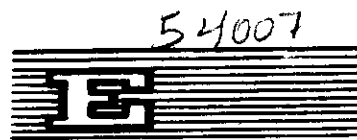




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REPORT OF THE MEETING ON TRAINING IN DEMOGRAPHY AND POPULATION
PROGRAMMES (Yaoundé, Cameroon, 22-26 January 1974)

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REPORT OF THE MEETING ON TRAINING IN DEMOGRAPHY AND POPULATION
PROGRAMMES (Yaoundé, Cameroon, 22-26 January 1974)

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening addresses

1. The meeting on Training in Demography and Population Programmes was held at Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 22 to 26 January 1974. It was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (in collaboration with United Nations Headquarters and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities) with host facilities provided by the Government of Cameroon.

2. Participants included: experts from States members of ECA, in their individual capacity as experts; directors of national training and research centres and other experts on demographic training in Africa; representative of the Governments of the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany; United Nations Headquarters, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization; demographic and statistical training and research institutes: the Regional Institute for Population Studies at Accra, Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques at Yaoundé, the Cairo Demographic Centre, the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía at Santiago, the International Institute for Population Studies at Bombay, the Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Economie Appliquée at Rabat, the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at Kampala, the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques and the Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques in Paris; inter-governmental organizations: the Organization of African Unity, the African Malagasy and Mauritian Common Organization, the Central African Customs and Economic Union; and non-governmental organizations: The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography (CICRED) and the Population Council.

The list of participants is given in Annex I.

3. On behalf of the United Nations system in Cameroon, Mr. B. Borna, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the country, expressed gratitude to the Head of State and the Government of Cameroon which had always provided host facilities for such regional or inter-regional seminars. Recognizing the importance of training demographers, especially in the context of the World Population Year, he noted the establishment of the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD) at (Yaoundé by the United Nations and the Government of Cameroon, assisted by the Economic Commission for Africa and financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. For IFORD, he observed, the Meeting of experts was of particular significance. Wishing the Meeting every success, he welcomed participants.

4. The address by Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa was read by Mr. R.K. Som, Chief of the ECA (Population Programme Centre. In his welcoming address, Mr. Gardiner noted with satisfaction the participation of representatives of African Governments and of some other members of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, demographic training units and directors of United Nations - sponsored or supported regional demographic and statistical training centres both in and outside Africa and the representatives of United Nations agencies and non-United Nations organizations and other individual experts invited by ECA. He thanked the Government of Cameroon for hosting the Meeting.

5. The objective of the Meeting, according to him, was twofold: to establish and sustain regional training centres and to support national and intergovernmental institutions. This, coupled with a desire to meet the growing need for specialized manpower in implementing development programmes in the region, had led to the convening of the Meeting. He hoped that, after a review and evaluation of the training and research activities in the region, the meeting would come up with recommendations for improved demographic training and research facilities in Africa.

6. He particularly welcomed the collaboration between the Government of Cameroon and IFORD at Yaoundé in organizing the Meeting. In conclusion, he assured the African countries of the continued assistance of the United Nations, and specifically of ECA, in all aspects of population programmes in their countries, including demographic training and research.

7. The Meeting was opened by His Excellency Dr. Maikano Abdoulaye, Minister of Planning, who welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon. On behalf of all representatives, he also expressed appreciation of the role that the Economic Commission for Africa was playing in organizing and co-ordinating intra-African meetings.

8. Noting the lack of completely satisfactory demographic data and analysis, he stressed importance of studies, particularly those on aspects that concerned most African countries: levels of mortality, rate of urban growth, assessment of fertility and the balance between population and resources. Such studies naturally required trained personnel; noting that Governments considered training in demography and population programmes a matter of priority, he thanked the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa, through whose efforts regional demographic training and research centres had been established at Cairo, Accra, and Yaoundé which provided facilities to all African countries.

9. He hoped that while reviewing, inter alia, the activities of these three centres, the Meeting would provide guidelines for harmonizing training and research programmes, taking into account the high priority needs of the countries being served by them. He added that training was being carried out through seminars on specific subjects which enabled those in charge of demographic offices to complete their knowledge in specific fields. Another important aspect of training was the publication of manuals, and he congratulated the various organizations which had been preparing manuals adapted to African conditions on demographic concepts and definitions and the analysis of imperfect data. All this was an immense task which required a sustained effort.

10. In conclusion, he stressed again the importance and complexity of the problems to be discussed and wished the meeting every success.

Election of Officers

11. The meeting elected Mr. N. Mouoyebe (Cameroon) as Chairman and Mrs. L.M. Sode (Sierra Leone) as Vice-Chairman.

Adoption of Agenda

12. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

- (1) Opening addresses
- (2) Election of Officers
- (3) Adoption of the Agenda
- (4) Consideration of matters connected with demographic training and research in Africa arising from ECA and United Nations Meetings
- (5) General consideration of the past and present state of demographic training and research in Africa
- (6) (a) Demographic training and research at the following institutes sponsored by the United Nations:
 - (i) Cairo Demographic Centre
 - (ii) IFCRD (Yaoundé)
 - (iii) RIPS (Accra)
 - (iv) IDEP and the Institutes of Statistics and Applied Economics at Rabat and Kampala
- (b) Training and research at national and other regional training and research centres
- (7) International co-operation in training and research in Africa involving the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations
- (8) Suggestions and proposals for the improvement of demographic training and research in Africa
- (9) Adoption of the report.

The list of documents is given in Annex II.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS CONNECTED WITH DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN AFRICA ARISING FROM ECA AND UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS

13. Pursuant to resolution 230(X), adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers, regional institutes for population studies had been established at Yaoundé and Accra late in 1971 and had become operational in 1972. Other standing bodies of ECA and technical seminars had also paid attention to various aspects of demographic training and research in Africa; these had also been discussed by the United National Population Commission at its seventeenth session held in Geneva from 29 October to 9 November 1973.

14. Expressing satisfaction that the three United Nations-sponsored regional training centres now provided training and research facilities to all African countries, all the bodies had evinced keen interest in the functioning of these centres. At various meetings, African Governments had been urged to utilize fully the capacities of these centres. Matters concerning the recruitment of trainees and the length of the courses had been discussed.

15. The interdisciplinary nature of population studies had been recognized and the need for collaboration among different disciplines stressed. Training and research that were responsive to African needs had been advocated.

16. While the three United Nations-sponsored institutes catered mainly for post-graduate training, other levels and forms of training had also been called for. The demographic content of existing middle - and intermediate-level statistical training courses at national and sub-regional statistical training centres was being strengthened through the provision of teaching assistance and the preparation of intermediate-level manuals. While short-term ad hoc courses on specific topics formed part of the academic training programmes of the three regional training centres, such courses had so far been organized only at the Cairo Centre. The meeting hoped that the Institutes at Accra and Yaoundé would sponsor similar courses.

17. Concerning the scope of the institutes, the Meeting noted with satisfaction that the Population Commission had agreed that RIPS could provide training to students from English-speaking countries in the Caribbean region and IFORD to those from French-speaking countries in regions other than Africa; the Meeting appreciated that the Cairo Demographic Centre had been providing services to African countries as well as to Arab countries outside Africa.

18. The question of recognition by Governments and other institutions of the institutes' diplomas and of the employment of demographers had been raised at different meetings. A problem arose when an institute was not associated to a university or did not have a charter to provide degrees and diplomas which were recognized as equivalent to those provided by a university.

19. Another topic to which attention had been drawn was the general lack of text books with examples from the region. In this connexion, the Meeting noted that suitable manuals were being prepared by the secretariat of ECA and that the Advisory Committees of RIPS and the Cairo Demographic Centre had suggested that, where desirable, teaching notes by the staff of the institutes could be expanded and published as manuals.

20. Collaboration between United Nations agencies and non United Nations organizations on the one hand and the training institutes on the other hand has been called for at several ECA meetings on co-ordination of population programmes in Africa. ECA was already collaborating with United Nations specialized agencies, regional training institutes and a number of non-African Governments in training programmes in specific fields; the meeting hoped that such collaboration would continue and be strengthened.

21. The Meeting also noted the relevant discussions at the seventeenth session of the United Nations Population Commission. On inter-regional interdisciplinary training in population, the Commission had noted that no plans had been made for initiating courses in Africa; some members of the Commission had suggested the establishment of interdisciplinary training courses in the Maghreb where short- and medium-term courses could be organized for higher-level officials in population matters. The Meeting hoped in this connexion that the United Nations and its agencies as well as non-United Nations organizations would be responsive to the needs of the region.

22. Finally, the Meeting noted with satisfaction that the programme of work of both the United Nations and ECA included the development of a body of national specialists and technicians in the population field, the introduction or strengthening of the teaching of demography and population policies at national institutions and the establishment or strengthening of national or regional centres capable of offering adequate interdisciplinary training in all population matters.

23. The Meeting shared the Population Commission's concern about the problems of the recruitment of trainees and the relatively high failure rates at IFORD and RIPS. A recommendation was made that pre-term courses could be organized for trainees who did not have an adequate background in some of the ancillary subjects. The meeting agreed that while training could be imparted at different levels — professional or intermediate there should be no lowering of standards at any level.

24. It was suggested that for trainees with the proper background, such as the diploma-holders from INSEA at Rabat who followed a three-year course including field experience, one year of professional-level training in demography (at IFORD) should be adequate.

25. On the relationship between the regional training centres and universities, the Meeting noted that some form of association facilitated the issue of university degrees and diplomas which were recognized universally. Lectures and physical facilities could also be shared. The advantages RIPS derived from its association with the University of Ghana were, it was felt, worth having.

26. Referring to co-operation between ECA, the United States Bureau of the Census, and the Governments of Cameroon and Morocco in sponsoring census training workshops, the representative of the United States cited the support given to the Seminar on Demographic Data Evaluation and Analysis, being organized at the University of the Philippines Population Institute from 4 to 15 February 1974, where the laboratory work included examples and computer applications. He mentioned the possibility of his Government's co-operation in organizing similar training seminars in Africa. This was welcomed by the Meeting which hoped that ECA could co-sponsor training seminars, preferably with the participation of the regional training centres.

27. Concerning the establishment and strengthening of national demographic units in African universities, the secretariat referred to the programmes of the United Nations and ECA (paragraph 22). The meeting was informed of ongoing United Nations assistance to national training and research units; the secretariat of ECA would, in collaboration with United Nations Headquarters, be ready to assist African Governments in formulating their requests to UNFPA in all fields of population, including training.

III. GENERAL CONSIDERATION OF THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN AFRICA

28. African countries had only recently shown interest in demographic research, which was probably because of the lack of both qualified staff and data.

29. In the field of training, African countries did not have any demographic training centres before the establishment of CDC, RIPS and IFORD. Some courses had been given in universities (economic sciences, geography or sociology) or in statistical schools (for instance at Rabat and Kampala). Thus African countries had had to train their demographers outside the continent.

30. In the field of research, until 1950-1960 many African countries did not have data and information came from administrative censuses or, for some urban centres, from the registration of vital statistics. Later statistical censuses and retrospective surveys were carried out which improved knowledge about African populations considerably. Those operations had and still faced, major difficulties both at the collection stage and at the processing or analysis stage. This new phase during which statistical offices played a major role was coming to an end. However, besides these traditional sources (censuses, surveys) some countries tried new approaches at the local or national level, such as multi-round surveys, dual recording, repeated surveys, improvements of administrative censuses, exploitation of parish registers, etc.

31. It seemed that a decisive stage had now been reached in so far as:

- basic data had been collected;
- executives had been trained in the above-mentioned institute in particular;
- objectives and strategy in the field of research had been identified, especially at the African Population Conference at Accra in 1971 or at the Round Table at Lomé in 1973;
- the centres could play a major role in matters of promotion and co-ordination.

32. Noting the variety of demographic training and research facilities, especially at national institutions, the Meeting agreed on the importance of conducting a survey of existing training institutions in the region. As the proposed global survey by the United Nations Population Division was not under way, the meeting recommended that the ECA secretariat should undertake such a survey for Africa, along with the revision of its African Directory of Demographers.

33. The Meeting also recognized the need for the dissemination of demographic information to African Governments, institutions, and regional training centres. It was informed that a survey had been completed on this subject for Europe. The ECAFE secretariat had recently expanded its activities in this field with a view to promoting networks of national population information sources. It supported ECA's proposed project on information services and clearing house activities which, if approved for UNFPA financing, would provide these services effectively.

34. A suggestion was also made that the ECA secretariat should prepare bibliographies of the literature on African demography. It was further suggested that the field reports by experts of the United Nations or its agencies and non-United Nations organizations could constitute useful case studies which could be disseminated to African Governments, institutions and individual experts. Work on proposed bibliography could start with a broad division of demographic topics and the preparation of formats to be followed; a consultant with experience in African demography could then be appointed by the ECA secretariat for the preparation of the bibliography.

35. Mention was made of comparative studies and longitudinal studies which could be undertaken by regional and national institutions. In this connexion, the Meeting was informed of the areas for comparative studies identified by a CODESRIA (Council of Directors of Economic and Social Research Institutions in Africa) meeting: vital registration, migration, labour force, youth, and population, resources and environment. The Meeting also noted that a comparative study of vital registration systems had been undertaken by the OCAM secretariat.

36. The Meeting was informed of the demographic content of the medical courses at Yaoundé, including family planning.

37. The discussion centered mainly on the types and contents of short-term courses. It was noted that long-term courses were of one year's duration or more while short-term courses arranged by ECA and other United Nations agencies, some of which were organized in collaboration with African and non-African Governments, lasted for three weeks to three months.

38. The Meeting noted that the agreements establishing the regional training centres enabled them to provide ad hoc courses, in-service training and special courses. The Meeting also noted the recommendations on ad hoc short-term training courses made by the ECA regional interagency co-ordination meetings on population and the meetings of the non-United Nations organizations interested in population programmes in Africa.

39. The meeting discussed various types of short-term courses, including those listed below. It was acknowledged that short-term courses would have to be flexible and adapted to national needs, possibly organized in collaboration with neighbouring countries:

- (a) forums or symposia on population matters, including in particular the relevance of demographic levels and trends to over-all national development planning for policy-makers;
- (b) similar courses, but of longer duration, for administrators and others responsible for the implementation of population programmes;
- (c) courses on population for those with no advanced training in demography;
- (d) refresher and specialized courses on topics such as vital statistics systems, population censuses, and new techniques of demographic data collection and analysis, including the methodology of demographic sample surveys.

40. The possibility of organizing mobile short-term courses was also mentioned.

41. Reference was made to the proposed ECA training seminar on national and subnational population projections, which would involve case work; including the use of computers; the previous statement by the representative of the United States Bureau of the Census was noted in this connexion as well as the priority to be given to demographic courses at the Munich centre of CESD.

42. Other topics mentioned for short-term courses were: population levels and trends; migration; employment and unemployment; population growth and economic and social development; and the inter-relation between population growth and food demand and supply.

43. The Meeting hoped that the suggestion of having a one-year basic course at IFORD for those with an adequate background would be given due consideration by its Governing Council and the Advisory Committee.

IV. DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH AT UNITED NATIONS-SPONSORED INSTITUTES

44. Under this item a brief description was given of the United Nations-sponsored demographic training centres for Africa. Demographic training at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at Makerere University, Kampala (Uganda), and at the "Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée", Rabat (Morocco), was also described.

45. The United Nations-sponsored demographic institutes were guided in their work by a Governing Council which was assisted by an Advisory Committee. The permanent staff of the institutes was provided by both the United Nations and the host Government. The trainees were usually United Nations fellowship holders.

Cairo Demographic Centre

46. The Cairo Demographic Centre was an inter-regional institution, sponsored by the United Nations and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. It had been in existence since 1963 when the first agreement was signed between the two sponsors. Training cycles had first been planned to last 6 months and had later been extended to 12 months.

47. In 1968 the agreement relating to the Centre was renewed with basic modification in the structure and functions of the Centre. Its services became open to all interested countries in Africa as well as to Arab countries outside Africa. In order to make it possible for non-Arabic-speaking students to join the Centre, it was decided as from 1968 to use English in teaching and research.

48. The one year course lead to a General Diploma in Demography. Holders of the General Diploma in Demography could follow another course of one year to obtain a Special Diploma in Demography. As from 1973 the Centre accepted a limited number of persons with the Special Diploma in Demography to train them during one year for a Master's Degree in Demography and Population Studies. A new training course had been started recently for the D. Phil. Degree in Demography.

49. Besides training, the Centre was actively engaged in research and the following documents had been published: "Demographic Measures and Population Growth in Arab Countries", "Fertility Trends and Differentials in Arab Countries".

50. Further details on the Cairo Demographic Training were available in the document E/CN.14/POP/117 entitled "Cairo Demographic Centre: Its role in training and research".

Regional Institute for Population Studies, Accra, Ghana

51. The Institute was established in December 1971, sponsored by the United Nations and the Government of Ghana.

52. The Institute had thus far provided two training courses in Population Studies: a one-year post-graduate diploma course and a two-year Master's degree course. In the future, the Institute might organize ad hoc courses and in-service training for Government and non-Government personnel requiring training in demography and related fields. It might also provide facilities for Ph.D. studies.

53. Close co-operation with the University yielded considerable advantages for the Institute. It benefited from the former's infrastructure and the degree were awarded by the University which was well known and widely recognized.

54. Further details on RIPS were to be found in document E/CN.14/POP/108 and Add.1 entitled "Regional Institute for Population Studies, Accra, Ghana".

Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques, Yaoundé, Cameroun (IFORD)

55. IFORD started functioning in November 1972 following an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Cameroon. It provided training and research facilities for trainees from French-speaking African countries.

56. There were two courses: a two-year course leading to a diploma and a one-or third year course for specialization. Thus far trainees had been recruited through competitive examination ("concours"); candidates had to have a "licence" or equivalent degree.

57. Further details on IFORD were available in the brochure entitled: "Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques".

Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, Rabat, Morocco (INSEA)

58. INSEA had been established in 1961 under an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Morocco. The plan of operation had come to an end in September 1973 and the Government of Morocco assumed full responsibility for the Institute. In its first years of operation, demography was not given sufficient attention but it was now one of the more important topics taught.

59. The school had two divisions:

- Division of "Adjoints techniques"
- Division of "Ingénieurs des travaux statistiques"

From October 1974 a Division of "Ingénieurs Statisticiens-Economistes" was to be established.

60. Ninety hours of demography were given in the Division of "Ingénieurs", divided to 60 hours of lectures and 30 of laboratory work; from 1975 the latter would be increased to 60.

61. Two seminars had been organized, one on "Analysis of defective demographic data" and one on "Population Perspectives". Some demographic surveys had also been carried out by the staff and trainees of the school.

Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

62. The Institute had been established in July 1969 with the United Nations as the executing agency in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The plan of operation of the Institute signed by the United Nations and the Government of Uganda in 1970 specified the programme of study, research and other activities as well as the organization and administration of the Institute and other pertinent matters for the five year period of the Plan (1969-1974).

63. Demography was taught as an integral part of the statistics course in both the undergraduate and the post-graduate programmes. However, for the post-graduate programme a student could elect to specialize in demography and he was expected to offer two papers out of four in demographic and social statistics, one compulsory paper in sample survey theory and practice and a fourth paper, which was optional, in either economic statistics or national accounts.

64. The Institute also undertook research on the demographic problems of the region. Further details on the Institute were available in the document POP/INF/138 entitled "Current state of demographic training and research at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Kampala".

Summary of discussions

65. The discussions centred mainly on substantive topics such as the objectives of the centres, status of training, content of syllab and relationship between training and research; other points considered included evaluation of the needs of Governments, methods of co-operation between the centres and other institutions, publication of results, and evaluation of training and research programmes.

66. It was recognized that the centres' activities should be complementary to those of national institutions and other international organizations. The objective of the three demographic centres in Africa was to promote and strengthen research and training in demography and related fields. The question of the long-term status of the centres was raised as it had been noted earlier that the United Nations work programme up to 1979 included their strengthening.

67. On the level of training at these centres, it was noted that at present trainees were enrolled for either a one-year or two-year basic post-graduate diploma course, with specialization (including Masters' Degree in the case of RIPS and CDC) for one more year. The possibility of organizing middle-level courses either at some of these centres or at existing middle-level statistical training centres was under consideration. It was suggested that special students should be enrolled in courses in selected demographic topics, which should include practical training. The Meeting agreed that whatever the level of training, the standard should be high and internationally recognized. It also was of the view that field experience should form an integral part of training. The Masters' Degree course should ideally include both class-room teaching, at the advanced level, and a thesis.

68. Participants urged that the reading and instruction material on African demography should be expanded and African demographic data and analysis used in illustrating demographic concepts and their adaptation to African conditions.

69. It was noted that the training and the research projects at the three demographic centres were reviewed by their advisory committees which included representatives of the United Nations, ECA, Governments of countries being served by the centres, IUSSP, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

70. Recognizing the inter-disciplinary approach to population, the Meeting recommended that experts in the relevant fields (such as medicine in a study of sub fecundity) and the relevant United Nations agencies should be associated with specific research topics. It was also noted that new techniques would often have to be developed both in the collection and analysis of data and in substantive studies of population growth and its relation to economic and social development. The question of balance between pure and applied research was also raised; it was hoped that the results of applied research caused out by the centres would be taken into account by African Governments and that the staff of these centres, like those of the United Nations and ECA, could serve Governments on request, in an advisory capacity. At the same time, the centres were urged to take initiative in undertaking research projects, anticipating the needs of the countries.

71. The availability of demographic data and analysis for training and research at the centre was also discussed. While appreciating the confidential nature of the data, especially in the raw form, the meeting urged national statistical offices and others responsible for them to make the necessary data and analyses available to the centres for their training and research, which would benefit the countries themselves. In this connexion, the Meeting noted the approach by the Cairo Demographic Centre in obtaining data and analysis on specific demographic topics.

72. The Meeting recommended that the centres should extend their services to Government and university department and national committees, upon request.

73. The Meeting also noted the collaboration existing between CDC, RIPS and IFORD and universities in countries being served by them; it was recommended that the research projects of the centres should be co-ordinated with those in other departments or programmes within the universities.

74. Finally, on the utilization of the trainees after the completion of their courses, the Meeting noted that CDC had followed up the careers of its trainees and hoped that RIPS and IFORD would initiate similar follow-up.

V. DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH AT NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

75. It was well known that demographic training and research in African countries had been spearheaded by national institutions, such as universities, Government departments and research institutions, often supported by external resources. A healthy sign of development in the field had been the strengthening of existing national institutions and the establishment of new ones, even after the United Nations-sponsored training and research centres had started operating. This reflected the complementary roles of national and international centres. The Meeting had noted earlier that the work programme of the United Nations and ECA indeed included support to national institutions.

76. In the University of Ghana at Legon, a demography unit had been established in the Department of Sociology. In addition to teaching demography to undergraduate students, the Unit had undertaken an analysis of the 1960 population census and post-enumeration survey data of Ghana, the preparation of population projections, and the conduct of population surveys; the results of these undertakings had had a visible impact on the understanding of population situations and the adoption of a national population policy. More recently, demographic training and research activities at the University had been expanded considerably. RIPS had started post-graduate courses early in 1972. An interdisciplinary approach to population studies had been initiated in 1972 with the Population Dynamics Programme, which aimed to strengthen the University's capacity in research and training in population-oriented programmes, covering more than one discipline. The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, with which had been integrated into the United Nations-sponsored middle-level statistical training centre in Achimota, included demography as a subject of middle-level statistical training; the number of students from outside Ghana had, however, declined recently. The Institute was undertaking demographic research in several fields - vital registration, labour force participation, family planning and migration. The Danfa project, also based at the University was an experimental community health project and was collecting, through vital registration, annual censuses, and longitudinal studies, information on population growth, morbidity, mortality, child and maternal care and migration: the demographic data from the project had yet to be fully utilized and could be valuable to RIPS in its training and research programme. Some other departments and faculties of the University also had demography courses. The different projects and units at the University maintained their identities but at the same time, co-ordinated their activities through a committee.

77. The Demographic Unit at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, established in 1972, offered under-graduate and post-graduate courses to students of other subjects and also a Master's degree in demography. It had undertaken an analysis of the 1967 population census of Tanzania, pilot studies of fertility and mortality differentials and a national demographic survey (1973) with 60,000 sample households. The unit was, however, finding it difficult to utilize fully all the available fellowships. The middle-level East African Statistical Centre, also located at the University, provided demographic training with the assistance of ECA.

78. Demographic training and research had also been undertaken at the University of Nairobi; with both under-graduate and post-graduate courses and a population centre would be established in July 1974. At the Haile Selassie I University at Addis Ababa, with which the United Nations-sponsored statistical training centre had been integrated, demography was taught with the help of ECA for one semester in the third-year course for statistics students; it was hoped that the demographic course could be extended to a full year.

79. At the Department of Demography at the University of Zaire, students were prepared for a licence and doctorat in demography, the objective being to provide a national corps of demographers. Research projects include limited demographic studies in rural areas of Zaire. The National Office of Research and Development had also undertaken urban surveys on different social and demographic aspects such as fertility and infant mortality; household surveys on the feeding of young babies in major towns had been recognized by the department of health. Future projects of the Office included socio-demographic urban surveys, household budget surveys, medico-social development, etc.

80. Demographic courses were offered at the Universities of Oran and Algiers. Most other universities did not provide full fledged demographic courses, demography being taught as a subsidiary subject in faculties of law, economics, arts or humanities.

81. High-or middle-level statistical training centres at Rabat, Abidjan, Yaoundé, Tunis, Algiers and Dakar also provided training courses in demography.

82. Nigerian universities that provided demographic training or courses or initiated research in demography included the Ahmadu Bello University, the University of Ibadan, the University of Ife, the University of Lagos and the University of Nigeria at Nsukka.

83. In addition to the mention already made of the role of Government departments in promoting demographic research, Statistical offices in several countries had initiated such research, which was problem-oriented. Most statistical offices had demographic divisions which had been sponsoring demographic surveys, analysis and studies of population levels and trends and their implications for socio-economic development. In Morocco, for example, the study and research centre for demography prepared such studies and published brochures, while the centre for demographic censuses and surveys had been concerned with the collection of data, analysis of the size and structure of population, employment surveys and fertility surveys. In Egypt, the Centre for Population Studies at the national statistical office was responsible for population studies. In Cameroon the sub department of population studies was concerned with such studies, including population censuses, fertility surveys, permanent registration, etc.; it had also indicated that it collaborated with the departments of health statistics and planning.

84. Population-oriented studies and research had also been undertaken in Government planning, health, education, and employment departments.

85. Finally, the Meeting took note of the reaching of demography in medical colleges in Africa, which reflected the recognition of the importance of demography; medical courses now tended to be more community-oriented and geared to African realities. This followed on the African conference on the teaching of family health in the undergraduate curriculum at Kampala in 1971 and the collaborative efforts of the WHO regional office at Brazzaville and the Association of Medical Schools in Africa. Population-related teaching now included bio-statistics, demography, sociology, family planning programmes, sampling and survey methodology, human ecology and population genetics. The courses were given either in the first year as at Yaoundé or in the last two years, as at Ibadan. Reference were made to projects such as the Ibarapa project in Ibadan, family planning programmes developed by the Lagos University Medical School for the health centres at Lagos, the Kasangani Health Centre complex run by the Makerere University at Kampala, the Bameda Demonstration zone and the Mefou field projects in Cameroon and other projects at Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam medical colleges. Research projects in African medical schools included those on prostat-glandin, dépo-provera, abortion, and subfecundity. The Meeting agreed that collaboration between medical research facilities and established demographic institutions would be beneficial to both demography and medicine.

VI. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

86. The background document provided the information on international co-operation in the field of demographic training.

Representative drew attention to the continuing need for the co-ordination of internationally-supported efforts in the population and demographic fields. Where this was absent, as was sometimes the case at present, the full value of much work was lost. ECA was already attempting to perform this co-ordinating role, but it was handicapped in this by the failure of some Governments to attend its meetings.

87. Some participants expressed the view that international agencies imposed projects that were not really of the highest priority for the Governments concerned. Where national research committees existed, however (as in Uganda), this difficulty was overcome, since these bodies themselves provided effective co-ordination and established priorities. The view was expressed that African Governments should for this reason consider the setting up of similar co-ordinating bodies. Several participants drew attention to the heavy financial commitment which the acceptance of internationally proposed projects often involved, especially after direct aid had ceased. These implications should be made clear at the time proposals were being discussed so that Governments might take them into account when arriving at their decisions.

88. Many representatives drew attention to the problems arising from the employment of United Nations experts: it was difficult to find experts in the population field who were capable of the work they were expected to do and it was far from unknown for the experts appointed to make very little contribution to their projects. When this happened it was very disappointing. Others, however, while agreeing that United Nations experts were not always satisfactory, pointed out that part of the responsibility for this rested with Governments. If experts were to be effective they must have a suitable job description and adequate co-operation: these were not always forthcoming. The view was expressed that experts should be provided in response to specific requests for them, since they were not always needed. The question of the definition of an "expert" was raised and it was thought that the United Nations could usefully consult Governments in order to arrive at an agreed definition. Some participants felt that the present regulations of the United Nations which did not permit nationals to be appointed as experts in their own countries could be usefully revised: in any case, the possibility of the United Nations paying them an allowance in addition to their local salaries should be explored. They would have the advantage over expatriate experts that they would be fully conversant with local conditions and to this degree would be more effective.

89. Some speakers drew attention to need for a far greater exchange of ideas and information between demographers working in Africa and suggested that regular meetings might be organized with this end in view. Another participant felt that experience could usefully be exchanged between the countries of Africa and those of Latin America. There was need for the development of methodologies, and indeed of philosophies appropriate to the region. Both subject-matter and methods should be relevant to local conditions and not a mere carbon-copy of the methods and assumptions of the more developed countries. The regional centres should become the nuclei for these developments.

VII. SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN AFRICA

90. The following suggestions, proposals and recommendations emerged during proceedings:

Information services and clearing house activities

91. A survey of existing training and research institutes dealing with population in the region should be organized by the ECA secretariat.

92. ECA should expand its information services and clearing house activities in order to provide the African countries with services comparable to those given in other regions. Bibliographies of the literature on African demography should also be established, starting with specific subjects. The Newsletters of the regional training centres and ECA could be utilized for publishing interim or summary results of research and studies and review articles.

93. Appropriate reading and teaching materials adapted to African conditions should be prepared inter alia, by, the regional training centres.

Functions of United Nation-sponsored centres

94. The interdisciplinary nature of population has to be recognized and emphasis given to the need to involve both local experts in different subjects and the experts from United Nations and non-United Nations organisations in their relevant areas of competence in training and research programmes while the centres will have to be responsive to African needs, the African Governments are urged to utilize fully the training and research facilities. In collaboration with national and international organizations, the centres could provide the nucleus for developing methodologies both for surveys and analysis adapted to local conditions. On request, they could provide services to university and Government departments.

95. When required, pre-term orientation courses in specific subject fields should be organized for the trainees and they are expected to increase the rates in examinations.

96. Training courses should include field experience.

97. Measures should be taken by centres whose diplomas are not equivalent to university certificates, diplomas and degrees.

98. Heads of national statistical offices and other departments are urged to provide, subject to considerations of confidentiality, the data and tables needed by the centres for use in training and research, it being understood that the results of analysis should be of benefit to the countries themselves.

99. The possibility of one-year intensive course at IFORD for those with an adequate background leading to a diploma should be explored.

Middle-level courses

100. The demographic content of the existing middle-level statistical courses should be strengthened; middle-level courses could, depending upon demand, be organized at the regional training centres.

Short-term courses

101. Short-term courses of different types and duration could be organized:
(a) short-duration forums or symposia on population matters for policy-makers;
(b) longer courses for administrators; (c) demographic courses for those with no advanced demographic training; (d) refresher and specialized courses on selected topics. Mobile short-term courses could also be organized.

Research projects

102. At all stages of externally-financed research projects - formulation implementation and evaluation - local experts should be fully involved. Such projects should have built-in training components for national cadres at different levels. Field research should be undertaken by means of proper preparation of the population: this could, inter alia, be done by introducing demography even at the secondary-school level.

Co-operation and Co-ordination

103. In order to ensure respect for African interests, African Governments members of the United Nations Population Commission, are urged to send their representatives to ECA annual meetings of non-United Nations organizations interested in population programmes in Africa.

104. National co-ordinating committees on population should be established in the African countries where these do not exist.

105. Co-operative links between African and Latin American countries would help in exchange of experience, e.g. African experience on sample surveys and Latin American experience in censuses. Co-ordinating activities such as those carried out by CODESRIA and CICRED should be utilized by national institutions.

United Nations Technical Assistance

106. The technical assistance programmes of the United Nations should be reviewed. Short-term consultants could be appointed from one African country to another.

107. United Nations experts Africa should be briefed at ECA headquarters; non-United Nations organizations are urged to take advantage of ECA's briefing facilities.

108. The regional advisory services of ECA should be expanded to provide adequately for demographic training and research needs.

VIII. CLOSING SESSION

109. After the adoption of the report on the Meeting, Mr. R.K. Som, Chief of ECA's Population Programme Centre, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, thanked the Government of Cameroon for hosting the Meeting. He also thanked Mr. B. Borna, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Cameroon, and Mr. F. Gendreau, Acting Director of the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques for their assistance in organizing the Meeting. He expressed appreciation of the contribution made by the representatives designated by African Governments, individual experts, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and some non-African Governments. He assured participants that the ECA secretariat would take the recommendations of the meeting into account when formulating and implementing population programmes, especially those relating to training. Finally he thanked the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman for guiding the Meeting.

110. Mr. N. Mouoyebe, Chairman of the Meeting, speaking also on behalf of the Government of Cameroon, expressed his thanks to ECA and hoped that the discussion at the Meeting would enable the United Nations, ECA and all the others concerned specially the African Governments, in arranging demographic training and research in such a way as to be responsive to the needs of the various countries. Reaffirming that his Government had been happy to be the host to the meeting, he hoped that similar ECA seminars could be organized in Cameroon in the future.

111. Mr. S. Huzayyin, Director of the Cairo Demographic Centre, speaking on behalf of the participants and in particular of Directors of the United Nations-sponsored demographic training centres expressed his conviction that valuable experience had been gained during the seminar, including from the exchange of views. He called for a harmonized approach to demographic training and research programmes and indeed all demographic programmes in the region. He thanked ECA for organizing the Meeting and also said he was sure that the meeting of the Directors of the United Nations demographic training centres in Africa would pay due attention to the recommendations of the Meeting.

ANNEX I / ANNEXE I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

<u>Country/Pays</u>	<u>Name and address of participant Nom et adresse du participant</u>
CAMEROON/CAMEROUN	Mr. N. Mouoyebe, Directeur, Direction de la Statistique et de la Comptabilité nationale, B.P. 660, Yaoundé Mme Benedicta Ondo, Sous-Directeur des Etudes de Population, Direction de la Statistique et de la Comptabilité Nationale, B.P. 660, Yaoundé
EGYPT/EGYPTE	Mr. Mahmoud Baghat Hafiz, Director of Population and Manpower Department, 49 Giza Street, Giza, Cairo
MOROCCO/MAROC	M. Nachidi Abdelkrim, Chef, Service régional du Plan et des Statistiques, Secrétariat d'Etat au Plan, Rabat
SENEGAL	M. Jean-Marie Cardeau, Chef-adjoint, Division démographique, Direction de la Statistique, Dakar
SIERRA LEONE	Mrs. L.M. Sode, Statistician, Central Statistical Office, Freetown
TANZANIA/TANZANIE	Mr. A.L. Mwakalasi, Head of Manpower Planning Section, Ministry of Education, P.O. Box 0121, Dar-es-Salaam
TUNISIA/TUNISIE	M. Mohamed Ayed, Chef de la Division des Etudes à l'Office du Planning Familial (Expert Démographe), Tunis
ZAIRE	M. Wawa Sakrini, Directeur, Service des Statistiques démographiques et sociales, ONRD, Kinshasa

Experts

M. J. Boute	Mr. Alemayehu Melaku
M. G. Adehossi	Mr. V.P. Pethe
Mr. N.O. Addo	Mr. G.M.K. Kpedekpo
Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson	Mr. R.A. Henin
Mr. J.N. Muinde	

United Nations Headquarters/Siège des Nations Unies

Population Division/ Division de la Population	Mr. Bertran Hutchinson, Technical Adviser, Population Division, United Nations, New York, USA
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United Nations specialized agencies /Agences spécialisées des Nations Unies

UNESCO	M. Olivier Lebrun
WHO/OMS	Dr. C. Ralinoro
FAO	Mr. R.J.G. Callien
ILO/BIT	M. Nguyen Van Vuong

Training institutes/Instituts de formation

Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) (Accra, Ghana)	Mr. R. Zasepa (Acting Director)
Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC)	Mr. S. Huzayyin (Director)
Institut de Formation et de Recherche démographiques (IFORD) (Yaoundé, Cameroun)	M. F. Gendreau (Directeur p.i.) M. M. Mazouz (Expert des N.U.) M. J. Amegandjin (Expert des N.U.) M. S. Koesoebjono (Expert des N.U.)
Centro Latino-Americano de Demografia (CELADE) (Santiago de Chile)	M. Guillermo A. Maccio, Director, Sub-regional Training Centre, Apartado Postal 5249, San José, Costa Rica
Institut National de la Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (INSEA) (Rabat, Maroc)	M. T. Baddou, Chargé de l'enseignement de la Démographie
International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) (Bombay, India)	Mr. J.R. Rele (Director)

Intergovernmental organizations/Organisations inter-gouvernementales

Organization of African Unity/ Organisation de l'Unité africaine	Mr. Abdelaziz Faraj, Social Affairs Officer, OAU, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Organisation Commune, Africaine, Malgache et Mauricienne (OCAM)	M. S. Looky, Chef adjoint, Service statistique, OCAM, Yaoundé, Cameroun
Union Douanière et Economique de l'Afrique Centrale (UDEAC)	M. Guy Planes, Directeur adjoint du Bureau Technique régional du Projet UDEAC-Tchad, B.P. 1418, Bangui, République Centrafricaine

Government agencies/Agences du gouvernement

INSEE	M. Pierre Elie
INED	M. Yves Blayo
ORSTOM	M. Patrick Gubry

Non-governmental organizations/Organisations non-gouvernementales

CICRED	M. Yves Blayo
IUSSP/UIESP	Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson
Population Council/ Conseil de la Population	Mr. R.A. Henin

Non-African Governments/Gouvernements non-africains

Federal Republic of Germany/ République fédérale d'Allemagne	Mr. H. Tegtmeier, M.A. Federal Institute for Population Studies, 62 Wiesbaden
United States of America/ Etats-Unis d'Amérique	Mr. Samuel Baum, Assistant Chief for Demographic Research, International Statistical Program Center, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, Washington D.C.

ECA secretariat/Secrétariat de la CEA

Mr. R.K. Som, Chief, Population Programme Centre/
Chef, Centre des Programmes de Population

Mr. Ibrahima Bâ, Chief, General Demography Section,
Population Programme Centre/Chef, Section de la
Démographie générale, Centre des Programmes de
Population

Mr. Boniface Biyong, Regional Demographic Adviser/
Conseiller régional en Démographie

ANNEX II / ANNEXE II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/LISTE DES DOCUMENTS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title/Titre</u>
E/CN.14/POP/89 E/CN.14/POP/89/Rev.1	Aspects of demographic training and research in French-speaking Africa and Madagascar. Quelques aspects de la formation et de la recherche démographiques en Afrique francophone et à Madagascar.
E/CN.14/POP/97	International co-operation in Demographic Training and Research in Africa. Coopération internationale pour la formation et les recherches en matière de population en Afrique.
E/CN.14/POP/105 E/CN.14/POP/105/Add.1 E/CN.14/POP/105/Add.1/Corr.1	Matters on demographic training and research in Africa arising from ECA meetings. Questions relatives à la formation et aux recherches démographiques découlant des réunions de la CEA.
E/CN.14/POP/107	Cairo Demographic Centre : Its role in training and research. Le Centre démographique du Caire : Son rôle dans la formation et la recherche.
E/CN.14/POP/108	Regional Institute for Population Studies, Accra, Ghana. L'Institut régional des études démographiques (RIPS) Accra, Ghana.
E/CN.14/POP/109	Provisional Agenda. Ordre du jour provisoire.
E/CN.14/POP/114	Matters on demographic training arising from the seventeenth session of the Population Commission. Questions relatives à la formation démographiques découlant de la dix-septième session de la Commission de la Population.
POP/INF/138	Current state of demographic training and research at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Kampala.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title/Titre</u>
POP/INF/139	A review of the training and research activities of the United Nations Demographic Unit, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.
POP/INF/140	Les méthodes nouvelles d'investigation démographique en Afrique francophone et à Madagascar.
POP/INF/141	La recherche démographique en Afrique noire.
POP/INF/143	A summary of demographic training and research at the demographic Unit, University of Dar-es-Salaam.
POP/INF/144	La démographie à l'Institut national de Statistique et d'Economie appliquée de Rabat.
POP/INF/145	L'Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale.
POP/INF/146	La contribution française à la formation à la démographie en Afrique (INSEE).
POP/INF/147	The teaching of demography in medical under-graduate curricula in the African region.