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REPORT OF FOURTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRES PARTICIPATING IN THE STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (STPA)

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The fourth meeting of Directors of the centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was held at ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 4 to 8 November 1985. A message from the ECA Executive Secretary was read by Mr. Makramalla, Chief, Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division, at the opening session.

2. The meeting was attended by the Directors or representatives of the following STPA centres: Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD), Paris; Collège statistique, Ecole nationale d'économie appliquée (ENEA), Dakar; Department of Statistics, University College of Botswana, Gaborone; Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan, Ibadan; Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ENSEA), Abidjan; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Dar-es-Salaam; Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA), Kigali; Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Yaoundé; Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, (ISAE), Makerere University, Kampala; Institut sous-régional de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ISSEA), Yaoundé; Regional Institute of Population Studies (RIPS), Legon; Institut national de statistique et d'économie appliquée (INSEA), Rabat.

3. The representatives of the following user countries also participated in the meeting: Cameroon, Nigeria, Lesotho and Mozambique.

4. Two STPA associate centres were also represented, namely, International Statistical Programs Centre (ISPC), Washington, D.C. and Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for developing countries, Munich.

5. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) were represented.

6. Representatives of the following institutions and organizations also participated in the meeting as observers: National Central Bureau of Statistics, Sweden; African Development Bank (ADB); Commission of the European Communities (Directorate-General for Development and Statistical Office of the European Communities); Institute of Statisticians; Department of Statistics of the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne; International Statistical Institute (ISI) and Centre de formation statistique, ENAM, Centrafrique.

7. Mr. Antoine Houehougbe, Co-ordinator of Studies, IFORD, was elected Chairman of the meeting, with Dr. R.K. Pillai, Head, Department of Statistics, University College of Botswana, as Vice-chairman and Dr. P.O. Namfua, Acting Director, EASTC as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

8. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening address
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

4. Matters arising from the third meeting of Directors of centres participating in the STPA
5. Evaluation of STPA and future work programme
6. Impact of guide syllabuses for training at STPA centres, other training centres and statistical offices
   (a) Guide syllabus for middle-level statistical training
   (b) Guide syllabus for in-service statistical training
7. co-operative development of teaching programmes
   (a) Draft guide syllabus for professional level statistical training
   (b) Programme of workshops and seminars for 1986-1987
8. Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in the field of statistical training
9. Technical and Financial assistance in the field of statistical training.
   (a) European Economic Community (EEC)
   (b) United Nations system
   (c) Bilateral and other multilateral agencies and institutions
10. Dissemination of information on training activities
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening address

9. In his message, the Executive Secretary recalled the main objectives of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and pointed out its role in the present context of the African economic and social crisis. He asked whether, in the past seven years of its existence, STPA had helped to train enough statisticians of acceptable quality to provide reliable and up-to-date statistical data for the management of African economies.

10. The findings of the secretariat's internal evaluation of STPA offered a good opportunity to discuss the achievements of the programme and to make concrete proposals for its future direction. He outlined some of the conclusions drawn from the evaluation exercise. It appeared that the objectives of the programme had not yet been fully achieved despite significant progress made since its inception.

11. Three things must be done if the objectives of STPA were to be met. First, action should be taken to integrate national institutions offering professional level statistical training into the overall STPA programme in order to meet the statistical training needs of the region, especially in the English-speaking countries. Secondly, national facilities for training middle-level statistical staff, including in-service training, must be established or expanded and one or two regional centres offering training at this level must be maintained and even strengthened for use by small countries where the establishment of national facilities was not justifiable. Thirdly, the statistical training needs of the Portuguese-speaking African countries must be given due attention.

12. Inspite of the present economic crisis, additional resources would have to be placed at the disposal of STPA for the next few years to enable STPA centres to contribute fully to the achievement of the Programme's objectives. He noted with pleasure the assistance offered by EEC in allocating a sum of ECU 1,025,000 (approximately 820,000 US$) to STPA from the regional programme of the Lome II Convention; the Community was prepared to consider further assistance from the Lome Convention if a specific request was made by the African countries. External assistance would be required for a number of years to come for the continued development of African statistical training. African Governments should ensure that an adequate number of fellowships were made available from either national or external resources for statistical training at STPA centres.

D. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE THIRD MEETING (agenda item 4)

13. A summary of the main issues arising from the third meeting of Directors of STPA centres was provided by the secretariat. These covered the development of STPA, co-operative development of teaching programmes, joint EEC/ACP/ECA study on statistical needs for Africa and dissemination of information on training activities.

14. On the question of an input by Directors of STPA centres into the content of the final agenda for the fourth meeting, the secretariat informed the meeting that the agenda was circulated on time but no comments were received from the Directors of the STPA centres.

15. At the request of the third meeting of Directors of STPA centres, an internal evaluation of the STPA had been undertaken. The donor agency, UNDP, had conducted a tripartite review of the project in October 1985.

16. On the training of trainers, the secretariat had reached the conclusion that for trainers in centres offering undergraduate and graduate courses a doctorate programme might be necessary; for trainers from middle-level training centres, however, no training beyond a Master's degree would be funded from the STPA regional component. The question of setting up a centre within the Africa region offering short term courses, workshops and seminars had also been considered. The secretariat's view was that it was not appropriate to set up a separate centre: existing STPA centres should be used during vacations. There was a need for proper co-ordination with institutions such as the Munich Centre and the US Bureau of the Census to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts.

17. Regarding the determination of centres to be considered as STPA centres, the secretariat's view was that no more centres should be admitted until the existing ones had been fully developed in terms of teaching staff and intake. The Division of Statistics, University of Nairobi had in any case not met the criteria for admission. The search for associate centres, in particular, centres where French was used, was continuing.

18. A guide syllabus adapted to the conditions of the Portuguse-speaking countries had been prepared and a consultant appointed to start training activities in Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea Bissau. A project document on in-service training had been prepared for Mozambique.

19. The paper on the evaluation of STPA (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/1) partially answered the suggestions made in the joint EEC/ACP/ECA study on the statistical needs of Africa that a study should be made by the secretariat on progress made during the first five years of the programme.

20. For the purposes of disseminating information on training activities as requested at the third meeting of Directors, associate centres had been included in the Directory; a directory of non-STPA centres had also been compiled although responses to the request for information had been received from only seven such centres.

E. EVALUATION OF STPA AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME (agenda item 5)

21. The secretariat introduced the agenda item which was based on document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/1. The secretariat focused on three main topics:

(a) evaluation of the performance of the STPA centres from the time the programme was established in 1978 to the present,

(b) evaluation of the activities undertaken within the framework of STPA; and

(c) proposed work programme to guide future activities for the development of the overall STPA programme.

22. With respect to the first topic it concluded that considerable progress had been made by the STPA centres in increasing the number of trained African statisticians. However, the objectives set had not been fully attained as far as quantity was concerned because only part of the estimated requirements, especially for professional statisticians for English-speaking African countries and middle level statisticians for French-speaking African countries had been met.

23. With respect to the second topic, particular attention had been given to activities relating to (a) the dissemination of information on training activities, (b) maintenance of equivalence of curricula and qualifications and the review and re-orientation of course programmes (c) middle level in-service training, (d) organization of short-term courses and seminars by STPA centres and associate centres, (e) training of trainers and (f) the co-ordination of all the activities of the programme. He however pointed out that the development of higher-level university training and specialization had not worked out as expected during the period under review and that special attention should be paid to that question in the future.

24. With respect to the third topic he called upon the meeting to adopt the work programme proposed in paragraph 85 of the document under consideration, subject to any amendments it might wish to make.

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representative of UNDP made a brief statement on the conclusions and recommendations of the tripartite review meeting on the UNDP-financed STPA project which had been held in Addis Ababa on 10 October 1985. The project had successfully established an effective system of subregional

statistical training centres. While the strengthening of basic facilities seemed to have been completed, the crucial problem that remained was the under-utilization of subregional centres because of a shortage of funds which would have permitted member States to send students for training at the Centres. The most appropriate solution would be the increased use of the indicative planning figures of UNDP and the country programmes established by donors such as the European Economic Community (EEC). The establishment of subregional facilities co-ordinated by a central programme had made STPA operational.

26. With respect to the future of the project he said that activities were expected to continue as before with some modifications or stress on the following aspects:

(a) Training of trainers would take into account the various systems of education in the various countries;

(b) Middle level in-service training, particularly in Portuguese-speaking African countries, would be given greater priority;

(c) Technical co-operation among developing countries would be used to provide consultants for short periods in specialized areas; and

(d) The post-university programmes of some centres would be supported while strengthening their training facilities at the degree or diplôme d'ingénieur des travaux statistiques (ITS) level.

27. The meeting congratulated the secretariat for successfully carrying out the current evaluation of STPA. Discussions focussed on the three topics proposed by the secretariat in its introduction.

28. Several speakers expressed reservations as to the reliability of the figures used by the secretariat to evaluate the performance of the STPA centres. It was explained that the figures had been obtained from the 1977 survey carried out at the time the programme was established, from missions organized in 1982 and 1983 as part of the joint EEC/ACP/ECA study on the statistical training requirements of African countries and from the centres themselves during a recent survey on the number of graduates from 1979 to 1984. Despite their shortcomings, the figures were a reasonable basis for work which would permit a reorientation of the future activities of STPA. The meeting was of the opinion that countries and centres should, as far as possible, endeavour to provide the secretariat with reliable figures on their estimated requirements for statisticians. One representative spoke about the experience of his country which organized a survey on needs with respect to statisticians every five years. A questionnaire on the subject was sent to public and parastatal agencies.

29. Regarding the quoted numbers of statistical staff, which suggested that in 1982 there were almost as many senior as middle-level statisticians employed in the French-speaking African countries, some participants explained that middle-level staff often hoped to become senior staff members. As a result, these same people could be counted two or even three times. The secretariat added that national courses for training middle-level staff in statistics had been in existence in French-speaking African countries for only two or three years, as opposed to the English-speaking countries in most of which such courses had been established a number of years ago. This was also an explanation for the figures.

30. Responding to the comment that some countries had difficulty in getting candidates admitted to the entrance examinations for certain STPA centres, the Director of CESD said that his centre, in collaboration with the Abidjan, Kigali and Yaounde schools, had been publishing for many years a list of topics covered by those examinations. Additional efforts would be made to publish an amended list. In April 1985, CESD had sent a consultant to Burundi to oversee the final preparation by candidates for the examinations. It was too early to draw proper conclusions, but the Burundian candidates in the examination for statisticians had achieved rather gratifying results. The Director also suggested that co-ordinating preparations for the examinations should be the responsibility of the heads of the national training courses for middle-level staff. Burundi and the Central African Republic had plans to apply such a system.

31. The meeting considered that it was very important to bring the curricula and admission requirements for national training courses for middle-level statistical staff into line, particularly in view of the desire by such staff to continue their studies at a higher level. Closer collaboration between the national courses and the STPA centres was suggested in this connection. The Director of CESD reported that his centre was planning to organize one-day courses on the training of middle-level staff in 1986: ECA would be informed later of the exact dates.

32. Participants stressed the need to take account of the different situations applying to the training of trainers in Africa. At the Abidjan centre, for example, the teaching staff had to hold doctorate degrees in conformity with the Ivory Coast's current regulations, while at the Kigali centre attention focused mainly on the practical training of teaching staff, particularly in applied statistics. It was pointed out that the conduct of research activities at the centres also contributed to the practical training of the teaching staff. Some participants considered that the secretariat's suggestion of making applicants for trainer-training fellowships sign an undertaking to serve their original centre for at least five years would not help to stop the loss of teaching staff once they were trained. Attention should be turned instead to improving the conditions of appointment and employment of teaching staff. In reply to specific questions from the Director of the Kigali IAMSEA, the secretariat said that ECA was ready to help the Institute identify African statistical services which could accept its teaching staff for short training courses. As for the possible absorption of such courses within the regional element of STPA funded by UNDP, the secretariat would have to consider the IAMSEA request in the light of all the requests received and the resources available. The programme concerned with EEC assistance to STPA also provided for the funding of such activities.

33. The representative of ISPC, US Bureau of the Census, said that ISPC offered special-purpose programmes, in Washington, for the training of trainers which enabled participants to enroll in post-graduate diploma or joint master's degree courses. Participants would work with ISPC instructional staff on the co-operative development of teaching materials in the specialization selected; the materials, modelled on those used in the ISPC programme would be adapted to the needs of an STPA centre. Participants would also be able to attend special seminars and meetings of professional societies devoted to the dissemination of information on latest instructional methods, so as to improve their performance as instructors. The duration of the training-of-trainers programme at ISPC might be as little as three months; 18 months would enable participants to earn a master's degree while in the United States. In view of the STPA policy of encouraging the development of post-graduate specialized training in Africa the training-of-trainers programmes at ISPC should be given due consideration.

34. Participants stressed the need to emphasize the development of higher university education, including specialization, which also had its role to play in the training of trainers. Some speakers called for a detailed analysis of this matter, and said that machinery needed to be introduced to support such training. The Director of ISAE, Kampala, said that his centre was planning to set up a nine-months higher university education programme. Specialist options would be offered in national accounting, computer data processing, economic statistics, agricultural statistics, census techniques, demography and social statistics. The Director of the Department of Statistics at the University of Ibadan corrected the information provided in paragraph 51 of the document under discussion by stating that the MSc and post-graduate diploma courses offered by his centre allowed for specialization. The Director of CESD said that in current circumstances his centre could probably not continue to support the training of ISEs (statistician-economists) in Paris for more than five years. He therefore recommended taking up the practical tasks involved in opening ISE sections in the Abidjan and Yaounde centres. The project concerned with EEC assistance to STPA already provided for assistance to those two centres in establishing ISE courses; CESD was ready to provide pedagogical help. Once ISE training had been transferred to Africa, CESD would concern itself with other activities conducive to statistical development in Africa, such as permanent training of staff, organisation of common entrance examinations for French-speaking African centres, statistical research and applied economics.

35. On the question of fellowships for study at STPA centres, some speakers expressed concern at the chances of securing a sufficient number of scholarships from indicative planning figures or national programmes since statistics was not yet accorded the importance it deserved in most African countries. The fault lay partly with statisticians themselves, who did not manage to produce the necessary data for economic and social planning in good time. The situation should be remedied, so as to increase awareness of the value of statistics in the process of economic and social development. At the same time, efforts should be made to make the authorities aware of the importance of statistics. One speaker suggested a study by the secretariat on the losses stemming from difficulties in obtaining fellowships for study at STPA centres.

36. One speaker expressed the hope that the centres would be provided with a list of consultants available for teaching assignments of short duration in various specialized fields. Another reported on a seminar held in Brazzaville in November 1984 which had been attended by statistics producers and users. The seminar had been organized jointly by the French Government, OSCE and CESD.

37. At the end of its discussions on this item, the meeting adopted the work programme appearing in Annex I as a guide for future action to develop the overall STPA programme.

F. IMPACT OF GUIDE SYLLABUS FOR TRAINING AT STPA CENTRES, OTHER TRAINING CENTRES AND STATISTICAL OFFICES (agenda item 6)

a) Guide syllabus for middle-level statistical training

38. The secretariat introduced the background document (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/2) and a related document (ST/ECA/STPA/DM.2/3/Rev.1), and said that it dealt with STPA centres offering middle level statistical training in the African region, the syllabuses being used at the training centres, a comparative analysis of the syllabuses in terms of subjects and hours covered per subject in the syllabuses of the centres and the guide syllabus.

39. In the discussion which followed, some participants asked what the objectives of middle level training programmes were, in particular the relation between middle level and higher level training and whether middle level training programmes were being regionalised. The secretariat informed the meeting that the working group on the STPA which had met in 1977 in Munich had dealt with those issues. When the STPA was launched, a few middle level training centres had been identified so that a group of countries could use them on a regional basis. The idea was that in-service statistical training programmes in the individual countries would gradually take over the certificate level training programme while the regional centres continued to handle diploma level training which in the long run would also be phased out.

40. On the secretariat's report concerning the poor response to the request for information on the syllabuses of STPA centres conducting middle level training, the meeting wanted to know what prevented the STPA centres from responding to the request since this would be useful in future enquiries of this nature. The secretariat explained that the omission of INSEA (Rabat) from the comparative analysis of STPA centres that offered middle level training in statistics was an oversight and that INSEA would be included in future comparative exercises. The head of the Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan pointed out that the professional diploma in statistics programme of the Department was a middle level programme and should have been included in the exercise. The secretariat explained that the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan had not been included in the exercise because it had been felt that the Department's professional diploma in statistics was of a higher level than that of similar courses offered at other centres. The secretariat agreed to include the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan in its future comparative analyses after the Nigerian representative had explained how graduates of the course were classified by his Government, as middle level cadre in contrast to those doing post-graduate diploma.

41. The meeting's discussions on the guide syllabus revealed that it was being used to formulate and reformulate national and subregional teaching programmes at existing training centres or institutions and would probably be used by new centres particularly in French-speaking African countries. The representative of the CS-Dakar centre explained why the guide syllabus could not be used in the Agent technique course.

42. With respect to the next revision of the guide syllabus, participants felt that the level of mathematics of some trainees who hoped to do professional level training and obtain a degree in statistics after the diploma level, needed to be upgraded and requested the secretariat to reformulate the mathematics content of the guide syllabus to enable trainees to meet the challenge of a degree programme in statistics.

b) Guide syllabus for in-service statistical training

43. The secretariat introduced the background documents (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/3), (E/ECA/STPA/DM.3/12) and explained that they dealt with the guide syllabus for in-service statistical training and the utilisation of the guide syllabus for in-service statistical training programmes in African countries.

44. In the discussions which followed, participants wondered whether the goals of in-service training programmes would be attained through departmental courses. It was noted that statistical offices were divided into different structures where different offices performed different duties.

45. In the French-speaking countries promotion is always subject to passing a written examination. Undertaking a course in the statistical office was unlikely to lead to automatic promotion in the service. In one country, namely Senegal, an in-service training programme had enabled executive officers to pass entrance examinations in the section of agent technique of CS-Dakar centre. The in-service training programme had been successful because there were incentives which motivated the participants to undertake the course seriously. Generally in most French-speaking countries recommendations on in-service training programmes could not be adopted. This was partly due to a lack of motivation and to the existing situation in the civil services.

46. Participants also felt that in-service training could improve the service and qualifications of candidates. The STPA centres would play a role if qualifications were considered important. Countries would need assistance to implement the recommendations of the guide syllabus and to award certificates at the end of the course. In some countries, promotion depended largely on the certificates obtained. The demand of the countries for training had increased with time; unfortunately the capacity of training centres to absorb new trainees had not kept pace with the increased demand.

47. It was agreed that although it was too early to measure the impact of the guide syllabus on national statistical offices the lack of motivation for trainees should be emphasized. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers should draw the attention of African governments to the terms and conditions of service in the various countries. It was suggested that the draft of an appropriate recommendation should be prepared which would go a long way to solving some of the brain drain problems faced by most countries.

48. The secretariat was requested to consider undertaking more missions on in-service training to provide technical assistance to countries in the implementation of their programmes.

49. The secretariat explained that the electronic data processing guide syllabus had been inlcuded in the guide syllabus for professional training in statistics. Participants felt that there was a need to develop a guide syllabus on the vital subject of data processing suitable for in-service training programmes in the national statistical offices.

50. It was becoming increasingly difficult to provide incentives to those undertaking in-service training courses because of the prevailing economic climate in most African countries. The co-ordination of departments of statistics and training institutes such as universities in running in-service training programmes might equally be affected by the present economic climate particularly in cases where governments are required to subsidize the programmes.

G. GUIDE SYLLABUS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL STATISTICAL TRAINING (agenda item 7a)

51. The secretariat introduced the three background documents provided by the secretariat for discussions under the agenda item: Draft guide syllabus for professional level statistical training: basic principles and assumptions (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/4), draft guide syllabus for professional statistical training for English-speaking countries (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/5) and Project de programme type de formation

statistique au niveau superieur pour les pays africains francophone (E/ECA/STPA/DM4/6) and said that all the basic assumptions which had been made when designing the English and French syllabuses might not apply to all centres and that they could be modified to suit conditions at specific centres.

52. The meeting decided to limit discussions to an overview of the syllabuses, the selection of subjects, the inclusion of mathematics, economics and accounting and other policy issues; detailed amendments to any part of the syllabus should be submitted in writing to the secretariat.

53. It was generally felt that not enough time had been allocated in the English guide syllabus for the courses covered in the first two years and that there were too many courses in the third year. Participants also felt too many options had been offered in the third year. It was suggested that a course on economic and social statistics should be offered in the second year for those wishing to specialise in official statistics during the third year.

54. In response to the comments on the course structure and content, the secretariat said that most criticisms on the number of official statistics courses had come from academics. Those in charge of official statistics who were the users of the outputs of the training centres were generally satisfied with the syllabus which prepared graduates from the centres to deal with the type of statistics they would eventually encounter in national statistics offices.

55. Participants wanted to know whether economics for statisticians was any different from economics as taught to other categories of students. Some participants felt that if "economics for statisticians" was included in the guide syllabus provision should also be made for agricultural economics.

56. Some participants felt that since there were a lot of statistical publications and articles in French, English-speaking centres should be strongly encouraged to teach French and that the guide syllabus should stress that point.

57. The secretariat said that although the English syllabus included two courses on economics, one for the first year and the other for the second year, the consultants had felt that candidates from the statistics departments would normally select one of the available courses in economics rather than have a completely new course designed for them. The guide syllabus had therefore made allowance for this. It was however possible that in some institutions special courses could be organized after consulting the economics department. With respect to the teaching of French, the consultants had felt the same as the meeting but had left the door open because of the practical problems involved in implementing any relevant recommendations.

58. In the discussions on the French guide syllabus, it was noted that the preamble of the syllabus had clearly recognised the main functions of a statistician of which data analysis was only a part. However, in the actual presentation of the guide syllabus, emphasis appeared to have been accorded to analysis. The secretariat explained that the applied statistics courses proposed in the French syllabus accounted for approximately 25 per cent of the total allocation of time and that the syllabus had attempted to reconcile the views expressed by users and trainers during the missions undertaken by the consultants.

59. Many participants mentioned the need to provide the centres without such equipment with a network of computer or micro-computer facilities and to begin offering courses on statistical computing. They stressed the need to hire technicians to maintain the computer equipment.

60. With respect to the reading list for the English syllabus, it was felt that some of the books recommended for the first year were too advanced for use as textbooks. The secretariat explained that the reading list contained not only textbooks for the students but also reference materials for the lecturers and that the consultants did not consider it necessary or unwise to indicate which books were to be recommended textbooks and which reference material for all the courses listed because it would appear that some of those are being favoured instead of others. The ultimate choice will rest with the teacher. It was suggested that the costs of textbooks could be reduced and more of them made available by using mimeographed notes or producing small booklets of notes. It was proposed that STPA centres and associate centres, should pool their resources to jointly produce textbooks. It was suggested that those centres that currently prepared mimeographed lecture notes could circulate them to other centres. The secretariat could also disseminate such teaching material.

61. There was considerable discussion on whether a centre was needed in Africa to train students who had already passed the Stage II examinations of the Institute of Statisticians (IOS) to sit for the final stage of the graduate diploma of that Institute. The observer from the Institute said that the IOS was ready to assist in monitoring a programme which was prepared purely in the African context. There would be no problem of exemptions from the IOS provided the IOS moderated the course content and the final examinations. The secretariat indicated that in discussions elsewhere it had appeared that the problem of providing training facilities for the graduate diploma of the IOS was one which particularly concerned the English-speaking countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. The Acting Director of the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) indicated that funding problems had to be considered and solved before any concrete proposals with respect to admitting additional candidates to EASTC could be considered by the EASTC Advisory Board. The meeting agreed that further work needed to be done by the secretariat and that the topic should be put on the agenda for the next meeting and requested the secretariat to prepare a document on it.

62. The meeting approved both syllabuses subject to the amendments proposed for the guide syllabus for English-speaking countries. It was suggested that ECA should take steps to have the syllabus approved by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and the ECA Conference of Ministers and take appropriate follow-up action for the use of the syllabuses by centres specialising in professional statistical training in Africa.

H. PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS FOR 1986-1987 (agenda item 7b)

63. The secretariat introduced document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/7 and explained that although the associate centres had been very active, the actual STPA centres had held few courses or seminars between 1983 and 1985 for want of qualified staff and finance.

For the organization of the future programme, the secretariat was ready to co-ordinate all short-duration training activities, and suggested the following system:

- approval by the meeting of a list of subjects on which courses would be held;
- establishment of priorities by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;
- compilation by each centre of its own programme of courses and seminars in the light of these priorities;
- preparation by the secretariat of an overall programme of STPA centre activities;
- distribution of the programme;
- execution of activities by the Centres, using their own capacity first; the secretariat would help by interceding with donor agencies and sending experts and lecturers.

64. There was unanimous agreement among the representatives of the training centres that the centres could not be asked to fund activities themselves, since they were already having problems with the ordinary organization of training courses. One speaker suggested that ECA should provide a general estimate of the costs of organizing all courses held within the general framework of STPA, and should co-ordinate and oversee efforts to secure funding.

65. It was suggested that the STPA centres and associate centres should collaborate, and that the associate centres should organize a number of courses in Africa, making use of local capacity to adapt statistical techniques to actual conditions in the region.

66. It was also indicated that a distinction should be drawn between regional and national refresher courses, because national courses fell within the purview of national statistical authorities. It was suggested that CESD should become a retraining centre for the French-speaking countries in view of the forthcoming transfer of its ISE division to ENSEA in Abidjan and ISSEA in Yaounde.

67. The representative of the Munich Centre presented his Centre's programme for the period 1986 to 1989.

68. The representative of ISPC, U.S. Bureau of the Census, said that his agency was interested in co-operating with STPA centres in offering short courses and workshops. It should be noted that ISPC was a provider of training and not a funding agency. It shared the problem of STPA centres in needing to identify donors to support its efforts. However, in the case of joint courses or workshops with STPA centres, it would help with funding. Interested STPA centres should contact ISPC, preferably through the local USAID Mission, requesting a specific short-course or workshop and specifying topic and duration, possible dates, the number and characteristics of expected participants and other similar details.

69. The training courses listed in paragraphs 30 and 31 of document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/7 were offered annually in Washington, and were offered in addition to the country and subregional workshops in response to specific requests given in English, French or Spanish.

70. The representative of the Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, gave details of the courses offered in the University's Summer Schools and explained that an M.Sc. could be obtained by attending two summer schools and carrying out a project. Special arrangements could be made for overseas students, including short courses prior to the summer schools where desirable. The courses contained in the M.Sc. programme were practical in orientation, and involved tutorials, computing, and the provision of textbooks.

71. In response to a question about the M.Sc. course, he said that the teaching for the course was available in two separate summer schools; the period between the two summers could be utilised for supervised reading. In full-time M.Sc. courses, the teaching was continuous from October to March. For many students this pace was very fast, and lecturing in two separate periods was a better arrangement. Some students might be found positions in government agencies where they could get work experience between the two summers.

72. The representative of the Institute of Statisticians, who was also representing Applied Statistics Research Unit (ASRU), University of Kent at Canterbury, said that the ASRU booklet showed that many courses could be offered just where they were needed, with the provision that those involving statistical computing would depend on local facilities being available. Individual consultants, often people who have had plenty of experience in applied statistics, could also be found relatively easily, at least for short-term tasks. ASRU would be one of the sources of expertise available to the Institute of Statisticians in its role as agent of the EEC; a number of similar groups in the U.K. were not associate centres.

73. The secretariat said that Centres were not being asked to fund their courses and seminars themselves, but they should make efforts to become self-sufficient. ECA always offered assistance to Centres in securing the external funds for courses and seminars.

74. Concluding its discussion of this item, the meeting endorsed the system of co-ordination drawn up for the preparation and organization of courses and seminars by STPA centres. It also agreed on a broad list of topics for courses and seminars for submission to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers so that it could define the priorities for the execution of the STPA centres' programmes of courses and seminars.

I. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES (agenda item 8)

75. In the introduction to documents E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/8 and E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/13, the secretariat recalled the new directives adopted by the third meeting of Directors of STPA centres for special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in the area of statistical training. The secretariat told the meeting about the various activities undertaken by ECA since November 1983.

76. In the discussions that followed, certain participants pointed out the two main problems in the training of students from these countries at the STPA centres namely, the language of instruction and admission tests.

77. With respect to the language of instruction, the representative of the Collège statistique de Dakar said that almost all the Portuguese-speaking students had an imperfect command of French but that some additional courses in French would be sufficient to overcome that handicap. However, because of their poor level in mathematics, the students would not stand a chance of obtaining admission to the STPA centres if they had to sit for the common entrance examination to the Kigali, Yaoundé and Abidjan centres. Preliminary training of two months should be organized for those students with the assistance of ECA.

78. Concerning the use of the Collège statistique de Dakar to train students from Portuguese-speaking African countries, (Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau), as ingénieurs des travaux statistiques on a permanent basis, the representative of CESD said that in order to satisfy the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, the Collège statistique de Dakar would have to recruit annually. The French-speaking statistical centres of the region (Abidjan, Kigali, Yaoundé) would have to be requested to consider the possibility of training ingénieurs de travaux statistiques for the Portuguese-speaking countries as the Collège statistique de Dakar was already doing. The additional expenditure incurred because of that adjustment could be met by external sources of funds. The representative of CESD informed the meeting that the imminent membership of Spain and Portugal in the European Economic Community could bring about the establishment in Portugal of a counterpart centre to CESD for training statisticians from Portuguese-speaking African countries.

79. Participants felt that, in the short run, middle-level in-service training programmes needed to be organized with the assistance of STPA and donors and that other STPA centres should be assisted to admit Portuguese-speaking students for higher-level training. In the long run, the establishment of a special centre for Portuguese-speaking African countries should be envisaged.

J. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICAL TRAINING (agenda item (9)

80. The secretariat summarized document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/9b and explained that fellowships for training in statistics were included in national projects financed by UNDP from country indicative planning figures and in population projects financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Two types of training were directly financed from the regular budget of the Department for Technical Co-operation and Development (DTCD): in-service training programme under Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and training programmes in the areas of statistics and data processing in collaboration with the Soviet Union as part of the Soviet Union's contribution to the technical assistance programme of the United Nations.

81. The representative of the Commission of European Communities (EEC) gave the background to the project financed for STPA (1,025,000 ECU) at the request of the ACP Council of Ministers, the Commission had financed a study (100,000 ECU) on the status of statistical training in Africa and on the requirements of the centres for the next decade. The facilities of the Centres needed to be strengthened and relationships with Governments and users improved.

82. With respect to the implementation and follow-up of the project, a Steering Committee had met in December 1984 and should meet again in the first half of 1986. The following activities had been carried out: (a) provision of technical assistance and teaching equipment, twinning of English-speaking centres and study tours to English-speaking centres (phase I), (b) organization of competitive recruitment examinations; (c) organization of sensitization seminars between producers and users of statistics; (d) provision of assistance in Africanizing the centres. Remaining to be realised in 1986: assistance to English-speaking African centres (Phase II), teaching equipment and transfer of ISE training to Abidjan and Yaounde.

83. The representative of OSCE provided technical details on the implementation of the above-mentioned points.

84. The representative of the EEC noted that their priorities were provision of computer equipment for the centres and assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries. In that respect, a new project could be envisaged with the assistance of the Commission within the limits of available resources and a request should be made within the framework of the Lome Convention.

85. The UNDP representative observed that the STPA was an excellent example of co-operation amongst various donors to achieve the same objective. During the first phase of the project (1978-1981) about US$1 million was spent and during the second phase (1982-1986) a total provision of US$1.6 million was made. With regard to possible assistance to STPA from 1987 onwards, he pointed out that this would be a matter for consultation between ECA and UNDP.

86. Participants pointed out that fellowships were of crucial importance and requested UNDP and EEC not to overlook that aspect. In reply, the representative of the Commission of European Communities said that the Commission could not allocate funds from the EDF regional programme to finance fellowships; he recalled that during the first Lome Convention, 5.4 million ECU had been utilized from national programmes to finance fellowships in the field of statistics and this has to be followed. On the other hand, the Commission was prepared to find a practical solution on how to improve the training of trainers under the regional programme. Participants also asked questions on EEC assistance under the Lome Convention.

87. The representative of ISSEA wondered whether the EEC could provide assistance in expanding the facilities of the Centre because of the transfer of the ISE Division of CESD to the Yaounde and Abidjan Centres. In response the representative of EEC asked the ISSEA to approach the local EEC delegation on this matter since the extension of buildings are not included in EDF project assistance to STPA.

88. The representative of ISAE, mentioned the requirements of STPA centres which include lecturers, fellowships for trainees and trainers, equipment, accommodation and laboratories. For a few centres these requirements have not been met by UNDP assistance. He also referred to the problems of short term consultants at centres and mentioned the need for new thinking in the area of consultants. He emphasized the need for long term experts. On the question of self-reliance of African governments, he requested, with the support of the representative of the University of Ibadan, that a resolution known as "OAU Fellowship Programme", which would be used to provide fellowships to country nationals to study at STPA centres outside their country, should be drafted and presented to the OAU Conference of Ministers through the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. Such a resolution should emphasize special funds for statistics. A representative of the secretariat mentioned that resolutions of this nature would normally be handled by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

89. The representative of University of Ibadan referred to the lack of information on the contributions of other donor agencies to STPA. The secretariat informed him that the information was requested but due to certain reasons the agencies neither responded to the secretariats request for information nor attended the meeting following invitation by the secretariat. He referred also to the history of the request for the EEC funds and wanted to know the procedure of expenditure of the funds approved by the EEC for STPA. He recognized the SIDA assistance to Tanzania and Zimbabwe as a positive response to the request for assistance to STPA. He wondered whether the amount provided by UNDP to the regional component of STPA included assistance to Portuguese-speaking countries. He emphasized the need for UNDP to assist the STPA regional component beyond 1986.

90. On fellowships from country IPF's the representative of University of Botswana mentioned that top priority should be given to fellowships for higher degrees. He also referred to the high cost of missions by training advisers to countries but the secretariat assured him that this only takes up a small part of the total cost. On EEC assistance, he requested the EEC representative to the meeting to explain how to get the help.

91. The representative of ADB referred to the project financing procedures of his institution to individual African countries. He mentioned that through appropriate marketing procedures of the national statistical offices, it may be possible to formulate projects which can attract bank soft funds especially for financing the required buildings and equipment under education programmes.

92. In reply to questions raised by participants, the UNDP representative confirmed that UNDP provides through the regional component fellowships for the training of trainers who are expected to man the training programmes at STPA centres. On fellowships for trainees he reiterated that the mandate of the regional IPF excluded this from the assistance since it was adequately catered for under the national IPF's. With regard to visiting lecturers, the UNDP representative indicated that the purpose of training teaching staff of the centres is to provide future capability for conducting courses at the centres and as such it was plausible to provide very specific specialised short-term consultancies to supplement what had already been developed for the sub-regional centres.

93. With regard to the provision of physical facilities, the UNDP representative pointed out that the UNDP mandate of providing technical assistance precluded capital assistance and as already indicated by other donors some assistance in this direction is already forthcoming from them. On special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries, this assistance was provided from the same funds of the regional component and took the form of consultants to formulate syllabuses, conducting of in-service training programmes and missions by the statistical training advisers and ECA Statistics Division staff to these countries.

94. The representative of National Central Bureau of Statistics indicated that Statistics Sweden has since 1983 entered into long-term twinning agreement with the national statistical offices of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Lesotho. The funding agency has been the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The agreement is aimed at improving the statistical capability of the concerned country, and usually cover such components as the supply of equipment, long- or short-term consultancies, the use of facilities at the Statistics Sweden home-office, and, to a very large extent, training.

95. She pointed out that the training can take many forms such as informal on-the-job training or more formal courses, seminars and workshops. It is tailor-made to fit the specific needs of the national office at the specific time. The training can thus range from courses at degree-level to post-graduate courses, and in addition to more strictly statistical subjects cover covering such fields as management and computing. The activities also involve participants from outside the statistical office, viz. representatives of user bodies, staff from computing centres or other bodies in the country producing statistics.

96. On behalf of the Chief of the Department of Co-operation of INSEE, the representative of CESD made some corrections to the French Government statement in document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/9c concerning ENSEA Abidjan. The second and third sentences of 1.1.3 should read as follows: "There should not be more than four experts in 1986-87 for the current structure. Two additional experts should be assigned when the ISE Division is established".

97. The representative of ISPC, U.S. Bureau of the Census, noted that ISPC provides a broad range of technical assistance in statistics to countries in the African region. That assistance is provided both on a long-term basis by resident advisors (e.g., in Nigeria) and on the basis of recurrent short-term advisory missions. Short-term technical assistance has been provided by ISPC to many countries in English-speaking and French-speaking Africa.

98. Training often is linked with ISPC technical assistance. For example, a technical assistance project may include a training component under which participants are funded to attend the ISPC training program in Washington. In-country workshops frequently are organized as part of an ISPC technical assistance project. External funding is needed to enable ISPC to provide technical assistance to a country that requests it. Often, this function is provided through a Mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations, World Bank or recipient country itself (as is the case for Nigeria).

99. The representative of the Munich Centre summarised some of the activities of the centre. The centre was created to organise further training for statisticians from developing countries. It co-operates with the EEC, the specialised organisations of the UN and various national and international parties in its activities. The centre has no fixed institutional co-operation with training centres or statistical services and organises seminars in developing countries usually on a joint venture with national or regional parties. The training programme of the centre is to a certain extent based on training priorities submitted by statistical offices and training centres in developing countries.

100. The representative of the Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne indicated that his centre has a large and developing group of statisticians with several facilities. The fields covered are related to health, medical statistics, surveys and statistical methods etc. The centre is interested in "twining" with African institutions as well as writing booklets for courses at professional training level.

101. The representative of the Institute of Statisticians indicated that his organisation has maintained a harmonising influence on courses and standards. The Institute has recently been appointed by EEC as agent in English-speaking African countries to facilitate all kinds of training related to STPA. The institute will set up at its next council meeting a project team of senior members who will identify the best ways of meeting requests that come in. The institute's function will be to identify the best short term or long term placements for each request. On the training of trainers the representative of the Institute felt that a broad base of statistical knowledge as represented by an MSc degree may be adequate for them to acquire. The Ph.D may follow later in appropriate cases but not necessarily for everyone. He also mentioned the need to provide teaching missions to centres or countries to help set up new areas.

102. In conclusion, the meeting expressed its deep appreciation on the assistance provided so far by the bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and institutions for the development of the overall STPA programme. It wished that this assistance will continue and be further strengthened. It also requested that donors facilitate and accelerate as much as possible the process of granting fellowships.

103. The meeting also urged African Governments to accord higher priority to statistics and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships is earmarked for training at STPA centres, either from the national resources or from the funds provided by donor agencies through country programmes.

104. The meeting approved the draft resolution, attached as Annex II, for consideration by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, and adoption by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

K. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON TRAINING ACTIVITIES (agenda item 10)

105. Introducing documents E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/10 and 11, the secretariat laid emphasis on the Directory of STPA centres and associate centres and the Directory of non-STPA centres compiled by the ECA Statistics Division. The secretariat mentioned the actions which STPA, associate and non-STPA, centres and national statistical services needed to take to assist ECA in its co-ordinating role.

106. One speaker suggested that the secretariat should consider publishing a digest of the research conducted at the African statistical training centres.

107. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Department of Statistics at the University of Ibadan offered to provide the secretariat with information on the other non-STPA centres existing in Nigeria to supplement the Directory of non-STPA centres. This suggestion was welcomed by the secretariat.

108. The meeting unanimously endorsed the presentation and content of the first issues of the Directory of STPA centres and associate centres and the Directory of non-STPA centres, subject to any necessary updating and corrections.

L. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 11)

109. The secretariat informed the meeting that the Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne had made an application to become an associate centre of STPA. The secretariat had found the centre suitable, and asked the meeting to support the proposal to include it as an associate member. The meeting supported the proposal of the secretariat, but requested that in future such issues should be documented and circulated beforehand.

110. In reply to a question on why two STPA French-speaking centres were not represented at the meeting, the secretariat informed the participants that the two centres had planned to attend but at the last minute cables had been received saying that they could not do so. The secretariat appealed to Directors of centres to send their deputies if unable to come themselves.

111. One participant asked the representatives of Associate centres and European countries how they managed to secure proper recognition for statistics in their countries. Various representatives described the solutions adopted by their countries or institutions, which included developing statistics related to the community, running active campaigns, working in various ministries, producing small analytical papers, offering access to statistical data through computer systems initially free of charge, introducing applied statistics in schools, etc., to make those using statistics realise their usefulness and importance, fostering contact between producers and users and reminding the ministries concerned on the vital role of statistics for the preparation of development policies.

112. An evaluation of the meeting was conducted at the end through a questionnaire supplied by the secretariat for the participants to complete. The results of the evaluation are attached as Annex III to this report.

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME (draft)

The fourth meeting of Directors of centres participating in the Statistical training Programme for Africa (STPA), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 8 November 1985, discussed the future course of the programme in the light of the conclusions of a paper entitled "Evaluation of STPA and future work programme". It agreed that particular emphasis should be put on future activities concerned with specialised post-graduate training and that greater attention should be given to middle-level training, particularly in French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking African countries. It also recommended that the programme should set a target date of 1991 for making Africa self-sufficient in the qualified statistical staff needed by the region for collecting, processing and analysing data for use in economic and social planning.

The meeting adopted the following work programme to serve as a framework for future action for the development of the overall STPA programme:

(a) Operational support for all STPA centres so that they can contribute effectively to the attainment of the objectives set by the programme, including:

(i) Assistance with the training of trainers: this should make allowance for the different circumstances that can prevail depending on the system to which the centre belongs, its legal status, the status of its teaching staff and the level of training offered;

(ii) Provision of consultants for short periods to give courses in some specialised areas;

(iii) Provision, as necessary, of full-time lecturers pending the return of teaching staff sent for training;

(iv) Provision of equipment, in particular micro-computers, calculators, reproduction equipment etc.;

(v) Support, as necessary, for the expansion or construction of premises;

(vi) Support for the holding of seminars and working groups in priority areas of applied statistics such as statistical computer science, national accounts, agricultural statistics, and the use and analysis of data.

(b) Assistance to two French-speaking STPA centres in opening training sections for statistician-economists;

(c) Programmed assistance, based on a project document, to two English-speaking STPA centres in the establishment of specialized post-graduate training;

(d) Assistance to African countries wishing to establish or develop national training courses for middle-level statistical staff, including in-service training;

(e) Assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries so as to enable them to benefit more from the activities undertaken within the framework of STPA;

(f) Support for African national centres for professional training; this support should be provided by aid organizations within country IPFs; it will nevertheless be necessary for the centres to embark on the co-operative development of teaching curricula in order to give a more practical orientation to the courses they offer;

(g) Co-operative development of teaching programmes, including the preparation of teaching materials, and the periodic review of the guide syllabuses for professional, middle-level and in-service training programmes drawn up under STPA;

(h) Dissemination of information on statistical training activities in and outside Africa;

(i) Periodic assessment of STPA activities; an annual survey should be organized of the performance of the STPA centres and periodic surveys should be held on the organization and staffing of statistical services in Africa;

(j) Measures to procure a sufficient number of fellowships for study at STPA centres and associate centres. African Governments should earmark a sufficient number of fellowships for statistical training using either national resources or external aid funds. Donors should as far as possible facilitate and accelerate the procedures for the granting of fellowships;

(k) Co-ordination of all activities under STPA, including the project "EEC Assistance to STPA" and the regional element of the programme funded by UNDP.

The meeting calls on all parties concerned , African Governments, STPA centres and associate centres, national statistical training facilities, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and ECA and other national and international institutions to continue to take an active part in the implementation of this work programme in order to help STPA to accomplish its objectives in full.

DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE FOURTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF STPA CENTRES

STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA

PROVISION OF TRAINEE FELLOWSHIPS

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was established in 1978 to remedy the acute shortage of statistical personnel required for the collection, processing and analysis of essential data for national planning and development;

Noting that the programme has so far made good progress but the problem of inadequate training fellowships for study at STPA centres constitutes one of the major obstacles to its development;

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action urges African countries, as a matter of urgency, to strengthen their statistical infrastructures as a basis for effective policy-making and planning;

Considering that the 21st. Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity reaffirmed that the attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos depends on the development of the wide range of human resources required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes covering the entire spectrum and sectoral activities in the economic development process;

Noting with satisfaction that STPA is a good example of multi-donor assistance, involving particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and various bilateral agencies and institutions.

1. Urges African Governments to accord higher priority to statistical training and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships are earmarked for training at STPA centres, either from national resources or from the funds provided by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies through country programmes,

2. Expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance so far provided to the programme by many bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, hopes that their support will continue and be further strengthened, and requests them to facilitate and accelerate the procedure of granting fellowships as much as possible.

EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

Overall the completed 17 evaluation forms indicate that participants were generally satisfied with the administrative organization, the content of the agenda and the practical orientation of the discussions of the meeting. However, three of the participants, among whom two observers, would like the following topics to be included in the agenda for future meetings of the same nature:

- link between the training centres and the national statistical organizations;
- postgraduate research and postgraduate training;
- statistical development as an investment item like other social and physical infrastructures;
- the increase of financial support by governments for data collection;
- problems related to the organisation of practical attachment of students.

Concerning the documentation supplied to the meeting, participants generally indicated that it was sufficient and reasonable. However, some of them pointed out that background documents were not sent to them on time.

As regard the participation and outcome of the meeting, participants remarked that the time allowed for questions and discussions was sufficient. They indicated that as a result of this meeting, their contribution to the implementation of the overall STPA programme will likely be more than before. However, four of them indicated that the following topics were not sufficiently discussed:

- UNDP technical and financial assistance for phase III of the STPA (1987-1991);
- the rôle OAU could play to promote statistical activities in the context of the recent OAU Summit declaration on Africa's Economic crisis;
- the improvement of co-operation between statistical training centres and national statistical offices;
- has the STPA to deal with middle level training?

In general, participants thought that the meeting fully achieved its objectives and that it is very relevant to the activities to be conducted within the statistical training centres.

Some participants, mainly the delegates from STPA centres and user countries indicatedthe followings among the greatest problems expected in putting into practice the recommendations of the meeting:

- the non-availability of financial resources;
- the heavy beaucreatic procedures;

- the attitude of national governments to the implementation of decisions reached in the meeting;
- the implementation of the guide-syllabus for professional level within the University framework;
- the lack of qualified personnel in the national statistical offices for conducting in-service training programme.

Finally, some participants made the following suggestions for the improvement of the organization and conduct of future meetings of the same nature:

- sort out accommodation problems before the arrival of participants;
- if possible, distribute well in advance background documents to the participants;
- precisely indicate the duration for the discussion of each agenda item and ask the participants to keep their remarks to the appropriate agenda item.