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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS
(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This memorandum supplements document E/CN.3/148 (Review of National and International Statistics) presented to the seventh session of the Statistical Commission. The original document was drawn up in response to a request of the Commission for a general survey of international statistical work to be used as background material in evaluating the programme as a whole and in selecting particular fields of activity for attention. At its seventh session the Commission suggested that subsequent reports contain an account of the statistical activities of professional, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations as well as those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The present report includes summaries of these activities to the extent practicable. The Commission also requested that more attention be given to developments in methodology, such as sampling, but it was not possible to arrange for a systematic review of this subject in the present report.

2. The earlier report (document E/CN.3/148) contained a brief account of the very extensive development of statistics in almost all countries of the world since 1948. During the past year this general trend toward additional statistical series and improvements in quality has continued. Particular instances are given in other parts of the documentation for the eighth session of the Commission and they need not be summarized here. Despite the sustained improvement noted, the statistical systems of many countries are still not capable of yielding the minimum amounts of statistics which are usually required to deal adequately with economic and social problems. At some future session the Statistical Commission

might wish to give attention to the general question of whether it should undertake to draw up, for the consideration of countries, minimum programmes of economic and social statistics adjusted to the different patterns of economic and social conditions. This might be based upon an inventory of selected statistical measures available in the different countries.

3. The present review is confined mainly to the status of work in the development and application of statistical standards which should lead to the improved comparability of statistics among countries or groups of countries. As the Commission will note in the following paragraphs statistical standards for some subjects have been completed^{1/} for the time being and principal emphasis is placed on assistance or advice in the application of the standards. Standards in other subjects are still in various stages of development and it will be some time before they may be regarded as final. In still other cases, little or no attention has so far been given to the development of standards either because of lack of resources, the relative urgency of the problem or the fact that the problem is a new one to which attention has just turned.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL STANDARDS AND THEIR APPLICATION

4. Censuses of population. At every session the Statistical Commission has taken some action looking toward the improvement of population statistics. A review of the work on population censuses is set out in document E/CN.3/185 which deals with the standards so far evolved and with efforts made to give effect to the standards. Despite the fact that more people were enumerated in the decade 1942-53 than ever before, a number of problems remain. As far as is known with certainty only about 60 per cent of world population has been counted. Some of the recent censuses were overly elaborate considering the financial and technical resources available for disposal and others did not take advantage

^{1/} As requested by the Commission at its seventh session (para. 108, E/2365) the Secretary-General has prepared an annotated list of extant and operative recommendations of international organizations dealing with uniform concepts, definitions and methods. In some respects, this list, which is available in document E/CN.3/181, is provisional because it is by no means certain, in some cases, that the recommendations should be considered to be operative. It is also likely that some recommendations have escaped notice. A further checking and revision of the list is intended before it is made available to countries for their guidance.

of improved methods. Considering that census taking is one of the most costly of statistical enterprises, as well as one of the most basic, continued attention needs to be given to all aspects of the census operation - from the items scheduled for enumeration to the final tables. The attention of the Commission is drawn particularly to the need to reach early decisions upon recommendations for the content of the 1960 round of censuses and upon minimum proposals for final tables which will contain the essential data without involving the cost and delay attached to over-elaborate tabulation plans.

5. World Population Conference. A World Population Conference is to be held in Rome from 31 August to 10 September 1954 under the auspices of the United Nations with the co-operation of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and interested specialized agencies. The Economic and Social Council in approving the holding of this Conference decided that it "shall be devoted solely to the exchange of ideas and experience on population matters among experts in the field concerned".

6. A Preparatory Committee has been established in accordance with the resolution of the Economic and Social Council to assist the Secretary-General in establishing an agenda and in making arrangements for the Conference. As a result of its recommendations 28 organizers have been appointed to invite contributions from selected persons on specific topics to be discussed at the Conference. Among these topics may be mentioned: mortality trends, fertility trends, emigration, immigration, prospects for future population changes, demographic aspects of economic and social development (e.g. relation between population and resources), social aspects of population changes, methods of demographic measurement and analysis, methods of making population projections, relation of population changes to distribution of genetic factors, legislation, and administrative programmes relevant to population.

7. Vital statistics. At their last sessions the Population Commission and the Statistical Commission completed the preparation of a set of guiding principles for the compilation and processing of vital statistics for the use of countries which employ the conventional registration system. Details about the application of the principles and suggested future steps in this subject are set out in document E/CN.3/186.

8. Social statistics. Work upon the development of standards in this broad subject is still at a very early stage. The subject is a difficult one: it requires definition as a whole and in its separate parts; social statistics generally are among the most difficult and expensive to obtain; they are perhaps more subject than other types of statistics to the difficulties introduced by the different administrative and institutional arrangements existing among countries and even within a single country. Nevertheless, with proper definition and an examination of the objectives, and with the collaboration of the specialized agencies in the areas for which they are primarily responsible, it seems clear that gradual improvements may be anticipated.

9. The Commission will have available to it, but not as part of the formal documentation, a comprehensive survey of the statistics available on the various subjects which comprise the field of social statistics, broadly defined. A separate paper, document E/CN.3/178, discusses in some detail those subjects which fall directly within the area of responsibility of the United Nations and contains suggestions for their development and improvement.

10. Standards and levels of living. In accordance with a resolution of the Economic and Social Council (434 B (XIV)), the Secretary-General appointed a group of experts to consider the questions involved in the measurement of living standards. The report of the experts, entitled "Report by a Committee on International Definition and Measurement of Standards of Living" is before the Commission in document E/CN.3/179. The Commission is requested to comment upon the report and to make recommendations addressed to the Economic and Social Council, which will be communicated to the Social Commission, upon the next steps to be taken in defining, extending and improving statistics on this subject. It would seem desirable that as many principles as possible be agreed upon to govern future statistical work in this field so that the efforts of statistical agencies may be concentrated in the most promising directions and not dissipated in directions which may not be appropriate or which offer intractable problems of definition and measurement.

11. Housing statistics. The Secretary-General has completed a study of such statistics as are available in the field of housing statistics and of the needs in this field. This area is one in which earlier recommendations for international standards were made by the Committee of Experts of the League of Nations and it is

now appropriate to re-examine the proposals made, particularly as regards their applicability to national and regional problems. This study, together with possible suggestions for improved statistics of housing, is contained in document E/CN.3/187.

12. Demographic, health and housing statistics (IASI). Activities of the Inter-American Statistical Institute will include analytical studies of results of the 1950 censuses of population and housing with a view to evaluating their completeness and quality, and to developing comparative studies on the composition of the population in the American countries, according to principal characteristics. In addition, pilot projects in demographic and hospital statistics are being carried on for the purpose of developing bases for improving compilation of these data in the American nations. Projects: (a) Evaluation of the Results of the Population and Housing Censuses; (b) Study on Standards and Methodology used in Demographic and Health statistics; (c) Pilot Experiment of a Vital Statistics System in one American country; (d) Pilot Experiment of a Hospital Statistics System in another American country; (e) Composition of the Population in the American countries. This latter study will be a general descriptive and comparative one on the composition of the population in the American countries, emphasizing the meaning of data in relation to the underlying concepts used, the analytical procedures applied to improve comparability among countries, the contrasts, as well as the similarities, due to geographical, social, economic and cultural factors. If the necessary information is available, even for only a part of the countries, the study may be expanded to cover other related demographic aspects, such as fertility, internal and inter-American migration, and marriage rates. Publications scheduled: Composition of the Population in the American Countries.

13. Agricultural statistics - general developments. The gradual improvement in the level of statistical organization within the reporting countries, including the timeliness of reporting, have made it possible to increase the coverage of production tables of the monthly bulletin, Food and Agricultural Statistics, in the course of 1953 by the addition of 15 tables and the coverage of trade tables by the addition of three commodities. Further trade tables could be presented on a quarterly basis. New series of prices of international significance and and prices received and paid by farmers have been added. In the Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics - Production, too, several new tables were added.

But by far the largest expansion occurred in the Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics - Trade. Up to 1951, the trade questionnaire sent out by FAO to governments were tailored to each country's own classification. As from 1952, FAO adopted the SITC and for the first time a uniform questionnaire based on SITC and adjusted to FAO needs was despatched to all countries. Some countries, as was to be expected, were unable to furnish adequate information on the new basis but the principle of a common basis has been established, particularly for aggregates of products. As a result of the adoption of SITC it has become possible for the first time to show the value of trade for groups of products for 26 countries and for the principal components of food agricultural products and agricultural requisites. The further expansion of the Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics - Trade related to the addition of seven new series by crop year and by the addition of summary tables for five groups of commodities. The programme of work for 1954-55 on these publications envisages a further, but only small, expansion.

14. In the field of production, an attempt will be made to prepare four more tables for which information is received by FAO in the monthly and annual questionnaires but no publication has hitherto been possible owing to gaps and inconsistencies in the information. Primarily FAO proposes devoting efforts to improving the quality and the coverage of the statistics presented in the Yearbook. In the field of trade about all the important agricultural products have been covered. Even so, there are sectors which have remained unexplored largely because of the difficulty of classification. No expansion is planned but the possibility of extending the tabulation to these sectors as more and more countries begin to adopt SITC will be looked into.

15. For the calculation of index numbers of agricultural production a more refined concept of agricultural production will be introduced for those countries in which such data are available.

16. Agricultural Censuses. Until recently FAO's work on agricultural censuses was concerned largely with helping countries in carrying out their censuses. The number of countries and territories that have taken the agricultural census within the framework of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture now stands at 95. This is 33 more than those who took part in the 1930 World Census of Agriculture. A few more countries are planning to take a census in the next year or two.

In the meantime results have been received from 72 countries or territories and results for 57 have already been published in a condensed form in the monthly bulletin. The final results will be published country by country during the next few years in a loose-leaf book as they gradually become available. Full advantage of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture can be taken only if the results for the various countries can be compared. It is therefore planned to publish the main census items in another volume of the census report in the form of tables designed for international comparison, together with an analysis of the material.

17. Agricultural statistics - coverage and reliability. The programme of work for the improvement of agricultural statistics, with special emphasis on the role of sampling, envisages the collection of material for the preparation of two manuals: one on The Methods of Collecting Current Agricultural Statistics in the Different Countries, and the other on the Theory of Sample Surveys with Applications. For preparing the first manual, a frame was evolved so that information from the different countries with their varying methods of collection could be brought together in a form appropriate for comparative studies. Outlines for 99 countries and territories have been already prepared, out of which 57 have been seen and commented upon by the respective countries and have since been put into final form for publication.

18. The book on sampling theory of surveys has also been completed and will be ready at the beginning of 1954. It gives a systematic account of the sampling technique, with illustrative surveys from different fields such as crop acreage, crop yield, livestock numbers and their products, insect pests and diseases and estimation of fish production. The material has been prepared keeping in view the needs of the sampling experts entrusted with the planning of surveys for collecting agricultural statistics.

19. The programme also envisaged organizing training and sampling demonstration centres as an effective means of enabling the government officers to acquire a knowledge of improving methods of collecting agricultural statistics. A Sampling Demonstration Centre was accordingly organized for South-East Asia in Bangkok. Demonstrations of sampling methods were also undertaken on a smaller scale at the Latin-American Centre at Quito and the African Training Centre at Ibadan. Nine projects in the field of sampling and current statistics were under way during 1953 under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme.

20. The 1954-55 programme of work of FAO envisages intensification of the work on improving current agricultural statistics. The manual on collecting agricultural statistics will be completed. Countries will be approached to supply descriptions on the recent sample surveys in the field of agriculture, as material for the preparation of critical and connected accounts of the use of sampling methods for improving different sectors of agricultural statistics. A beginning has already been made in assembling of information and the preparation of a critical study on objective methods of estimating crop yields in different countries. This is proposed to be followed by similar studies on crop acreages, livestock numbers and their products and cost of production.

21. A completely new project included in FAO's 1954-55 programme of work is a logical follow-up of the programme in the field of sampling techniques. Its main object is to extend the use of survey methods of experimental techniques for assessing the results secured by farmers in actual practice. A review of the current methods of survey techniques of experimentation shows that the designs have been steadily improving over the last few years and indeed many of the more recent experiments have reached a high standard of excellence. The progress in the use of modern techniques in designing controlled experiments and more particularly progress in the use of survey technique of experimentation is nevertheless rather slow. By and large, the designs lack an objective basis for critical comparisons. In consequence, the information obtained is not commensurate with the efforts and funds expended. This situation constitutes a great impediment to the establishment of satisfactory national plans for stepping up production.

22. The 1954-55 programme, therefore envisages a review of experimental designs and survey methods in use and the preparation of a handbook based thereon. It also envisages a statistical training centre for aiding the countries in training their technologists.

23. Agricultural statistics - comparability. Work has been started on Volume I of the Report on the 1950 World Census of Agriculture. The volume will contain a comparative study of the methods used in the various countries participating in this census and of the extent to which countries have conformed with or diverged from the concepts, definitions and classifications proposed by FAO in the Progress for the 1950 World Census of Agriculture. This study will be published to prepare the ground for a thorough revision of the definitions and concepts of the next world census of agriculture.
24. In the field of current production statistics, much remains to be achieved; FAO has been continually improving the questionnaires on production to this end, but has inevitably run into difficulties in conforming to the practices of the member countries on the one hand and of meeting the needs of international comparability on the other. The work to be properly carried out, requires consultation with governments in obtaining agreements between them through conferences. FAO's present resources are hardly adequate to undertake work on this scale. However, to the extent that this work can be furthered within the framework of the methodological studies of the 1950 Census of Agriculture, FAO plans to do it. In the absence of special resources, FAO will concentrate on classification problems appropriate for each region and thus continue for other regions of the world the work started in the ECAFE region on the Draft International Classification of Crops, Livestock and Poultry.
25. FAO is engaged in numerous other ways in helping to promote international comparability of current statistics. Data are being collected on conversion factors for weights and measures in actual use in countries, as well as accurate technical conversion factors for agricultural commodities. These data will be published in a joint UN/FAO publication.
26. The meeting of international experts held in December 1952 to consider FAO's work on index numbers of agricultural production, recommended - among others - that FAO publish a handbook on international index numbers giving the methodology used and a summary review of national methods. The recommendations of this meeting were endorsed by the FAO Council and the preparation of such a handbook has been included in FAO's 1954-55 programme of work.

27. Another problem of international comparability, belonging to the class of statistical treatment of data collected, is that of relating agricultural production to a given year of reference. The rule hitherto followed is that recommended by the Consultative Committee on Statistical Matters. This rule is perhaps well adapted to the needs of those concerned with marketing, trade and price movements, especially for cereals, but does not adequately meet the needs of those concerned with the volume and value of agricultural output in any calendar year, or in estimating food consumption levels country by country. The reference year in the FAO Yearbook of Food and Agriculture Statistics - Production frequently conflicts with that used in national statistics. Moreover, even in many international comparisons, different reference years are frequently used for different purposes. For these reasons, the procedure hitherto adopted is again being reviewed by FAO, (document E/CN.3/189).

28. Agricultural statistics. A series of studies are being made by the Inter-American Statistical Institution on specific problems of international comparability in current agricultural statistics with respect to concepts and methods. Analysis is also being made of the results of the most important characteristics investigated in the agricultural censuses taken in the American continent under the 1950 Census Programme, in order to evaluate their quality and completeness, and to bring out problems of preparation and methods of analysis. Projects:
(1) Problems of International Comparability in Agricultural Statistics;
(2) Evaluation of 1950 Agricultural Census Results; (3) Agriculture in the American Nations: A Comparative Statistical Study.

29. Labour statistics, general. The comparability of labour statistics in general has been advanced by ILO experts working under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a number of under-developed countries. Two of the experts are members of the regular staff of ILO and were seconded for these projects (Colombia and Indonesia). This work has covered employment, unemployment and labour force statistics, consumer prices, family living studies, and statistics of wages and hours of work. In 1953, ILO missions were completed or undertaken in Burma, Colombia, Cuba, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. Seven fellows were sent abroad from their countries for training under the programme during 1953.

30. The general comparability of labour statistics is also fostered by the annual questionnaires relating to labour statistics and statistical methods which are sent to governments in connection with preparation of the Yearbook of Labour Statistics. These ILO questionnaires encourage the reappraisal of national statistics and statistical practices in relation to the requirements of comparability for publication in the Yearbook of Labour Statistics.

31. Employment, unemployment and labour force statistics. The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1947) adopted a resolution setting standards in the field of employment, unemployment and labour force statistics. The Economic and Social Council subsequently adopted a resolution which recommended that efforts be made to improve the comparability of statistics of unemployment, and in particular that countries should be stimulated to modify their statistics in accordance with the resolutions of the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The Governing Body of the ILO invited governments to examine, in co-operation with the ILO, the existing situation and to discuss the steps necessary to promote the improvement of their statistics and increase their international comparability. Reports have been prepared on surveys made by ILO experts in fifteen countries.

32. The ILO has been studying the revisions needed in the resolution of the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, taking into account the experience of different countries in implementing the original resolution. A revised resolution was considered by the Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts in 1953. A report and draft resolution will be submitted to the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in the autumn of 1954.

33. A manual on methods of employment, unemployment and labour force statistics, intended primarily for use in under-developed countries, is in preparation.

34. As resources and facilities permit, the ILO plans to undertake studies of the problems of definition, measurement and international comparison of under-employment, as recommended by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the ad hoc Committee of Experts on the Definition and Measurement of Standards of Living and other bodies.

35. Arrangements have been made for the ILO to collaborate with the Population Division in the preparation of a study on Demographic Aspects of Labour Supply, based on the results of recent Censuses throughout the world. In this connection, additional data were collected by questionnaire in conjunction with materials for the Yearbook of Labour Statistics and the United Nations Statistical Yearbook and Demographic Yearbook.

36. Labour force statistics. The Working Party on Manpower Statistics of the Organization of European Economic Co-operation has fostered the carrying out of labour force sample surveys in the member countries. To this end recommendations have been adopted and instructions elaborated for statistics on labour force, employment, and unemployment on the basis of sample surveys. A special mission has been sent to the United States and Canada to study the application of such surveys in those countries. The information gathered by the mission is presented in a report to be published shortly. Furthermore, studies of future population trends have been undertaken with the help and advice of demographic experts from the member countries.

37. Labour force surveys. The Conference of European Statisticians decided to take up the subject of labour force surveys among the first of the problems selected for intensive study in view of the wide interest in these surveys. The Conference, in collaboration with the ILO, arranged for a working group on manpower statistics by sample surveys. Many countries prepared descriptions of their activities in this field; the descriptions cover such questions as the purposes for which the statistics are collected, the characteristics of the sample, methods of enquiry, the content of the questionnaire, the reliability of the results, the costs and the specific uses made of the statistics.

38. Occupational and status classifications. The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) is particularly important in statistics of the labour force, but also has applications in statistics of wages and hours of work. The major groups (first digit) of an ISCO were adopted by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1949). A draft report on the development of this classification was considered by the Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts (1953). The agenda of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (autumn 1954) includes consideration of the minor groups (second digit) of the ISCO (See document E/CN.3/167). The proposed ISCO was developed in co-ordination with the ILO International Classification of Occupation for Migration and Employment Placement, published in 1952.

39. The development of an international standard status classification was recommended by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1949) and by the Statistical and Population Commissions. The ILO is continuing research on this topic.

40. Consumer prices and price indexes and family living studies (ILO). The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1947) and the Seventh Conference (1949) adopted detailed recommendations for statistics of consumer prices and price indexes and for family living studies. The recommendations of these Conferences have exerted an important influence in improving the comparability of consumer price indexes and especially on the methods applied in post-war years for the revision of existing series and the preparation of new series.

41. A manual on consumer price indexes is in preparation by the ILO to serve as a guide for countries (and particularly for under-developed countries) in establishing new consumer price indexes or revising existing series.

42. The related problem of international comparison of costs of living was considered at the Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts (1953) and has been placed on the agenda of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (autumn 1954).

43. The problem of special consumer price indexes in rural areas is being considered by the ILO in connexion with the general problem of consumer price indexes in under-developed countries and in connexion with research into the methods of comparison of real wages in agriculture.

44. Statistics of wages and hours of work. Convention 63. Concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, adopted by the 24th session of the International Labour Conference in 1938, together with supplementary recommendations of the Fifth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1937) and the Seventh Conference (1949) provide the basic standard for statistics of wages and hours. Marked improvement in the international comparability of wage statistics, both in ratifying and non-ratifying countries, have followed the adoption of the Convention.

45. Egypt's ratification of the Convention coincided with the commencement of its tabulations of wage statistics. Canada made certain modifications of existing statistics of wages in order to be able to ratify the Convention.

After ratification, each country reports annually on its application of the Convention. These reports are considered by a Committee of Experts of the International Labour Conference which makes observations on any point where the requirements of the Convention have not been fulfilled. By means of this procedure, the statistics of wages and hours of work in ratifying countries have progressed from year to year into fuller conformity with the requirements of the Convention.

46. A ten-yearly report on the working of the Convention is prepared by the ILO for the International Labour Conference. The latest report was issued in 1952.

47. The Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1949) adopted a resolution on the compilation of statistics of average earnings from the payrolls of establishments. This has stimulated a number of countries to improve their statistics of average earnings.

48. Another resolution of the Seventh Conference of Labour Statisticians recommended that statistics of wages by industries (and particularly those published to fulfil the requirements of Convention 63) be published in terms of the United Nations International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities. A number of countries have modified their systems of industrial classification so as to bring their statistics of wages and hours of work into conformity with this recommendation.

49. A draft manual on wage statistics has been prepared by the ILO to serve as a guide for countries (particularly under-developed countries) revising their wage statistics or seeking to establish new series.

50. The ILO proposes, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, to place the subject of wages in agriculture on the agenda of an early International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

51. A draft report on methods of international comparison of real wages was considered by the Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts (1953) and is to be placed on the agenda of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (autumn 1954).

52. Social security statistics. Social security statistics comprise both statistics of the operations of social insurance schemes and statistics of the contingencies for which social insurance schemes provide (e.g. industrial injury, occupational disease, old age, etc.).

53. The First International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1923) adopted a resolution setting standards for statistics of industrial injuries. The recommendations for the calculation of frequency and severity rates were amended by a resolution of the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1947).

54. The problem of statistics of occupational diseases was considered by the Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts (1953) and is to be placed on the agenda of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (autumn 1954).

55. Statistics of the operation of social security schemes (number of beneficiaries, income and outlay, assets and liabilities) have been collected annually by the ILO since 1946. It is recognized, however, that little advance can presently be made in the international comparability of these statistics to the extent that the nature of social security legislation varies from country to country.

56. The International Labour Conference adopted a Convention relating to minimum social security standards in 1952. To the extent that this Convention leads countries to adopt comparable bases for granting social security benefits, it will be possible to consider steps to improve the comparability of statistics of the operations of social security schemes. It is proposed to convene a Committee of Experts in social security statistics to consider the question of standardization as soon as sufficient materials are available to furnish a sound basis for such standardization. This Committee would work in close collaboration with the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the Committee of Social Security Experts and other international technical bodies.

57. Statistics of industrial productivity. Methods of statistics of industrial productivity per worker ("labour productivity") were considered by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1949). A draft report on progress in the field was submitted to the Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts (1953) and will be placed on the agenda of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (autumn 1954). A paper on the relationships between man-hour productivity and employment is being prepared by the ILO for publication by the International Statistical Institute, in connexion with the proceedings of the 1953 (Rome) Session of the Institute.

58. Educational and cultural statistics. The statistical programme of UNESCO covers two closely related aspects of work concerning the improvement of national statistics on education and culture. In the first place, UNESCO has encouraged and stimulated the regular compilation of statistics dealing with all levels of formal education as well as with libraries, museums, production of books, newspapers and periodicals, production and exhibition of films, radio broadcasting and television. At the same time, steps have been taken to propose certain uniform concepts, definitions, classifications and tabulations of statistics in these fields.

59. Statistics on institutions, teaching staff and enrolment at different levels of education for almost all countries and territories of the world have been collected and published in the World Survey of Education, scheduled to appear every three years. International summary tables on illiteracy, education, libraries, museums, books, newspapers, film, radio and television are presented in Basic Facts and Figures, a biennial publication. Statistical reports on special topics, such as the access of women to education, public expenditure on education, library and book production statistics, have been issued in a series of UNESCO documents for general distribution.

60. Definitions for educational statistics. A Committee of Experts on Standardization of Educational Statistics was convened by UNESCO in 1951. The report of that committee (UNESCO/ST/R/4), together with a preliminary study on Definitions, classifications and tabulations in statistics on education (UNESCO/ST/R/6), have been distributed to Member States for comments. The General Conference of UNESCO, at its Seventh Session, (Paris, 1952), approved the report of the Expert Committee as "suggestions both to the Member States and other governments, and to the UNESCO Secretariat for their guidance, in the collection and compilation of statistics on illiteracy and education for international purposes".

61. A progress report on this subject will be presented at the Eighth Session of the General Conference, (Montevideo, 1954), embodying the results of further study and consultations with member states and international organizations. In this connexion, the views of the Statistical Commission are solicited in regard to the definitions, classifications and tabulations of educational statistics proposed by UNESCO, based on the report of the Expert Committee (see document E/CN.3/188).

62. Library statistics. A paper on the Availability and comparability of library statistics (UNESCO/ST/R/13) was prepared by the UNESCO Secretariat and presented at the XIXth Session of the Council of the International Federation of Library Associations (Vienna, 1953). This paper proposes a classification of all publicly controlled or supported libraries, and a set of definitions covering terms most frequently used in library statistics, such as holdings, book stock, accessions, withdrawals, circulation, readers and borrowers. Together with amendments suggested by the IFLA Committee on Library Statistics, this document was circulated among the National Commissions for UNESCO and the national library associations which are members of IFLA. A second report containing comments from these bodies will be presented to the XXth Session of the IFLA Council during 1954.

63. Other cultural subjects. On the subject of book production, a preliminary study on the comparability of statistics in this field is contained in Chapters I and II of a Statistical Report on Book Production, 1937-1950 (UNESCO/ST/R/9). Comments have been solicited from Member States on the coverage of book production statistics as well as on the definitions of a book, a pamphlet, a first edition, a re-edition, a reprint and a non-periodical publication. A report on this subject will also be presented to the International Publishers Congress (Zurich, 1954).

64. Similar activities towards the improvement of other cultural statistics are envisaged with respect to museums, theatres, cinemas and motion pictures. In all cases, national and international bodies dealing with these types of statistics will be consulted, and agreement will be sought on a minimum set of concepts and definitions in order to improve comparability.

65. Health statistics. Improvement in the comparability of morbidity and mortality statistics and related vital statistics have been the subject of study by three sub-committees of the Expert Committee on Health Statistics created by the World Health Assembly.

66. The Sub-committee on the Definition of Stillbirth and Abortion proposed a statistical definition of "live birth" and "foetal death" (adopted by the First World Health Assembly, and incorporated in the United Nations Principles for a Vital Statistics System); recommended registration and tabulation of live births

and of foetal deaths according to four periods of gestation; designed a tentative form of a foetal death certificate; and suggested special studies of live births and foetal deaths in order to obtain data needed for a satisfactory definition of immaturity. According to the returns to a recent questionnaire out of 36 countries giving definite information 18 have already adopted the WHO definitions of "live birth" and "foetal death" and 10 more signified intention to do so in the future.

67. The Sub-committee on the Registration of Cases of Cancer as well as their Statistical Presentation proposed a statistical definition of "cancer" in terms of the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death (1948); established sub-divisions of the categories on malignant neoplasms in the International Statistical Classification to provide for greater detail in classifying malignant neoplasms according to anatomical location; reviewed and summarized the general principles applicable in the classification of cancer according to stage intended to obtain uniformity in the clinical material used as a basis for statistical studies; followed with active interest the efforts towards a uniform classification of neoplasms according to histological type which, when finally realized, will ensure consistency in nomenclature and classification of neoplasms and thus enhance comparability of cancer statistics. The Sub-committee made a valuable contribution in the field of cancer treatment statistics in formulating detailed recommendations on definitions, rules and methods to be applied in the evaluation of the results of therapy. The Sub-committee continues following the progress being made towards a uniform classification of neoplasms according to histological type and in the unification of definitions and procedures relating to statistics of cancer treatment.

68. The Sub-committee on Hospital Statistics reviewed and classified the problems involved in the collection, presentation and utilization of hospital morbidity statistics and suggested them for consideration and study by National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics or equivalent bodies. The Sub-committee discussed the definitions entering into the compilation of hospital statistics, such as, hospital bed, in-patient, admission, discharge, patient-day, duration of stay and principal diagnosis; defined the purposes of hospital morbidity statistics of general hospitals and of those treating special types of diseases or conditions;

established an individual report form for collection of morbidity data and tentative principles to be followed in recording and classifying multiple diagnosis; considered the possibility of adapting the International Statistical Classification (1948) to serve as an index to clinical case histories and for other medical reference; and stressed the need for a statistical classification of operations and anaesthetic procedures for tabulation of surgical experiences. Progress in this field is contingent on the work of the National Committees some of which have already studied or are studying one or the other aspect of the problem of hospital morbidity statistics (classification of surgical operations, index to clinical case histories and definitions involved in the compilation of hospital morbidity statistics).

69. As a result of the Conference on Morbidity Statistics held in November 1951, the World Health Assembly has transmitted to the National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics for study and analysis a great number of questions which, when solved, might have considerable repercussions in the future in that field.

70. In October 1953, a Conference of representatives of National Committees on Health and Vital Statistics was convened in London, in the General Register Office, under the auspices of WHO, and in close co-operation with the United Nations. This Conference discussed the objectives and functions of National Committees or their equivalent in the various countries, in order to further intra-national and international co-operation for the improvement of vital statistics and health statistics. The Conference discussed, in particular, steps to be considered for such improvement in countries with highly developed medical and statistical services, and in countries where these services are still primitive or at various intervening stages of development. The Conference advocated adherence to the United Nations Principles for a Vital Statistics System and to WHO Regulation No. 1 on Statistics. It further made recommendations on the training of statistical personnel and on methods likely to raise the interest and co-operation of the medical profession in statistical matters.

71. System of National Accounts (UN). At its last session the Statistical Commission gave general approval to a system of national accounts which has been elaborated in 1952 by a committee of experts. After certain amendments suggested by the Statistical Commission, the report of the experts was circulated to

governments with the object of encouraging the use of the system and of obtaining observations upon its applicability to different situations. A progress report upon this subject is contained in E/CN.3/166. For the time being it is considered that the main work in this field consists of efforts to assist in applying the standardized system to national statistics and to obtain comments which might ultimately lead to improvement or simplification. The first systematic use of some of the concepts of the system of accounts was made in the February 1954 issue of Statistics of National Income and Expenditure (Statistical Papers, Series H, No. 5) in the table showing the industrial origin of net domestic product. The table is arranged according to the industrial group headings contained in the system of accounts and shows figures for 39 countries. Countries have been invited to comment upon the table and to supply missing figures where this is possible.

72. National Accounts (OECE). The Organization for European Economic Co-operation has made a special effort to encourage the improvement of national accounts statistics. Work in this field was initiated in 1949 after it had become apparent that these data were needed as the statistical framework for reporting on economic trends and prospects in member countries. In order to promote more uniform reporting, the Standardized System of National Accounts was designed. The formulation of this system was preceded by a considerable amount of experimental work and in its present form it represents the consensus of views of a large group of national accounts experts drawn from the OECE member and associated countries, who discussed the system in detail during a conference held at the OECE in September 1951.

73. Simultaneously with the work of developing the Standardized System, an effort was made to assemble the available data from the various countries in a comparable form, showing in detail the adjustments required to make the concepts and definitions used by the countries concerned conform to those of the standard system and describing the sources and methods used in the compilation of the statistics. Up to the present such National Accounts Studies have been issued for Denmark, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden and one is being prepared for the United Kingdom.

74. On the basis of these national accounts studies, together with the questionnaire data and other material supplied by member countries, the first part of a national accounts manual, Statistical Material on the Supply and Use of Resources in OEEC member countries, the United States and Canada, covering the years 1938 and 1947-52, has been prepared and will be published in the course of 1954.

75. A preliminary report on The Construction of Price and Quantity Index Numbers in National Accounting, which is to supplement the Standardized System, has been discussed at a conference of statisticians and is now in process of revision. Once the work on this report is completed, it is intended that other aspects of national accounts statistics, such as input-output statistics, capital accounts by sector, and national balance sheets, be treated in the manner of the Standardized System.

76. Statistics of capital formation. Document E/CN.3/165 contains a progress report upon the development and application of standards for the compilation of statistics of capital formation. This work has reached approximately the same stage as that on national accounts, the main task at present being to complete the preparation of materials on statistical methods that may be employed in the compilation of the statistics and to evaluate the experiences of countries in applying the standard concepts. The subject of capital formation has been selected for special study by the Conference of European Statisticians and it is hoped that the work of the Conference will contribute substantially to a better understanding of the statistical problems encountered in this field, particularly those pertaining to methodology.

77. Price and quantity index numbers. Document E/CN.3/177 contains a summary of the methods used by different countries in making estimates of national product and expenditure in constant prices. The report was prepared in accordance with a request of the Commission at its seventh session. The Commission also requested consultations with countries on the question of methods but it has not been possible so far to carry this work very far forward.

78. Distribution of income. At various times the Commission has expressed interest in statistics showing the distribution of income by size of income and by socio-economic groups of population. Document E/CN.3/184 summarizes the existing practices, so far as they can be ascertained, and requests the Commission's views on what direction future work should take.

79. The Standard International Trade Classification. Progress in the adoption by countries of the SITC has been rapid. Quarterly figures for the 150 groups of the classification are now available in Commodity Trade Statistics for about 75 per cent of world exports and present indications are that coverage will be substantially extended during the next year or so. The number of countries now producing their trade statistics according to the SITC is 32; five further countries have now made the necessary changes to enable them to present their data according to the SITC this year; 12 further countries have converted or are converting their present classifications but the date by which they will present data on the SITC basis is not yet known. The principal international agencies interested in trade statistics are actively re-enforcing the efforts of the United Nations to give the widest possible effect to the classification.

80. The Commission will recall that following approval of the SITC by the Economic and Social Council in 1950, the classification was endorsed by the Inter-American Statistical Congress (the Congress endorsed the classification in principle in Bogota in 1950 and urged its use "as finally adjusted"), by the Second Regional Meeting of European Statisticians (Geneva, 1951), by the Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians (Canberra, 1951) at which it was agreed to adopt the SITC as a national classification for commonwealth countries, by a meeting of trade statisticians of ECAFE countries (Bangkok, 1951), and by the Second Conference of Colonial Government Statisticians (London, 1953). It is expected that the Organization of American States will take formal action to endorse the SITC at its forthcoming (March 1954) session in Caracas.

81. One of the most noteworthy developments in connexion with the SITC was the decision of the Committee of Ministers of Economy for Economic Co-operation of the Central American Isthmus (ECLA) not only to adopt the SITC as the national classification for the five central American countries but to use it also as the basis of the tariff nomenclature. A group of experts from the five countries, supported by statisticians from the Statistical Office and the Economic Commission for Latin America adopted the SITC to their needs in preparing the Uniform Central American Customs Nomenclature (NAUCA). Further activity in this connexion is in prospect.^{2/}

^{2/} The Nomenclature appears in E/CN.12/AC.17/25.

82. The Inter-American Statistical Institute has been very active in supporting the SITC. It has compiled and issued a coding manual in Spanish (Manual de Codificación para la Aplicación Uniforme Comercio Internacional) and intends actively to assist countries in the use of the classification. The Statistical Office issued Commodity Indexes for the Standard International Trade Classification in 1953 to assist countries to install the SITC. It contains upwards of 20,000 commodities arranged by SITC items and alphabetically. A French version is in preparation and will be ready in mid-1954.

83. Transaction value in external trade statistics. The action of the Commission at its seventh session in adopting the principle of transaction value represented a great step forward in the development of comparability of trade statistics. For the first time countries had before them a single definition which recognized the economic realities of the times. There has been a most gratifying response to the consultations with countries about the application of the principle and it now appears that almost all countries will be able to conform to the definition in major particulars. A detailed account of the stage attained in this work is contained in document E/CN.3/172.

84. Remaining questions of definition (trade). At its seventh session the Commission advised further study of certain questions relating to the coverage of the statistics and to the recording of countries of provenance and destination. These questions are taken up in document E/CN.3/173 and on some of them the Commission may be able to take final action at this session. A further document, E/CN.3/174, contains a list of customs areas compiled on the basis of the principle laid down by the Commission at its sixth session. The list is substantially complete. It replaces the "Territories to which the Statistics Apply" set out as Part II of Annex I of the International Convention relating to Economic Statistics and will be issued to countries for their guidance.

85. Indexes of quantum and price. At its fourth session the Statistical Commission made a limited number of suggestions to countries about the treatment of quantum and unit value index numbers. These suggestions referred to the need for a post-war base and quarterly indexes and to some methodological points.

The Statistical Office has continued study of other aspects of these measures and has gained considerable experience in the use of national indexes. It is now suggested that additional useful uniformity might be attained by the recommendation that national indexes, especially sub-indexes, be compiled in a systematic relationship to SITC groups and items. For example, sub-indexes showing food, raw materials and manufactured goods might find extensive use. This subject is taken up in document E/CN.3/171. The same memorandum discusses certain aspects of the accuracy of quantum and unit value indexes and the question of how frequently a change of base may be desirable.

86. The Statistical Office now compiles the following summary indexes:

(1) world export quantum and unit value indexes (with sub-indexes for four major exporting regions); and (2) price index of raw materials entering world external trade (with sub-indexes for crude food and raw materials other than food).

87. Trade statistics compiling manual. The work in trade statistics is rapidly reaching a point where the various definitions and recommendations acted upon by the Commission can be brought together in a manual or handbook for the use of countries in the compilation of the statistics. The manual will explain the recommendations and take up the more important methodological points in some detail.

88. External trade statistics (IASI). Activities of the Inter-American Statistical Institute will be concerned with the preparation of orientation and working materials for use by the national agencies in improving the inter-American comparability of this type of statistics, with analytical studies of the causes for discrepancies in national foreign trade statistics of the American countries and suggestions of means to eliminate them. Projects: (1) Application of the published Spanish Coding Manual to the Standard International Trade Classification of the United Nations; (2) Study on the Discrepancies in Foreign Trade Statistics among the American Countries. Publication scheduled; Several documents on the above projects.

89. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities.

Progress has been noted also in the use of the ISIC both in connexion with population and industrial censuses and in the organization of labour statistics (see para. 48 above). Several countries have drawn up convertibility lists and in this work the Statistical Office has been able to be of some assistance. The preparation of a coding guide and alphabetical index has proceeded somewhat slowly because the work has had to be laid aside from time to time to make way for more urgent tasks. It is hoped, however, that a provisional coding guide can be issued within the coming year.

90. Definitions for basic industrial statistics. The Commission completed work on the definitions of items at the seventh session, and these, together with earlier recommendations on coverage and the items of information to be obtained at various points of time, have been issued as International Standards for Basic Industrial Statistics, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 17. In addition, they have been incorporated in a comprehensive manual covering all aspects of planning and conducting an industrial census. The manual (Industrial Censuses and Related Enquiries - Studies in Methods No. 4) appears in two volumes, one dealing primarily with methods and procedures and the other with summaries of country practices, examples of census questionnaires and recommended forms and tabulation schemes. The manual is regarded as provisional; countries are asked to make comments which will be taken into account when a revised edition is prepared later on.

91. Industrial statistics (IASI). Activities of the Inter-American Statistical Institute in this field will centre around the preparation of orientation and working materials for use by national agencies where compilations of this nature are being carried on. Projects: (a) Industrial Classification Coding Manual in Spanish for the United Nations International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities; (b) Methodology in Industrial Statistics for Census Enumeration or Current Surveys. This publication will be a study on census and other surveys methods actually used by the American countries in compiling their industrial statistics and will include a description of the

methodology considered especially adaptable to Latin American countries, from the point of view of both national requirements and recommendations for international comparability; (c) Methods of Constructing Indexes of Industrial Production for Latin America. This publication will be a study on the methodology used at the present time in constructing indexes of industrial production in the American nations, including a description of those which are considered most adaptable to them, from the point of view of both national requirements and recommendations for international comparability; (d) Manual on Methodology in Industrial Statistics. This manual is planned to be an adaptation in Spanish, for Latin American use, of the study in methods for industrial censuses and related enquiries published by the United Nations. Publications scheduled: Coding Manual of Industrial Operations; and others related with the above projects.

92. Statistics of enterprises. The work so far in the field of industrial statistics has been largely along the lines of the traditional establishment approach so that concepts, definitions and methods have been in these terms. At its last session the Statistical Commission requested that study be given to the purposes which could be served by compilations of statistics on enterprises or firms as distinguished from compilations based upon the establishments going to make up enterprises. A preliminary paper on this subject was prepared (document E/CN.3/169) and the Commission is asked to consider the next steps to be taken.

93. Classification of industrial activities of households. A problem of classification exists with respect to how activities of households with a mixture of agricultural, industrial and perhaps other types of economic activity should be classified for the purpose of industrial statistics. An investigation of this problem was made at the request of the Commission and a possible conclusion is contained in document E/CN.3/168 upon which the Commission may wish to take final action.

94. Tabulations of industrial statistics. Also pending, but not yet ready for discussion, is the question of what tabulations of industrial statistics might be recommended to countries in order to obtain the maximum utility from enquiries into industrial activities. Study of this subject is under way, but is proceeding slowly.

95. Stocks and work in process. The Conference of European Statisticians has given this subject priority in its programme of work and arranged a working group. In January 1954, the group examined the purposes of the statistics, country practices (especially the practical problems involved in collecting the data), the possibilities of improving the statistics and of establishing standards. It was decided that a further analysis should be prepared especially dealing with the estimation of aggregate stocks in the economy and of changes in stocks. It is expected that the study will be referred to the 1954 meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians for action and it is likely that at a later date the Statistical Commission will wish to take up the question of what recommendations should be made to extend the comparability of these figures which have assumed much more importance in recent years and are an important element in the calculation of statistics of capital formation.

96. Distribution statistics. The Statistical Commission gave priority to distribution (wholesale and retail trade) statistics in considering its over-all programme at the seventh session, and expressed the opinion that the Secretary-General should commence work in this field in view of the increasing importance which was being attached to these statistics. One of the principal tasks will be to work out a systematic conceptual framework which will connect with the concepts and definitions already established for basic industrial statistics and which will fit into the national income framework. Subsequently, it would be possible to select the items of statistics to be recommended for collection, and to define them.

97. The International Chamber of Commerce is undertaking a study of distribution censuses; an interim report on this work is contained in document E/CN.3/190 for the information and comment of the Commission. In addition, the Council of the International Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution stressing the necessity of achieving uniformity in terminology, classification, the type of information collected, and the methods adopted in the field of distribution (document E/C.2/377). The Council recommended that a working party be set up under the auspices of the United Nations to assist in solving this problem.

98. Standards for air transport statistics. The Statistical Commission at its seventh session requested that the International Civil Aviation Organization be consulted regarding the means by which the use of uniform definitions for air transport statistics might be furthered. The definitions are contained in International Definitions of Transport Statistics (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 8). A first step was taken in the matter of definitions by the Second Meeting of the Statistical Division of the International Civil Aviation Organization which prepared instructions to governments for filling in the new ICAO standard reporting forms. The experience of governments in using the standard forms and the definitions will be taken into account when it is time to consider revising the international standards. The Air Transport Reporting Forms have been simplified and reduced in number (see document E/CN.3/148, paragraphs 106-111). These revised Forms, issued to member states of ICAO in January 1953, have proved successful as more countries are able to report, and the statistics are more accurate. The information obtained on the Forms is made available in five series of Digests of Statistics. The question of obtaining statistics on the origin and destination of traffic is still being studied.
99. Goods nomenclature of the UIC. The International Union of Railways (UIC) is revising its goods nomenclature in accordance with the recommendation in the introduction to the Standard International Trade Classification so as to assure comparability between the statistics of international railway traffic and the statistics of external trade. This work is being undertaken by the UIC in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe.
100. Study of the service performed in the transport of goods by ocean shipping and of recent changes in the efficiency of the use of vessels. The Statistical Office has estimated the global total of ton-kilometres performed in international goods trade by dry cargo vessels and by tankers. These figures for selected recent years appeared in the December 1952 issue of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and attracted considerable public interest in major shipping countries since they show for the first time the total freight service performed by ocean shipping. By comparing the figures for ton-kilometres performed with figures for

capacity ton-kilometres, based on available vessel statistics, it is expected that changes in the efficiency of the use of the world fleet can be estimated, and that the change can be broken into its two factors: change in fraction of time spent at sea, and change in the fraction of cargo space utilized while at sea.

101. Ocean freight rates. In accordance with the request of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 460 (XV)) that index numbers showing changes in marine freight rates, distinguishing between Conference and non-Conference rates and rates applying to traffic from industrial countries to primary producing countries and vice-versa, be included in economic and statistical reports, the Statistical Office has undertaken exploratory work to decide which of the existing indexes of ocean freight rates are suitable as a basis for the preparation of the information called for by the resolution.

102. Statistics of wholesale prices. The Commission has been giving attention for several sessions to proposals for the improvement of wholesale price statistics, including index-numbers. Draft proposals were circulated to countries for comments in 1951 and an analysis of the large number of replies showed a sharp and growing division of opinion among statisticians as to whether the traditional form of index - based on price quotations of groups of commodities without particular regard to the industrial origin or destination of the commodities - was a useful instrument for economic analysis. Many statisticians had come to the view that an index corresponding to industrial sectors might be more useful especially in the interpretation of systems of national accounts. In the sector approach interest centres on those commodities which move in or out across sector lines while commodities produced and consumed within a single sector are not included in these index-numbers.

103. Some considerable discussion has ensued over which of these two approaches is to be favoured and over some of the practical difficulties in the way of the sector approach. At the present session the Commission is to consider the status of the work and the direction to be taken in the further examination of this problem.

104. Consumption and stock statistics. At its seventh session the Statistical Commission considered briefly the subject of consumption statistics, giving it some priority but recognizing that the preparation of recommendations on this subject might require some time. In exploring the problem during the last year it seemed clear that some advantages might be gained if consumption statistics were considered together with statistics on production, stocks and external trade, for certain defined areas rather than considered as a more or less separate and independent subject. With this consideration in mind, exploratory work was carried on in fuel and power and for iron and steel. Discussion of this work and of the possible advantages in this approach appears in document E/CN.3/176 (Statistics of Individual Industries). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 95 of the present document which describes the work of the Conference of European Statisticians on the subject of stocks and work in process.

105. Insurance statistics. In view of the lower priority assigned to this work by the Commission at its seventh session, it has not been possible to prepare any documentation on statistics of insurance for submission to the present session. The Commission had requested, as a possible first step, a summary report on life insurance statistics included in official statistical publications, or otherwise provided by governments, together with suggestions for future work.

106. Balance of payments. Developments in balance of payments statistics are described in document E/CN.3/182 submitted by the International Monetary Fund for the information of the Commission.

107. Manual for the Classification of Government Accounts. The Manual, authorized by General Assembly Resolution 407 V, is to be circulated as a preliminary version to member governments for their comments in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 486 D (XVI). A mimeographed version in English is expected to be completed in June of 1954. A working draft of the Manual was used as the basic working document of the Workshop on Budgetary Classification and Management which was held in Mexico City in September 1953, as part of the Technical Assistance programme.

108. The preliminary version referred to above will set forth (a) a system of economic character classification; (b) a system of functional classification; (c) a detailed discussion of the classification of development expenditures. The classification systems, accompanied by item-by-item definitions, will be presented on the basis of a sub-division of the central government sector into general government, social insurance schemes and public undertakings.

109. The Manual is primarily intended to serve as a guide to missions and to economically under-developed countries generally, in the reclassification of their accounts into economically significant terms. It will thus assist in providing the type of fiscal statistics which are necessary for programmes of economic stability and development. As a general rule, however, the Manual does not give any explicit detailed recommendations with regard to the adoption of internationally comparable fiscal statistics. This is due partly to the great differences in accounting practices and institutional structure as between countries and also to the conceptual difficulties involved. Nevertheless, the Manual is expected to contribute to the development of international comparability by discussing and illustrating the problems in this area of economic statistics.

110. Statistical Sampling. The Statistical Commission will recall that the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling was discontinued from 1951 to the end of 1954, it being the intention of the Economic and Social Council to review this decision (together with other decisions relating to the organization of the Council) during 1954. Accordingly this will come before the seventeenth session of the Council. In document E/2541, prepared for the consideration of the Council, it is stated that arrangements have been made for the work of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling to be taken over by the Secretariat with the assistance of ad hoc groups as necessary.

111. General statistical activities (OECE). The statistical activities of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation arise from the work of its various committees in such fields as general economic conditions, trade and payments, industry, agriculture, manpower and migration, and productivity. While they are concerned with statistics primarily as consumers or users of information, inadequacies of the data often draw them into more purely statistical problems.

In addition, the OEEC becomes concerned with such problems through its participation in technical assistance projects in various statistical fields. 112. The statistical needs of the OEEC are met in part by data available in the regular publications of national statistical offices and international organizations. In addition, it has been necessary to obtain data directly through questionnaires of the OEEC committees. The main task of the Organisation in preparing such statistical material for its own use is to assure reasonable comparability and to compute totals for the OEEC area.

113. In all such work, the availability of international standard classifications and definitions is a great help to the OEEC and it has tried to use such standards to the fullest extent possible.

114. In order to secure comparability, some work is done to adjust for differences in coverage of certain aggregates and also to obtain uniform base years for index numbers. These current statistical data are published in the OEEC Statistical Bulletins on General Statistics, and Foreign Trade Statistics. The definitions and methods used in preparing this material and securing international comparability, as well as the sources drawn upon, are described rather fully in a special publication on Definitions and Methods. In 1953 a special issue of the Bulletin devoted to Basic Statistics of Industrial Production covering the period 1913-1952 was published.

115. In certain special fields such as manpower, agricultural and productivity statistics, the complex statistical issues which faced the OEEC committees have led them to constitute statistical working parties which study these problems and assist in drawing up the questionnaires for additional information. The Working Group on Food and Agriculture Statistics takes steps in order to improve and standardize, in contact with FAO, basic statistics and methods employed in the calculation of indexes of food and agriculture (consumption, production, prices received and prices paid by farmers, etc.). The compendium Food and Agriculture Statistics summarizes all the statistical information on food and agriculture submitted by the Member countries to the OEEC.

116. It may be expected that with the setting up of a European Productivity Agency, the activities in the field of productivity statistics will be expanded.

117. For labour force statistics see paragraph 36.

118. For national accounts see paragraphs 72-75.

119. General statistical activities of the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

Activities contemplated for the near future in the IASI current work programme are oriented towards the improvement, in the several fields of statistics, of the production of statistics by the nations of the Western Hemisphere, taking into account both national and international needs. To conduct this programme, activities are proposed to deal with the organization of the national statistical systems, the promotion of statistical education and science, the introduction of appropriate methodology and the application of international standards.

120. Regarding this last point, the IASI will continue its programme of studying standards recommended by world organizations to develop, in co-operation with those organizations and the national technicians, bases of adjustments and means of implementation designed to facilitate the attainment of international comparability.

121. Activities will be continued towards establishing and suggesting ways and means to improve national statistical systems, with respect to their structure, administration, and financing. Publications are being prepared to furnish information on the statistical systems of the American countries, and to assist them in developing adequate national systems through various techniques.

Publications scheduled: Statistical Activities of the American Nations (second edition); Manual of Statistical Coordination. Other projects: (1) Study on Printing Facilities for the Publication of Statistical Data.

122. For demographic, health and housing statistics see paragraph 12.

123. For external trade statistics see paragraph 88.

124. For industrial statistics see paragraph 91.

125. For statistical education and science see paragraphs 131-134.

III. STATISTICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

126. International Statistical Education Centre, Calcutta. The seventh term of the International Statistical Education Centre, Calcutta opened in January 1954. In addition to statistical courses in theoretical statistics, students are being given practical sampling experience in connexion with the Indian National Sample Survey and other sample surveys; the students also pay visits to Government offices in New Delhi and elsewhere. 145 students had received training at the Centre by the end of the sixth term.

127. The Centre was initially established with financial assistance from the International Statistical Institute and the Government of India and with some support from international agencies. In 1953, however, the Government of India assumed financial responsibility for the Centre. The Government, in addition to continuing its offer of fellowships under the Colombo Plan, made a grant to the Indian Statistical Institute to cover local expenses, and a grant to the International Statistical Institute to enable it to arrange and finance teaching visits to the Centre, and to pay for a fellowship for a graduate of the Centre for further study abroad.

128. International Statistical Education Centre, Beirut. The International Statistical Education Centre in Beirut opened in February 1953. The Centre was arranged by the International Statistical Institute under the auspices and with the financial support of UNESCO, in collaboration with the Governments of Lebanon, France, the United Kingdom, and with the American University of Beirut and the Centre d'Etudes Mathematiques et Physiques (Beirut).

129. During the first term 40 students from seven countries attended the Centre. The second term, which started in November 1953 has 40 students from eight countries participating in the courses. The courses are conducted in French, English or Arabic where appropriate.

130. International Statistical Seminar, Rome. The International Statistical Institute held a four-day International Statistical Seminar subsequent to its 28th session in Rome during September 1953. The programme comprised eight lectures a day, with ten to forty-five students participating.

131. Statistical education and science (IASI). Activities contemplated of the Inter-American Statistical Institute include the promotion of facilities and opportunities for statistical education at different levels and covering various types of teaching, as well as the development of statistical science principally from the point of view of its practical applications. They will fall in three broad categories:

132. Education and training, through (1) the conduct of intensive courses of several months' duration on the theoretical principles and practical methods of statistics for the purposes of training personnel from the national statistical services in the basic knowledge of their profession and (2) the publication of

translations into Spanish of selected statistical textbooks as a part of the Inter-American Textbook Series on Theoretical and Applied Statistics. Projects: (1) Inter-American Training Centre on Economic and Financial Statistics; (2) Intensive Course in Basic Statistical Training; (3) Survey of Statistical Teaching in the American Countries; (4) Information Service on the Possibilities for Statistical Teaching and Study. Publications scheduled: Four volumes in the Inter-American Textbook Series.

133. Application of sampling techniques, the main purpose of which is to study the possibility of such application in Latin American countries from the point of view of the existing conditions and available materials. Project: Application of Statistical Sampling in Latin American Countries. Publications scheduled: Statistical Sampling; Its Bases and Application; Organization of National Sampling Plans.

134. Statistical vocabulary, a continuous compilation of selected statistical terms in Spanish, French, English, and Portuguese. Publications scheduled: Statistical Vocabulary (second edition).

135. Dictionary of Statistical Terms (ISI). As part of the Statistical Education Programme of the International Statistical Institute, work on a dictionary of 2,000 statistical terms has been undertaken and the initial drafting is expected to be completed by the spring of 1954; the publication is scheduled to appear by the end of 1954. The first list of terms proposed for inclusion in the dictionary was circulated to a number of organizations and individuals in various countries in early 1952 with a request for scrutiny, amendment and additions. As a result of this canvass of opinion a revised list was made which forms the basis of the initial draft now in preparation. The publication will be in English with the equivalents of the terms (not the definitions) in French, Spanish, German and Italian.

136. Bibliographic projects (ISI). A French equivalent of the Bibliography of basic Texts and Monographs in Statistical Methods has been prepared by the International Statistical Institute in co-operation with the Institute of Statistics of the University of Paris and the French Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques. Negotiations are proceeding for bibliographies dealing with the basic non-periodical literature in the German and Italian languages.

In addition a collection of material has been made of material for a bibliography on index numbers. This bibliography will survey the material up to and including 1952, with a possible extension to 1953, for literature published in English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Spanish and the Scandinavian Group of languages. It is expected that the bibliography will comprise some 400 entries.

137. Statistical Training Centre, Philippines. A permanent Statistical Training Centre under the sponsorship of the University of the Philippines is being set up by the Philippines Government with the assistance and co-operation of the United Nations. The Centre will open in June 1954 and instruction will be given in the following subject matter: general statistical methodology, consideration being given to the requisite mathematical training; sampling methods, design of experiments and surveys; organization and co-ordination of the statistical services of governmental agencies and institutions; collection, tabulation and publication of the major classes of data; organization and conduct of census operations; analysis and utilization of government statistics; practical demonstrations; maintenance of appropriate library and laboratory facilities; arrangements to facilitate further statistical training for eligible persons.

138. Other training activities: Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics, Chile. For a description of the Centre see document E/CN.3/186. Centres organized by the FAO, especially in statistical sampling, are mentioned in paragraph 19 above.

139. The Statistical Commission has frequently recognized that the long-run improvement of statistics in many countries rests upon the introduction and consistent pursuit of basic statistical education together with the necessary amount of practical work and opportunities for advanced study abroad, if that should be indicated. Statistical education centres, "permanent" or long-run training centres - either national or regional - and fellowships for study abroad will in the end provide the basis for a sustained improvement in the statistical work of participating countries.

140. It is clear from the listing above of the education and training centres which operated during 1953 that most of these are of a long-term nature. These are to be distinguished from the short-term training centres which operate for varying periods from a few weeks to three months and are usually limited to a single subject or to a very limited number of closely related subjects. More than 20 training centres and seminars - excluding conferences and regional

meetings - were held from 1948 through 1953 under the sponsorship of one or more international agencies. In general, these have been very successful; they have the advantage of focusing attention upon specific and immediately practical problems of methodology and administration and of being of short enough duration to make it possible for the national officers directly responsible for the work in their own countries to participate and to contribute their own experience towards the solution of statistical problems. Despite these advantages, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange for seminars and training centres. Only one or two seminars were held in 1953 and no more than that are likely in 1954.

141. In the long run, a combination of the statistical education programmes of the kind already initiated and the continuance and possible increase in the number of regional or national training centres and seminars will gradually lead to substantial improvements in statistics for both national and international use. In this connexion, mention should be made of the statistical manuals and handbooks which are being prepared by the United Nations and the specialized agencies (the manuals already issued and those now in preparation are referred to in the paragraphs above dealing with particular subjects). These manuals provide useful materials both for education and training as well as for officers who are actually undertaking new statistical enterprises in the different countries.

142. In the meantime, however, many countries continue to feel the need for assistance in statistics from outside sources and during the past year a very considerable amount has been provided by the international agencies and by some national governments. Eventually, however, it should be anticipated that the amount of direct assistance so far required (and the requirements have by no means been met in full) will tend to diminish as a consequence of the formally organized education and training activities discussed above and of the more informal training undertaken by the statisticians providing direct assistance under one or another of the assistance programmes. It is likely, of course, that a substantial demand for direct assistance will continue for some years to come, and might never be altogether extinguished. Nevertheless, as the Commission has observed from time to time, the ultimate and continuing responsibility for the conduct of adequate national statistical programmes rests primarily upon national governments and institutions.

143. A brief summary of direct assistance in statistics undertaken by international agencies in 1953 follows: The United Nations and the specialized agencies arranged for a total of 462 man-months of assistance provided to 25 different countries by 61 different experts ^{3/}, about half of the man-months being provided by the United Nations and over one-fourth by the Food and Agriculture Organization. A very large share of the financial cost was borne by the expanded programme of technical assistance; the remaining share is provided by the permanent staff of the international agencies whose normal functions include this responsibility. The foregoing totals exclude such assistance as that provided by bilateral arrangements between one country and another (such as the United States Point IV programme), the operations of Colombo Plan countries and of the Organization of American States.

144. Some parts of the over-all programme of assistance in statistics to countries requesting assistance have been in effect since the middle of 1948 but the present more comprehensive programme has been in existence only three or four years. Even so, it may not be too early to consider the possibility of a systematic evaluation of the results attained by each different element of the programme and, if possible, by the programme as a whole. The Commission therefore may wish to discuss whether, at its next session, it should re-examine the character and scope of the programme in all its aspects - fellowships, direct assistance, education centres and training centres.

^{3/}It will be of interest to the Statistical Commission that the 61 experts were nationals of 24 different countries from all parts of the world.