD's social concerns.

47. The series of social indicators in the SSDS are designed to summarize the basic data of the system for purposes of easy monitoring and assessment of social concerns about the welfare of various groups of the population, about their access to and use of the correlated social services and the effectiveness and efficiency of these social services. The Manpower and Social Affairs Directorate of the OECD is now engaged in devising social indicators to satisfy the social concerns on individuals' well-being that have already been agreed, apparently taking little, if any, account of the supply of the basic data needed to construct the indicators.

### A. Comparison of the main features of SSDS and OECD concerns

48. Table 1 of the annex to this paper compares the social concerns which the social indicators of the SSDS are designed to serve with those in the OECD list. The comparison indicates that there are both important similarities and differences between the two lists of social concerns.

#### 1. The general states of welfare covered

49. Except for demographic and environmental concerns the SSDS, and OECD lists cover, and are classified according to, essentially the same major (facets) of socio-economic welfare; table 1 is divided into the subsystems of the SSDS. Omitted from both lists are such concerns as freedom and social cohesion and unrest; included in the OECD, but not the SSDS list, are social concerns on social and political participation. These omissions from the SSDS are due to the conceptual and practical difficulties of meaningful quantification and measurement. Lack of general agreement on the goals (objectives) of social concerns, as well as the aforementioned conceptual problems, may have been factors in the case of the omissions from the OECD list. The lack of agreement on goals evidently accounts for the OECD omission of social concerns about the growth and distribution of the population and about the family. Concerns about the environment are not included in the SSDS list because they are to be dealt with in the work on statistics of the environment.

#### 2. The differences in definition of social concerns

50. A fundamental difference between the OECD and SSDS social concerns is the manner in which these concerns are defined. In the former case, social concerns are defined in terms of generally agreed goals on the states to be attained in individuals' well-being while in the latter case, they are delineated in terms of the generally agreed subjects of concern about the states of individuals' welfare. As areas of agreement

are likely to be greater in the case of neutral social concerns than normative concerns, the SSDS list can deal with a wider range of living conditions than the OECD list. The devotion of attention to individuals', families' and households' welfare in the long-run, as well as the short-run, in the SSDS social concerns but to individuals' well-being only, primarily in the short-run, in the OECD list also allows for wider coverage in the case of the former list.

### 3. Social concerns about social service performance

51. Another major difference in scope between the two sets of social concerns stems from the inclusion of concerns about the availability and use and performance of government and other social services in the SSDS list but not in the OECD list. These types of concerns are apparently excluded from the latter list because they represent means for maintaining and improving states of welfare, that is inputs into these states. They are included among the SSDS social concerns because they are important concerns in respect of government welfare policies and programmes and because the social indicators addressed to these concerns furnish valuable data for understanding the observed trends in living conditions.

### 4. Social concerns about inputs as well as outputs

52. In principle, the OECD list focuses on concerns about the comprehensive, ultimate (final) states of welfare, that is outputs. The SSDS deals, in addition, with major concerns about welfare conditions that are subsidiary to, (in other words, components of, or instrumental to) the ultimate states. As indicated earlier in this paper, these social concerns on inputs call for valuable social indicators for purposes of assessment and cursory analysis of the observed, comprehensive ultimate states of welfare. Furthermore, in many cases, it is practicable to compile social indicators in respect of subsidiary social concerns but not the ultimate concern. It may be noted from the annexed table 1 that, in practice, the OECD list does include goals on components of a given comprehensive, final state of welfare in a number of instances.

53. The numbers of social concerns in the OECD and SSDS lists are not significantly different. The subsidiary social concerns of the SSDS have been restricted to those which are the subject of major attention in monitoring and dealing with welfare conditions and which are much more feasible to measure than their parent, ultimate social concern.

### 5. Individuals' perceptions and satisfaction

54. Social concerns defined in terms of individuals' perceptions of, and satisfaction with, selected aspects of their well-being are included in the OECD list only. This approach is used in the case of comprehensive, ultimate goals in respect of learning and employment. Social concerns based on a subjective approach can usefully supplement those based on an objective approach. Social concerns may be formulated in subjective terms to deal with aspects of living which are not feasibly, if at all, quantified or measured in cardinal terms. This may be the situation in the case of the whole of a comprehensive, ultimate state of welfare or even in the case of subsidiary states of welfare. In the view of some, social indicators on individuals' perceptions and attitudes yield more relevant or reliable data about aspects of welfare than social indicators of the objective type.

55. The SSDS list does not include social concerns delineated in terms of individuals' perceptions or attitudes primarily because, at this stage, the system does not cover this type of basic data. This is the consequence of the serious conceptual and practical difficulties of defining and gathering such available series of data.

## B. General character and role of social indicators in the SSDS

### 1. Summarization in relation to the SSDS

56. Consideration of the basic statistics called for by the SSDS in constructing the proposed social indicators, as well as the social concerns to which they are addressed, promotes both the design of practicable social indicators and the improvement of the basic series. While this has been a useful consideration in formulating the proposed social indicators of the SSDS, the indicators fall far short of summarizing all of the series of the system. The social indicators have been restricted to the minimum feasible number required to monitor and assess the state of affairs which are the subject of the social concerns set out in table 1. Thus, not covered in the social indicators are the basic statistics of the SSDS on structure, on gross flows from one state to another, in other words, gross changes in states of living conditions, or on the workloads, resources and finance of social services. Examples of uncovered basic series of data in the first case are the structures of the population, of the school population, of the economically active and of housing. Illustrations of the omitted data on gross flows are gross changes in household or family composition, the shifts from one grade to another in the case of education and the gross changes in the housing stock. The omitted series of basic data are of course valuable in the analysis and projection of states of, and trends in, welfare conditions.

57. In summarizing basic series into the proposed social indicators, the span of series bearing on a given social concern covered in each indicator is as wide as is feasible. The width of this span is limited by the techniques of compiling social indicators that are feasible. Most of the proposed social indicators are the sort of simple summaries of series of basic data that are discussed in paragraphs 36-42 above. More complex social indicators such as expectancies, synthetic index numbers and Gini coefficients are used, where appropriate, to the extent possible. Social indicators in the form of expectancies are suggested wherever the SSDS includes basic series on transition proportions from one state to another. This is the case in the data on the population, learning activities and earning activities. Synthetic index numbers are proposed when money values are available as weights. This the case for basic data on the output and unit-costs of social services and household consumption expenditures and incomes. The use of Gini coefficients is suggested in the case of basic data in the form of fractile groups on the distribution of income and consumption.

### 2. Classifications of social indicators in relation to the SSDS

58. In order to keep the body of suggested social indicators as streamlined as is feasible, the suggested classification of the social indicators are restricted to the common classifications - for example, urban-rural, age and sex, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class - of the SSDS and the fundamental characteristic classifications - for example, level of education, occupation, cause of death, kind of disability, type of criminal offence - of its subsystems. The common classifications of the social indicators of the system are basic to their use to monitor and



to assess the distribution of levels of living, and the welfare of disadvantaged and other groups of the population and to the forging of links between them. The use of the fundamental characteristic classifications of a subsystem in its series of social indicators is essential to detecting and understanding important circumstances and factors underlying the aspects of living conditions in question.

### 3. The structuring of the social indicators

59. The SSDS furnishes a valuable framework for organizing the proposed social indicators into a co-ordinated, coherent and linked body of data. The system includes tightly knit subsystems which are co-ordinated and linked, one with the other, on each major facet of welfare and the correlated social service.

60. The basic series and classifications of each subsystem, which are summarized by the social indicators, are consistently defined, closely linked or interacted and generally structured according to the subsidiary social concerns of the broad aspect of welfare covered. In the case of some of the subsystems, the stocks (states) and flows (events) dealt within the subsidiary concerns are integrated in the form of matrices or accounts. This means of organizing the basic data of a subsystem is also used in the case of the states of welfare and the activities of the correlated social services.

61. The various subsystems are also co-ordinated and linked or interrelated, one with the other. The scope, basic data and characteristic classifications of the various subsystems are coherently defined and articulated. The subsystems are linked through the uniform use of the common classifications of the system and the use of the relevant characteristic classifications of one subsystem in other systems. Examples of the latter practice are the use of fractile groups of available income in the subsystems on learning activities, health and health services and housing. In certain cases, characteristic classifications of two subsystems are interacted, for example the cross-classification of occupational injuries by the kind of disability and the kind of economic activity. In a few instances, the matrices or accounts or different subsystems are tied together, for example those on learning activities, earning activities and the inactive.

## VI. THE PROPOSED SOCIAL INDICATORS

62. This section of the paper deals with the proposed social indicators of the SSDS, which are set out in table 2 of the annex, in the light of the social concerns to which they are addressed and the basic data of the system. It may be noted that in table 2, the series of indicators relevant to each social concern are listed under it and that the suggested common, characteristic and other classifications in the case of the various social indicators are shown in separate columns. As in the case of table 2, the discussion below of the social indicators is organized according to the subsystems of the SSDS.

63. As is indicated in the introduction to this paper, the social indicators set out in the annexed table 2 are intended to furnish a list from which developed countries may select the social indicators that they wish to develop in view of their own social concerns and statistical circumstances. It is recognized that the relevance and priority of given social concerns, and therefore the linked social indicators, as well as the feasibility of compiling these series, will differ from one country to another. This is particularly so in the case of the classifications of social indicators

suggested in table 2 of the annex. The extent to which the suggested classifications should be used in social indicators, or whether and how they should be combined for these purposes, are clearly matters concerning which firm guidance cannot be given. It may, however, be said that in order to produce simple and easily understood social indicators, when the suggested common, characteristic or other classifications are used, they should, in most cases, be used one at a time only.

#### A. Population

64. The growth and geographic distribution of the population are subjects of major concern as they are underlying circumstances in many aspects of living conditions and problems and in the demand for social, as well as economic, goods and services.

##### 1. Growth

65. The magnitude and crude rates of population growth are indicative of the changing implications of the population size for socio-economic conditions and problems and the demand for social services. The suggested social indicators on the crude rates of change of births, deaths and net migration portray the trends in the components of population growth. Tabulation of these series of social indicators according to the selected common classifications suggested in the annexed table 2 is designed to identify some of the important groups of the population whose growth and associated welfare conditions, problems and needs are likely to differ.

66. The birth rates of a population often receive attention as fertility and immigration are the elements of population growth which may be the subject of varying government policies and programmes; the aim in the case of death rates is of course always reduction. The crude birth rates discussed above are not suitable for this purpose, they vary with such factors as the age and sex composition of the population. Therefore, social indicators on live births per 1,000 females of child-bearing age, standardized for age, are suggested in the annexed table 2. An alternative suitable measure of fertility would be the net reproduction rate, that is the average number of children born to women in the course of their lifetime. However, this item of data is more difficult to gather than the statistics on age-specific birth rates and on the age-sex composition of the population which are required in compiling the suggested standardized fertility rates.

##### 2. Geographic distribution

67. The concerns in many countries about the massive shift of population from rural to urban areas and the resulting urban overcrowding, inadequate housing, water and energy supply, sanitary services, etc. and concomitant welfare problems, call for indicators of the geographic distribution of the population. The series suggested in table 2 of the annex are designed to portray the state of affairs at specified dates; comparison of these series for consecutive dates will indicate the trends in geographic distribution. This approach is used because it yields information on the dimensions of overcrowding and of the demands for social services in the case of specific conglomeration of population, as well as on the geographic shifts of the population.

### 3. Family, stability and cohesion

68. The stability and character of the nuclear family, that is the parents and their never-married children, in some countries or the extended family, that is persons living together who are related by blood, marriage or adoption, in other countries, is a fundamental aspect of living conditions. The breakdown of families because of the loss of one of the parents gives rise to a number of welfare problems. Thus, the suggested social indicators on these concerns are designed to furnish key data on the state - type, for example whether one male or female parent only, and size - of families and on their dissolution. As these circumstances, and their impact on conditions of welfare, may, in a number of countries, vary between urban and rural communities, among ethnic groups and among socio-economic classes, these classifications of the series are suggested. The proposed social indicators summarize a number of the basic series on the family included in the SSDS.

#### B. Learning and the educational services

69. The population's acquisition and maintenance of effective skills, knowledge and values and the provision of suitable facilities for this purpose are fundamental concerns of governments. Individuals' skills, knowledge and values play an important part in their interests in, and capabilities of, participating in the economic and social life of a society and attaining satisfying incomes and living conditions. While the skills, knowledge and values are at least in part acquired through other avenues, formal education is usually an important medium. Furthermore, practically all of the basic data on learning and the educational services refer to formal education; direct data on the skills, knowledge and values are, on the whole, difficult and impracticable to gather. Thus, practically all of the suggested social indicators of the subsystem relate to inputs of formal education into individuals' skills, knowledge and values.

##### 1. Educational attainment of the population

70. The social indicator on the degree of literacy of individuals ten years of age and over furnishes a direct measure of this vital skill. When the series are classified according to sex and age, or are compared for consecutive dates, they portray the trends in the degree of literacy. The proposed indicators on average years of schooling are not only indirect measures of individuals' level of capability but also direct measures of trends for purposes of monitoring and projecting the use of (demand for) educational services. For the latter purpose, the data on average actual years of schooling should be classified according to sex and age; that on expectancies should be classified according to sex and compared for a number of successive dates. Because the overall indicators on the population, as a whole, may mask marked differences in the degrees of literacy and schooling of various categories of the population - urban-rural, socio-economic classes, national or ethnic groups - it will be useful to classify them according to such common classifications of the SSDS. The indicators on degree of literacy and actual years of schooling successfully completed are based on the population inventory data of the SSDS; those on expected years of schooling successfully completed are based on the series on the proportion of leavers from and continuers in the various years of formal education.

##### 2. Use and distribution of educational services

71. The social indicators on the use and distribution of the educational services are focussed on the trends in the extent to which the various categories of the population who may be expected to attend full-time or part-time education, do so in fact.

This information should be useful in identifying educationally disadvantaged groups, as well as in projecting the use of full-time and part-time educational facilities. Because the sex and age composition is a factor in the proportions of specified populations attending full-time or part-time school, it is necessary to standardize this composition in order to delineate trends in participation rates. The information for compiling these social indicators is furnished by consistent basic data of the SSDS on individuals attending school and on the corresponding total population, each classified according to age and sex in the case of the categories of other relevant common classifications of the system, for example urban-rural or national or ethnic origin.

72. The proposed series on per capita total consumption expenditure on education in constant dollars are designed to view the trends in the volume of educational services used in urban and rural areas from another perspective. The basic data of the subsystem on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth will yield these indicators.

73. The indicators on enrollment in full-time and part-time education according to level of education and area of study are intended to portray the probable pattern of future additions to trained personnel and the demands on various educational facilities. The inventories of school enrollment which are included in the SSDS, would furnish the basis for compiling these indicators.

### 3. Educational achievement and efficiency of educational services

74. The proposed series on the extent to which students entering a given level of education complete it and on drop out and retention rates during the school year for various levels of education are indicators of the degrees of success and failure of these educational services. The former series summarize the retention rates of the latter series in the case of a given level of education. Both series are of value in projecting the demands on educational facilities; they may be derived from the transition coefficients of the subsystem on learning. The indicators on the test scores of students are of course output measures of their acquisition of skills and knowledge, which may, at least in part, be attributed to attending school. It would be useful to compile each of the aforementioned indicators for the categories of the common classifications of the system with which they may be expected to differ in order to identify some of the underlying circumstances and problems of educational achievement.

75. The indicator on students per employed teacher refers to a presumed factor in the quality of education. The proposed index numbers of output and unit-costs are intended to indicate the trends in the volume and efficiency of educational services. Comparison of these index numbers with the trends in the few series on the accomplishments of the educational services that are practicable, should furnish rough indications of the performance of the services. The basic data for the index numbers are difficult to gather; they consist of the detailed series of the SSDS on the activities and costs of the various kinds of formal educational services of government, private non-profit institutions and profit-making bodies.

### C. Earning activities and the employment services

76. Satisfactory employment of the available manpower is a fundamental socio-economic concern. For this purpose, the interest and capabilities of individuals to participate in the production of goods and services should be fully engaged, they should

enjoy employment security and satisfying working conditions and they should receive adequate employment incomes. These conditions are fostered by the existence of a healthy growing economy, the availability of employment exchanges to help match the demands for and supply of manpower and the provision of retraining programmes to re-align manpower skills to changes in the structure of occupations.

#### 1. Labour force participation

77. The suggested social indicators on labour force participations are designed to serve in monitoring for a number of purposes.

78. The series on the proportion of individuals of working age who are economically active may be used to monitor the trends in the extent to which their capabilities are engaged in production, to identify some of the circumstances underlying differences in the participation rates and to project the size of the labour force, based on the estimated size and composition of the population. Because participation rates differ with age and sex, it is suggested that these social indicators on various categories of the population - urban-rural, national or ethnic origin - should be standardized for age and sex.

79. The series on average expected years of working life are useful indicators of life-styles as well as of employment opportunities and security. Poorer employment opportunities and security lead to leaving the labour force earlier. The indicators on average expectancies may be compiled from the transition proportions of the SSDS for cross-sections or cohorts of the population. The former approach is easier to apply as it demands much less longitudinal data.

#### 2. Employment opportunities and security

80. The concern about employment opportunities and security should be addressed from more than one point of view. The proposed series on the frequency and severity of unemployment of course assess the lack of employment opportunities and security in the case of various categories of the population and service of the contributing factors. Those on the number of weeks of employment and on the growth of employment indicate the extent to which these opportunities are available to them and some of the responsible circumstances. The index numbers of accessions to, and separation from, employment deal with the changes taking place in employment opportunities and security in various parts of the economy.

#### 3. Employment mobility

81. The frequency and direction of individuals' shifts in occupational or industrial attachment indicates the extent to which their job satisfaction is being increased as well as the degree to which they adjust to changes in the economic structure. The two series of proposed indicators on employment mobility are designed to measure the frequency and direction of these shifts. The compilation of these indicators involves the use of the longitudinal SSDS data on employment.

#### 4. Employment compensation

82. The size of employment income is of course, fundamental to job satisfaction and, in most cases, to enjoying an adequate level of living. In order to furnish useful indicators on the size of employment income to monitor this aspect of welfare, it is necessary to portray the range of full-time wages and salaries, in constant as well as current prices, received by various groups of employees. This is the purpose of the suggestions that median wages and salaries should be shown for fractile groups of

wages and salaries in the case of employees classified according to sex and age, national or ethnic origin, industrial attachment and so on. The level, as well as the distribution, of employment income may be expected to differ between these groups. The basic data for compiling these social indicators is called for in the subsystem on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth.

#### 5. Working conditions

83. The social indicators on working conditions suggested in the annexed table 2 refer to aspects of working conditions which are the subjects of general concern. The series on average hours of full-time weekly work are wanted for purposes of monitoring the place of employment in individuals' use of time and life-style. The indicators on the frequency and severity of occupational injuries and diseases are essential to assessing the dangers (safety) and impact on health of working conditions. For this purpose it is important to classify the series according to summary categories of the classification of diseases and injuries of the health subsystem as well as according to broad categories of the occupational and industrial attachment classifications. Classification according to sex and age may indicate factors with which the incidence of occupational injuries and diseases vary. The indicators on the scope of social security and similar schemes and on paid vacations and other leaves portray important fringe benefits from employment.

#### 6. Availability and performance of manpower services

84. A number of governments run manpower retraining programmes and employment exchanges in order, inter alia to improve the employment security of the economically active. The suggested indicators on the prevalence of registration with employment exchanges in the case of various groups of the unemployed and on enrollment in retraining programmes are intended for use in monitoring the extent to which those in need of these social services are, in fact, reached. The other proposed series on the employment exchanges and the retraining programmes are designed to be used in assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the services they rendered. As for the educational services, in order to compile useful index numbers of the output and unit-costs of the employment exchanges and retraining programmes it is essential to have SSDS basic data on the volume and costs of their final activities in substantial detail.

#### D. Distribution of income, consumption and wealth

85. The size of the incomes, consumption and wealth of various groups of the population are subjects of general social concern. The incomes and wealth are key determinants of their levels of living; their consumption of goods and services is a major aspect of these levels. Inequalities in the distribution of income, of consumption and of wealth are also matters of major concern, not only in terms of their inadequacy in the case of some groups of the population, but also in terms of socio-economic equity. Most governments adopt programmes to redistribute incomes and to furnish free goods and services in order to raise inadequate incomes and consumption and to reduce inequalities in distribution. The effectiveness of these programmes is also the subject of general attention.

#### 1. Levels and growth of household income and wealth

86. The flows of major interest in monitoring the size and growth of incomes from the point of view of levels of living are distributed factor incomes - the sum of

incomes from engaging in production and from owning property - and available income - distributed factor incomes plus net current and closely related transfers. The aggregates for this purpose in the case of wealth are saving - net additions to wealth during a year - and net worth - the assets owned less the liabilities owed at a given date.

87. As the focus of attention is on the adequacy and range of incomes of key categories of the population, it is suggested in table 2 that the series of indicators on the aggregates under discussion should consist of medians classified according to fractile groups, for example deciles, of these categories, as well as of the total population, in the case of available or distributed factor incomes. The key categories of the population are those which may be expected to differ in the adequacy and distribution of incomes and of wealth; selected common classifications of the SSDS furnish appropriate means of identifying them. In general, the household should be the unit to which the medians and fractile groups refer as the household is the practical, as well as SSDS, unit for this purpose. (In countries where households usually consist of single families, nuclear or extended, the extended family may be used.) However, as the adequacy of a given level of household income depends on its number of members, it is suggested that available and factor incomes per household member should also be used in the case of medians and fractile groups concerning these aggregates. In the case of household savings and net worth, classification by type and size of household is proposed for this purpose. The import for levels of living of the aggregates under discussion depends on their purchasing power in the case of consumer goods and services. It is therefore preferable to value the aggregates in constant, rather than current, prices, if feasible.

88. For purposes of monitoring improvements (growth) in levels of income and wealth, it is essential to express the data in constant prices. The suggested series on average annual rates of change in the forms of income and wealth discussed in the preceding paragraph relate to means instead of medians in order to facilitate the computations. The same classifications are suggested in the case of averages annual rates of growth as in the case of the median levels.

## 2. Levels and growth of household consumption

89. The suggested social indicators on the level of household consumption relate to money-values in the case of all kinds of goods and services, supplemented by the intake of calories, proteins and minerals in the case of food. Two concepts of household consumption are used in the indicators on its level and growth - personal consumption, outlays from available income, and total consumption, personal consumption plus the money value of goods and services furnished free of charge. The latter concept of course yields a more comprehensive measure of levels of living. In order to facilitate comparisons of consumption with available income and net worth, the same measures of central tendency and growth and the same classifications, except for the addition of fractile groups of personal consumption, are to be used as in the case of available income and net worth. Valuation in constant prices is more important in the case of the level of consumption than in the case of incomes or wealth.

## 3. Redistribution of income and consumption

90. The series of social indicators on this topic are primarily designed to portray the impact of government programmes to redistribute earned incomes and to furnish free goods and services on the levels of living of key groups of the population. The

proposed measures of these effects are the ratios of available income to distributed factor incomes and of total consumption to personal consumption in the case of households.

#### 4. Inequality in the distribution of income, consumption and wealth

91. Lorenz curves and Gini ratios are suggested for purposes of assessing the degree of inequality in the distribution of distributed factor and available incomes, of net worth and of personal and total consumption. The curves would accumulate the percentage of the aggregate in question accounted for by the fractile groups discussed above, proceeding from the lowest to the highest fractile groups. The extent to which the curve deviates from the 45 degree straight line, which might be measured by the area between the two, indicates the degree of inequality in the distribution. The Gini ratio is a simpler measure of the degree of inequality that is derived from the Lorenz-curve data.

#### E. Social security and welfare services

92. Provision of protection against losses of income and other hazards is a common concern of governments. The social indicators on this subject set out in annexed table 2 are designed to be used to monitor and assess (i) the extent of insurance furnished by a society against losses of income, health outlays and other circumstances and (ii) the calls on, and adequacy of, the various forms of protection. The series on the first topic deal with the proportion of persons subject to a loss of given income or other hazard who are covered by the corresponding insurance programme; the series on the second topic relate to the proportion of persons covered under given programmes who receive benefits, to the magnitude of these benefits, preferably in terms of purchasing power, and to the proportion of the available income of the recipients accounted for by these benefits.

#### F. Health and health services

93. The state of health of the population and the measures required to improve it are vital concerns of a society. Physical and mental well-being are basic to unhampered and effective participation in economic and social activities, to pleasure in engaging in these activities and to length of life itself. Social indicators are therefore wanted to monitor and assess (i) the state of health of the population and the major contributing circumstances, (ii) the availability and use of facilities to guard and improve health and (iii) the performance of these facilities.

##### 1. State of health

94. Because of the conceptual and practical difficulties of the direct measurement of good health, proxy indicators for this purpose are proposed in annexed table 2. The proxy measures deal with the length of life, which is an overall indicator of the effects of poor health, and the prevalence and severity of disabilities.

95. The expected average years of life at birth and at critical ages furnish useful, comprehensive indicators of death rates. Death rates classified according to cause point to the important states of poor health which lead to deaths. Classification of these rates according to age and sex reveals key circumstances with which the rates vary. In order to link death rates with levels and conditions of living, tabulation of the rates according to the relevant common classifications of the SSDS, standardized for sex and age, are suggested. In one of the suggested indicators



attention is focussed on rates of neo-natal and post-natal deaths these rates tend to be high relative to other death rates and are therefore the subject of major concern.

96. The proposed indicators on the prevalence and severity of disabilities are divided into series on persons with one or more days of confinement to bed and restricted activities and series on persons with chronic functional disabilities. In each case use is suggested of tabulations according to (i) the disease or functional disability involved, (ii) sex and age and (iii) selected categories of the population standardized for age and sex. The first set of tabulations are designed to portray the relative importance of the various diseases and injuries; the second and third sets of tabulations are intended to identify the impact of health disabilities on key groups of the population, as well as explanatory variables of the variance in the prevalence and severity of disabilities.

## 2. Availability and use of health services

97. The proposed social indicators on this subject of concern deal with means for protection against, and treatment of, ill health. The series specifically devoted to protection relates to immunization; the other series on the use of health services cover action taken to either prevent or to treat ill health.

98. The social indicators on the availability of health services deal with the supply of health personnel - doctors, dentists, midwives - and of hospital beds in geographic areas and in health specialities. Those on the use of health services deal with hospital admissions and visits to hospital out-patient clinics, doctors and dentists. In each case information is called for on the proportion of the population at risk who used the service and the extent to which they did this. In order to furnish overall information on the use of the health services and goods, a series of indicators on total and personal consumption for these purposes, is suggested. While all of the basic statistics required to compile the proposed social indicators on the availability and use of the health services are called for in the SSDS, some of the data will be difficult to gather and compile. This is so in the case of statistics on visits to doctors, dentists and hospital out-patient clinics and on consumption, in constant prices, of medical care and other health services and goods.

## 3. Performance of health services

99. In addition to index numbers on the overall output and unit-costs of various health services, it is suggested that the extent to which the available hospital beds are used should be used as an indicator of the efficiency of the services.

## G. Housing

100. Satisfactory housing is an essential aspect of adequate living conditions. The quarters in which people are housed - the space, the degree of crowding, the facilities, the surroundings - affect their activities of personal and family care and influence their health, social intercourse and general outlook. The supply, state and costs of housing are therefore matters of social concern.

### 1. State and distribution of housing

101. Social indicators are proposed in annexed table 2 on the type of living quarters of categories of the population and the degree of crowding and availability of facilities in these quarters. The tabulation of these series according to the relevant

common classifications of the SSDS will lay the basis for identifying the classes of the population with inadequate living quarters and linking housing with other conditions of living. The classification of the indicators according to fractile groups of available income will point to the constraints of size of income on the kind of living quarters.

## 2. Adequacy of supply of housing

102. The two series of indicators suggested in respect of this topic are designed to portray the adequacy of the supply of satisfactory housing and the extent to which inadequacies are being rectified.

## 3. Tenure of and outlays on housing

103. As the extent to which households own or rent the dwellings they occupy is a useful indicator of life-styles, the compilation of summary data on type of tenure is suggested. The proposed indicators on outlays on living quarters are intended to portray trends in the volume of housing used and in the weight of these outlays in the consumption of goods and services.

## 4. Public housing assistance

104. Governments have used one of two, or both, approaches to improve the housing conditions of the population: (i) furnishing reduced rent or even free housing or giving housing grants to disadvantaged groups of the population; (ii) subsidizing or otherwise assisting the maintenance and/or construction of housing by private enterprises and institutions. Indicators of the former type of assistance are ratios of total consumption outlays to personnel consumption outlays on housing. Suggested series on the latter type of assistance relate to housing subsidies, capital transfers and loans to enterprises and private non-profit institutions.

## H. Public order and safety

105. Public order and safety is a fundamental social concern of governments. To monitor, assess and deal with the broad concern, social indicators are wanted on (i) the prevalence and severity of criminal offences and victimization, (ii) the treatment of offenders in relation to their characteristics and (iii) the performance of the government institutions whose purpose is the maintenance and improvement of public order and safety.

### 1. Frequency and severity of offences and victimization

106. The suggested series on the prevalence of criminal offences are designed to portray the extent to which these offences are concentrated in certain communities, as well as their character and gravity. It is therefore suggested that the number of offences per 100,000 persons at risk should be classified according to geographic area as well as according to type of offence. The indicators on victimization are intended to be used in monitoring and assessing the safety of various parts of the community, as well as gravity of criminal offences. It is therefore proposed that the series on the rate of victimization and on the injuries and property losses incurred should be classified according to the characteristics of the victims as well as the kind and the size of the injuries and losses. The proposed use of the relevant common classifications of the SSDS in order to describe the characteristics of victims lays the basis for linking safety against criminal offences with other conditions of living.

107. The degree of reliance that can be put on the basic data on offences and victimization used in compiling the suggested social indicators is a commonly encountered problem. Data derived from the reports of offences to the policing authorities are likely to be deficient because of under reporting. A few countries have undertaken sample surveys of households and enterprises in order to gather more reliable data on victimization and offences.

## 2. Treatment and characteristics of offenders

108. Basic statistics on the treatment and characteristics of offenders are necessarily derived from the records of the government institutions which deal with them.

109. The indicators on this topic proposed in annexed table 2 are intended to portray the principal aspects of the treatment of offenders in relation to their characteristics as they are charged with an offence, pass through the judicial and correctional steps, and are released. The series on offenders charged are designed to indicate their prevalence in various groups of the population as well as the gravity of their charged crime. The proposed indicators on the conviction and sentencing of charged offenders should be of assistance in correlating these steps in the judicial process with the character of the offenders and their charged crime. The series also portray the patterns in which the courts dispose of charged offenders. The summary data on rates of incarceration and of probation indicate the relative extent to which these modes of correctional treatment are used in the case of various categories of sentenced offenders. Their number in correctional institutions or on probation measures the demand for these services. The average durations of detention in the case of offenders who are not charged and who are charged points to deficiencies in the treatment of suspected and charged offenders.

## 3. Performance of institutions

110. The first two series of indicators on this topic shown in table 2 of the annex to this paper are designed to exhibit the pace at which the police and judicial authorities dispose of criminal offenders. The third indicator deals with the question of crowding in correctional institutions. The index numbers of the output and unit-costs of various law-and-order institutions are designed to assess their efficiency.

### I. The allocation of time and leisure

111. The way in which individuals use time reflects their principal activities - learning, earning, etc. - and the style and conditions of living. Statistics on the use of time therefore cut across, and link up with, the data of most of the other subsystems of the SSDS.

112. The social concerns about the use of time relate to such questions as whether individuals have sufficient time for personal and family care and obligations, for social obligations and participation, and for leisure and whether they must spend an inordinate amount of time in travelling to work, school, retail shops and markets, or to recreational facilities or in their principal activities. In the case of leisure, the interests are in the ways in which leisure is used and the access to and use of leisure-time facilities.

### 1. The use of time

113. The series of social indicators on the use of time are designed to show how groups of the population who are likely to have different styles and conditions of living, allocate their time. The units of time used may be the twenty-four hour day, the week, the month or the year. The shorter the interval of time used, the less difficult it is to gather basic data on time budgets. However, the time spent on various pursuits during a given day may not be representative of longer intervals of time. Special indicators are suggested on vacations in respect of this concern and in respect of the use of leisure; they represent atypical use of time and leisure and are important periods of rejuvenation.

### 2. The use of leisure

114. The suggested series in annexed table 2 on the uses to which leisure-time is put represent different approaches to data on this question. The first series summarizes data on the use of leisure which would be gathered through inquiries into time budgets. The next two series deal with the consumption outlays on leisure-time services and goods. They would be derived from the basic data of the subsystem on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth; these data are more commonly gathered and compiled than time budgets. The indicator on annual per capita total consumption, in constant prices, is designed to yield complete, summary information on trends in the pattern and volume of consumption of leisure-time goods and services of the total population. The series of indicators on household personal consumption are intended to show the differences in patterns of outlays on leisure-time goods and services between various groups of the population.

### 3. The availability and use of leisure-time facilities

115. There are many kinds of recreational, sport, cultural and social facilities, the availability and use of which are of particular interest. A substantial number of social indicators on this topic are therefore suggested in annexed table 2. Where feasible, the indicators consist of rates per 1,000 persons in respect of the number, capacity and use of a given facility. In other cases, rates of use or magnitude of the facility only are feasible, for example number of members of social, recreational, sport and similar clubs per 1,000 population and area of open public space per 1,000 population. It is suggested that all of the indicators should be shown for individual geographic areas.

## J. Social stratification and mobility

116. Concerns about social stratification relate not only to the division of the population by major disparities in social status, living conditions and life-style but also to the extent to which individuals do move from one class to another during their lifetime. Thus, these concerns include questions of the degree of intra- and inter-generational mobility,

### 1. Social stratification

117. In general, it is necessary to use indirect indicators to assess the extent to which a society is divided into social classes. The series suggested in annexed table 2 deal with states (circumstances) which, in combination, are thought to be strategic in life-styles and patterns of living conditions in general and to manifest social class. It is also thought that these states are correlated, one with the other.

The aggregates of the suggested series of indicators will, of course, come from the subsystems on the states under discussion. It is proposed that the percentage distributions of households and individuals should be compiled for categories of national or ethnic origin and urban and rural areas, in addition to the population as a whole, in order to portray the extent to which members of these groups fall into the various social strata and their own degree of social stratification.

## 2. Intra-generational mobility

118. Fewer aggregates are suggested for purposes of assessing intra-generational mobility than portraying social stratification because of the difficulties of gathering and compiling the longitudinal data arrayed into fractile groups that are required for the latter purpose. Fractile groups of households or individuals are to be used, as appropriate, because measures of intra-generational mobility should relate to shifts in the individuals' relative position in the distribution of wages and salaries, distributed factor incomes and net worth. The extent to which these shifts occur is indicated by the proportion of the universe in question who move from one fractile group to another; the direction and magnitude of the shifts are shown by the average percentage increase or decrease in these aggregates in constant prices. It is suggested that the indicators should be compiled for age, urban-rural, national or ethnic and socio-economic groups at the first date of reference, in order to assess their degrees of intra-generational mobility. Another approach to measuring intra-generational mobility is to correlate the occupations and wages and salaries of employees and the distributed factor incomes and net worth of households, all in constant prices, at two dates. The closer the correlation ratio is to zero, the greater is the intra-generational mobility.

## 3. Inter-generational mobility

119. The suggested aggregates for purposes of measuring inter-generational mobility are restricted to changes in socio-economic class and education from one generation to the other because it is impractical to compile information on the amounts of income in constant prices or on fractile groups of incomes or of years of schooling completed for fathers or mothers. It should be noted that differences in socio-economic class or in years of schooling between sons and fathers may reflect two factors - changes common to the mass of a population and those peculiar to individual members of the given population. The variance around the average difference between sons and fathers is therefore the appropriate measure of inter-generational mobility. This is of course also the case for comparisons between daughters and mothers. As for intra-generational mobility, the correlation ratio between the state of the son or daughter and that of the father or mother, respectively is an appropriate indicator of the degree of inter-generational mobility. This measure of mobility is similar to the variance around the average difference. As in the case of intra-generational mobility, it is suggested that the indicators under discussion should be compiled for national or ethnic and socio-economic groups in order to assess their degree of inter-generational mobility.

ANNEX

Table 1. Social concerns of the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) and in the list of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

SSDS subjects of social concern	OECD list of social concerns <sup>1/</sup> (some "sub-concerns" have been omitted)
I. Population	
A. Growth of the population	Population <u>per se</u> is not covered in the list of social concerns. However, the list does specify that all concerns are intended to be cross-classified by characteristics such as "sex, age, socio-occupational-income status, region, or by urban/rural community". In addition, "almost all concerns are meant to imply measures of state or level .... and rate of change over time".
B. Geographic distribution of the population	
C. Family stability and cohesion	No counterpart in the OECD list
II. Learning and educational services	
A. Educational attainments of the population	The acquisition by children of the basic knowledge, skills and values necessary for their individual development and their successful functioning in society.
B. Use and distribution of educational services	The availability of opportunities for continuing self-development and the propensity of individuals to use them.  The maintenance and development by individuals of the knowledge, skills and flexibility required to fulfil their economic potential and to enable them to integrate themselves in the economic process if they wish to do so.
C. Educational achievement and efficiency of educational services	No counterpart in the OECD list
No counterparts in the SSDS	The individual's satisfaction with the process of individual development through learning while he is in the process.  The maintenance and development of the cultural heritage relative to its positive contribution to the well-being of the members of various social groups

Table 1. Social concerns of the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) and in the list of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (continued)

SSDS subjects of social concern	OECD list of social concerns <sup>1/</sup> (some "sub-concerns" have been omitted)
III. Earning activities and the employment services	
A. Labour force participation	The availability of gainful employment for those who desire it
B. Employment opportunity and security	The quality of working life: employment security, career prospects
C. Employment mobility	No counterpart in the OECD list
D. Employment compensation	The quality of working life: earnings and fringe benefits
E. Working conditions	The quality of working life: working conditions, employment-time, employment-related time and paid holidays, relations among and participation by employees, supervision, autonomy and job challenge
F. Availability and performance of manpower services	No counterpart in the OECD list
No counterpart in the SSDS	Individual satisfaction with the experience of working life
IV. Distribution of income, consumption and wealth	
A. Levels of household income and wealth	Personal command over goods and services
B. Growth in household income and wealth	
C. Level of household consumption	Quality, range of choice and accessibility of private and public goods and services
D. Growth in household consumption	
E. Redistribution of income and consumption	Extent of equity in the distribution of command over goods and services
F. Inequality in the distribution of income, consumption and wealth	Number of individuals experiencing material deprivation

Table 1. Social concerns of the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) and in the list of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (continued)

SSDS subjects of social concern	OECD list of social concerns <sup>1/</sup> (some "sub-concerns" have been omitted)
V. Social security and welfare services	
A. Scope of protection against loss of income and other hazards	The protection of individuals and families against economic hazards
B. Use and magnitude of protection against loss of income and other hazards	
VI. Health and health services	
A. State of health	The probability of a healthy life through all stages of the life cycle
a. Length of life	
b. Disabilities	The impact of health impairments on individuals: the quality of health care in terms of reducing pain and restoring functional capabilities, the extent of universal distribution in the delivery of health care, the ability of the chronically impaired and permanently handicapped to participate more effectively society.
B. Availability and use of health services	
C. Performance of health services	No counterpart in the OECD list
VII. Housing	
A. State and distribution of housing	Housing conditions: cost and availability of suitable dwellings, living space and utilities of dwellings, accessibility to neighbourhood shops and services, and workplaces, neighbourhood and environmental amenities
B. Adequacy of supply of housing	
C. Tenure and outlays on housing	
D. Public housing assistance	No counterpart in the OECD list
No counterparts in the SSDS	Population exposure to harmful and/or unpleasant pollutants
	The benefit derived by the population from the use and management of the environment



Table 1. Social concerns of the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) and in the list of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (continued)

SSDS subjects of social concern	OECD list of social concerns <sup>1/</sup> (some "sub-concerns" have been omitted)
VIII. Public order and safety	
A. Frequency and severity of offences and victimization	Violence, victimization and harassment suffered by individuals
B. Characters and treatment of offenders	Fairness and humanity of the administration of justice  Extent of confidence in the administration of justice
C. Performance of institutions	No counterpart in the OECD list
IX. The allocation of time and the use of leisure	
A. The use of time	The availability of effective choices for the use of time: the accessibility and quality of leisure-time opportunities, the time available for personal development, family and social obligations, and social participation
B. The use of leisure	
C. The availability and use of leisure-time facilities	
No counterpart in the SSDS	The flexibility of patterns of working time
X. Social stratification and mobility	
A. Social stratification	The degree of social inequality: the extent of opportunity for social mobility, the degree of inequality among social strata, the position of disadvantaged groups
B. Intra-generational mobility	
C. Inter-generational mobility	
No counterpart in the SSDS	The extent of opportunity for participation in community life, institutions and decision-making

<sup>1/</sup> List of social concerns common to most OECD countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Manpower and Social Affairs Directorate, Paris 1973.

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
I. Population			
Growth of population			
1. Number and rates per 1,000 persons: net total increase, births and deaths, and net migration, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin		
2. Live births per 1,000 females of child bearing age standardized in respect of age, specified periods	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
Geographic distribution of population			
1. Number and percentage of population, specified dates	Sex and age in urban-rural and in geographic area		
Family stability and cohesion			
1. Number, percentage and average size of families, specified dates	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Family type and size	
2. Proportion and average duration of marriages broken by separation, divorce or death, specified periods	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Family type and size	
II. Learning and the educational services			
Educational attainments of the population			
1. Percentage of population 10 years of age and over illiterate or at various degrees of literacy, specified dates			Sex and age, urban-rural, Degrees of literacy national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
II. Learning and the educational services (continued)			
A. Educational attainments of the population (continued)			
2. Average years of schooling (full-time equivalents) successfully completed by the population at minimum school leaving age and over, specified dates	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
3. Expected years of schooling (full-time equivalents) successfully completed by survivors, at school-entrance age, at minimum school-leaving age	Sex, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
B. Use and distribution of educational services			
1. Proportion of population between 5 and 30 years of age enrolled in full-time education, specified dates	Sex and age for total population; standardized for sex and age; urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
2. Proportion of population at or above minimum school-leaving age enrolled in part-time education, specified dates	Sex and age for total population; standardized for sex and age; urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
3. Per capita total consumption expenditure during year on education in constant dollars	Urban-rural, institutional sector	Level of education	
4. Number and proportion of total enrollment in full-time education, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area	Level of education, year (grade) of education and area of study, where appropriate	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
II. Learning and the educational services (continued)			
B. Use and distribution of educational services (continued)			
5. Number and proportion of total enrollment in part-time education, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area	Level of education, area of study, where appropriate	
C. Educational achievement and efficiency of educational services			
1. Proportion of students beginning a level of education in one year who completed the level in a specified later year	Sex, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Level of education, area of study, where appropriate	
2. Dropout and retention rates during school year for students at minimum school-leaving age and over	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Level of education, area of study, where appropriate	
3. Percentage distribution and median score of examinees according to test scores	Urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Level of education	
4. Number of students per employed teacher, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area	Level of education, area of study, where appropriate	
5. Index numbers of output and unit-costs, specified periods	Urban-rural, institutional sector	Level of education, area of study, where feasible	

Table 2. Serie. for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
III. Earning activities and the employment services			
A. Labour force participation			
1. Proportion of economically active, persons above minimum employment age at specified period	Sex and age in the case of total population; standardized for sex and age: urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
2. Expected years of working life at minimum employment age and at 40 years of age	Sex, urban-rural, socio-economic class		
B. Employment opportunities and security			
1. Number and proportion of economically active unemployed, specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Occupation	Level of education successfully completed
2. Percentage distribution and average duration according to spell of unemployment, unemployed during specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Occupation, spell of unemployment	Level of education successfully completed
3. Percentage distribution and average weeks employed according to number of weeks employed, economically active during entire year	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, kind of economic activity	Weeks employed	
4. Average annual rate of growth in employment	Geographic area, kind of economic activity		
5. Index numbers of accessions to, and separations from, employment, specified periods	Geographic area, kind of economic activity		

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
III. Earning activities and the employment services (continued)			
C. Employment mobility			
1. Proportion of employed as of two dates with occupational shifts and average number of shifts per person	Sex and age at first date, national or ethnic origin	Occupation	
2. Proportion of employed as of two dates with shifts in industrial attachment and average number of shifts per person	Sex and age at first date, national or ethnic origin, kind of economic activity		
D. Employment compensation			
1. Median wages and salaries in current and constant dollars, full-time employees during specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, kind of economic activity	Occupation	Fractile groups of wages and salaries
E. Working conditions			
1. Average hours of work per week, full-time employees during specified periods	Sex, kind of economic activity	Occupation	
2. Rate per 10,000 man-hours worked and average days of bed disability and restricted activity per injury, temporary disabling injuries during specified periods	Sex and age, kind of economic activity	Occupation	Classification of injuries
3. Rate per 100,000 man-hours worked, permanently disabling injuries and deaths during specified periods	Sex and age, kind of economic activity	Occupation	Classifications of chronic disability and of cause of death
4. Rate of occupational diseases per 1,000 persons at risk during specified periods	Sex and age, kind of economic activity	Occupation	Classification of diseases

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
III. Earning activities and the employment services (continued)			
E. Working conditions (continued)			
5. Proportion covered by social security and private pension, insurance and similar welfare schemes, engaged at specified dates	Sex, kind of economic activity	Occupation	Classification of diseases
6. Proportion receiving paid vacations, holidays and sick leaves and average number of days of each type of leave, employees during specified periods	Sex, kind of economic activity	Occupation	
F. Availability and performance of manpower services			
a. Employment exchanges			
1. Number and proportion registered with employment exchanges, economically active and unemployed during specified periods	Sex and age, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Occupation	
2. Number and proportion referred, registrants during specified period	Sex and age, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Occupation	
3. Index numbers of output and unit-costs, specified periods			
b. Retraining programmes			
1. Number and proportion enrolled, unemployed during specified periods	Sex and age, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Occupation	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
III. Earning activities and the employment services (continued)			
F. Availability and performance of manpower services (continued)			
b. Retraining programmes (continued)			
2. Proportion of entrants during specified periods who successfully completed training and who obtained employment during specified later periods	Sex and age, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Occupation	
3. Index numbers of output and unit-costs, specified periods	Geographic area, institutional sector	Occupation	
IV. Distribution of income, consumption and wealth			
A. Levels of household income and wealth			
1. Median annual household available and distributed factor incomes in current, constant prices, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Fractile groups of available or of distributed factor incomes	
2. Median household saving in current, or preferably, constant prices, specified dates	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type and size of households, age	Fractile groups of available income in current or constant prices, as appropriate	
3. Median household net worth in current, or preferably, in constant prices, specified dates	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of available income in current or constant prices as appropriate	



Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
IV. Distribution of income, consumption and wealth (continued)			
B. Growth in household income			
1. Average annual rates of change during specified periods in annual household available and distributed factor incomes in constant prices, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of available or of distributed factor incomes, as appropriate	
2. Average annual rates of change between specified dates in household saving at constant prices	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of available income	
3. Average annual rate of change between specified dates in household net worth at constant prices	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, sex and age	Fractile groups of available income	
C. Level of household consumption			
1. Median annual household personal consumption in current prices, or preferably, in constant prices, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic origin, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of personal consumption and of available income at current or constant prices, as appropriate	
2. Median annual total household consumption in current, or preferably, in constant prices, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of personal consumption in current or constant prices, as appropriate	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
IV. Distribution of income, consumption and wealth (continued)			
C. Level of household consumption (continued)			
3. Average per capita weekly intake of calories, proteins and minerals, specified periods	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household	Fractile groups of personal consumption in current, or preferably, constant prices	
4. Proportion of households having specific types of durable consumer goods at specified dates	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of available income in current, or preferably, constant prices	Type and size of household
D. Growth in household consumption			
1. Average annual rate of change during specified periods in annual household personal consumption at constant prices, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of personal consumption in constant prices	
2. Average annual rate of change during specified periods in annual household total consumption at constant prices, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household, age	Fractile groups of personal consumption in constant prices	
E. Redistribution of income and consumption			
1. Ratio of household available income to household distributed factor income	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household	Fractile groups of distributed factor income	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
IV. Distribution of income, consumption and wealth (continued)			
E. Redistribution of income and consumption			
(continued)			
2. Ratio of household total consumption to household personal consumption, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, type and size of household	Fractile groups of personal consumption	
F. Inequality in the distribution of income, consumption and wealth			
a. Household, income and net worth			
1. Lorenz curves: annual household distributed factor incomes, available incomes and net worth, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
2. Gini ratios: annual household distributed factor incomes, available incomes and net worth, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
b. Household consumption			
1. Lorenz curves: annual household personal consumption and total consumption, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
2. Gini ratios: annual household personal consumption and total consumption, per household and per household member	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
V. Social security and welfare services			
A. Protection against loss of income and other hazards			
1. Proportion of persons at risk covered by social security and similar schemes, specified dates	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, institutional sector	Type of hazard	
B. Use and magnitude of protection against loss of income and other hazards			
1. Proportion of individuals covered by social security and similar schemes receiving benefits and average benefits per person in current, or preferably, constant dollars, specified periods	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, institutional sector	Type of hazard	
2. Ratio of annual social security and similar benefits to annual available income, individuals receiving benefits during year	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of hazard	
3. Proportion of families and of population receiving public assistance and average benefits per person, in current, or preferably, constant dollars, specified periods	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, geographic area		
4. Number and proportion of population in welfare institutions	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, kind of economic activity (institution)		

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VI. Health and health services			
A. State of health			
a. Length of life			
1. Expected years of life at birth and at age 40	Sex, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Cause of death	
2. Rate per 1,000 persons at risk of neo-natal and post-natal deaths, specified periods	Sex; standardized for sex: urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
3. Rate per 1,000 persons at risk of deaths, specified periods	Sex and age; standardized for sex and age: urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Cause of death	
b. Disabilities			
1. Number per 1,000 persons at risk of persons with one or more days of bed disability and restricted activity, specified periods	Sex and age; standardized for sex and age: urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Classification of diseases and injuries	
2. Average duration of spells of persons with one or more days of bed disability and restricted activity, specified periods	Sex and age; standardized for sex and age: urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Classification of diseases and injuries	
3. Number per 1,000 persons at risk of individuals with chronic functional disability, specified dates	Sex and age; standardized for sex and age: urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Classification of functional disabilities	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VI. Health and health services (continued)			
B. Availability and use of health services			
1. Number of doctors, midwives and dentists per 100,000 persons at risk, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, kind of economic activity (health service)		
2. Number of hospital beds per 100,000 persons at risk, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area		
3. Per capita annual total consumption on health in constant prices	Urban-rural, household goods and services (medical care and health expenses), institutional sector		
4. Proportions of households making annual personal consumption expenditure on health and their median expenditure per household member in current, or preferably, constant prices	Age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, household goods and services (medical care and health expenses)		Fractile groups of available income in current or constant prices, as appropriate
5. Number of individuals with a current vaccination per 100,000 persons at risk, specified dates	Sex, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin	Type of vaccination	
6. Number of hospital admissions per 100,000 persons at risk and average bed days per patient, specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Classification of diseases and injuries	
7. Number of hospital clinic out-patients per 100,000 persons at risk and average number of visits per out-patient, specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Classification of diseases and injuries	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VI. Health and health services (continued)			
B. Availability and use of health services (continued)			
8. Number of persons visiting doctors and dentists per 100,000 persons at risk and average number of visits per person, specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Classification of diseases and injuries	
C. Performance of health services			
1. Ratio of average number of patient hospital bed days to available hospital bed days, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, institutional sector		
2. Index numbers of the annual output and unit-costs of health services	Urban-rural, geographic area, kind of economic activity (health service) institutional sector		
VII. Housing			
A. State and distribution of housing			
1. Percentage distribution of households and persons according to type of living quarters, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type and size of household	Type of living quarters	Fractile groups of available income
2. Average number of persons per room, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type and size of household		Fractile groups of available income

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VII. Housing (continued)			
A. State and distribution of housing (continued)			
3. Percentage distribution of households and persons according to availability of water-supply, toilet, lighting, cooking and bathing facilities, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type and size of household	Type of water-supply, toilet, lighting, cooking, bathing, facilities	Fractile groups of available income
B. Adequacy of supply of housing			
1. Percentage of conventional dwelling units occupied and vacant, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area	Type of water-supply, toilet, lighting, cooking, bathing facilities	
2. Ratio of annual rates of net increase, conventional dwellings to households	Urban-rural, geographic area		
C. Tenure and outlays on housing			
1. Percentage distribution of households and persons in housing units according to type of tenure	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of tenure	Fractile groups of available income
2. Median annual amount per household and proportion spent on housing of annual personal consumption in current prices and in constant prices	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		Fractile groups of available income, in current or constant prices, as appropriate
D. Public housing assistance			
1. Ratio of annual total consumption to annual personal consumption spent on housing	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		Fractile groups of available income



Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VII. Housing ( continued)			
D. Public housing assistance (continued)			
2. Annual government housing subsidies, capital transfers and loans to private enterprises and annual government housing current and capital transfers and loans to private non-profit bodies	Urban-rural, geographic area, institutional sector, kind of economic activity		Type of government outlay
VIII. Public order and safety			
A. Frequency and severity of offences and victimization			
1. Number of offences per 100,000 persons at risk, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area	Type of offence	Classification of injuries
2. Number of human victims injured per 100,000 persons at risk, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of offence	
3. Number of human victims with property loss per 100,000 persons at risk and average value of loss, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of offence type of property loss	
4. Number of institutional victims with property loss per 100,000 establishments at risk and average value of loss, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, institutional sector, kind of economic activity	Type of offence type of property loss	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VIII. Public order and safety (continued)			
B. Characteristics and treatment of offenders			
1. Number of offenders charged per 100,000 population, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of offence	
2. Proportion of offenders charged who were convicted, specified periods	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of offence, number of earlier convictions	
3. Percentage distribution of offenders according to kind of sentence, specified periods	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Type of offence, number of earlier convictions, type of offence, kind of sentence	
4. Number of sentenced inmates in correctional institutions per 100,000 population, specified dates	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Kind of correctional institution	
5. Number of sentenced persons on probation per 100,000 population, specified dates	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
6. Average duration of detention, persons released from detention during specified periods	Sex and age, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Not charged, charged, or sentenced	
C. Performance of institutions			
1. Proportion of reported offences during specified period cleared up by police authorities by specified later period	Urban-rural, geographic area	Type of offence, type of disposition	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
VIII. Public order and safety (continued)			
C. Performance of institutions (continued)			
2. Average elapsed time from charge to disposition, initial judicial verdicts during specified periods	Geographic area	Type of offence, type of disposition	
3. Average number of inmates per cell or room, detention (correctional) institutions as of specified dates	Geographic area	Kind of detention (correctional) institution	
4. Index numbers of the annual output and unit-costs of public order and safety institutions	Purposes of government services, geographic area		

IX. The allocation of time and leisure

A. The use of time			
1. Proportion of persons devoting time to, and average percentage (or amount) of their time spent on, various uses of time, specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Uses of time	
2. Proportion of persons taking vacations during year and average duration of vacations	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		
B. The use of leisure			
1. Proportion of persons devoting leisure time to, and average percentage (or amount) of their time spent on, various uses of leisure, specified periods	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class	Uses of leisure time	

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
IX. The allocation of time and leisure (continued)			
B. The use of leisure (continued)			
2. Per capita annual total consumption of leisure-time goods and services in constant prices	Urban-rural, classification of household goods and services, institutional sector		
3. Proportion of households making annual personal consumption expenditure on, and average amount per household member in current, or preferably, constant prices on, various leisure-time goods and services	Age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class, type and size of household classification of household goods and services		Fractile groups of available income in current or constant prices, as appropriate
4. Proportion of persons devoting vacation time during year to, and average percentage (or amount) of vacation time spent on, various uses	Sex and age, urban-rural, national or ethnic group, socio-economic class	Uses of leisure time	Fractile groups of available income
C. The availability and use of leisure-time facilities			
1. Number of leisure-time units (establishments) per 1,000 population, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, kind of economic activity (leisure-time service), institutional sector		
2. Number of cinema, theatre, concert-hall, sport-stadium and similar recreational-facility seats per 1,000 population, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, kind of economic activity (leisure-time institutional sector		

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
IX. The allocation of time and leisure (continued)			
C. Availability and use of leisure-time facilities (continued)			
3. Number of admissions per 1,000 population, leisure-time services during specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area, kind of economic activity (leisure-time service), institutional sector		
4. Number and average circulation of newspapers and magazines per 1,000 populations, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area		
5. Number of books available per 1,000 population, public libraries at specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area		
6. Number of books sold and circulated by public libraries per 1,000 population, specified periods	Urban-rural, geographic area		
7. Number of members per 1,000 population, social, recreational, sport and similar clubs at specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area, kind of economic activity (club or society), sex and age		
8. Area of open public space per 1,000 population, specified dates	Urban-rural, geographic area		
9. Proportion of households with television sets, radios, boats and other selected leisure-time durable goods, specified dates	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic class, classification of household goods and services		Fractile groups of available income

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
X. Social stratification and mobility			
A. Social stratification			
1. Percentage distribution of number of households (families) and numbers according to socio-economic class, specified dates	National or ethnic origin		
2. Percentage distribution of number of households (families) and members according to size of distributed factor income at current, or preferably, constant prices, specified periods	Age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
3. Percentage distribution of households (families) and of members according to size of net worth at current, or preferably, constant prices, specified dates	Age, urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
4. Percentage distribution of persons 21 years of age and over according to years of schooling (full-time equivalent) successfully completed, specified dates	Urban-rural, national or ethnic origin		
B. Intra-generational mobility			
1. Proportion with shifts in occupation and average number of shifts per person, identical employees at two dates	Sex and age at first date, urban-rural at first date, national or ethnic origin		Occupation at first date and at second date

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
X. Social stratification and mobility (continued)			
B. Intra-generational mobility (continued)			
2. Proportions with shifts from a lower to a higher fragile group of wages and salaries (or compensation of employees), and vice versa, and average percentage increase or decrease in constant-price wages and salaries (or compensation of employees) identical employees as of two periods	Sex and age during first period, urban-rural during first period, national or ethnic origin		Fragile groups of wages and salaries (compensation of employees) during each period, occupation during first period
3. Proportions with shifts from a lower to a higher fragile group of distributed factor income and vice versa, and average percentage increase or decrease in constant-price distributed factor income, identical households (families) as of two periods	Age during first period, urban-rural during first period, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class during first period		Fragile groups of distributed factor income during each period
4. Proportions with shifts from a lower to a higher fragile group of net worth, and vice versa, and average percentage increase or decrease in constant-price net worth, identical households (families) as of two dates	Age during first date, urban-rural during first date, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class		Fragile groups of net worth at each date
C. Inter-generational mobility			
1. Proportions of sons 21 years of age and over with different socio-economic class than their fathers at the same age	Age of sons, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic class of sons		

Table 2. Series for selecting social indicators (continued)

Concerns and items of data	Common classifications of the system	Characteristic classifications of subsystem	Characteristic classifications of other subsystems
X. Social stratification and mobility (continued)			
C. Inter-generational mobility (continued)			
2. Percentage distribution of sons 21 years of age and over according to ratios between their and fathers' years of schooling (full-time equivalent) successfully completed.	National or ethnic origin, socio-economic class of sons		
3. Percentage distribution of daughters 21 years of age and over according to ratios between their and mothers' years of schooling (full-time equivalents) successfully completed	National or ethnic origin, socio-economic class of daughters		