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REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION

- A. RESEARCH, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC SURVEYS
- B. DEMOGRAPHY
- C. STATISTICS.

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION

A. Economic research, planning and surveys

1. During the period under review, the secretariat continued to set economic standards for the region. Available data on development plans were collected and a comparative study made of proposed targets and those actually attained. At present work is centred on the study of sectoral growth rates and structural changes in GDP for countries with available data and on the examination of statistical data for the formulation of projections (project 2(a)): standardization of basic concepts and methods to be adopted by the African countries and establishment of the list of statistical and technical data required for the preparation of projections.
2. The secretariat is also making preparations for a meeting on products projections in Africa, scheduled for the third quarter of 1969. Projections for agricultural products and for fuel supply and demand in 1970-1980 have been completed. Current activities relate to basic data collection for the formulation of projections on major mineral products and manufactures. About fourteen participants will attend the meeting which, almost certainly, will recommend guidelines for the use of products projections in plan preparation for development, with the emphasis on problems of economic co-operation and regional strategy. (project 2(b)): first meeting of the technical group on projections and programming; projections and products for Africa).
3. Instead of the Working Party of economic advisers on short, medium and long-term policies, the secretariat will convene a working party on economic surveys, the programme for which has just been agreed. It is most important for the countries in the region to prepare and publish regular annual economic surveys, because development cannot take place without a constant, up-to-date assessment of the state of the national economy. Once these surveys are regularly undertaken, it becomes possible to keep up with progress in development and to provide basic data for budget preparation and the review of economic and social development plans. The Working Party scheduled to meet at the end of the year will be composed of about fifteen participants (project 2(c): Working Party on economic surveys).
4. As regards the examination of the economic position and trends in the region, the secretariat submitted a preliminary draft of Economic conditions in Africa in recent years (1960-1967) at the ninth session of the Commission. During the period under consideration, this draft began to be reviewed, and should appear in final form by the end of the first half of 1969. During the second half of the year, the fourth study of the Economic Conditions of Africa covering 1968 will be drafted.

5. In future, the annual survey will be in two parts - a brief review of the current economic conditions and a detailed study of a specific development problem in Africa. The retrospective surveys covering several years will, from now on, be published at four or five-year intervals (project 3(a)(i): Study of the economic conditions in Africa).
6. The secretariat has also prepared the first issue of Volume X of the Economic Bulletin for Africa. This publication deals with Africa's foreseeable requirements in industrialization, manpower, education and training, within the purview of the United Nations second Development Decade. It also covers the food demand in Africa south of the Sahara, trade and aid in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (project 3(b)(i): Economic Bulletin for Africa).
7. This year the secretariat has started to publish a quarterly Planning Newsletter. Its purpose is to present economic research and development issues which are of some interest for the countries in the region and keep planning bodies, training centres for planners, universities and the other organizations concerned in touch with one another. The maiden issue has just appeared. It covered the work programme and secretariat publications on economic research and planning, and also dealt with the preparatory activities for the second United Nations Development Decade, providing a report on the fourth inter-regional seminar on development planning held at Accra in December 1968. (project 4(c): Planning Newsletter).
8. During the period under review, the secretariat received no requests from member States for technical assistance in the field of planning. Two economic survey missions are planned for the end of the first half of 1969, one to Somalia, the other to Chad. As part of the preparatory work of these advisory services, the secretariat has prepared summaries of economic data for all the countries in the region. If these summaries can be reviewed and updated, they might presumably be published by the end of the year.
9. In connexion with the preparatory activities for the second United Nations Development Decade, the secretariat participated in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Development Planning Committee held in New York and Bangkok this year. Those sessions were arranged to identify the sectoral and overall targets for the 1970-1980 decade and devise ways and means of reaching them.
10. The work undertaken by the secretariat on sub-regional and regional plans, as far as the region is concerned, has opened a window on development possibilities there and provided basic data for the formulation of an African development strategy.

B. Demographic programmes

11. In connexion with the preparatory activities for the African Conference on Population, scheduled for 1971, the secretariat has convened a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the African Conference on Population for the end of May 1969. During this meeting, the Committee will draw up the conference agenda and adopt measures for its organization in 1971 (project 50(a): Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the African Conference on Population).

12. The secretariat has also completed preparatory arrangements for the Seminar on Application of Demographic Data and Analysis in Development Planning. This seminar, scheduled for early June 1969, will be attended by about thirty participants; its purpose is to underscore the importance of demographic data and demographic data processing in development planning during the 1970 world population census programme (project 51(a): Seminar on Application of Demographic Data and Analysis in Development Planning).

13. As regards demographic surveys, activities are in progress for the formulation of the study of censuses and vital statistics relating to towns and cities. This study covering the main features of the urban population in relation to the entire population of the countries in the region will highlight the development of African towns and cities in recent years. (Project 52(a): Study of censuses and vital statistics relating to towns and cities in Africa).

14. The secretariat is currently engaged in revising the African Directory of Demographers which will be submitted in October 1969 to the Sixth Conference of African Statisticians. This directory, when revised and up-dated, will establish closer links between all persons concerned with demographic problems in Africa. (Project 53(a): African Directory of Demographers).

15. As a follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations mission for demographic programming in Africa, the work programme of the secretariat includes, as from this year, a noticeable expansion of demographic activities. Representatives of the secretariat have been to New York and Washington to work out with the United Nations Headquarters, and later with the American Government, concrete measures for a large-scale initiation of demographic activities in the region.

C. Statistical services

16. In the development of statistics, the secretariat is making preparatory arrangements for the sixth session of the Conference of African Statisticians scheduled for October 1969. This conference, which brings together heads of national statistical services, every

two years, will examine progress achieved and problems met with in the implementation of statistical programmes within the region, and will make recommendations regarding future national and regional statistical activities. (Project 59(a): Sixth session of the Conference of African Statisticians).

17. The secretariat has carried out studies on prices used in valuing agricultural products for national accounts purposes. Since the study is scheduled to end by 1970, research will continue for a few months yet. (Project 60(a): Analysis of country data on prices used in valuing agricultural products for national accounts purposes). Preparatory arrangements are also being made for the Meeting on Prices and Quanta. The seminar to be held in October 1969 will be attended by about fifteen participants. (Project 60(1): Seminar on Statistics of Prices and Quanta).

18. During the period under review, the secretariat prepared the following documents: Foreign Trade Statistics of Africa (Series A) No.12; Direction of Trade; Foreign Trade Statistics of Africa (Series B) No.14; Trade by Commodity and Country; Statistical Newsletter No.29 (Project 62: collection, dissemination and exchange of information). Activities have also been initiated regarding the preparation of a manual on sample survey methods (demography surveys) in the region. (Project 62(h): a manual on sample survey methods in Africa: demographic surveys).

19. As part of advisory missions, the secretariat gave assistance to six countries in the region. In Kenya, the purpose of the missions was to assist the Government in organizing population censuses and to assess sampling errors. In Uganda, it was to examine the results of the pilot population census. In Zambia, the missions assisted in the formulation of a population census programme planned for this year. In Nigeria, the assistance covered the establishment of geographical units for national surveys and censuses and the formulation of field programme activities. In the Ivory Coast, courses on sampling methods were given at the School of Statistics, Abidjan, at the request of the Government. In Sierra Leone, the Central Statistical Service was assisted in the compilation of data on national accounting for 1966-1967.

20. The secretariat continued to maintain close links with statistical training centres and provided assistance whenever needed. Administrative arrangements are being made with the UNDP (Special Fund) to assist the International Statistical Training Centre at Yaoundé (Cameroon) as from July 1969. During the same period, the UNDP (Special Fund) is to start giving assistance to the Kampala Institute of Statistics and Applied Economy (Uganda), which has just successfully completed its first academic year.

Staff resources

21. The staff in the Research and Statistics Division is divided into three groups: (1) the sub-sector of Economic Development Planning, Projections and Policies is exclusively restricted to staff of the Economic Research Section; (2) the Population sector covers only a portion of the staff in the Demographic and Social Statistics Section and (3) the Statistical Services Sector which covers the portion of the staff of the Demographic and Social Statistics Section, not concerned with the Population sector, and the entire staff from the other Sections of the Division, namely, Development and Training Section, National Accounts and Financial Statistics Section, in addition to the staff required to administer the Division.

22. The staff tables (attached) do not outline changes in grades and promotions which are expected to be made by the end of 1975 in respect of persons currently working in the Division on an individual basis.

23. This question was not dealt with for two main reasons: firstly, there must be strict adherence to a grading pattern within the Sections so as to ensure maximum output from the staff; secondly, if there is no question of present staff members being transferred, the entire staff will soon include only D-1 and P-4 grades.

Economic Planning, Projections and Policies

24. There will be three changes only in the staffing position: (a) once all the present vacancies are filled, at least two new secretarial posts should be created; (b) apparently, the assistance given by the Dutch Government in providing 2 XB posts will soon end. Provision will therefore have to be made in the ECA budget for the creation of 2 posts to replace them; (c) further, it should be stated here that the creation of a new P-2/1 post with effect from 1970 has already been approved.

Population

25. Bearing in mind the expansion of the demographic activities as a follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations Mission for demographic programming in Africa, The United Nations Population Trust Fund intends to finance some XB posts which are to be increased from 8 to 15 from 1969 to 1971.

26. Provision should therefore be made in the ECA budget for the creation of new posts before the XB posts expire.

27. Provision has also been made for the creation of new General Service posts to bring the present number to 4 in 1970 and 6 in 1971.

Statistical Services

28. The staffing position of the Statistical Services will involve the creation of a new General Service post as from 1970. Increase in the number of secretarial posts in the two Units by 1972 is due to the creation of two new posts planned for the Economic Research Section, but included in the secretarial posts for staff required to administer the Division.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Economic development planning, projections and policies

Responsibility: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION^{1/}
Economic research section

STAFF RESOURCES

Economic research section

Year		<u>D-1</u>	<u>P-5</u>	<u>P-4</u>	<u>P-3</u>	<u>P-2/1</u>	<u>GS</u>
1969	{ XB	-	2	2	4	2 ^{a/}	(3) ^{b/}
			1	1			
1970*	{ XB	-	2	2	4	3 ^{a/}	(3)
			1	1			
1971*	{ XB	-	2	3	4	3 ^{a/}	(3)
			1	1			
1972*		-	2	4 ^{c/}	4	4 ^{c/}	(5) ^{d/}
1973*		-	2	4	4	4	(5)
1974*		-	2	4	4	4	(5)
1975*		-	2	4	4	4	(5)

Regional advisers

Provided from project funds

1969	3
1970*	3
1971*	3
1972*	3
1973*	3
1974*	3
1975*	3

- * Proposed. ^{1/} Staff required to administer the Division are included in "statistical services". ^{a/} Includes one professional trainee.
^{b/} Posts transferred to "Statistical services", with appropriate duties.
^{c/} Two new posts required to replace existing XB posts.
^{d/} Includes two new secretarial posts.

POPULATION

Responsibility: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION^{1/}
Demography and Social Statistics Section

STAFF RESOURCES

Demography and Social
Statistics Section

<u>Year</u>		<u>D-1</u>	<u>P-5</u>	<u>P-4</u>	<u>P-3</u>	<u>P-2/1</u>	<u>GS</u>
1969	{ XB	-	-	1	1	-	2
		-	1	3	1	1	2
1970*	{ XB	-	-	1	1	-	4 ^{a/}
		-	1	4	3	3	-
1971*	{ XB	-	-	1	1	1 ^{a/}	6 ^{a/}
		-	1	4	4	4	-
1972*	{ XB	-	1 ^{b/}	2 ^{b/}	1	1	6
		-	-	3	4	4	-
1973*	{ XB	-	1	3 ^{b/}	2 ^{b/}	2 ^{b/}	6
		-	-	2	3	3	-
1974*	{ XB	-	1	4 ^{b/}	3 ^{b/}	2	6
		-	-	1	2	3	-
1975*	{ XB	-	1	4	4 ^{b/}	4 ^{b/}	6
		-	-	1	1	1	-

Regional advisers

Provided from project funds

1969	XB	2
1970*	XB	2
1971*	XB	2
1972	{	1
	XB	1
1973*	{	1
	XB	1
1974*		2
1975*		2

* Proposed.

^{1/} Staff required to administer the Division are included in "statistical services."

^{a/} Includes new posts required for the Section.

^{b/} Includes new posts required to replace existing XB posts.

STATISTICAL SERVICES

Responsibility: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION

Development and Training Section; National Accounts and Financial Statistics Section; Economic and General Statistics Section.

STAFF RESOURCES

	<u>Year</u>	<u>D-1</u>	<u>P-5</u>	<u>P-4</u>	<u>P-3</u>	<u>P-2/1</u>	<u>GS</u>
<u>Management</u>	1969	1	-	-	-	-	14 ^{a/}
	1970 ⁺	1	-	-	-	-	14
	1971 ⁺	1	-	-	-	-	14
	1972 ⁺	1	-	-	-	-	16 ^{b/}
	1973 ⁺	1	-	-	-	-	16
	1974 ⁺	1	-	-	-	-	16
	1975 ⁺	1	-	-	-	-	16
Development and training; national accounts and financial sections; economic and general statistics sections.	1969	-	1	3	5	6	17
	1970 ⁺	-	1	3	5	6	18
	1971 ⁺	-	1	3	5	6	18
	1972 ⁺	-	1	3	5	6	18
	1973 ⁺	-	1	3	5	6	18
	1974 ⁺	-	1 ⁹	3	5	6	18
	1975 ⁺	-	1	3	5	6	18
<u>Regional advisers</u> Provided from project funds.	1969	4					
	1970 ⁺	4					
	1971 ⁺	4					
	1972 ⁺	4					
	1973 ⁺	4					
	1974 ⁺	4					
	1975 ⁺	4					

+ Proposed.

a/ Includes three posts, transferred with appropriate duties from "Economic Development Planning, Projections and Policies."

b/ Includes five posts, transferred with appropriate duties from "Economic Development Planning, Projection and Policies."