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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

STATISTICAL WORK OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Report of the Secretary-General

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1. This progress report covers the statistical activities of the specialized agencies since the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission, in November 1972. A report on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations is also before the Commission (E/CN.3/463), as is one on the statistical work of the regional conferences and similar bodies (E/CN.3/466).

2. Additional information on the work of the specialized agencies is before the Commission in "International statistical programmes, 1975-1979" (E/CN.3/444) and "International technical assistance in statistics, 1975-1979" (E/CN.3/446).

#### I. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO)

3. In the period from November 1972 to May 1974, the main statistical activities of the ILO concerned the preparation and the holding of the Twelfth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the analysis of current population census data and the application of 1970 benchmark data to the preparation and revision of labour force projections and the continuing work of collection and dissemination of statistical information on labour questions in the Year Book of Labour Statistics and the Bulletin of Labour Statistics.

4. Three reports were prepared for consideration by the Twelfth Conference. The report entitled "General review of labour statistics" contained, in its first part, a discussion of the extent to which the different countries are currently pursuing similar, or divergent, objectives in their labour statistics programmes, and threw some light on the reasons underlying the choice of particular objectives of current and long-term programmes. The second part of the report related to basic labour statistics needed for the establishment of sound economic and social development policies and planning, a matter clearly of primary concern to developing countries.

5. The report on "Statistics of wages and employee income" reviewed national practices in the collection and compilation of wage statistics, and studied the objectives and principal uses of wage statistics, the concepts and definitions used in their collection and existing international standards in this field. Statistics of wages and hours of work in agriculture were dealt with in a separate chapter. Finally, the report proposed a framework for an integrated system of current and non-current wage statistics.

6. The report on "Scope, methods and uses of family expenditure surveys" dealt with developments in these statistics; their objectives, scope and uses; concepts and definitions; survey methodology; classifications of household income and expenditures; tabulation, analysis and presentation of results. It concluded with a draft resolution (see paragraph 9) proposing a set of recommendations to replace those adopted by the Seventh Conference, 1949, including recommendations on classifications of income and expenditure for use in connexion with household sample surveys.

7. The Twelfth Conference met from 16 to 26 October 1973. Forty-seven countries were represented, as were the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the International Organisation of Employers. The debate provided the occasion for a review of recent developments in labour statistics in the various countries and for the study of a basic programme of labour statistics for developing countries in the light of the major international programmes of economic and social development such as the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the World Employment Programme, and international statistical systems such as the System of National accounts (SNA), the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS), the complementary system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation and the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS).
8. The Conference adopted three resolutions. The first recommends the development by each country of an integrated system of wage statistics designed to provide for the needs of users in connexion with the measurement of levels of living of employees, wage determination, collective bargaining, planning, etc.; it defines the concepts and definitions to be used in the preparation of wage statistics, proposes a current wage statistics programme as well as the production of data on the structure and distribution of wages and supplies guidelines on the scope and best methods of setting up wage statistics.
9. The second resolution concerns household income and expenditure statistics; it points out their objectives and contains recommendations on their periodicity, their scope and their organization as well as on the concepts, definitions, methodology and classifications to be used; it ends with recommendations on the tabulation and presentation of results. It takes fully into account the need to ensure that any recommendation concerning surveys designed to supply household income and expenditure statistics should, as fully as possible, be consistent with standards concerning statistics of households stemming from the SNA, MPS and the complementary system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.
10. The third resolution reviews the practical difficulties raised by the implementation of the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63). Despite great advances made in many countries in their national statistics of wages and hours of work, only a limited number of countries have ratified the Convention, in particular because it does not provide for the compilation of statistics of wages and hours of work that meet modern requirements of economic and social planning, while at the same time some of its provisions are in conflict with modern statistical practices. The resolution accordingly requests the Governing Body to direct the Office to undertake as soon as possible a thorough review of Convention No. 63 and to place the question of its revision on the agenda of the International Labour Conference in order to bring it into harmony with modern practices and needs in the field of wages and hours of work.

11. In the field of labour force projections, the ILO published in 1973, in English, French and Spanish, a Methodological Supplement which formed part VI of the five parts on Labour Force Projections, 1965-1985, published in 1971. The ILO also participated actively in the development by the United Nations, FAO and UNESCO of an inter-agency programme of co-ordinated demographic projections.

12. The analysis of the 1970 round of population censuses was intensified in 1973, following the increase in the number of countries publishing the results of population censuses carried out in 1970 or around that year; labour force data were analysed and tabulated by sex and age and according to urban and rural distribution. This information will form the basis for the elaboration of a new set of labour force projections covering the period 1975-2000, to be completed in 1975 and published in 1976.

13. The ILO continued in 1972-1974 its work on the collection, compilation and publication of current statistics, which represents 25 percent of the total resources spent by ILO on its statistical programme. The 1972 and 1973 issues of the Year Book of Labour Statistics (respectively 800 and 900 pages, mainly of data) were published in December 1972 and 1973; the Quarterly Bulletin of Labour Statistics was published regularly. Volume I (consumer prices of the 1972 edition of the Technical Guide, 300 pages) giving summary methodological descriptions of the series published in the Year Book and in the Bulletin, was published in January 1973, and volume II (employment, unemployment, hours of work and wages, 350 pages) in April 1973. A new edition of the Bulletin on Household Income and Expenditure Statistics, presenting in standardized form the results of surveys conducted in Africa, Asia and Latin America from 1960 to 1972, was published in 1974.

14. The technical co-operation work of the ILO in the field of labour statistics continued during the period 1972-1974. This work involves mainly recruiting and supervising the work of experts, sent at government request, to countries to assist them in the development of labour statistics, particularly manpower statistics. The number of experts in the field remained around ten during the period. The ILO also has regional labour statisticians: as an example of the type of work done by these officials, it may be noted that during the biennium 1972-1973, the regional labour statistician in Africa undertook seven direct assistance missions, from one to three weeks' duration, in response to countries requests, to advise on setting up labour statistics systems, on the strengthening of existing ones, or on specific technical statistical problems; he also conducted thirteen training courses in labour statistics, represented the ILO in various statistical meetings in the region and assisted other organizations on various aspects of labour statistics.

15. The Statistical Branch of the ILO also carries out a large number of miscellaneous and relatively limited tasks, which together consume a sizeable part of the small resources available in the ILO for statistical work. Thus the

Statistical Branch supplied a large amount of statistical data on labour force, employment and wages to the World Employment Programme and to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the preparation of comprehensive missions organized by these bodies in various developing countries, made statistical contributions to reports and studies prepared by other departments of the ILO, issued annual press releases on the situation of the workers in the world, undertook a limited inquiry on the costs of labour force sample surveys, computed annual estimates of days lost through industrial disputes per thousand workers, analysed government reports on the application of Convention No. 63, etc. Finally work on inter-city price comparisons for the determination of post adjustments of international officials in European duty stations, already representing usually 5 man-years of work per year, had to be increased mainly to cope with the difficulties created by currency.

## II. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

16. The number of countries taking a census of agriculture under the framework of the FAO programme for the decennial World Census of Agriculture (WCA), has been increasing ever since this worldwide activity started. By the end of 1973, almost one hundred countries had completed their censuses. The final results from eight of these participating countries have been published in the four issues of the Census Bulletin devised for this purpose in 1973. In addition, results from eight other countries were prepared for publication in early 1974. The results will continue to be published as received from the countries.
17. FAO has initiated preparation of a programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture. Before it goes to the 1975 FAO Conference for approval, the draft programme will be reviewed by the regional Commissions on Agricultural Statistics and the FAO Statistics Advisory Committee.
18. Action was taken to promote long term (five or more years) integrated national statistical programmes of food and agricultural statistics, indicating the type of data to be compiled, the methods to be utilized as well as the organization and training requirements, together with a time schedule for all components of the programme. The first such extensive integrated programme covers five Central African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo and Gabon. The objective is to carry out a census of agriculture and, using the census results and resources, to establish a permanent system of current agricultural statistics.
19. In order to expand this work, FAO has initiated pilot studies in Ecuador, Iran, Indonesia and Zaire. There were also several attempts by FAO and other experts to prepare such programmes in other countries.
20. Major emphasis in statistical analysis has been placed on the Food and Population Study. While the essential purpose of the study has remained to assess the present and future availability of food in relation to the needs of mankind,

the depth of the analysis and the scope of the factors considered have been progressively intensified and extended. Although the study will be published as a separate document towards the middle of 1974, the analytical material has been used in the preparation of documents such as "Population, food supply and agricultural development" presented at the United Nations Symposium on Population and Development (Cairo, June 1973), "The FAO background document for the World Population Conference" (Bucharest, August 1974) and the "Preliminary assessment of the world food situation" for the World Food Conference (November 1974). It is planned to develop this study further into a "Forth World Food Survey", to be published in 1976.

21. The Projections of Agricultural Population and Labour Force prepared in 1971 on a country basis for the period 1965-1985 were extended on a regional basis up to the year 2000. Considerable research has been undertaken to improve the methodology for such long-term projections, leading to the revision of the currently available projections reflecting also on the results of the 1970 population censuses. These projections will be prepared on a country basis and will cover the period 1970-2000.

22. Increased work for the compilation of food consumption statistics from countries has been carried out, mainly to provide the necessary data for the Food and Population Study but also in line with requirements for the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Pilot surveys on inter-relationships between food consumption and population dynamics were undertaken in Lesotho and the Philippines in 1973/74. A follow-up project for the promotion of agro-demographic and fertility surveys will be initiated towards the middle of 1974.

23. The increasing policy and planning orientation of FAO's statistical work requires the development and maintenance of regular series of social statistics and indicators. Indicators are being constructed from the data readily available or which can easily be collected. Work is similarly being initiated for the development of a system of social statistics pertinent to agriculture. Attempts will be made to relate this work, as much as possible, with the over-all United Nations System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS).

24. Work on economic accounts for agriculture has continued. A recent report containing production accounts for agriculture at current prices for 60 countries for the 1961/71 period has been published. The next issue will contain information for additional countries. A Handbook of Economic Accounts for Agriculture has been published jointly with the Statistical Office of the United Nations. The Handbook deals with the conceptual framework of the economic accounts for agriculture and provides a set of standard forms with supporting tables to facilitate the construction of various accounts, particularly the production accounts and capital formation accounts. The Handbook was discussed by experts of European countries, Canada and the United States of America at a meeting, 6-10 May 1974, with a view to developing a European programme of economic accounts for agriculture. Preliminary work on income and outlay accounts and capital formation accounts is also being initiated, particularly within the European Programme of Agriculture.

25. Increased priority has been assigned to the development of agricultural producer price series at country levels. Tentative annual average price estimates at producers' level have been prepared for some 80 developing countries for a number of important agricultural commodities. In addition, the Statistics Division has assumed responsibility for the collection and analysis of country support prices for major agricultural products and has published a document entitled "Developments in agricultural price stabilization and support policies" covering a period of five years, which is discussed every year by the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

26. During the past two years, the Division has taken a leadership role in the establishment of the FAO Interlinked Computer System (ICS) which will provide computerized information on the basic items of agricultural information generally needed by the Organization. Progress has been good. The availability of agricultural data has been substantially increased and steps are being taken to expand and further standardize information on such items as production, yields and trade. It is expected that the system will enable FAO to service more efficiently and promptly national and international agencies and ensure a consistent and standardized set of current and long-term series of food and agricultural statistics.

27. An important element of the ICS is the establishment of supply/utilization accounts for 80 developing countries covering the period 1961 to date. These accounts are now being reviewed internally and will be sent to the countries for review, revision and approval. The preparation of the data in the form of supply/utilization accounts has proved to be a useful tool for preparing estimates for missing data and for checking the consistency of the estimates as part of the process of revision. The usefulness of the supply/utilization accounts is now clearly recognized in providing a basis for a consistency check of the data for the establishment of a dialogue with the countries, as well as within the agency, thus stimulating the improvement of national statistics at the source.

28. In 1971 food balance sheets were published for the 1964/66 period, covering 132 countries. The supply/utilization accounts will provide a basis for a new report covering a five-year period centred on 1970. It also provides a basic input for the "Fourth World Food Survey". The new publication may include non-food crops and be entitled "Supply/utilization accounts and food balance sheets for food and agricultural commodities". As an ad hoc task for the preparation of papers for the World Food Conference, draft food balance sheets (1969/1971 average) for about 80 developing and developed countries covering approximately 98 percent of world population were prepared on the basis of draft supply/utilization accounts.

29. The Production and Trade Yearbooks have been re-organized and their publication computerized during the past year. A long-term series of 12 years for selected major commodities will now be published on a cyclical basis, i.e. different commodities in each edition. One of the important achievements was to advance the publication of trade data by about ten months, thus showing data

for the year indicated on the cover page of the Yearbook, as is the case with the Production Yearbook. The Trade Yearbook now includes, for the first time, index numbers on quantum, unit value and value for exports and imports of food and agricultural commodities.

30. Data on production and trade for the Forest Products Yearbook have been incorporated in the ICS. The first issue of the Yearbook making use of this system is at an advanced stage of preparation. The opportunity provided by the introduction of the computer system is being taken to present 12-year series of data (1960-72). To the collection of data on the capacity of the pulp and paper industry, statistics on production for 1973 have been added. This makes preliminary information on this sector available considerably in advance of information from routine returns. The possibility of obtaining early indicators in other areas of forestry production and trade is under consideration. Preparation has been made to increase the detail of data on production and trade in tropical hardwood timbers, the products most important to developing nations.

31. A set of early indicators on current production by regions and world totals, initiated in recent years, have been further developed to also show indicators by economic classes of countries covering all major crops and livestock products. These indicators are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics on a quarterly basis.

32. The Annual Fertilizer Review has been computerized since 1971, utilizing tapes prepared and furnished by the United States Tennessee Valley Authority. A trilingual edition has replaced the three separate language editions.

33. A new statistical classification for pesticides was worked out in co-operation with industry, taking into consideration new developments and new products in this field. The new classification is being used in the FAO Annual Production Questionnaire, and it is expected that this will facilitate responses from the countries.

34. The following volumes of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics have been published in early 1973 and early 1974. Volume 32, Catches and Landings 1972; Volume 33, Fishery Commodities 1972; Volume 34, Catches and Landings 1973; Volume 35, Fishery Commodities 1973.

35. With the improvement in national data and also with the increasing demand for sophisticated data to help in the assessment of stocks in the formulation of research management programmes by regional sea area bodies, significant improvements have been made in the presentation of the data in the Catch and Landings volumes. Some of these arrangements facilitate the extraction and publication of data in sea regionally oriented publications. The STATLANT programme including this catch and effort data have also been extended to areas in which these kind of details have not yet been included. Particular attention has been paid to areas such as the West Coast of Africa, the East Coast of South America, the Caribbean

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and other waters of the Western Central Atlantic. Statistical improvements occurred under the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (IOFC) and Indian Ocean Programme (IOP) for all countries fishing in the Indian Ocean.

36. Further development on the tables of fishery commodities (production as well as international trade) is pending until the new international commodity classifications have been revised and a final classification established.

37. Following the restructuring of the Department of Fisheries on 1 January 1974, the Fishery Statistics and Economic Data Branch became the Fishery Statistics Unit of the Policy and Planning Service, attached to the office of the Assistant Director-General, Department of Fisheries.

38. The sixth session of the FAO Statistics Advisory Committee of Experts took place in Rome, 3 - 11 October 1973. Important recommendations were made for enhancing the work programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture, the implementation of integrated national programmes in agricultural statistics and the "Fourth World Food Survey". The sixth session of the African Commission took place in Addis Ababa, 12-17 November 1973. Discussions included integrated programmes of food and agricultural statistics and the 1980 World Census of Agriculture.

39. The first phase of the FAO Near East Regional Statistical Institute on Research and Training in Statistics, hosted by the Government of Iraq, started on 1 July 1971, including pre-project activities, and was successfully concluded on 28 February 1974. During this period, over 200 statistical officers from the region were trained in its 11 short- and long-term regional and sub-regional courses. The practical training courses were centred on agricultural census and other priority topics in the field of food and agricultural statistics. The Institute undertook 12 research projects in 6 participating countries and 16 consultant assignments were carried out in 9 countries in the region.

40. Phase two of this project, covering all fields of statistics and to be executed by the United Nations, is under consideration by the United Nations Development Programme.

41. During the period reported, about 50 field experts per year were engaged in promoting the development of agricultural statistics in various countries.

[UNESCO: see 467/Add.1]

### III. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

42. ICAO is in the process of systematically improving its statistics on scheduled airlines of the world. Airline traffic statistics have been converted to computerized data processing, and the relevant publications have been completely redesigned to improve their utility and permit earlier release. Also a programme has been implemented on the statistics of the non-scheduled air transport operators of the world. The first report giving non-scheduled operators statistics on traffic, financial studies and fleet was published in early 1973.

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43. The traffic-flow statistics programme which provides data on the movements of aircraft, passengers, freight and mail for international flight stages of world's airlines has also been converted to computerized data processing and a redesigned Traffic Flow Digest has been in production for over a year. ICAO is now in the process of studying whether to expand this programme to collect on-flight origin and destination statistics, as well as traffic-flow statistics by flight stage, and a decision may be taken by late 1974.

44. As a result of computer operations in these programmes, it is expected that current statistical data tapes as well as the published Digests will become readily available within the next two years.

45. Work has continued in the collection and publication of airport traffic statistics for the principal international airports of the world. Also, ICAO is developing a programme of statistics on traffic and finances of on-route air navigation facilities. A programme for the collection of financial statistics of international airports is under development.

46. A Statistical Programme Manual was published to assist countries of the world in reporting and using the international civil aviation statistics of ICAO. The Manual includes a multi-lingual glossary of statistical terms and definitions. It also contains descriptions of standard measurement and computational methods used in the civil aviation statistics.

47. To assist States in developing civil aviation statistics programmes, a statistical workshop meeting was conducted in Mexico in February 1973 by a statistical officer of ICAO headquarters, and air transport officers in the regional offices have given guidance and short courses on air transport statistics to civil aviation officials.

#### IV. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

##### A. Conferences

##### 1. Second International Conference of National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics

48. The Conference marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of national committees on vital and health statistics and the twentieth anniversary of the First International Conference of National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics, which took place under WHO auspices in 1953 in London. <sup>1/</sup> The Conference provided an occasion for discussions between the producers and users

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<sup>1/</sup> World Health Organization. Technical Report Series, No. 85.

of health statistics, as well as teachers of public health, health statistics and health planning. The Conference was devoted to new approaches in health statistics and their implication for national committees. A review was made of the most important changes and events in health statistics over the last twenty years and those predicted for the near future. "What information is needed" and "How to meet the needs" were two crucial items of discussion. More than 150 delegates and representatives from 60 WHO Member States and from national and international organizations participated.

2. European Conference on Health Information Systems (HIS)

49. Countries are gradually developing HIS, integrating the data required for the management of health services at the local level with those needed for medium- and long-term planning, evaluation and research. The Conference discussed (a) objectives and concepts of HIS; (b) present status of HIS in Europe; (c) planning and development of HIS; (d) organizational and managerial problems; (e) the use of computers in HIS. The Conference was attended by participants from 25 countries.

3. Consultation on assistance to countries in planning and operating national health statistical information systems

50. This consultation was one of a series that arose from the attention that the Division of Health Statistics is paying to the development of national health statistical information systems. It defined the scope and objectives of WHO assistance to the countries in (a) improving communication between users and producers of information, (b) planning a responsive health information system and (c) processing national health statistics.

4. Consultation on cost-effectiveness studies of public health programmes

51. The group met in Geneva from 9-13 April 1973, and was concerned with answering the following questions: (a) is cost-effectiveness analysis likely to be a useful tool for the evaluation of health programmes in general, and of family planning programmes in particular? (b) what is the methodology by which cost-effectiveness analysis can be applied to health programmes? (c) what are the statistical and data-gathering requirements which must be met in order to support the application of cost-effectiveness analysis to family planning and other public health programmes? The group agreed that cost-effectiveness studies of family planning programmes within a public health context have to examine four broad levels of effects: the programme support level, the service volume level, the demographic and health effects and the broad social effects.

5. Joint WHO/UNICEF consultation on school health statistics

52. The meeting (Geneva, 26-30 November 1973), attended by experts on health statistics and school health from 13 countries of all WHO regions, had the following objectives: (a) to review the current state of the availability of

statistical information on the health status of school-children; (b) to discuss the administrative, methodological and technical problems involved in the collection, compilation, processing, interpretation and use of information (health and related) on school-children; (c) to locate existing gaps in the information needs and to formulate guidelines for the development of an adequate school health data system within health statistical information systems, or to strengthen existing systems, with a view to further establishing an integrated system of demographic, economic and social statistics; (d) to make suggestions on the development of an exchange of information on school health statistics at the international level; (e) within the framework of family health, to discuss the information needed for setting up country programmes for school-children adapted to economic and social development.

#### 6. Meeting on family planning statistics

53. The WHO meeting of Temporary Advisers on Family Planning Statistics (Geneva, 3-7 December 1973), had as an objective to review past project activities and make proposals for future programmes of WHO in this field. The consultation delineated the role of health statistics in family planning and human reproduction studies in general, and the mandate and programme of WHO in this field in particular, namely (a) to identify the principal statistical problems involved in the planning, execution and evaluation of family planning care; (b) to review national experience in this field; (c) to point out areas where gaps in existing knowledge required research; and (d) to formulate recommendations for an action-oriented programme of activities with particular consideration to field studies designed to broaden substantive and technical experience.

#### B. Studies and research

##### 1. Study missions for assessment of needs for statistical information

54. Three study missions were sent to nine countries of the African and Eastern Mediterranean regions (February-March 1973) to assess the need for information requested for the planning and evaluation of health services; to study national health statistics information systems, their adequacy and the extent to which they meet the needs of the country concerned; and to identify the kind of assistance WHO can provide to improve the existing situation. Following the study missions, a consultation was convened to discuss the findings and to suggest a course of action for WHO.

##### 2. Studies in relation to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)

55. Various consultations took place concerning questions of revision of the ICD. Thus, one group, at the beginning of 1973, reviewed revision proposals for all chapters of the ICD and for certain related classifications (environmental factors, impairments, surgical operations and other procedures in medicine) and made broad recommendations enabling WHO to prepare the first draft of the ninth revision of the ICD, for circulation to Member States. The group also discussed the ways in

which WHO could assist countries to prepare national language versions of the ICD and methods for familiarizing users with the ninth revision. Another consultation discussed the value, methodology and application of lay reporting of perinatal and maternal morbidity and mortality.

3. Ad hoc surveys of infant and early childhood mortality and fertility patterns

56. Two recent major programmes of the WHO Regional Office for the Americas made a significant contribution to a better understanding of health problems during infancy and early childhood (inter-American investigation of mortality and of mortality in childhood). A study clearly demonstrated the value of collaborative efforts in studies of mortality and morbidity. The basic objective of the present ad hoc surveys is to provide sound estimates of levels and patterns of fertility and mortality in infancy and early childhood in other parts of the world, and to give meaningful information on factors determining these levels and patterns. Five countries have agreed to participate: Afghanistan, Algeria, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Trinidad and Tobago. These countries represent a wide range of social and economic conditions and are in various stages of development of health services.

4. International comparative study of social and biological factors affecting infant mortality

57. The meeting (Geneva, September 1973), discussed the feasibility of a collaborative investigation into the biological and social effects on infant mortality. It was attended by participants from Chile, France, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. The project forms part of a co-ordinated programme of WHO to promote the collection, appraisal, analysis and utilization of statistical information on health trends and differentials.

5. Cancer registration

58. Cancer registration was discussed by a Working Group on the Organization of Comprehensive Cancer Control Programme, convened by the Regional Office for Europe. Discussion focused on hospital-based and population-based (regional and national) registries. For both medical and administrative reasons, cancer registration at local (hospital), regional and national levels should be encouraged, and the provision of financial resources for this should be regarded as a sound investment.

C. Education and training

59. A Directory of Health Statistics Training Courses in WHO Member States was issued (document WHO/HS/NAT.COM./73.300).

1. Post-graduate WHO-assisted training courses in epidemiology and medical statistics

60. In the European region, the courses on the application of statistical and epidemiological methods to medicine and public health, sponsored by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and to which WHO fellows are admitted, continued to be organized as follows: in Bratislava (in the Russian language) at the Institute for Post-graduate Medical Education; in Brussels (French) at the Université libre; in London (English) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

2. Assistance of the other WHO regions in statistical training

61. In the WHO regions for Africa, the Americas, South-east Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Pacific, the training of statistics and medical records personnel continued to be an important element of WHO assistance to countries.

3. First Travelling Seminar for Teachers of Health Statistics

62. The seminar was organized for a group of teachers of health statistics to exchange experiences about their own teaching methods and programmes and to study those used in schools visited in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The group recommended that WHO should devise a manual for teachers of health statistics with special reference to medical students. Other recommendations made were as follows: (1) establishment of workshops on educational issues relating to health statistics; (2) convening an interregional conference on the teaching of health statistics to medical students; (3) organization of "orientation" meeting for policy-makers from ministries of health to ensure better use of the training facilities available to them, by relating these facilities to the needs of their countries.

4. Training workshops for national statisticians on the health aspects of family planning

63. Two workshops were organized, one in the African region, the other in India, to familiarize national statisticians with the integration of family planning statistics into basic health services statistics, and to train them in statistical aspects of family planning. The workshops were part of a scheme for training national statisticians from different WHO regions in family planning statistics.

D. Advisory services

64. WHO assistance to countries - in addition to fellowships and consultantships - was provided by the implementation of projects (country, intercountry and interregional) to help establish hospital in-patient statistics, carry out epidemiological surveys, train personnel in health statistics and medical records, develop vital and health statistical services, assist data processing centres in

making use of computers for health services, etc. More than 60 WHO-assisted projects for the development of national vital and health statistical services were in operation during 1973.

#### E. Publications

65. The following were issued:

World Health Statistics Report: Vol. 26, Nos. 1-12, 1973

- I. Current data: Mortality and morbidity statistics, health personnel, health establishment, health expenditure
- II. Special subjects: Psychiatric care, specific diseases, suicides, homicides, etc.

World Health Statistics Annual:

Vol. I, 1970	Vital statistics and causes of death
II, 1970	Infectious diseases: cases, deaths and vaccinations
III, 1970	Health personnel and hospital establishments

66. WHO has been operating an information service since 1950 to help countries keep abreast of new developments in health statistics. Over 300 documents on national and international work in this field have been issued; in 1973, the emphasis was on health manpower statistics, assistance to countries in the planning and operation of national health information systems, cost-effectiveness studies. Periodic summaries on country activities in the field of vital and health statistics, and annual reports on WHO statistical activities are issued in the WHO/HS/NAT.COM. series.

#### V. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

##### A. Bureau of Statistics

67. During 1973-1974, the Bureau of Statistics continued to collect and process a growing body of statistics relevant to the world's monetary and payments problems; to release these in the monthly issues of International Financial Statistics (IFS) and Direction of Trade (DOT) and their annual Supplements; and to make them available in various other forms. The Bureau continued its efforts in rationalizing the means of assembling data, in normalizing the conceptual basis of compiling internationally comparable statistics and in broadening the range of their dissemination.

68. As regards data collection, the number of time series assembled directly from national sources increased sizably in topical and country coverage. Data

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collected for new member countries were used or are in the process of being used in the establishment of new country pages in IFS. Additional data collected for old member countries resulted, in many cases, in either enlarging the data base or revising data sections to conform to standard concepts. Use of computer-generated report forms for general statistics has improved the accuracy and currentness of such data in IFS, and it is intended to extend the report form system to cover all financial statistics other than those provided in printed balance-sheet form. Within recent months, the Bureau has explored with several member countries the feasibility of data tape receipt as a practical means of data collection and direct entry in the Bureau's Data Fund. Direct tape exchange between data banks is believed to further increase accuracy, currentness and coverage by eliminating transcription, keypunch and other transmission errors. Tape receipt also facilitates control over time-series history and reduces staff resources. National data are now being communicated in machine-readable form for direct entry into the Data Fund from six different sources.

69. At the data processing and storage level, the existing computer routines to combine and transform national source update materials into internationally comparable publication and other user data have been further refined for efficiency and cost. Unit cost of maintenance and calculation of time series for IFS and other requests was reduced by about 50 per cent. These and other improvements allowed the Bureau to add to the Data Fund all balance-of-payments data for the Balance of Payments Yearbook and numerous files for internal use. Likewise, large-scale calculation routines were used to introduce some flexibility into the Bureau's publication programme. For example, the 1972 Supplement to IFS carries a broad spectrum of world tables on international reserves, trade, prices, money, national accounts and ratios thereof, and the monthly issues of DOT have been made to include, from time to time, world tables on transformations of trade data such as the percentage distribution of trade, its change over short and longer periods and the trade share of major countries in partner countries' trade.

70. At the output end, the publication programme has developed in several new dimensions. Tape subscription to the Bureau's Data Fund files was established for IFS and DOT and later extended to the Balance of Payments Yearbook, and the number of subscribers has markedly increased. Major work was done to improve the production of the book version of IFS which the Bureau plans to produce in separate English, French and Spanish editions by photocomposition directly from Data Fund tapes. The application of such techniques was first demonstrated by the publication of the 1973 Supplement to IFS. Photocomposition of the monthly issues of IFS will include equation-generated notes, i.e., the notes will be generated from the equations from which the data are calculated. Through current updates to the data files, the associated note files are automatically kept in balance with the data files. It is expected that the use of photocomposition techniques for IFS will add further to its accuracy and currentness, and the flexibility of the publication programme. The Bureau believes that direct data-bank-to-data-bank communication carries statistical reporting to its proper conclusion and that direct data-bank-to-photocomposition communication carries publication to its proper conclusion.



71. About one third of the time of the Bureau's economist staff is occupied by its technical assistance programme. The Bureau has continued to provide technical assistance in statistics to member countries under the general programme for establishment or improvement of central bank bulletins and in separate staff missions. In both forms of assistance, emphasis has been given to the development and inclusion in bulletins of financial and general statistics, prepared in accordance with classification and definitional standards that help to make such data useful for monetary authorities and others concerned with the monetary and payments problem.
72. During 1973-1974, the programme covered 25 countries. The Bureau helped to inaugurate new central bank bulletins in five countries in 1973 and, at the end of 1973, work was well advanced on the establishment of statistical bulletins in seven other countries. Since technical assistance began in this field five years ago, the Bureau has helped to establish 18 central bank bulletins and to bring about substantial improvements in many others.
73. In separate short-term staff missions, the Bureau during this period assisted three countries in financial statistics and conducted a statistical seminar for officials and technicians in Central Africa. The over-all technical work covered 56 countries, of which 16 countries were in Latin America, 11 in the Middle East, 12 in Asia, 14 in Africa and 3 in Europe.
74. Another area of activity to which the Bureau attaches importance relates to government finance statistics. For over twenty years, IMF has been compiling government finance statistics for member countries, using such data in some detail in its consultation reports and publishing aggregate data in IFS. In 1972, IMF launched a comprehensive programme in disaggregated government finance statistics with a view to developing, compiling and publishing comparable statistics for all member countries. This programme has thus far proceeded by carrying out further study at headquarters of government finance statistics for particular countries, expanding the number of countries for which aggregate data appear in IFS, fielding a number of missions to discuss and undertake the compilation of disaggregated data in selected countries, and working closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to co-ordinate work on classification and data collection of revenue and expenditure. In addition, a draft manual on government finance statistics has been prepared as a guide to the compilation of data by IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) missions and by country correspondents for publication in IFS. This draft manual has been discussed within IMF and with IBRD and a revised draft manual has been sent to countries for comment and as a guide for the completion of a questionnaire on government finance statistics which will soon be issued. The manual will be retained in draft form pending comments from and discussions with countries and international agencies.
75. All data processing work of the Bureau is done on a B6700 Burroughs computer, which recently replaced an older-model Burroughs. The new equipment includes over 1 billion bytes of core storage, 12 tape units, approximately 800 million bytes of disc storage, 3 printers, a card reader, and 2 remote job entry stations.

Improvements are under way to consolidate existing data files, provide linkages between programme steps and substitute random use of disc files for current serial tape processing.

## B. Balance of Payments Division

### 1. Revision of Balance of Payments Manual

76. During the 1972 Balance of Payments Seminar, practical and conceptual problems of balance-of-payments compilation and reporting were discussed in the context of the revision of the Balance of Payments Manual. The discussions led to the publication of a "Supplement to Third Edition of the Manual", an interim document that slightly modifies the formal requirements for reporting balance-of-payments statistics. It codifies the changes that had been adopted earlier and that had been publicized by such devices as amendments to the reporting forms and their instructions and explanations in the introduction to successive volumes of the Balance of Payments Yearbook. At the same time, however, the "Supplement" contains a few further amendments which seemed timely to introduce.

77. At the seminar, a general plan for continuing consultation with national compilers during the preparation of a new Manual was proposed by IMF and accepted by the participants. Consequently, a detailed plan for the preparation of the new Manual was developed. This plan provided, as a central feature, for obtaining the services of a small group of national compilers to serve as part-time consultants on all aspects of the new Manual.

78. In its initial meeting, this group reviewed the recommendations that had emerged from the seminar and considered in some detail how they could be carried out. In addition, that meeting set up the working groups on problems of recording merchandise and private capital that were envisaged as part of the programme.

79. Participants in the first meetings of the working groups had before them some 25 background papers dealing with most of the difficult or controversial aspects of the recording of merchandise and private capital, including the results of the survey conducted by IMF on national practices and preferences in the field of merchandise statistics. On the basis of this material, the merchandise group was able to reach almost complete agreement, with the exception of a few points that were left for further study. The private capital group also took a number of basic decisions but was not in a position at that time to make final recommendations on all issues.

80. For the second meetings of the working groups, the findings of a detailed survey on direct investment methodology were available. This sample survey, to which a cross-section of national compilers had been asked to respond, provided considerable insight as to the guidelines and practices that should be recommended in the Manual's section on direct investment. In addition, the groups reached firm conclusions on the pending issues regarding private capital other than direct

investment; they considered first drafts for various sections of the Manual; they settled most of the remaining questions concerning classification and presentation; and they reviewed and firmed up the understandings previously reached about the outline of the Manual and the principles that should guide the drafting of the remaining sections, including those on the conceptual framework.

## 2. Computerization

81. IMF has stored on magnetic tape 65 categories of standardized balance-of-payments series for each of more than 100 countries. For most countries, annual data are available for 1965 and later years; for 24 countries, quarterly data are available from the beginning of 1970. The series are expressed in millions of SDRs (Special Drawing Rights), but conversion factors to facilitate conversion or reconversion into national currencies are included in the tape when feasible. The series are updated regularly and are being made available to the public through tape subscriptions.

## 3. Statistical training

82. During the period August 1972-August 1974, three intensive courses on balance-of-payments methodology, two in English and one in French, were held at IMF headquarters. Such courses are regularly scheduled to provide eight weeks of training to approximately 25 participants at a time.

# VI. GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT)

## A. Tariff and trade data base

83. The base covers, so far, 19 developed countries and is designed to supply basic and up-to-date documentation required in tariff negotiations. The customs tariff data included in the base were updated to 1973 and import statistics are at present being brought up to 1972. The data are collected from national authorities. From this documentation, a series of analytical tables was produced in order to enable both developed and developing Contracting Parties to carry out an assessment of the various techniques and modalities envisaged in the multilateral trade negotiations. Copies of the basic files are currently made available to participating governments. Summarized statistics (four volumes) were published in 1974.

84. An expansion of the data base to incorporate production and consumption statistics was considered by a working party. The Secretariat has produced for this purpose a pilot study considering the statistics at present available and the problems which would be encountered in correlating production and foreign trade statistics in the detail of the customs tariff classification. On the basis of the paper, the working party agreed to leave aside the project until a higher degree of comparability is achieved between production and trade statistics.

B. Statistics on textiles

85. Quarterly statistics on production and trade in cotton textiles required under the Long-Term Arrangement on Cotton Textiles were collected regularly and circulated to participating governments until 1973. A new scheme covering textiles and clothing of all fibres is under consideration by a special group of the Textiles Committee, and the collection of the relevant statistics is expected to be resumed shortly.

C. Statistics on world trade

86. Statistics on international trade and related subjects required for the analysis of world trade in 1972 and in 1973 were collected and published in the annual GATT publication. These statistics are in general based on compilations by the United Nations Statistical Office and specialized agencies (mainly IMF and FAO) and the OECD, as well as on national statistical publications.

D. Statistical compilations required by various committees  
of the Contracting Parties

87. The compilation of statistics or background documentation for studies on current problems in the field of commercial policy, which the Contracting Parties or their subsidiary bodies require, has accounted for a significant part of the statistical work of the Secretariat. In general, such documentation covers various fields of world production and trade and is, as far as possible, based on published statistics. The compilations recently prepared concerned textiles, tropical products, various temperate zone agricultural commodities, and fuels.

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