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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

STATISTICAL WORK OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Add the following text at the end of the report:

VII. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

A. Statistics on education

88. The first phase of the programme of education projections has been completed. This forms part of a co-ordinated inter-agency series of demographic and related projections in connexion with the International Development Strategy for the United Nations Second Development Decade and has been carried out with financing in part from the UNESCO regular budget and in part from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). A statistical background paper, based on the results of this work, was prepared for the World Population Conference (Bucharest, Romania, August 1974). The next phase of this programme has been started, relating to detailed projections of enrolment by country, with special attention being given to the enrolment and retention characteristics of the developing regions.

89. A ten-year survey of trends in higher education has been completed for publication in the near future, with special emphasis on students graduating, by type of award. A detailed statistical study on higher education in Europe was prepared for the second Conference of Ministers of Education of European Member States (Bucharest, November-December 1973).

90. A new survey of foreign students, by country of origin and by field of study, has been launched. This time the survey is supplemented by a specialized study on medical students studying abroad, which is being undertaken with the agreement of WHO and the financial support of the United States Government through a Funds-in-Trust Agreement.

91. Work on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) has made significant progress since the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission. A draft three-stage classification was sent to Member States and to international and regional organizations for written comments during 1973. In the light of observations and suggestions made, a revised version of ISCED has been prepared and issued to Member States (June 1974) to be finally considered and reviewed at an inter-governmental meeting of experts (Paris, 3-11 December 1974), to which all Member States and a number of international organizations have been invited. This revised classification is also before the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/458) for examination with a view to ensuring co-ordination between ISCED and related statistical classifications and programmes.

B. Statistics on science and technology

92. Work on science and technology statistics centred on further improvement and expansion of the data collected on national activities in scientific research and experimental development (R and D). In addition to the regular surveys on scientific and technical personnel and on expenditure for R and D, a special inquiry was initiated pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1637(LI), regarding R and D activities undertaken by developed countries specifically for the benefit of the developing countries.

93. An analytical report "Statistics on R and D in African countries" was prepared as a reference document for the Conference of Ministers of African Member States Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (Dakar, January 1974). Other special studies were initiated, namely a survey of R and D activities in selected organizations within the United Nations system and a pilot study on research and related scientific activities in the field of social sciences and humanities.

94. As regards co-operation with other international organizations, priority was given to the problems of international co-ordination and standardization of science statistics. Close contacts were maintained with the Economic Commission for Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Organization of American States. Particular attention was paid to establishing uniform concepts and standards applicable to science statistics in Member States with different socio-economic systems. As an intermediate step to international standardization of science statistics, a draft international standard nomenclature for fields of science and technology was prepared by the Office of Statistics and the Science Policy Division.

C. Statistics on culture and communication

95. Efforts were made to improve the reliability and comparability of statistics on culture and communication so as to make them more useful tools for policy and planning. Initial steps were taken to elaborate a methodology for the collection of statistics on budgets for cultural activities. Furthermore, work was initiated to explore the possibility of collecting statistical data on cultural activities based on oral traditions in developing countries.

96. Preparatory work has been undertaken for a recommendation concerning the international standardization of statistics on radio and television. In this context, a methodological study was prepared, and a meeting of experts was organized (Paris, April 1974), to give advice on various problems related to international comparability in these fields. A special report on this subject was submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board at its ninety-fourth session (May-June 1974). The Board decided to include this matter on the agenda of the eighteenth session of the General Conference (October-November 1974).

97. A working document was prepared by the Office of Statistics, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Studies and Development and the Department of Free Flow of Information and Development of Communication, for the Joint UNESCO/ECE Working Group on Statistics of Culture and Communication, to be held 23-27 September 1974. The paper outlines the current situation of these statistics in Europe, as well as UNESCO's present activities and future programme in this respect, and gives some indications of the types of statistics needed for policy and planning purposes in the fields of culture and communication.

D. Statistical data bank

98. The statistical data bank was further developed to permit the preparation by computer of statistical tables for the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook and other publications. A new page-format programme was written to permit a high degree of flexibility as concerns the structuring of a given table. Tables for approximately 60 per cent of the 1973 Yearbook have been reproduced by photo-offset from computer print-outs using this programme.

E. Assistance to Member States

99. Technical assistance under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been provided to a number of Member States, upon request, for improvement of their educational statistics services. In addition, fellowships have been granted and certain statistical equipment furnished.

100. Under the Regular Programme assistance has been rendered, through pilot projects in science statistics, to selected Latin American countries, and through advisory services in cultural statistics, to Ethiopia.

101. Furthermore, UNESCO has undertaken technical assistance projects financed by UNDP, in university teaching of statistics, namely educational statistics teaching in Kenya and the Libyan Arab Republic and statistics teaching in general in Ethiopia, the Philippines and (inter-country project) Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

102. As the result of a special survey undertaken in 1972-1973, a "Directory on statistical teaching for developing countries" was published in the series "Current surveys and research in statistics" (CSR-E-4).

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