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SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS ON POPULATION FROM ECA MEETINGS

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Selected recommendations on population from ECA meetings

INTRODUCTION

1. In order to enable delegates to the Regional Consultation on the World Population Conference to discuss effectively the draft World Population Plan of Action and help them evolve an African approach to the recommendations contained in the Plan, this paper assembles the major recommendations adopted by different ECA meetings on population and related subjects. It is hoped that these recommendations will give delegates an idea of the views of African experts on population, especially on the relationship between population trends and economic and social development. They reflect the increase in activities in the population field within the African region both at the regional and country levels. They also give an indication of the types of assistance that African governments expect from the United Nations System of organizations and particularly from the ECA, as well as other international organizations working in population and related fields in Africa.
2. During recent years, there has been an expansion of the activities at the ECA in the field of population. This change is the direct result of the recommendations of the United Nations Programming Mission for Africa appointed by the Secretary General to advise him on the directions in which expanded population activities could best be developed for the benefit of the countries of the African region. The recommendations of the Mission led to the establishment of the Population Programme Centre as an independent Division to deal with the ECA Work Programme in the field of population. The creation of the Centre has led to increased activities, including the organization of and participation in various technical meetings within and outside the region.
3. These meetings (See Annex I) have as a result of their deliberations on various aspects of population questions either noted or recommended:

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS ON POPULATION FROM ECA MEETINGS

I. THE AFRICAN POPULATION PROGRAMME - (ECA POPULATION ACTIVITIES)

4. That for the effective implementation of the expanded population programme, which could be of direct benefit to the African countries, the African Population Programme be undertaken by a separate and re-constituted Population Division to be created at the secretariat, to be responsible to the Executive Secretary of the ECA.

5. That the African Population Programme had begun much later than those in the other regions, which were also in a better position with regard to national facilities for research, training and operational activities and that a rapid expansion of the African programme was called for, to enable it to reach a level comparable with those of the other regions and also provide the African countries with services in those fields where the needs were most immediate and acute.

6. That there is need for the strengthening of the ECA secretariat so that expanding regional needs could be met and the work programme of the secretariat implemented in full.

7. That the United Nations and the ECA devise a simpler method than that obtaining at present for providing regional advisory services to the African countries. That the ECA secretariat identify specific topics needing regional advisory services in the countries and to initiate such services to be made available to them. At the request of a member State, the ECA secretariat should, in collaboration with United Nations Headquarters and the UNFPA, arrange for the services of experts from other member States to be made available as United Nations consultants.

8. That while recognizing the importance of the African Census Programme in assisting countries which had not conducted a population census, the UN and the ECA should provide the needed assistance in other countries for evaluating and analyzing demographic data that have accumulated through population censuses and sample surveys.

9. That the UN Fund for Population Activities be approached to provide continued and increasing support to the ECA in order for it to be able to carry out its programmes that could meet the direct and immediate needs of the African countries in all fields of population, namely, studies, information and advisory services, training, technical meetings and, on request, population policies.

II. DATA COLLECTION

10. That there is a necessity for thorough, comprehensive planning of all stages of a demographic data-collection programme well in advance of the actual undertaking, and also for continuing checks on the way this programme is proceeding.
11. That it is desirable to limit full-scale census coverage to little more than a headcount by small administrative areas, reserving collection of the remainder of the desired data by means of samples - either by the various types of post-enumeration surveys or by the technique of built-in samples, or by some combination of both.
12. That a census schedule or vital registration form should not restrict itself solely to demographic questions, but also include questions on economic and social characteristics in order to make possible studies of interrelations.
13. That concerning the possibility and desirability of including questions on economic conditions - particularly on occupation and employment - in a survey schedule, there was no inherent difficulty in combining demographic and economic questions on the same schedule; and that it is important to ensure that economic items get the same degree of attention as the demographic items.
14. That there is need to ensure that inquiries undertaken for other than specifically demographic purposes (e.g., agriculture, manpower, education, family planning, or business surveys) will include questions on various pertinent demographic attributes.
15. That there is a considerable need to know the rate of population increase and, therefore, a need to give high priority to collection of information on fertility and mortality sufficient to permit close estimation of population growth rates.
16. That questions on fertility be treated as basic topics in the African recommendation for the 1970 round of population censuses and that appropriate steps be taken both by the countries and the United Nations in order to obtain, on a continuing basis, the required data and analyses of fertility levels and trends and the inter-relation of fertility with economic and social factors.
17. That the UN, ECA and other organizations including the Population Council should finance and support special fertility and socio-economic surveys and studies to determine the specific causes of high as well as low fertility where relevant.

18. That while socio-economic and cultural factors should be studied, attention should also be paid to variables which affect the mental attitudes of the population towards fertility questions. In addition, studies of the relation of specific factors to fertility, especially infant mortality, urbanization and technological change, income levels, desired sex of children and education, should be undertaken.

19. On the subjects to be interviewed in fertility surveys, it has been recommended that in the commonly prevailing African situations, all women in the reproductive and higher age groups should be interviewed so as to obtain fuller information on fertility. That in recording the total number of children ever born to the selected women, care should be taken to see that it includes children born in the last 12 months preceding the survey.

20. That questions on the total number of live births should be split into three categories and should record: number of children living in the household at present, number living elsewhere at present, and number dead. Moreover, the "fertility history" method should be used in special fertility surveys.

21. That plans for evaluation of census and sample survey data be developed by the UN and the ECA and placed for consideration before the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers, with a view to having such plans integrated into the design and conduct of population censuses and surveys.

22. That post-enumeration checks should be conducted as soon as possible after the census proper, and that where the accuracy of such checks is established, the census results should be adjusted in the light of these checks.

23. The ECA secretariat should update its study on post-enumeration surveys in Africa bringing in recent experience.

24. That programmes for tabulation, collation and analysis should be given greater and special attention by national officials responsible for censuses, vital registration and population surveys of fertility, mortality, migration and other demographic variables.

25. That the ECA secretariat should prepare drafts of tabulation programmes and of a standard questionnaire of fertility studies adapted to the needs and conditions in the continent.

26. That greater efforts should be made to establish, finance and improve existing systems of vital registration as a means of improving the supply of more, better, and comparable data on fertility.

27. That the problem of getting the population to co-operate with respect to census-taking and vital registration was particularly acute with respect to registration. Neither a system of rewards for those registering nor of penalties for those who do not was deemed a very satisfactory solution and that some means should be devised, somehow, to educate individuals to the benefits to be derived from their co-operation in this process.

28. That registration of vital events should remain the long-term objective and that experimental methods should be pretested before using them in large-scale inquiries; an example of the latter was the information on survival of parents especially in matrilineal societies where the social and biological fathers could differ.

III. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS AND STUDIES

29. That African countries should earmark a suitable portion of resources for adequate analysis at depth, demographic data from census and other sources, after the necessary evaluation and adjustment.
30. That there is the need for tabulating age data by single years, at least for the rural and the urban areas and by five-year age groups by each civil division, and the need for publishing details about field instructions and aids in the collection of data, including that on age.
31. That the ECA secretariat should update its studies on the problems of measuring the economically active population in Africa and of evaluating the data on economic activity.
32. That a study be made of the nature and extent of comparability of the data on economic activities obtained from population censuses with those obtained from other sources such as labour force surveys, socio-economic surveys, unemployment registration, etc.
33. That in view of the possible effect of female employment on fertility in Africa there is the need to have more detailed information and analysis on this relationship.
34. That as the factors influencing the family size especially in the urban areas act in different directions and vary in force, depending on the economic and social conditions, a study of these factors would provide a clearer picture of the pattern of interrelations, trends and prospects and help required in planning for economic and social development.
35. That ECA as part of its work programme prepare a demographic manual which contains concepts and definitions suitable for African countries.

IV. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION - STUDIES,
POLICIES, AND PROGRAMMES

36. That in order that urbanization, which is increasing in Africa at a very fast rate, could be guided along constructive lines, African countries should bring this phenomenon into the main stream of their development planning.
37. That intensive studies should be undertaken by national offices, institutions and ECA on the collection and analysis of the data on geographical distribution, urbanization, and migration in order to provide methodological guidelines. In countries where nomadism prevails, the demographic trends of the nomadic populations should be studied taking into account the effect of social and economic development.
38. That African demographers, statisticians, and planners study the definition of urban population in greater detail taking into account their national needs; ECA was also requested to make further studies on the comparative analysis of the problems of definition and measurement of urbanization in African countries.
39. That as an operational definition for the purposes of international comparison, the ECA secretariat expand the present definitions of urbanization to show, in separate categories, in addition to towns of 20,000 and more persons, each administrative seat as well as places with populations between 5,000 to 20,000. That to help the ECA secretariat in these tasks, the countries should provide the ECA secretariat with the required data which would make such classification possible.
40. That for a proper understanding of the process of migration and urbanization, it was important to have, in addition to the magnitude and direction of population flows, information on motivation (economic, education, social, religious, etc.), and all the different moves along with other related personal characteristics such as economic activities (including productivity), income, education and skills and other social and demographic characteristics (including fertility and mortality, customs of marriage and divorce, weaning habits, abortions, etc.) as well as environmental and ecological factors such as the type of housing, availability of schools, public health facilities, water services, sewage, distance from the primate or the principal cities, etc., kinship factors; resettlement and types; natural and health hazards and the effect of political decisions; change of land use. Such information, when collected, would make a study of interrelations of migration measures such as life time and current migration and their interrelations with the different economic and social factors possible.

41. That for a better picture of population distribution, it was necessary to indicate the population density of subnational administrative units of the country; and especially the density on cultivated land. In this connexion the ECA secretariat agreed to revise the figures on population densities and urban population on the basis of more up-to-date and more accurate data, to be obtained from the national offices.

42. That there were different correlations between urbanization and socio-economic progress, and the process of urbanization and internal migration had to be regulated and brought into the main stream of economic and social development of the country according to its national need. The most realistic approach to stopping the short-term deleterious effects of unregulated rural-urban migration had been considered that of promoting economic development in the cities, towns and rural areas along with the provision of facilities for education, sanitation, and other types of services, etc.

43. That the educational and health aspects of population movements are also of special importance.

44. That regional planning should be recognized and that it is necessary effectively to control the urbanization problem which in turn manifests itself in the housing problem.

45. That since spatial distribution programmes bring about radical changes in the future pattern of population distribution over a country as a whole, they must be motivated by a desire for a general balance and harmony within the society at which they are directed.

46. A number of factors should be given special consideration during the preparation and implementation of such programmes:

- (a) Absorption capacity of the areas to be occupied, density, resources, potential, economic and social infrastructures, etc.;
- (b) Promotional methods to be used - these will necessarily differ according to local conditions and the time when such movements take place;
- (c) In this connexion, a special study should be conducted into the various limiting factors which may compromise the programmes' chances of success. Such factors may include: restricted space and limited resources, ecological limitations, lack of water, soil quality areas which are pest breeding-ground or sources of disease, psychological resistance and willingness of the population.

47. The formulation of a spatial redistribution policy, while it must be considered as an integral part of the general development policy of the countries within the region, must also include an identification of the problems which may arise as direct or indirect consequences of the programmes to be put into effect. This identification must be based on the information and data available on the existing situation.
48. The attitude of the receiving population as well as the co-operation of the population to be resettled are vital factors which must be taken into account during the preparation of programmes and the formulation of resettlement and population redistribution policies. Such policies should identify priority areas and take into account crucial factors such as the absorption capacity - in human and economic terms - of the areas concerned.
49. The collection, processing and interpretation of the data needed for the formulation of this policy represents at this stage a decisive phase in the formulation and implementation of policies for the resettlement and redistribution of population, urbanization and community development.
50. Since any spatial redistribution programme is directed primarily at improving the welfare of the population, and results in certain modifications of the structure of this population, certain technical methods such as mapping of the population constitute valuable tools for analysis.
51. Social programmes, education, supervision and the improvement of health services are all factors which contribute considerably to increasing the capacity and receptivity of the population, and thus help to ensure the success of spatial redistribution programmes.

V. EVALUATION OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMES

52. That it would be desirable to provide methods of evaluation of family planning programmes as a part of the programmes and that the current problems of evaluating family planning programmes provide no reason for complacency and delay in making an early start.

53. That along with evaluation of the many activities within the programme, a need exists to assess the effectiveness of the system of communication for motivation to child spacing and planning. That achievement or under-achievement of programme goals may be due in large measure to the quality and efficiency of the educational campaign. Consequently, the educational aspect of the family planning programme, should be the first programme component to be inaugurated, and should also be subject to continuous review and improvement.

54. That evaluation should cover the public attitude toward Government policy in this field. That pilot studies and fertility surveys could be utilized to gauge attitudes and changes therein, and to assess the effectiveness of education policy, as well as to determine programme achievement. The latter should be particularly applicable where the stated goal of the family planning programme is improvement of the health of mothers and children.

VI. POPULATION POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENT

55. That there is an important relationship between population growth and overall economic development, and the need for member States to evolving a population policy in their development programmes.

56. That steps should be taken so that planners, economists, and politicians be made aware of the implications of population projections and of demographic trends in general.

57. That the attention of the Conference of African Planners be drawn to the need for the African countries to adopt individual population policies in order to mitigate the effects of the rapid rates of growth of total and urban population in most of these countries.

58. That bearing in mind the various resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, which inter alia recognize the sovereignty of nations to determine their national population policies, African Governments would evolve demographic objectives within the frameworks of their national development plans, the African Strategy for Development in the 1970s and the International Development Strategy consistent with their national requirements and resources.

59. That countries should note the recommendation by the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Population Commission that member States of the United Nations consider, inter alia, while setting their overall national objectives the following demographic objectives: (a) reduction of mortality and of infant and child mortality in particular; (b) fertility regulation (including high fertility as well as sub-fecundity and sterility); (c) moderation of population growth where it was high; (d) improvement in distribution of population, especially between sub-national areas, big cities, small towns and rural areas; (e) under some circumstances, emigration of population and/or of labour force as appropriate; and, (f) amelioration in the structure of population and in the ratio between economically active and dependent population resulting from the above.

60. That a principal component of any realistic population policy in African countries must include the question of land ownership and must recognize the complementarity of settlement types - rural, semi-urban, and that the urban system itself must be organized so that it could generate growth and development for the regional populations and for the country as a whole. That population policies in Africa must not be preoccupied with family planning only but should emphasize positive policies such as planned redistribution of population and underline the developmental planned integrative significance of such programmes: the acceptance of such a policy could thus have the same effect of stimulating interest in family planning. That social programmes, education, and health services contributed considerably to increasing the capacity and receptivity of the population, itself ensuring the success of spatial redistribution programmes.

61. That economic and social development is an essential element and prerequisite to an effective population policy and that all member States give full attention to their demographic objectives and measures during the biennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Second United Nations Development Decade; take such steps as may be necessary to improve demographic statistics, research and planning machinery needed for development of population policies and programmes; and co-operate in achieving a substantial reduction of the rate of population growth in those countries which consider their present rates of growth as too high and in exploring the possibility of setting of targets for such reduction in these countries. That adequate attention, through studies and investigations, be given to the problems of sub-fecundity and sterility prevailing in some parts of Africa and the required assistance provided at the request of the concerned governments.

62. That though the approach of individual countries to population problems and policies could differ according to the different characteristics of the population, population growth, involving the interaction of fertility, mortality and migration, should be brought into the main stream of economic and social development so that the demographic objectives and measures of a country could be adequately defined and given the required attention. In doing so, problems of rapid growth as well as sub-fecundity, sterility, infant and early childhood mortality, should be dealt with.

63. That the ECA secretariat ascertain, in collaboration with the agencies and the Population Programme Officers, the exact position of the different countries in regard to population policies and programmes.

64. That at the country levels there was a need for greater co-ordination between planners and demographers through inter-departmental co-ordinating committees, periodical seminars and publications on the needs highlighting demographic findings that are of importance in fields such as agricultural development, educational planning, planning for child and youth care, manpower assessment and health planning.

65. That the United Nations agencies could take an active role in creating awareness of the demographic implications including the integration of the population factor in the development plans of the countries and otherwise assisting the countries in obtaining the needed assistance from the United Nations. In view of the country programming exercise that has now become an integral part of the UNDP operations at the country level, the UNDP programming machinery should be utilized more effectively.

66. That the ECA as part of its work programme carry out a study on population levels and trends in relation on economic and social development.

67. On country case-studies on the interrelations of population growth and economic and social development, the Technical Committee of Experts at its Third Meeting reiterated the importance it placed on these studies that quantify the implications for infrastructure requirements such as health, education, employment, provision of skills and other facilities for the growing populations in the countries.
68. That the implementation of a health strategy must first of all be directed towards a fuller and systematic integration of health into overall development planning. The rational use of demographic data in health planning is one of the conditions for the success of any strategy in the field of health policy.
69. That allocation of schools should take into account the national priorities and the distribution of the population so that they may serve the country better. That the age structure of the population, where the majority are young people, constitutes the major problem in educational planning, in most countries with inadequate resources.
70. That demographers should introduce demographic realities into educational planning and influence policy-makers and also help to distribute educational facilities equally throughout the country.
71. That demographers should assist educational planners by providing forecasts and guidelines regarding the number of children to be educated at any given point in time as well as teacher-pupil ratio, school enrollment, etc. It would then be up to the educational planners, to decide on the number of teachers needed, consistent with the education targets.
72. That improved and more realistic development plans are needed that will make better use of available resources.
73. That more attention should be paid to fertility and mortality factors in development planning as these factors determine population sizes, growth and structure, and ^{that} economic development itself affects their trends.
74. That the fertility factor should be studied further in depth and population projections for African countries should take into account the possibility of a rise in fertility consequent on improvement in health services.
75. That where necessary, family planning should be used to supplement economic efforts aimed at raising the level of welfare of the people.

76. That family planning programmes, to be effective, must discard the uni-dimensional approach of offering family planning services only. The relationship of family planning to all aspects of life must be recognized so that the programmes can find their place and function within the other relevant and desirable services and institutions such as maternal and child health services, educational services, and rural extension activities. The task was to go beyond family planning, and to cover the whole area of family and welfare.

77. That adequate attention, through studies and investigations, be given to fertility regulation, including high fertility as well as sub-fecundity and sterility prevailing in some parts of Africa; that the relationship of family planning to all aspects of life must be recognized, and family planning should embrace the entire spheres of family life and welfare.

78. That recalling the various General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council resolutions, which inter alia recognize the rights of parents to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and the knowledge and means to be made available to those who desire these, maternal and child health services should include family planning services for those who desire these, and that where family planning programmes are in operation, maternal and child health services should form a part of such family planning programmes.

79. That family planning was a factor which could contribute substantially to reducing infant mortality, mortality of children during the second year of life and spacing of pregnancies permitted continued breast-feeding without interruption by an ill-timed pregnancy, thus reducing the hazards of kwashiorkor and unduly high rates of infant mortality resulting from common infections during weaning; resulted in better nutrition and maternal welfare by preventing grave pelvic pathology caused by frequent pregnancies, and the reduction of the hazards of illegal abortion, particularly among young girls.

80. That family planning should be included as part of the national and routine maternal and child-care work of the basic health services as well as in the educational, community and social welfare services. That this was desirable in order to enable mothers to have children by choice rather than by chance, to help the infertile, to protect the health and welfare of mothers and their children and family, and to reduce the problem of repeated unwanted pregnancies, which invariably interfered with professional training, and effective participation in social, commercial, civic and cultural community life.

81. That African countries, ECA the ILO and other UN agencies devote more time to the study of the consequences of frequent births and the pattern of child spacing on the role of women in society. Attention should be focused on the socio-economic implications of spacing for the health of mothers and for their effective participation in economic activity and contribution to the economic development of the nation.

82. That there is need for adopting the integrated programme approach in which infant, child, and maternal mortality as important factors should not be neglected.

83. That the establishment of combined integrated units providing first aid and general medical services, especially on maternal and child health as also family planning services could be given high priority, especially, in rural areas.

84. That there is need for special training of the medical staff ^{for} providing family planning services and studying the problems of sterility and sub-fecundity.

85. That the term ~~family planning~~ represented an impediment to the acceptance of these programmes in many African countries. That a term, which embodied the notion of positive benefits relating in particular to the health of mothers and children, and in general to an improvement in the standard of living of the family, might induce wider participation in family planning programmes.

86. That in order to obviate some of the fears about the practice of family planning, family life education should be encouraged at all levels of the educational system.

87. That the decision as to whether the responsibility for official population programmes should be given to the planning or the health authority would depend on the conditions existing in each country; but that there should be the closest co-ordination between different disciplines and that purely medical aspects of the programme should be the responsibility of medical personnel.

VII. DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING

88. That the interdisciplinary nature of population 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 organizations in their relevant areas of competence in training and research programmes while the UN centres will have to be responsive to African needs, the African Governments are urged to utilize fully the training and research facilities.
89. That demographic training courses should give adequate attention to the inter-relations of population growth and economic and social development.
90. That there is the need to strengthen the background of demographic training by the study of related social sciences such as statistics, economic and sociology and that those studying related social science subjects should be encouraged to appreciate the relevance of demography to their subjects.
91. That recognizing the inter-disciplinary approach by the United Nations to population, the courses at the UN-sponsored institutes should cover subjects such as Sociology, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, and other relevant topics as ancillary to technical demography, so that the trained demographers could further specialize in the various branches of demography such as Social Demography, Economic Demography, Mathematical Demography, and Demographic Sample Surveys.
92. That the Institutes in Accra and Yaoundé should co-operate in preparing their training and research programmes so that trainees at both institutes would receive comparable and relevant training.
93. That there is need for co-ordination of the demographic training activities sponsored both by United Nations Organizations and Non-United Nations Organizations, and that co-ordinating committees be set up for this purpose at appropriate national or university levels.
94. That in view of the complementary roles of the UN-sponsored regional institutes and the national institutions, co-ordination should be established between them.
95. That in collaboration with national and international organizations, the UN 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.

96. That the Regional Institute for Population Studies in Accra and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques in Yaoundé would, in collaboration with ECA, undertake the evaluation and adjustment of demographic data for the countries in the region.
97. That Non-UN organizations support viable research projects at the training centres which would supplement the research programmes of the UN and provide support to the national experts at these centres.
98. That 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. That African governments utilise fully the capacities of the three UN-sponsored institutes in Accra, Cairo, and Yaoundé.
100. That while supporting the idea of the strengthening of the national institutions, the demographic training and research facilities of RIPS, Cairo and IFORD should first be utilized before calling for United Nations support for establishing full-fledged demographic units at different universities.
101. That measures should be taken by centres whose diplomas are not equivalent to university certificates, diplomas and degrees to rectify the position.
102. That the possibility of a one-year intensive course at IFORD for those with an adequate background, leading to a diploma, should be explored.
103. That short-term courses of different types and duration be organized, e.g. (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.
104. That 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.
105. The concern at the possible loss of trained personnel caused by the problem of unfavourable differential salary levels in many African countries.

VIII. INFORMATION SERVICES AND CLEARING HOUSE ACTIVITIES

106. That ECA could play an important role in the dissemination of information and that more intensive services through a strengthened Population Programme Centre was needed.

107. That 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.

108. That the ECA undertake the distribution among member Governments of policy and action programme statements on population adopted by individual African Governments and other relevant material through its information and clearing house services.

109. That the report and a selected number of the technical papers presented at the seminar on evaluation of basic demographic data be printed under the ECA's African Population Studies series in order to ensure the widest possible dissemination, especially within the region.

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

111. The discussion at the African Population Conference on the analysis and presentation of demographic data for the use of Planners and Administrators emphasized the following three topics:

- (i) the role of the demographer in the implementation of decisions based on the use of his data;
- (ii) the presentation and publication of data, their timing and content and the accompanying analysis and comment necessary for decision and action; and
- (iii) collaboration between demographers, planners and administrators, which in some countries presents no problem.

IX. CO-ORDINATION

112. That an inter-regional meeting to exchange experiences on programme formulation, implementation, and evaluation should be organized by the UN Population Division.

113. The third regional inter-agency coordination meeting on population after welcoming the UNDP's proposal to have all newly-appointed senior staff in the region briefed at the ECA Headquarters and the FAO's workshops for its own staff for orientation in population, recommended similar orientation courses could be profitably organized by the other agencies.

114. That there is the need for co-ordination at the national level between the government departments and institutions of research and even within some universities where demographic programmes are undertaken by more than one unit.

115. That ECA encourage and help the African countries in setting up appropriate co-ordinating machineries so that the best use could be made of the available internal and external resources and the expertise of officials in different government departments, universities, and institutions are pooled together.

116. That in order to ensure 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.

117. That 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.

118. That as far as possible, advance mission plans by staff members of the different UN agencies should be exchanged.

119. That ECA publish from time to time a consolidated list of projects of all organizations working in population and related fields in the African countries. That ECA obtains this information from all the organizations and to arrange to circulate this to them as well as to the African countries. The list of projects is to include meetings organized by the different agencies and the staff assigned to the region, as well projects implemented directly from the United Nations Headquarters.

X. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, USE OF LOCAL EXPERTS

120. That African countries prepare forward-looking programmes on population and to avail themselves of the assistance of the United Nations and the ECA for consultation, formulation and implementation of such programmes.
121. That the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations be reviewed, and that Short-term consultants must be appointed from one African country to another.
122. That newly-appointed United Nations experts sent to Africa be briefed at ECA headquarters, and that non-United Nations organizations should take advantage of ECA's briefing facilities.
123. That flexibility is needed in providing assistance to the countries as some countries are not always in a position to provide counterpart provisions.
124. That to avoid the possible frustration that results from the delays between the approval of projects and their implementation, the United Nations and the agencies should find a means of overcoming this problem, especially as by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2815(XXVI) of 14 December 1971, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA, has been requested inter alia to take the necessary steps to achieve the desired improvements in the administrative machinery of the funds aimed at the efficient and expeditious delivery of population programmes, including measures to quicken the pace of recruiting the experts and personnel required to cope with the increasing volume of requests.
125. That in the above connexion, a pool of experts be created for population programmes, similar to that for the African Census Programme, who could be made available immediately after the approval of projects.
126. That 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 demography even at the secondary-school level.
127. That the UN and ECA arrange the exchange of qualified persons engaged in the evaluation and analysis of demographic data among the African countries.
128. That the United Nations and the ECA devise means, either through fellowships or study tours, by which experts from one country could observe the survey operations in other countries. African experts were also urged to initiate procedures for co-operation and exchange of experts and observers among themselves.

129. That experts from the countries participating in the World Fertility Survey should be consulted and involved in the operations in their countries.

130. That UN agencies and Non-UN organizations give more attention to studies of labour force, cost-effectiveness of fertility programmes, relationship between infant and early childhood mortality and family size, and migration, to the studies and problems of sterility and sub-fecundity (that obtain in some population groups in Africa).

131. That there is the need to ensure that external aid was not concentrated in specific countries or on one specific topic, but that it should be distributed in a rational manner to provide a wider coverage of countries and subject fields, such as infant mortality, nutrition, fertility and their interrelations, in addition to KAP type surveys.

132. That while welcoming the increasing attention being given the population programmes by the United Nations and its agencies in the region there was also the need for follow-up actions after the target population's motivation has been ascertained or after the population has been motivated to accepting family planning.

133. That while welcoming the establishment of the Institutes for Population Studies at Accra and Yaoundé, the demographic courses at the existing middle-level statistical training centres should be strengthened with adequate provisions for United Nations fellowships.

ANNEX I

The recommendations contained in this document have been taken from the following:

1. Report of the Second Session of the Conference of African Planners, Addis Ababa, 4-15 December 1967
2. Report of the United Nations Population Programming Mission for Africa, 1968
3. Report of the Regional Meeting on Technical and Social Programmes of Urbanization with Emphasis on Financing of Housing, Addis Ababa, 8-23 January 1969
4. Report of the Regional Meeting on the Role of Women in National Development Addis Ababa, 17-26 March 1969
5. Report of the Seminar on Application of Demographic Data and Analysis to Development Planning, Addis Ababa, 2-9 June 1969
6. Report of the Sixth Conference of African Statisticians, Addis Ababa 22-31 October 1969
7. Report of the Expert Group on Population, Addis Ababa, 8-10 June 1970
8. Report of the Technical Meeting on Pilot Studies on Fertility, Infant Mortality and Evaluation of Population Programmes, Addis Ababa, 9-11 December 1970
9. Report of the First Regional Inter-agency Co-ordination Meeting on Population, Addis Ababa, 11-13 January 1971
10. Report of the First Meeting of Non-UN Organizations interested in Population Programmes in Africa, Addis Ababa, 14-15 January 1971
11. Report of the African Population Conference, Accra 9-18 December 1971
12. Report of the First Session of the Conference of African Demographers, Accra, 20-22 December 1971
13. Report of the Second Regional Inter-agency Co-ordination Meeting on Population, Addis Ababa, 19-21 April 1972
14. Report of the Second Meeting of Non-UN Organizations Interested in Population Work in Africa, Addis Ababa, 24-26 April 1972
15. Report of the Seminar on Statistics and Studies of Migration and Urbanization, Moscow, 11-22 September 1972
16. Report of the Working Group on Fertility Levels and Differentials in Africa and the Prospects for the Future, Addis Ababa, 18-22 December 1972
17. Report of the Third Regional Inter-agency Co-ordination Meeting on Population, Addis Ababa, 1-3 May 1973
18. Report of the Third Meeting of Non-UN Organizations interested in Population Work in Africa, Addis Ababa, 7-9 May 1973

19. Report of the Seminar on Techniques of Evaluation of Basic Demographic Data, Accra, 16-27 July 1973
20. Report of the Meeting on Training in Demography and Population Programmes Yaoundé, 22-26 January 1974
21. Report of the First Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts, Addis Ababa, 9-14 February 1970
22. Report of the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts, Tunis 1-6 February 1971
23. Report of the Third Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts, Addis Ababa 2-8 September 1972
24. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts, Addis Ababa, 27-31 August 1973.