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QUANTITATIVE SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this paper is to give an indication of the way in which African statistical services have developed, the results so far achieved, and the action needed to ensure that adequate quantitative information is available for the planning of economic and social development.
2. At the time of writing, international guidelines for the statistical programmes of developing countries are being revised and a new regional survey of statistical organisation is being conducted at the request of the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians. The remarks in this paper will therefore be of a general nature and are intended to assist in the interpretation of these forthcoming more detailed studies.
3. The first part of the paper consists of a general review of African statistical development and some of the factors by which it has been influenced. In the second part there is an examination of data requirements and the means by which they can be fulfilled. A summary of the principal considerations is given in the third part of the paper.

## REVIEW OF STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

### General trends and influences

#### Pre-independence period

4. During the ten-year period before the majority of African countries achieved independence it was appreciated that their development efforts would need the support of reasonably comprehensive statistical services. In the English-speaking countries of the region, assistance was provided mainly through long assignments by expatriates and the general aim was to establish permanent statistical organisations within the civil service structure. Arrangements were a little different in the French-speaking countries where more use was placed on the use of visiting teams of experts for specialised data collection purposes.
5. This historical difference is worth mentioning because it probably left the English-speaking countries with a slightly better basis for statistical development at the time of independence and may still have some lingering effects. However, there are many other technical, administrative and political factors which have influenced statistical activities in individual countries.
6. During the 1950s many countries made efforts to compile and publish data from administrative sources in a systematic and comparable manner. These included external trade, employment, industrial and public finance statistics. It was perhaps during this period that the work of the United Nations first began to have an impact in the statistical field through the widespread application of easily-adaptable data classifications. At the same time, the earlier version of the UN System of National Accounts demonstrated the possibility of using statistics in a more integrated manner and countries of the English language group found it a useful tool for the preparation of annual budgets and longer term programmes. The French (Courcier) system found a similar place in the remainder of the region.

7. A further factor for which the 1950s must claim some credit was the realisation that African statistics can be effective only if there is a determined effort to collect information direct from business establishments and the general public. Interest was probably initiated by the 1950 World Census of Agriculture which drew attention to the importance of rural sectors. Some countries which undertook agricultural surveys found that the work could easily be extended to the collection of more general economic and social data. Even those which confined their inquiries to urban household budgets and price collection contributed to the general growth of field survey operations. In the industrial sector, regular establishment surveys began to appear well before independence, although limited in scope and coverage.

#### Activities after independence

8. Following independence there was no spectacular development of African statistics because it was necessary to train local professional staff in place of expatriates and also to remedy acute staff shortages at sub-professional levels. This reflects an important shortcoming of the pre-independence activities. The 1960s were therefore devoted largely to training and the establishment of ongoing statistical operations with the help of international and bilateral technical assistance. Political instability probably resulted in fewer demands on statistical services than would have been expected at that time, and the First United Nations Development Decade did not involve any comprehensive progress reporting system which might have accelerated the production of quantitative information.

9. Nevertheless, household survey activity continued to develop during the earlier part of the decade and there were significant advances in industrial, population and agricultural statistics associated with world census programmes in these fields. Greater use was also made of the UN and other systems of national accounts as a means of integrating the collection and presentation of statistics for overall policy purposes. Towards the end of the decade, there was a growing realisation of Africa's place as an entity in the world situation, which made it necessary to embark on serious expansion of statistical and economic information services at the regional level.

#### Recent developments

10. The 1970s and the Second United Nations Development Decade have already seen events and changes in outlook which will have an impact on African statistics and will probably result in more streamlined and hopefully speedier production of data throughout the region.

11. The unified approach to economic and social development of the International Development Strategy is fully consistent with the aims expressed in the region's own basic policy document. Implementation of this approach clearly requires the re-orientation of statistical programmes along more comprehensive and integrated lines. There are also formal arrangements for the reporting of progress at national, regional and global levels which will encourage improvements in statistics.

12. Somewhat similar requirements became apparent at the 1974 World Population Conference which emphasised the relationship between population and development and requested the collection of more comprehensive social and economic data through surveys.

13. So far, the effect of these factors on national statistics has not been noticeable, although it is now appreciated that social information needs rather urgent attention. Nevertheless they have a significant influence on the activities of regional commissions which have had to produce increasingly up-to-date information on economic and social situations and encourage the support of their member states in terms of better basic data supplies. Arrangements in this respect will be discussed in the second part of the paper.

14. It is probable that recent world economic developments and problems are having a greater influence on African statistics than the less tangible concept of international development decades. They include the expansion of the European Economic Community and the resulting trade negotiations with African countries, world monetary instability, fluctuations in primary commodity prices, general effects of the oil crisis and the inflation in developed countries which has necessarily affected the African region.

15. These developments have drawn attention to the relatively small economic size of most African countries and the need for the region to act in a co-ordinated manner. Increasing demands on the regional statistical and economic information service are a welcome sign of prospects for concerted action.

16. Similar considerations apply to the region's efforts in respect of longer term economic co-operation. Sub-regional economic groupings have so far proved unstable and little progress has been made in multi-national industrial development. The important point is that the efforts are persistent and, through one means or another, must eventually succeed.

17. The basic conclusion in the light of recent developments is therefore that Africa requires not only effective national statistical services, but also a regional statistical office which is able to consolidate data for the whole continent and provide technical guidance for the improvement of basic national series. ECA is making progress in this respect under the direction of the Conference of African Statisticians, while at the same time taking into account the recommendations of other regional and international bodies.

18. Finally it is necessary to note the effects of current United Nations technical assistance policies on statistical development. The new country programming approach of the UN Development Programme has had two results. Firstly it has significantly reduced the technical assistance activities of ECA and other regional commissions in the field of economic statistics. Secondly it has led to a reduction in assistance at the country level in the same field mainly because national statistical offices have not been in a good position to compete for reasonable shares of the Indicative Planning Figures.

19. Problems arising from the statistical activities of UN specialised agencies are also becoming noticeable. These agencies operate in collaboration with national ministries responsible for their particular subject fields and there is often a lack of co-ordination with the national statistical services. It is therefore difficult for governments to determine priorities within their overall statistical programmes, the value of individual expert assignments is limited and the prospects for developing integrated data systems are reduced. These problems are appreciated at the international level and an integrated five-year programme of statistical assistance is being prepared as an interagency project. Country UNDP offices and government authorities can also help to promote better co-ordination.

20. Emphasis placed on assistance in individual subject fields, particularly population statistics, has recently caused imbalance in national and regional statistical programmes. Population censuses and surveys are of major importance, but can be damaging to other statistical efforts if organised in an ad hoc manner. As indicated earlier, the current requirement is to develop integrated demographic, social and related household economic data; this question will be further examined in later sections.

21. The first conclusion arising from the foregoing comments on factors now influencing African statistical development is that countries of the region must determine the importance they wish to attach to statistics as a basis for economic and social development planning, short term economic management and administration, and as a service for private business. Having done this, they will need to specify subject priorities in the form of overall statistical programmes, preferably within the context of national development plans.

22. A second basic consideration is that the region must be prepared to support the development of a strong regional statistical service, because economically small countries cannot easily assess their individual positions in the world situation and their separate negotiating powers are limited.

#### Inputs to statistical development

23. Following the brief review of factors influencing African statistical activity, it is appropriate to examine some of the principal inputs to statistical development.

#### Training

24. The first requirement is of course an adequate supply of properly trained manpower. On achieving independence, most countries of the region had at least a small statistical unit and, in a few cases, fairly comprehensive and active organisations had already been developed. However, the first and second sessions of the Conference of African Statisticians in 1959 and 1961 were concerned to note the large proportion of statistical offices still managed by expatriates and the generally small numbers of staff available. The second session of the Conference initiated an intensive training programme with the following priorities: (1) efforts within the region should first concentrate on relieving the acute shortage of middle level staff and (2) professional statisticians should continue to be trained overseas pending the establishment of regional facilities.

25. In 1961, two French and two English-speaking middle level centres began operations, together with a French-speaking project for the training of junior professionals. The French language group was provided with additional professional facilities in 1962 and, in 1964, one of the middle level centres also introduced professional training. An additional middle level centre was established in 1965 for the English language group, but it was not until 1969 that regional facilities at professional level became available for this group.

26. The training projects mentioned above were all designed to provide an international service and all but one were set up with UN assistance. One French-speaking middle level centre and one English-speaking professional project are still supported by UN. UNMSCO is assisting one of the original centres and is developing new facilities in southern Africa.

27. Total enrolments serve as an indicator of the amount of work carried out by the training centres and are summarised in the following table. The point of interest is the wide disparity between the two language groups in the man-years of training undergone. This is of course due to the larger number of French speaking projects and in some cases to their earlier establishment.

Man-years of training, 1961/62 to 1972/73

Level	Language of instruction					
	<u>French</u>		<u>English</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Professional	2,214	78	626	22	2,840	100
Middle level	1,583	69	703	31	2,286	100
Total	3,797	74	1,329	26	5,126	100

28. The performance of training activities can be measured in terms of the number of successful trainees emerging at the end of each complete course. These figures are shown below in relation to the numbers enrolled at the beginning of courses. For three-year courses, the enrolments are the numbers of first-year trainees admitted before or during 1970/71. For two and one-year courses, the enrolments also include 1971/72 and 1972/73 respectively. It will be appreciated that trainees can join or leave at intermediate stages of courses and some may repeat certain parts of the training. The comparison between the original enrolment and final success figures is therefore only approximate.

Enrolments and successes in complete training courses

Level	Language of instruction								
	<u>French</u>			<u>English</u>			<u>Total</u>		
	E	S	%	E	S	%	E	S	%
Professional	1,149 <sup>1/</sup>	509	44	244	173	71	1,393	682	49
Middle level	1,135	852	75	703	546	77	1,838	1,398	76
Total	2,284	1,361	60	947	719	75	3,231	2,080	64

E - Enrolled S - Successful

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes trainees in the preparatory year at one centre.

29. Middle level courses appear to have maintained fairly consistent standards, with success being achieved by three quarters of the trainees admitted. At the professional level, however there is a difference between the French and English-speaking centres. In the former, much higher wastage rates have occurred in the earlier years of courses, but this has probably been offset to some extent by diverting unsuccessful professional trainees to middle level courses. In general, all the wastage rates noted above must be considered too high in a region where each entrant is a great potential asset. They point to the need for very much more careful selection of trainees in future.

30. With nearly 700 professional statisticians and 1,400 middle level staff already trained, the regional training programme is approaching fulfilment of its original objectives. Nevertheless, the staff position in many African statistical offices remains unsatisfactory. One of the principal reasons for this is loss of trained personnel to other government departments, commercial firms, etc.

31. At this stage, it is necessary to ask whether the priorities originally set for the training programme were in fact correct. The doubt arises from the loss of staff noted above and from the continuing tendency of most training courses to be over-academic. Results might have been better if the initial effort had concentrated on severely practical training at the professional level, without taking into account course structures in developed countries. An earlier input of professional statisticians dedicated to the development of particular branches of statistics might have provided a continuity in leadership which is still notably lacking. It would also have given greater scope for the in-service training of middle level personnel in place of the expensive regional programme described above.

32. Against thoughts along these lines is the general concept that training at any level should be broad enough to enable capable persons to make further progress. However, statistical training has wide applications and rather close adherence to the concept may have contributed to the heavy loss of staff from African statistical services. The loss has of course been of benefit in other fields of national development, but this can hardly be regarded as compensation for the setback to statistics.

33. Problems of education and training are not peculiar to statistics. Africa has to consider them in respect of most subject fields. Two lessons fairly clearly evident from the African statistical training programme are that too much reliance should not be placed on the university level arrangements of developed countries and that an improvement in the secondary school facilities of the region would greatly reduce the need for ad hoc training of middle level staff. In any case, a co-ordinated effort is needed to ensure that statistical training is developed along more practical lines in the future.

Country technical assistance experts

34. There is no doubt that the provision of expert assistance to individual countries is a major input to African statistical development and that such services will be required for some time to come. Sources of this assistance are the United Nations and its specialised agencies, together with bilateral donors. Details of the expert assignments provided by UN during the two years ending in July 1973 are given in the following table.

UN statistical experts assigned to African countries  
1 August 1971 - 31 July 1973

Subject field	Sub-region				Total
	North	West	Central	East	
Prices	2	-	-	-	2
Industry	2	-	-	-	2
Population	4	6	5	4	19
Data processing	-	-	-	3	3
Statistical organization	1	-	-	4	5
National accounts, financial statistics and balance of payments	2	5	1	7	15
Training	4	1	4	9	18
Sample surveys	-	2	-	3	5
Economic statistics	-	3	-	4	7
Trade and distribution	-	1	-	2	3
Total	15	18	10	36	79



35. Fully comparable figures for specialised agency activity are not available, but the following table will probably be sufficient to indicate the order of magnitude.

UN specialised agency statistical experts assigned  
to African countries, 1 July - 31 December 1972

Agency	Sub-region				Total
	North	West	Central	East	
ILO	2	3	1	1	7
FAO	6	9	11	9	35
UNESCO	1	2	3	7	13
WHO	4	8	2	4	18
Total	13	22	17	21	73

36. Not taking into account possible differences in lengths of assignments, it appears that the amount of expert assistance provided through the specialised agencies is about the same as that organised direct by UN Headquarters. Unfortunately there is no consolidated information on bilateral statistical assistance, so the account given here is incomplete. Such assistance is known to be considerable in some subregions of Africa.

37. In recent years there has been little change in the number of UN statistical experts operating in Africa, i.e. those covered by the first of the above two tables. There has however been a significant change in the pattern of activity. Emphasis on population statistics is evident from the table and assignments in this field have increased during 1974; all the experts concerned are financed by the UN Fund for Population Activities. Also, a few of the training experts indicated in the table were serving in projects which have since been completed. There has therefore been some decrease in the statistical assistance financed by the UN Development Programme, which reflects the position described in earlier paragraphs. It is also interesting to note that some important fields such as industrial statistics and sample surveys are receiving very little attention.

#### Regional advisory services

38. Regional statistical advisory services have always been regarded as an important supplement to the work of country experts and a very useful co-ordinating factor in African statistical development.

39. During its first ten years of operation ECA normally had five statistical advisers specialising in national accounts, public sector statistics, demographic statistics and sample surveys. Additional work was and still is carried out by staff members. However, budgetary restrictions gradually reduced the original team and there are now only two experts dealing with national accounts and economic surveys.

40. Nevertheless regional advisory services have been affected by the emphasis on population in the same way as country experts. The African Census Programme has provision for eight regional advisers concerned with the various aspects of census-taking. However, efforts are now being made to establish a much broader programme aimed at the post-censal development of permanent household survey capabilities in African countries. This will also require advisory services and provide more comprehensive assistance in improving African statistics. The

position is described in more detail in the second part of this paper.

41. The principal point of interest with respect to regional advisory services is their usefulness and cost in relation to country experts. ECA has always felt that good regional statistical advisers can very much reduce the need for long term country experts. This has certainly been the case in sample surveys and national accounts and the method can be equally effective in other fields. There is the further advantage that regional advisers are in a better position to promote the co-ordination of activity between countries and to ensure the use of standardised definitions, classifications, etc.

42. Against the advantages of regional advisory assistance there is the problem of finding really good experts who are willing to undertake a considerable amount of travelling. It also has to be noted that regional advisory work in some non-statistical fields has not been satisfactory, which has tended to lower the reputation of this form of technical assistance.

43. Although there has been strong support for the idea of employing regional advisers instead of country experts there is no evidence at the present time that the latter have outlasted their usefulness. The aim should therefore be to use both forms of assistance in a judicious and complementary manner.

#### Methodology

44. During the last quarter of a century the international recommendations and guidelines on statistical methodology, definitions, classifications and the co-ordinated presentation of data have become basic working tools of official statisticians, particularly in developing countries. In establishing new activities, it is far easier to begin with a set of generally accepted arrangements and then adapt them to local requirements than to build up such arrangements from basic principles. Moreover the use of international recommendations is the essential means of producing internationally comparable statistics.

45. In this paper it is probably sufficient to comment briefly on regional activities concerned with the formulation and application of statistical standards. The subject fields for which such standards are established and the policies and priorities for the work are proposed by the UN Statistical Commission on which all regions are represented.

46. Research leading to international recommendations is the responsibility of the UN Statistical Office and the statistics divisions of the UN specialised agencies, but an increasing amount of the necessary material is becoming available from the regional commissions and other agencies. Draft recommendations are considered and revised by working groups at world level and the opinions of the regional agencies are also sought. In principle, the final versions are an optimal compromise intended to meet the requirements of the world community or specific kinds of country to which they may be directed.

47. It is in the application of these recommendations that regional commissions are most active. Promotional and training work is usually necessary and adaptations have to be worked out in the light of local conditions and policies. National statisticians also have to be given the opportunity to co-ordinate their activities. The most convenient and only impartial method of meeting these requirements lies in the organisation of regional seminars and working groups. General policy questions relating to the application of standards

are dealt with by the regional Conferences of Statisticians and other meetings with broad subject coverage. African projects of these types in which the ECA Statistics Division has been directly involved are summarised in the following table.

ECA meetings in statistics and related subjects  
1959 - 1973

Type of project	Number
<u>Projects concerned with individual subjects</u>	
National accounts	14
Sample surveys	3
Economic surveys	1
Industrial statistics	4
Labour statistics (in collaboration with ILO)	2
External trade and balance of payments	4
Demographic statistics and demography	12
<u>Policy, programming and other general meetings</u>	
Conference of African Statisticians	8
Sub-regional consultations	2
Meetings on statistical training and development	4
Total	54

48. The relatively large number of national accounts meeting reflects the interest shown in this subject as a means of integrating the collection and analysis of many kinds of data. Similarly, attention has been given to demographic statistics over a long period. Some other subjects, such as sample surveys, appear to have been treated rather lightly. However in this particular case there were active regional advisory services available for most of the period.

49. It has often been asked whether regional statistical meetings are useful. Some of the reasons for organising them have been described above and the Conference of African Statisticians has consistently expressed the wish that the meetings and their related documentation should continue. At its eighth session, the Conference agreed that countries should begin to think in terms of more technical and financial responsibility for these projects. It should be borne in mind that the meetings are organised in a world context of statistical development and so are always well supplied with methodological and other material.

#### Status of African statistical services

50. The following notes are based largely on a survey of statistical organisation carried out in 1969. A new inquiry is currently being undertaken, but results are not yet available. The remarks deal only with the organisation and status of statistical services; their output is considered in the second part of the paper.

51. The 1969 survey was concerned mainly with structural questions, staff, etc and responses were received from 28 countries. In ten of these countries, the statistical office was located in the office of the President or Prime Minister, in 16 it was in the Ministry of Planning and in the other two it was in the Ministry of Finance. In seven countries of the first group, the planning agency

was also located in the office of the President or Prime Minister, which means that in 23 cases the statistical office and planning agency were in the same organisational unit. Statistical offices in only 12 of the 28 countries kept their own accounts.

52. The figures indicate that close links have been established between statistics and planning in many countries, but suggest that statistical offices are often in a subordinate position. Nevertheless it must be noted that 25 of the countries possessed statistical laws, which would give some degree of independence to data collection and processing.

53. Budgetary information obtained in the survey suffered from coverage and classification problems. Reported annual levels of expenditure varied from less than US \$50,000 to more than one million dollars, with a national average of US \$391,000. This figure seems high in view of the small scale of operations in many countries and is only accounted for to the extent of US \$71,000 by special operations such as censuses and surveys.

54. Structure of national statistical services was another question of special interest. In three of the reporting countries there was only a central statistical office and one country had a central statistical office with a field organisation. 11 countries reported a central office and statistical units in other ministries, but made no mention of a field organisation. The remaining 13 countries reported a central office, field organisation and other statistical units.

55. The two points of interest in these figures are the existence of field organisations or branches of the central office in only half of the reporting countries, and the use of statistical systems which were at least to some extent decentralised in 24 of the 28 countries. In only three cases did the central office have direct control over statistical units in other ministries; in others informal consultation was the normal method of co-ordination.

56. The staff position with respect to central offices and field organisations, i.e. excluding other statistical units, is shown below:

	<u>Nationals</u>	<u>Others</u>
<u>Central office</u>		
Professionals	195	53
Middle level	483	9
Others	1,854	27
<u>Field organisation and branch offices</u>		
Professionals	13	-
Middle level	99	-
Others	<u>1,476</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>4,120</u>	<u>92</u>

57. As all 28 countries had central statistical offices, the average number of persons per office works out at 94. Field organisations or branch offices existed in only 14 countries as noted above, giving an average of 114. The current output of statistics is hardly consistent with these staff figures which must have further improved since 1969. At a time when statistical organisations are being developed this is perhaps reasonable, but it does point to the need for making better use of available resources in the future.

58. When the above findings were discussed with the Conference of African Statisticians it was explained that the link with planning agencies is useful not only for working purposes, but also because it leads to budgetary and other support for statistical programmes. Similarly, the use of decentralised arrangements makes it easier to find resources which cannot all be obtained by central statistical offices. With regard to the full utilisation of available staff, it was pointed out that there is a problem in obtaining funds for special inquiries which sometimes leads to underemployment.

59. These points are of course valid, but it seems that statistical services have had to pay for budgetary advantages in terms of some loss of independence and reduced co-ordination and efficiency of statistical operations. Many of their problems could be overcome through the preparation of long term statistical programmes which could appropriately be incorporated in national development plans.

60. A further question being examined in the survey now being undertaken is the status of statisticians in government service. Salaries and other conditions now appear to be unfavourable in relation to those of other officials and the problem is contributing to the continuing loss of personnel from statistical services. The extent to which the difficulty is associated with decentralisation of activities and other factors is not yet known.

#### DATA REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR FULFILMENT

##### National and international requirements

61. Some of the factors which have led to a demand for statistics at national and international levels and the ways in which they have influenced the development of these statistics are described in the earlier part of this paper. Broadly, the position is as follows.

62. It has to be acknowledged that the primary responsibility of a national statistical office is to provide a domestic data service for the planning of economic and social development, administration and current budgeting, and for use by the private sector. However it is becoming increasingly apparent that the large number of relatively small countries in Africa cannot individually produce the kind of statistics required in situations where concerted regional action is necessary. Two examples already quoted are the current trade negotiations with the European Economic Community and problems arising from the increase in oil prices, which have both required special regional compilations of information.

63. There is a somewhat similar situation with respect to international development efforts. The Second UN Development Decade calls for progress reports at global and regional, as well as national levels. On a more restricted

geographical basis, sub-regional economic co-operation requires adequate data for working out viable joint efforts.

64. Conversely, individual countries need regional and global data to which national statistics can be related as a basis for evaluating their positions within overall production, trading and other situations.

65. The compilation and analysis of data at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels is in no sense a hierarchical system. Individual countries are the originators of the basic raw material, but in the long run they are also the users of the compilations for wider geographical areas because international arrangements for production, trade, etc have to be agreed between individual countries or groups of countries. Perhaps in a less direct manner, the same consideration is also applicable to social statistics.

66. This over-simplified presentation of the functions of an international statistical system seems reasonably logical, but there are a few points which should be borne in mind with respect to the application of such a system in Africa. Firstly, African countries are only just beginning to appreciate that they have to live as integral parts of the world community. The two Development Decades and other efforts to establish economic co-operation have so far done little to promote this understanding, but the position is being more forcibly illustrated by changes in trading relationships and the results of world fuel and currency problems.

67. The second main point is that internationally co-ordinated data are useful only if they are up-to-date. Economic negotiations and progress reviews have to be undertaken in the light of the current situation; historical information is not very helpful. In recent years ECA and other agencies have made efforts to produce estimates of essential aggregative and commodity data to offset the lack of current official figures. Sometimes it is easier for international agencies to make such estimates because of better access to material from many sources, but it is clearly essential that individual countries should play an increasingly active role in improving data supplies. The general lines of approach in this respect are examined in the following paragraphs.

68. The earlier and revised versions of the UN System of National Accounts (SNA) have undoubtedly been the principal UN contribution to comprehensive guidance in the collection, presentation and analysis of economic data. Together with supporting systems, data classifications and definitions, the revised SNA provides a basis for establishing effective programmes of economic statistics, analysis and projections.

69. Following the success of the SNA, UN and other agencies have been working on the development of a comprehensive system of social and demographic statistics, which is more difficult in the absence of a common unit in which data can be expressed throughout the system. Articulation in this case depends on linkage achieved through standardised definitions and classifications.

70. In 1972 the seventeenth session of the UN Statistical Commission agreed that integrated data systems are necessary, but requested that more attention should be given to the practical problems of collecting basic information. Field survey operations in developing countries were indicated as an essential element.

71. The same session of the Commission also examined data needs for reviewing progress during the Second UN Development Decade. A set of economic and social indicators had originally been envisaged in this connection but, although useful in themselves, the indicators were not considered a satisfactory basis for comprehensive appraisal work or for the systematic collection of relevant data. Again it was recommended that the establishment of basic statistical series should be the primary objective.

72. As a result of these discussions the UN Statistical Office is revising the 1959 recommendations on Statistical Series for the Use of Less Developed Countries in Programmes of Economic and Social Development, Series M No. 31. An outline of the new document was reviewed by the eighth session of the conference of African Statisticians and a progress report was made to the eighteenth session of the UN Statistical Commission in October 1974. Work is continuing and it is also expected that revised economic and social indicators will be developed in conjunction with the new recommendations for statistical series.

73. There will therefore be guidance for the co-ordinated collection and compilation of data at both national and international levels. This paper makes no attempt to present a detailed list of requirements because the information is available in the appropriate documents. Here the main concern is how statistical recommendations should be implemented under African conditions.

74. In ECA it has been realised that information on principal trends and developments must be available for the whole region at the end of each calendar year. As a result there are now systematic arrangements for collating basic information from all possible sources and country visits have also been used to obtain up-to-date material. In addition to making an annual assessment of the position in individual countries, it is now possible to provide preliminary national accounts estimates which are gradually refined as better figures become available. The latter have led to closer contact with a number of agencies interested in African development.

75. These regional data collection and compilation activities have to be considered in relation to the overall international reporting arrangements. The general position is that, because the United Nations is organised on a subject basis, its specialised agencies are responsible for collecting data in their own fields, while more general topics are handled by the UN Statistical Office. Until recently the regional economic commissions have not collected data except for certain limited purposes. The need for more up-to-date information is now resulting in some change in these arrangements and it is likely that there will be a reasonable degree of decentralisation in data collection within the general constraint of maintaining proper international co-ordination.

#### Availability of African statistics

76. One of the simplest means of indicating the availability of African statistics is to examine the material used in compiling the Economic Data Summaries which are prepared by the ECA secretariat for 45 individual countries and revised at regular intervals. The table given in Annex I shows the latest years for which certain key aggregates had been received in December 1973. This gives a broad but fairly useful indication of the timeliness and availability of some of the more important African statistics.

77. From the table it will be seen that out of 45 countries the numbers for which at least some 1972 data had been received for each of the main fields by December 1973 were as follows (the position of 1969 data received by December 1970 is included for comparison):

	Number of countries					
	By Dec. 1970			By Dec. 1973		
	1969	1968/9	Total	1972	1971/2	Total
National accounts	10	1	11	12	4	16
External trade	36	3	39	39	2	41
Electricity production	33	1	34	31	2	33
Mineral production	27	1	28	34	1	35
Agricultural production	23	10	32	33	7	40
Manufacturing production	15	4	19	18	2	20
Transport	25	7	32	35	2	37
Education	8	9	17	16	16	32
Health facilities	2	1	3	11	-	11
Public finance	37	2	39	40	1	41
Banking and finance	37	2	39	41	1	42
Balance of payments	15	-	15	20	2	22
Prices (wholesale or retail)	37	-	37	37	2	39

78. Compared with the position at December 1970 in respect of 1969 data there was a considerable improvement in the availability of both national accounts data and balance of payments information. Mineral production statistics were very much more up-to-date and some improvement was also noted in external trade, agricultural production and price statistics. By means of a simple questionnaire once a year together with the data collection visits mentioned above, it was possible to bring the education and health information more up-to-date, but it will be seen that for only 11 countries out of 45 were basic health data (numbers of hospital beds and doctors) available for 1972 by the end of 1973. Amongst the subjects listed, the main areas in which up-to-date material was lacking at the end of 1973 were still national accounts, balance of payments, manufacturing production and health facilities.

#### Special problems in African statistics

79. Having dealt briefly with the availability of African statistics, it seems appropriate to mention some of the problems which beset data collection in the region. The purpose in doing so is to provide a basis for suggesting remedial action.

80. Problems of an organisational nature have already been examined in the first part of this paper. The position with respect to the remainder is summarised below in the light of data requirements for development efforts in the immediate future.

81. External trade is perhaps the most important field in which statistics are needed. The data are essential for development planning and attention has already been drawn to special requirements arising from the current trade negotiations. These statistics are fairly well developed in Africa, but improvements have to



be made to bring them to their full potential. The major and most obvious requirement is earlier availability of the data. There are also problems of unrecorded movements of goods between African countries due to the length of land frontiers, which may be tending to increase as a result of exchange control restrictions, administrative difficulties in obtaining import licences, etc. It is also notable that countries which belong to customs unions or have special trade agreements sometimes do not publish complete trade statistics. The coverage problems, particularly with respect to intra-African trade, necessarily make regional trade promotion efforts less effective.

82. Demographic data are probably the next main requirement, but about half the countries of the region found themselves without sufficient resources to participate in the 1970 round of population censuses. As a result the African Census Programme was financed by the UN Fund for Population Activities, but census taking is still proceeding slowly. Some censuses have shown unexpectedly high population growth rates and the World Fertility Survey and other projects will have the task of explaining the underlying causes. Surveys are also being increasingly used to estimate vital rates, but there has so far been little success in establishing effective civil registration schemes.

83. The principal deficiency in African statistics concerns the household sector. Much of the information required can be obtained only through surveys and activity in this field declined considerably at the end of the 1960s. This was due, at least in part, to the need for diverting survey resources to censuses of population and agriculture. Renewed interest in household surveys is now evident in many countries of the region.

84. Lack of adequate data on households is being felt as a severe constraint on plan and policy formulation for a number of reasons. Among these, the unified approach to economic and social development adopted in both the International and African Development Strategies is probably the main consideration. If the improvement of human well-being is regarded as the ultimate aim of development, rather comprehensive and continuous information on households is required.

85. Other more specific problems concerning household data include the effort to reduce the dual nature of African economies and the need for better information on household income, structure, consumption and productive activity as a basis for assessing the effects of particular projects, economic controls and policies. The data available at present are inadequate for planning purposes and it is probable that many groups of people throughout the region are experiencing adverse results from development efforts which are not accompanied by adequate reporting systems.

86. Africa of course faces the general difficulty of assessing the results of social and economic service activities organised on a public or semi-public basis. Inputs can be recorded without difficulty and broad information is available in government development plans, budgets, etc., but there is no information on the outputs in terms of economic and social results. The new system of social and demographic statistics may be of help in this respect.

87. Price statistics at producer and purchaser levels are of increasing importance in the current world and African situation and are directly relevant to the assessment to the measurement of currency values. Apart from the problem of defining commodities with any degree of accuracy, data collection is

not too difficult, but many African countries have not done more than record retail prices in their principal cities. Price data are also relevant to the estimation of sectoral growth rates in real terms, for which purpose the minimal requirement is an assessment of distribution margins.

88. The next major question, which should perhaps have been given higher priority in terms of its appearance in the present discussion, is industrial statistics. Considerable efforts have been made to improve statistics in this field but, in addition to late availability of the data, there is a significant problem relating to their coverage. Industrial statistics are usually based on registers of known establishments above a given minimum size, but systematic arrangements for estimating the coverage of the registers and the production of smaller establishments are often lacking.

89. Employment statistics obtained through establishment returns suffer from the same deficiencies as noted in the last paragraph, although the coverage is usually a little better. The only sources of more comprehensive information on the economically active population are population censuses and labour force surveys. Some African countries have felt that the definitions of economic characteristics are sufficiently imprecise to warrant the exclusion of these data from their censuses, while labour force surveys are expensive due to geographical clustering of persons with similar characteristics. Nevertheless it has to be borne in mind that, if the lack of household survey activity noted above can be overcome, a great deal of employment data can be incorporated in ongoing survey.

90. More will be said later about national accounts and related subjects, but there are some general problems which should be mentioned here. Because national accounts assimilate data from many sources, they tend to appear later than the component basic series. Many countries also delay publication until they feel reasonably certain that the figures will not require further correction. In the light of actual performances this approach is unjustified because African national accounts are frequently revised after publication.

91. More important, the current conservative attitude to national accounts data is far from realistic in terms of information requirements. As pointed out earlier, governments should be able to take concerted action in respect of economic problems affecting the region and up-to-date aggregative data are required in determining appropriate actions and policies. In this situation it is important that individual countries should collaborate with ECA and other international agencies in compiling really up-to-date material. A further thought in this connection is that collective action in solving short term economic problems and in improving the regional data base will help to promote future economic co-operation.

92. A longer term problem in African national accounts concerns the lack of standardised technical arrangements. The region has accepted the revised UN System of National Accounts for the presentation of data, but many countries are still using the earlier version of the SNA or the French system. Conversion is not particularly difficult, but the slow rate at which it is taking place is leading to problems of data presentation and analysis at the regional level.

93. There are also some branches of national accounts which require special attention. The most important of these is external transactions. Only some 30 African countries are producing balance of payments data, often irregularly, which leads to difficulties in assessing both external and domestic situations. The rather unsatisfactory state of these statistics arises from the links which countries have maintained with currency areas.

94. Information on capital formation is also inadequate, which among other things makes it difficult to assess the extent to which development funds have been wasted on prestige projects. Similarly, government accounts and supporting data on public administration are incomplete and lack standardisation, so the efficiency of government machinery cannot easily be determined.

#### Action needed by national statistical services

95. The earlier part of this paper included a number of suggestions with respect to statistical organisation and the programming of activities. Perhaps the most important of these was the need for comprehensive national statistical programmes, even in the case of decentralised operations. This would go a long way towards ensuring a proper and useful place for statistics in the overall structure of public activities. Attention was also drawn to the growing impact of world economic problems on Africa and the importance of providing adequate information to assist in finding solutions. The Second Development Decade was seen as specially significant as a means of broadening and integrating social and economic data collection operations and of developing more systematic and up-to-date data reporting.

96. The second part of the paper has so far reviewed the availability of some of the more important African statistics and has highlighted special problems which have to be faced. At this point it is therefore necessary to make some tentative proposals for the action to be taken by African statisticians.

97. Most people in government are prepared to acknowledge statistics as an essential service, but have no clear understanding of its functions and consequently do not give strong practical support. Statisticians have tended to associate themselves with planning agencies as the most understanding groups within government, but the planners themselves have not yet achieved satisfactory recognition. Central statistical offices have also accepted a considerable amount of decentralised work which has relieved the problem of finding resources for statistics at the expense of co-ordination.

98. The simplest solution under these conditions is to establish a continuing review of statistical requirements and programmes through a standing inter-agency committee consisting of senior officials under the chairmanship of a well-respected minister. The objectives of such a committee are to determine the place of statistics within the overall context of government operations, to establish a fully co-ordinated programme of work which may involve a number of ministries and departments and, in so doing, to promote a better understanding of what the statistical service has to offer.

99. There is nothing new in this proposal. Inter-disciplinary committees are part of the regular procedure for organising population censuses and other major operations. They are currently being used in a number of African countries for

the co-ordination and planning of field survey activities, and they have been employed in a few countries on the broader basis suggested above for the promotion and development of comprehensive statistical programmes.

100. Statisticians may feel that committee work of this kind is time-consuming and detracts from their basic technical contribution to statistical development. This is true, but if the work results in a better understanding of statistics and more adequate resources for its development, the time is well spent. There may also be a feeling that the establishment of committees will reduce the responsibilities of central statistical offices. This is untrue because statistical offices are the only bodies available to implement enlarged programmes and to undertake detailed co-ordination with other agencies. There are other advantages in that the existence of a committee may make it easier to solve problems relating to salaries and working conditions of statisticians which are of concern in some countries.

101. However, statisticians wishing to embark on the kind of approach outlined above must first make sure that they can present concrete offers to their governments in terms of performance. Fortunately this question can be considered in respect of (1) immediate objectives which do not call for any great increase in existing statistical resources and (2) longer term development which requires expansion of data collection and processing capabilities and possibly the introduction of better methodology.

102. Most African statistical offices have a reasonable amount of basic data at their disposal and it appears rather slowly in the form of general bulletins and yearbooks, plus specialised reports on statistics of trade, industry, etc. ECA country visits during recent years have shown that there is a large amount of additional material available from other government agencies in published or semi-published form. If all this information could be properly co-ordinated, or if it could just be published more quickly and be sent to the right users by airmail, the result would probably be sufficiently startling to show that Africa is already taking an interest in its own future on the basis of factual information.

103. Better arrangements for data publication and distribution would alone be sufficient justification for initiating the steering committee operations suggested above. Results would be rewarding with a minimum of effort and would greatly improve both national and international statistics.

104. Longer term development involves essentially the finding of solutions to the special problems enumerated in the previous section. The interesting point about the topics discussed in that section is that they all involve, to a greater or lesser degree, co-operation between the statistical office and other government agencies. It may be useful to examine the question of solving current problems in relation to the organisational linkages which have to be strengthened for this purpose.

105. The bulk of the data required in compiling external trade statistics is provided by customs authorities. For some commodities such as gold and diamonds it may come from specialised marketing agencies and for others where frontier traffic is not adequately recorded, estimates have to be based on information relating to cattle transit stations, vehicle movements, etc. Also the solution to incomplete trade data published by member countries of some customs unions

probably involves ministries of finance. Central Banks operating exchange controls serve as a useful check on external trade series.

106. It will therefore be seen that the production of timely and comprehensive trade statistics is not just a matter of streamlining customs records and accelerating their processing in the statistical office. Other agencies have important contributions to make and a co-ordinated operation is necessary.

107. Much the same situation is evident with respect to population censuses. Projects being conducted under the African Census Programme are considerably behind schedule and one of the reasons is the difficulty which governments are having in organising mapping, transport, publicity, headquarters facilities, and the provision of census staff on an inter-agency basis. In post-censal operations such as the further investigation of growth rates, ministries of health, housing and others should be fully involved. The eventual establishment of comprehensive civil registration will require the maintenance of recording facilities by local government or health authorities.

108. The collection of adequate household sector statistics will call for the establishment of permanent field survey organisations in countries where this has not already been done. Such organisations can normally be most conveniently managed by the central statistical office, but it has to be borne in mind that the aim is to develop continuing supplies of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics. A multi-disciplinary approach to the programming of household surveys is therefore necessary if the right data are to be collected and effectively used. A further factor to be considered is that permanent survey organisations will also be concerned with the collection of statistics on prices, industry, employment, etc, as their activities are relevant to all forms of direct data collection.

109. Apart from the problem of definition noted above, price statistics at producer and purchaser levels do not present any special difficulties and the work can be handled entirely by the statistical office. Nevertheless the detailed advice of ministries of agriculture, industry, etc is usually needed for the development of a satisfactory recording system.

110. In industrial statistics attention clearly has to be given to the coverage problem mentioned earlier. Again, a permanent survey organisation provides the solution because it enables the production of very small establishments to be investigated on a sample basis. Although this work is normally handled by statistical offices, inquiries have to be planned in collaboration with ministries of commerce and industry and planning agencies to keep data collection activities in line with current policy and development issues.

111. Similar considerations apply to employment statistics, which involve both establishment returns and surveys. Use of the field organisation can improve the coverage of establishments. The same organisation can include periodic labour force surveys in its programme, or, if costs are a limiting factor, employment data can be collected at the preliminary enumeration stage of most household surveys, giving a more continuous but less satisfactory supply of information. Planning of employment inquiries calls for collaboration with ministries of labour.

112. Even national accounts, which are essentially a co-ordinated presentation of available basic data, cannot escape the need for an inter-agency approach.

If statistical offices wish to co-operate in the production of the early estimates of economic performance advocated in this paper, there are policy issues which involve other agencies. The application of the revised UN System of National Accounts requires the agreement of planning agencies which may be reluctant to accept changes in well-established series. Improvement of specific branches of national accounts data, e.g. external transactions, capital formation and public accounts, can be achieved only with the assistance of the agencies directly responsible.

113. The one special problem not so far covered in this review is the measurement of the output of public services and the assessment of whether capital formation is being channelled in the right directions. The first part of this question will to some extent be taken into account in the new system of social and demographic statistics, but it will be some time before there are any firm international recommendations. It seems that the only reasonable possibility at present is for all agencies concerned with the formulation of national budgets and plans to review the effects of these expenditures on a commonsense basis in the light of all available data.

114. The foregoing attempt to look at the action required of African statistical offices in the light of inter-agency collaboration enables requirements to be expressed in a few fairly simple groups of activities:

- (1) Co-ordination and acceleration of all national data collection and publication, which can be achieved without significant additional resources.
- (2) Improvement of external trade statistics with respect to both timeliness and coverage.
- (3) Fulfilment of current commitments with respect to population censuses and implementation of necessary follow-up operations.
- (4) Rationalisation and expansion of direct data collection from households and establishments through the development of permanent field survey organisations, with the objectives of securing continuing supplies of integrated demographic, social and related economic data, and extending the coverage of statistics of industry, prices, etc.
- (5) Standardisation of national accounting arrangements, improvement of data on particular components, and the more active use of national accounts for the examination of economic trends and problems on an up-to-date basis.

115. No mention has been made here of agricultural statistics, but it has to be borne in mind that they need special consideration in relation to the overall statistical programme. Even if production and other data are collected by a separate field organisation, there are obvious requirements for co-ordination and certain kinds of agricultural statistics may be collected in household surveys.

116. It is clear that none of the requirements specified above can be met satisfactorily by small government statistical offices which rely only on informal contacts with other ministries and departments. This conclusion leads back to the first and principal recommendation made in this section of

the paper: standing inter-agency committees are needed for the planning and co-ordination of statistical work at the national level.

117. The provision of adequate statistics has to be regarded as an essential national service which involves the participation of agencies throughout the governmental system. Committee work, although irksome, is the simplest means of ensuring wider understanding and of co-ordinating resources. Its success in the case of statistics will depend mainly on the effectiveness of preparatory work carried out by heads of statistical offices. Proposals for statistical development have to be simple, concrete and clearly viable. They also have to be supported by convincing explanations of the contributions which individual projects will make to economic and social development efforts.

#### Development of a regional statistical service

118. The ECA statistical programme has two objectives: (1) development of African statistical organisations and (2) provision of a regional statistical service. The first of these involves projects of a technical assistance nature, i.e. regional advisory services, training and the application of standard methodology. A brief examination of trends in technical assistance will be left until the next section of this paper. The present section is concerned with the action needed in building up the regional information service.

119. Reasons for establishing such a service have already been discussed at length. Current work comprises the preparation of regular publications, conduct of statistical studies intended to assist in filling some of the more important data gaps, and responses to ad hoc requests for information. It should also be noted that the data compilation and processing activities provide inputs for ECA's annual Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa and the regional biennial progress reports for the Second UN Development Decade.

120. Because this paper has placed so much emphasis on the need for up-to-date material covering the whole region, it seems appropriate to begin the discussion with a description of the national accounts estimation exercise and related activities mentioned earlier.

121. During the third quarter of each year, ECA visits are made to about half the countries of the region. Larger countries are visited annually and the smaller ones once every two years. The visits provide a means of collecting the most recent information and of making an on-the-spot assessment of economic progress and problems. They are also intended to assist in accelerating the distribution of data through the normal channels of national statistical publications, economic surveys, international questionnaires, etc.

122. Information obtained in this way is added to that reaching the secretariat from all other sources and is consolidated in Economic Data Summaries for 45 individual African countries. These are prepared towards the end of each year and contain estimates of the probable economic outturn for the current year.

123. The most important productive sector in Africa is agriculture and performances are often difficult to estimate. Therefore, at the end of each year, the preliminary figures on changes in gross domestic products are reviewed in the light of agricultural production data supplied by FAO. This leads to the first consolidated set of estimates for the region, sub-regions and individual countries, which is normally available in the February or March following the

year to which the figures relate. At about the same time, a regional review of the position indicated by the Economic Data Summaries is presented in the Statistical and Economic Information Bulletin. Shortly afterwards, a synthesis of this material, plus additional information specially requested from the countries, appears in the annual semi-graphical publication African Economic Indicators.

124. In June of each year an attempt is made to break down the GDP figures for the previous year on the basis of principal origin and expenditure components. These figures serve as an input to the FAO annual report on the State of Food and Agriculture. By the end of each year, these more detailed figures can be further refined by incorporating new information available from countries.

125. There is therefore a continuing cycle of operations which provides preliminary data for individual countries, consolidated crude estimates of economic performance for the whole region, and the gradual refinement and expansion of the data during the year following that to which the figures relate. It will be seen from the foregoing remarks that the work is at present based on the material from national and international sources available at ECA and a working agreement with FAO. The description is of course over-simplified and the following points have to be taken into account.

126. Countries of the region are beginning to show an interest in the early assessment of African performance and approximately 10 are supplying estimates of GDP growth rates soon after the end of each year. The material is not yet reaching ECA soon enough for incorporation in the first consolidated round of estimates, but its existence is an encouraging sign that the plea for better country participation made earlier in this paper can in fact be fulfilled.

127. Other international agencies are necessarily interested in geographically comprehensive national accounts estimates in connection with their own work. ECA already has a useful exchange of data with IBRD and with CDPFP at UN Headquarters, and there are signs of a better link with IMF. In this connection, however, it should be explained that international agencies are not indulging in any kind of academic data compilation exercise which is isolated from real life. The general ECA rule with respect to estimates is that they are always replaced by official country data as soon as these become available.

128. It is also important to point out that the operations described above are of a basic statistical nature and do not in themselves provide economic analysis or policy guidance. In ECA the estimates are intended to serve as a framework for the economic surveys and appraisal reports, which also incorporate very much more detailed sectoral information and are being developed as policy documents for the region.

129. A second question which deserves special consideration is the international compilation and publication of external trade statistics. The three principal agencies concerned with African data in this field are the International Trade Centre of the UN Statistical Office, the Statistical Office of the European Economic Community and ECA. The UN Statistical Office publishes global commodity trade data and details of its direction, with a cut-off at US \$100,000 for individual commodities. EEC publishes trade data for associate African member states and is beginning to take an interest in others which may become associated.



130. ECA has two series of Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa: A, which deals with the direction of total trade for about 35 countries, and B, which gives commodity trade data by direction for 16 countries. Both EEC and ECA have a cut-off at the US \$1,000 level for individual commodities.

131. The limited coverage of the ECA Series B document arises from a long-standing agreement with the UN Statistical Office that neither agency will duplicate the material published by the other, but the variation in amount of detail arising from the different cut-off levels should be noted. To some extent this problem is overcome by the more detailed information available from EEC.

132. There is a growing feeling in the ECA secretariat that the international consolidation of African trade data is not providing the region with the material it needs for negotiating satisfactory arrangements in a changing world situation. This view was shared by the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians in November 1973, but it was appreciated that ECA has neither the processing nor the printing capacity to deal with detailed commodity trade data for all its member states.

133. At this point it should perhaps be explained that international compilations of trade data are important because they bring the material for individual countries together in readily accessible form and present at least the value figures in a standard unit.

134. The Conference of African Statisticians identified three requirements with respect to revision of the existing ECA trade documents: (1) there should be complete coverage of all intra-African trade (2) information on other exports should concentrate on the principal commodities entering into world trade and (3) it may be sufficient to show data on other imports in terms of principal groups of commodities.

135. These criteria for selecting items would enable regional publications to achieve more complete coverage without becoming too bulky. Nevertheless it must be emphasised that ECA will need to establish a detailed and comprehensive store of information on African trade and, in addition to the work on regular publications, it must expect to undertake more analytical activity, including the development of trade matrices.

136. There remains the problem of gathering all the necessary trade figures without undue cost or delay. The expected revision of ECA's computer equipment to include magnetic tape facilities will make it easier to exchange information with the UN Statistical Office and possibly EEC. Magnetic tape may also help in obtaining information from some countries of the region, but it will not be of great assistance in the case of those which are habitually late in producing their annual trade reports. To some extent, the cumulative data in quarterly trade publications may serve as an alternative source of information, or preliminary tabulations limited to SITC totals and selected commodities may be requested. However, the real solution is to provide a regional advisory service which would help the countries concerned to produce their trade statistics more expeditiously.

137. Apart from the two special kinds of activity discussed above, ECA has to develop its store of general statistical data for the regional Statistical Yearbook, the Statistical and Economic Information Bulletin, the ongoing work of

other divisions of the secretariat and for meeting ad hoc requests for information. There has already been some discussion in this paper on the sources of these data which are national publications, regular international questionnaires, periodic collection of information through country visits and ad hoc questionnaires, plus periodicals, etc published in developed countries.

138. Clearly the need for up-to-date information requires the continuing and expanded use of all these data sources, while at the same time avoiding duplication in the data collection process and maintaining the efforts to standardise statistics. Some decentralisation of international collection arrangements may be involved, but in the long run improvements will be mainly dependent on the ability of individual countries to distribute data more quickly.

139. ECA has the task of extracting new and revised figures from the increasing amount of documentation becoming available and of storing data in a systematic and accessible manner. In some fields, e.g. external trade, industrial statistics and national accounts, the available information is already fully or partly computerised. For other subjects, manually maintained data files are the principal storage medium. The provision of a new computer with magnetic tape will provide a more effective method of storage, and hopefully also the automatic production of the Statistical Yearbook and data for special purposes.

140. However, there are a number of considerations which make this arrangement less simple than appears at first sight. Inputs to the magnetic tape store have to be organised in a very systematic manner, which itself is not easy when material is received in many different ways. It is also necessary to be rather selective in deciding what information should be put into the store, in order to avoid the accumulation of an unwieldy mass of information to which access is difficult. This constraint reduces the extent to which the data store can serve as a basis for responding to more detailed ad hoc requests for information.

141. There are other practical limitations on a data service using what will in any event be a very small computer. Access may not be very quick in a situation where the machine may be committed to other priority tasks. Difficulties have also been experienced in the photo-offset reproduction of computer print-outs.

142. Bearing in mind that figures have to be consolidated and processed for around 50 African countries, the amount of material involved is considerable. While there is every intention of making increased use of computer facilities, a cautious approach is clearly necessary until their reliability is proved in terms of performance. In the meantime, manual processing in many fields will have to be maintained.

143. It should be noted that very few agencies have so far attempted integrated multi-subject data bank operations, which is what the present paper envisages as an eventual aim for the African region. The problem is to develop satisfactory consistency of data between subject fields, which must be done if the material is to be satisfactory for general analytical purposes.

144. Finally, a word should be said about regional projects grouped under the general heading of statistical studies. As indicated earlier, this work is intended to provide broad information on topics for which regular African series do not exist. Except where separate reports are issued, the results of studies appear in the ECA Statistical and Economic Information Bulletin. The large

number of requests for the document are a reasonable indication of the demand for the kind of material which ECA is attempting to produce.

145. Statistical studies include the national accounts estimates described above and a regional survey of purchasing power parities. Other topics so far dealt with include terms of trade, the pattern and level of intra-African trade, public accounts, capital formation, private consumption expenditure, distribution and transport. There is clearly a need for more continuous consolidation of data in all of these fields; the studies may serve as guidelines for new work in data collection and analysis.

146. Africa and its regional commission have to operate in a changing regional and world situation. It is important that national and regional statistical activities should be able to respond in a flexible manner. However this is possible only if sufficient forethought is given at both levels to probable basic data requirements. Methods of analysis and presentation can always be modified at short notice, but the collection and collation of the raw material has to be developed on a relatively long term basis.

#### Special programmes for the improvement of African statistics

147. The basis for assistance given by the United Nations and its specialised agencies to statistical development throughout the world lies in the preparation of international recommendations on methodology, classifications and definitions. Help in applying these recommendations takes the form of country expert and regional advisory services, seminars and training courses, plus material assistance where appropriate.

148. In addition, it has been customary in the fields of population, agriculture and industry to proclaim world census programmes for the purpose of encouraging as many countries as possible to collect basic data during or around agreed benchmark years. The remarks in this section of the paper arise largely from African response to the 1970 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses. They concern the possibility of a somewhat different approach to technical assistance in statistics.

149. Soon after 1970 it became apparent that about half of the countries in the African region, mainly due to lack of resources, would not be able to participate in the 1970 round of population censuses. At the same time there was growing interest in population structure and trends as essential factors in development and the UN Fund for Population Activities was established through voluntary contributions to promote work in this field. One result was the African Census Programme, intended to assist countries with difficulties in census-taking.

150. Earlier comments made in this paper and by the Conference of African Statisticians have referred to the possible imbalance in national statistical activities caused by the census programme. Here the purpose is to examine the programme as a tool for statistical development and to see how the experience derived from it can be applied in the future.

151. The African Census Programme is of special interest because it differs from previous technical assistance activities in size, the inclusion of a contribution to local costs and the existence of specially organised regional supporting services.

152. Perhaps the desire to regard the programme as a co-ordinated "package deal" to be implemented within a relatively short period is one of the main factors which has hampered its progress. This policy necessitated the hurried organisation of feasibility missions in all prospective participating countries. These had the task of drawing up provisional census plans and budgets, which were not always satisfactory and are now emerging as a constraint in establishing more realistic arrangements.

153. Because of the amount of detailed preparatory work involved, population censuses in administratively underdeveloped countries rely heavily on long expert assignments. The attempt to organise all censuses within a short period caused an unduly heavy recruitment problem at UN Headquarters. A further effect was the scheduling of censuses in some countries at times which were not convenient in the light of local situations. Delays due to recruitment problems and local difficulties have in fact led to some phasing of the programme which could have been envisaged at an earlier stage.

154. On the credit side, the African Census Programme will almost certainly give the region better and more complete basic demographic data than it has ever had before, a wider interest has been created in statistical operations and problems, and countries are gaining a great deal of practical experience in field survey work. From the point of view of both advantages and disadvantages, the census programme therefore has to be regarded as a guideline for future statistical development activities.

155. The need for a further large scale programme has already appeared in respect of household data which are one of the principal gaps in African statistics. It has to be borne in mind that demographic statistics alone are of limited value for development purposes. They have to be examined with other social and economic data in a fully inter-related manner. Other relevant factors are the repeated requests made by countries and the Conference of African Statisticians for assistance in developing household surveys and the unified approach of the International Development Strategy to economic and social development. More recently, the World Population Conference emphasised the relationship between population and development.

156. In the light of these factors the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians in November 1973 considered a draft proposal for evolving a post-census programme of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics through household surveys. For brevity, the project has come to be known as the African Household Surveys Programme.

157. The Conference gave its full support and requested the organisation of a Working Group on Methodology, Organisation and Content of Household Surveys in 1974 to determine technical and practical details. In addition a Household Surveys Programme Steering Committee was established at ECA Headquarters to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach and adequate co-ordination with other field activities.

158. The Working Group met in September 1974. It considered that all essential household data requirements could be met through repetitive programmes of surveys in which each cycle would take approximately four years. Recommendations were made on the development of permanent field survey organisations, survey methodology and the timing of household survey efforts in relation to other inquiries.

The Group also drew up a provisional timetable and cost plan for the overall programme and requested further action with respect to financial and other arrangements.

159. The practical objective of the programme is to assist individual countries in establishing ongoing household survey capabilities to ensure a continuing supply of inter-related household data. The work will therefore include technical assistance projects at the country level and a regional supporting service, as well as the normal administrative and technical support of UN Headquarters.

160. However the programme will differ in some important respects from its predecessor in the population census field. Continuing survey programmes involve less organisational work than population censuses and it is intended that a strong regional advisory team will make it unnecessary to recruit large numbers of country experts. The Working Group also expressed the view that this team could operate more effectively from strategic points throughout the region than from ECA Headquarters.

161. Secondly, countries will not be encouraged to embark on household surveys before they have completed their censuses, so operations are likely to build up in a natural manner rather than in the forced context of an emergency programme. It is estimated that around ten African countries could participate in the very near future, while at least another 20 could benefit from the scheme in a few years time. However it is important to provide the nucleus of a regional advisory team as soon as possible to avoid the accumulation of a backlog of work.

162. A third consideration is that the new programme is aimed at the collection of a very much wider variety of data than the census programme, so a rather flexible multi-disciplinary approach is essential. This flexibility necessarily extends beyond the scope of household surveys because the establishment of permanent field survey organisations will also provide better facilities for collecting statistics of industry, prices, etc.

163. The fourth main difference lies in the financial arrangements for the programme. Because of the broad subject coverage it is not envisaged that any single agency will serve as principal sponsor. It is hoped that the United Nations funds concerned with population questions and economic and social development will take an active interest in the programme as a whole, but operations in individual countries will also provide wide scope for assistance from all kinds of international and bilateral sources. There is also the further point that, by participating in the programme, African countries will commit themselves to maintaining permanent survey capabilities; there is little point in making the effort to develop such capabilities unless they are intended as long term data sources.

164. The foregoing descriptions of the African Census Programme and its successor in the field of household surveys have been presented with the intention of showing how the earlier methods of assisting African statistical development can be improved through the use of operational programmes with specific objectives. The lessons learned so far are that it is unwise to concentrate such programmes too much in restricted subject fields and that rigidity in organisational concepts and arrangements should be avoided. The African Household Surveys Programme overcomes these difficulties, but presents a new problem in terms of its need for support from a number of donor agencies and countries. This should not be too difficult in view of the enthusiasm widely expressed for the proposals.

165. Both the census and household survey programmes concern the collection of information at the household level. The only other group to which official surveys are normally directed comprises business enterprises and their constituent establishments. A somewhat similar programme could easily be envisaged for improving the statistics on their activities.

166. It does not seem reasonable to extend the present argument to cover the development of statistics from administrative sources or derived compilations such as national accounts. These call for only a few persons with expert knowledge and organisational ability in each country, and requirements can be met through training and regional advisory assistance, with the support of country experts where necessary.

167. The arrangements outlined above should be sufficient to cover most of the development requirements of African statistics, but they have to be considered in relation to the organisational problems discussed earlier in the paper. Improved data collection and processing can be achieved only when there is a general understanding of the need for statistics and national co-ordination of all relevant activities. A pre-requisite is for statisticians to gain the confidence of their governments by demonstrating that they can make the best use of information already available.

#### SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATIONS

168. Assistance given to African statistics in the period before independence left the English speaking countries in a more fortunate position than the French because efforts were directed more to the development of permanent statistical services than special inquiries and studies. Much of the work throughout the region was concentrated on data from administrative sources, but a start was made on establishment and household statistics.

169. After independence the primary concern was the training of African professional and middle level statisticians. At the same time international and bilateral technical assistance was expanded to help the development of statistics in particular fields including industry, population, agriculture and national accounts. Towards the end of the 1960s there was growing awareness of the need for a statistical and economic information service at regional level.

170. More recently, the unified approach to economic and social development of the International Development Strategy and the national, regional and global reporting arrangements of the Second UN Development Decade have promoted the re-orientation of statistical programmes along more comprehensive and integrated lines.

171. However the most tangible effects on African statistics are likely to result from world economic changes and problems, including trade, monetary questions, primary commodity prices and inflation. They will not only encourage the improvement of national statistics, but are also demonstrating that the region must act in a concerted manner, which has clear implications for the regional data service.

172. The new country programming approach of the UN Development Programme has so far limited the extent of statistical assistance at national and regional levels. The somewhat separate activities of UN and its specialised agencies have made it

difficult for governments to establish integrated statistical programmes. In addition, emphasis placed on assistance in individual subject fields has tended to cause some imbalance in statistical activity.

173. Countries of the region must now determine the importance they wish to attach to statistics as a basis for economic and social development planning, short term economic management and administration, and as a service for private business. They also have to specify subject priorities in the form of overall statistical programmes, preferably within the context of national development plans. They should also support the establishment of a strong regional statistical service, because economically small countries cannot easily assess their individual positions in the world situation and their separate negotiating powers are limited.

174. Since 1961 there has been a continuing input to statistical development in the form of training, concentrating first on relieving an acute shortage of middle level statisticians and later expanding to produce professional staff at institutions in the region. The statistical training programme has achieved its original numerical objectives, but national statistical services still have staff problems due to loss of personnel.

175. Better results might have been achieved if severely practical training at the professional level had been given first priority. This would have given better continuity in the leadership of statistical services, as well as scope for the in-service training of middle level personnel instead of using expensive regional institutions. Against this is the general requirement that training should be broad enough to qualify capable persons for more advanced studies. However it is unwise for African education and training to follow the arrangements of developed countries too closely and there is a further need for improvement in secondary school facilities.

176. Country technical assistance experts provided by international and bilateral agencies have also made a significant contribution to African statistics. In recent years there has been a marked shift towards assignments in population statistics; other fields such as industrial statistics and sample surveys have received relatively little attention.

177. Regional advisory services have effectively supplemented the work of country experts, but are also currently concentrated on population statistics. However the position is likely to improve with the introduction of a new and broader programme aimed at the development of continuing household surveys. The use of regional advisers can greatly reduce the requirements for country experts and is also a better means of co-ordinating activities between countries and promoting the adoption of standardised definitions, classifications, etc.

178. A further input to statistical development is the application of standard methodology. Seminars and working groups are the most usual means of providing specialised training and developing regional adaptations. ECA has conducted some 54 technical statistical meetings, among which emphasis has been placed on national accounts and population statistics. African countries believe these meetings to be of considerable value and appreciate that in future they will have to assume more technical and financial responsibility for their organisation.

179. In many countries close links have been established between statistics and planning, but the statistical offices are often in a subordinate position. Also only about half the countries of the region have any kind of field organisation and there is a strong tendency to decentralise statistical activities. The link with planning agencies and decentralisation both help to make more funds available for statistics, but have disadvantages in some loss of independence and co-ordination.

180. Although national statistical offices have primary responsibility for domestic data services, they are facing increasing demands for regional and global statistics. This is justified because individual countries are ultimately the principal users of these statistics in evaluating their positions in overall production, trading and other situations. However internationally co-ordinated data are useful only if they are up-to-date.

181. The UN System of National Accounts provides guidance in the collection, presentation and analysis of economic data. A system of social and demographic statistics is currently under development. However more emphasis is now being placed on the practical requirement of collecting basic information and on the use of field surveys in this connection. Revised recommendations on statistical series to be collected in developing countries are in course of preparation.

182. One of ECA's principal concerns at the present time is to obtain up-to-date information on African countries. Data from all possible sources are amalgamated to produce estimates of the regional situation at the end of each year. This involves additional data collection activities at regional level, but no difficulty is envisaged in co-ordinating these with the international reporting arrangements.

183. The availability of statistics from African countries is improving, but there are still notable gaps in social statistics and severe delays in national accounts, balance of payments, manufacturing production and other figures.

184. External trade is probably the most important field in which statistics are needed. These data are fairly well developed in Africa, but many improvements are required to bring them to their full potential.

185. Demographic statistics come next in importance and efforts are already being made to improve them. However, broader information on household sectors remains the principal deficiency in African statistics. It is an important constraint on plan and policy formulation, particularly in view of the unified approach to economic and social development. Household data are also relevant in reducing the dual nature of African economies and better information is needed on household income, structure, consumption and productive activity as a basis for assessing the effects of particular projects, economic controls and policies.

186. Other problems of African statistics lie in assessing the results of service activities and in the unsatisfactory coverage of price, industrial and employment statistics. In national accounts there are special difficulties relating to timeliness, standardisation, and their application as an analytical tool. Two specially weak branches of national accounts are balance of payments and capital formation.



187. The most promising solution to the organisational and technical problems enumerated above is to establish a continuing review in each country of statistical requirements and programmes through a standing inter-agency committee consisting of senior officials under the chairmanship of a well-respected minister. The objectives of such a committee are to determine the place of statistics within the overall context of government operations, to establish a fully co-ordinated programme of work which may involve a number of ministries and departments and, in so doing, to promote a better understanding of what the statistical service has to offer.

188. Committee work is time-consuming, but the time is well spent if it results in more resources for statistical development. The existence of a committee does not result in loss of responsibility by government statisticians and there are many practical advantages.

189. In adopting this approach consideration must be given to (1) immediate objectives which do not call for any great increase in existing statistical resources and (2) longer term development which requires expansion of data collection and processing capabilities and possibly the introduction of better methodology.

190. With regard to (1) use can be made of the data already available in statistical offices and other government agencies. Its earlier publication and distribution would result in an immediate improvement in African statistics, which alone would justify the steering committee operations suggested above.

191. The longer term development envisaged in (2) normally requires co-operation between the statistical office and other government agencies. For this, a formal means of inter-agency co-ordination is necessary.

192. The foregoing considerations lead to the following requirements for the improvement of African statistics:

- (1) Co-ordination and acceleration of all national data collection and publication, which can be achieved without significant additional resources.
- (2) Improvement of external trade statistics with respect to both timeliness and coverage.
- (3) Fulfilment of current commitments with respect to population censuses and implementation of necessary follow-up operations.
- (4) Rationalisation and expansion of direct data collection from households and establishments through the development of permanent field survey organisations, with the objectives of securing continuing supplies of integrated demographic, social and related economic data, and extending the coverage of statistics of industry, prices, etc.
- (5) Standardisation of national accounting arrangements, improvement of data on particular components, and the more active use of national accounts for the examination of economic trends and problems on an up-to-date basis.

193. These requirements can be met satisfactorily only through the use of standing inter-agency committees for the planning and co-ordination of statistical work at the national level. Statistics has to be regarded as an essential national service in which agencies throughout the governmental system participate under the leadership of the central statistical office.

194. The output of the regional statistical service operated by ECA comprises regular publications, statistical studies intended to fill some of the more important data gaps, and responses to ad hoc requests for information. Essential aspects of the work are the collection of up-to-date information and the provision of national accounts estimates for the whole region. The estimates are progressively refined in the light of new material and are made in collaboration with other international agencies. There are continuing efforts to encourage the participation of African countries in this work.

195. The three principal agencies concerned with African data on external trade are the International Trade Centre of the UN Statistical Office, the Statistical Office of the European Economic Community and ECA. All have their own publications at different levels of coverage and detail and there is a growing need to centralise comprehensive trade data for the region. It is not practicable to increase the bulk of ECA publications, so the aim will be to achieve complete coverage of intra-African trade and to treat other movements of goods more selectively. The comprehensive information to be included in the ECA store of trade statistics will be used for analytical work, but its development is dependent on improved computer facilities to enable the exchange of information on magnetic tape. In addition, countries of the region need assistance in providing better trade data more quickly.

196. Attention is being given to development of the regional store of general statistical data. Material will be computerised as far as possible, but many manual records will have to be maintained for some time to come. An integrated multi-subject data bank will take a long time to develop.

197. The statistical studies mentioned earlier are proving an effective and popular means of providing information on topics for which regular series do not yet exist. They also serve as guidelines for the improvement of national statistics. It is important that both national and regional statistical activities should respond to changes in data requirements in a flexible manner, but foresight is needed for the effective organisation of data collection.

198. United Nations assistance in applying international statistical recommendations has hitherto taken the form of country and regional expert services, seminars and training courses, plus material assistance where appropriate. In addition, world census programmes have been used to encourage the collection of benchmark data in various fields.

199. A somewhat different kind of assistance has been initiated by the African Census Programme which is intended to help countries unable to participate in the 1970 round of population censuses. The difference arises from the size of the programme, the inclusion of a contribution to local costs and the existence of specially organised regional supporting services.

200. Operational difficulties encountered in the census programme have provided a number of practical lessons in the organisation of large scale assistance to statistical development. These lessons are being applied in evolving a post-

census programme of integrated demographic, social and related economic statistics through household surveys.

201. The new programme will aim to establish permanent field survey organisations in African countries. It will rely on a strong regional advisory service rather than country experts, and it will be organised in a phased manner to avoid undue fluctuations in work loads. Its wide subject coverage necessitates a multi-disciplinary approach and also financing by a number of donor agencies and countries.

202. In general, it appears that earlier methods of assisting African statistical development can be improved through the use of operational programmes with specific objectives. However such programmes should not be concentrated too much in restricted subject fields and flexibility is needed in organisational concepts and arrangements. In addition to the census and household survey programmes, a somewhat similar effort could be envisaged for the improvement of establishment statistics.

203. Programmes of assistance are not the key to statistical development. A prerequisite is that African statisticians should endeavour to solve their basic organisational problems and to gain the confidence of their governments by dealing with existing data more expeditiously.

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...and the fact that the *Journal* is a journal of the American Psychological Association, the largest and most influential of the professional organizations in the field of psychology, is a source of great strength and authority.

[illegible]

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ANNEX

Latest Year of Statistical Information for National Economic Data Summaries, as at December 1973

Country	National accounts	External trade	Electricity production	Mineral production	Agricultural production <sup>a/</sup>	Manufacturing production <sup>b/</sup>	Transport	Mined on	Health facilities	Public Finance <sup>c/</sup>	Banking and finance	Balance of payments	Year
Algeria	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1972	1972	1972	1971/2	1972	1971/2	1972/3	1969	1973	1972	1972	1967
Angola	...	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972	1971/2	1970/1	1971	1971	1972	1971	1969
Benin	1971/2	1971/2 <sup>d/</sup>	1971	1972	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1968/9	1969/71	1970	1971	1973/4	1971/2	1966	1972
Burundi	1970	1972	1972	1972	1972	1970	1971/2	1970/1	1971	1973	1972	1972	1972
Cameroon	1970/1	1972	1972	1971	1972	1970/1	1972	1972/2	1971	1973/4	1972	1966	1972
Central African Republic	1970	1971	1972	1972	1972/3	1972	1971/2	1972/3	1970	1973	1972	1971	1972
Chad	1970	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1971/2	1971/2	1972	1973	1972	1971	1972
Congo	1970	1971	1972	1972	1971/2	1971	1971/2	1971/2	1965	1973	1972	1968	1972
Dahomey	1970/1	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1972	No production	1972/3	1970	1971/2	1971/2	1970	1973	1972	1971	-
Equatorial Guinea	1970/1	1972	1972/2	1971/2	1972	1971	1971/2	1972/3	1970	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Gabon	1971	1972	1972	1972	1971	1971	1971/2	1972	1972	1973	1972	1970	1972
Gambia	1972/2	1972/3	1968/9	No production	1972/3	1970/1	1970	1972/3	1972	1973/4	1972	1971/2	1971/2
Ghana	1971	1972	1971	1972	1972	1969	1971	1971/2	1969	1972/3	1972	1972	1972
Guinea	1972	1972	1971	1972	1971/2	-	1972	1968	1969	1970	-	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	1971	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1969/70	1969	1973	1972	1971	1972
Ivory Coast	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1969	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Kenya	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1973/4	1972	1971/2	1972
Lesotho	1971/2	1972	1967	1972	1972	1971/2	1972	1972	1972	1973/4	-	1971/2	1972
Liberia	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972
Libya	1971	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1971	1972	1971	1970	1970/2	1971/2	1971	1972	1972	1971	1972
Madagascar	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1971/2	1971/2	1971	1972	1972	1971	1972
Malawi	1972	1972	1972	No production	1972	1972	1972	1971	1968	1973/4	1972	1971	1972
Mali	1970	1972	1972	No production	1972	1969	1970/2	1969/70	1968	1973	1972	1968	1972
Mauritania	1968	1972	1972	1972	1972	1968	1972	1972/3	1969	1973	1972	1972	1972
Mauritius	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Morocco	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Mozambique	...	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1973	1972	1972	1972
Namibia	1965	1972	-	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971/2	1970	1969/70	-	-	-
Niger	1970	1972	1972	1972	1972/3	1964	1970/2	1969	1969	1973	1972	1969	1972
Nigeria	1972/3	1972	1972	1972	1972/2	1972	1972	1972	1971	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Rhodesia	1972	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1972	1972	1972	1972	1969/72	1972	1966	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Senegal	1970	1972	1971	1972	1972	1971	1972	1971/2	1971	1972	1972	1972	1968
Sierra Leone	1971/2	1972	1972	1972	1972/3	1972	1971/2	1970/1	1971	1973/4	1972	1968	1972
Senegal	-	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1972	1972	1972	1972	1969/71	1971/2	1971	1972/3	1972	1971	1972
South Africa	1972	1972	1972	No production	1971	1971	1971	1971/2	1971	1972	1972	1972	1972
Sweden	1970/1	1972	1972	1972	1972/3	1972	1971/2	1972	1966	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Swaziland	1970/1	1972	1971	1972	1971/2	1972	1971/2	1972	1971	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Tanzania	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972/3	1972	1964/9	1971/2
Togo	1970	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972	1972	1971	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Tunisia	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972	1970/1	1971	1973	1972	1969	1972
Uganda	1971	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1972	1970/1	1971	1973	1972	1972	1972
Upper Volta	1970 <sup>d/</sup>	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971	1970/2	1972	1971	1973/4	1972	1972	1972
Zaire	1971	1972 <sup>d/</sup>	1972	No production	1972/3	1972	1971/2	1972	1971	1973/4	1972	1971	1972
Zambia	1971	1972	1972	1972	1972	1972	1971/2	1971/2	1969	1973	1972	1972	1972

<sup>a/</sup> Main commercial crops in most cases.

<sup>b/</sup> May cover only certain products, or the contribution of manufacturing to GNP, or details of the index of production.

<sup>c/</sup> Budget estimates normally.

<sup>d/</sup> Included with totals for South Africa.

<sup>e/</sup> Fish products (a major industry in Namibia).

<sup>f/</sup> Annual estimates based on partial year or data for partial year only. Also figures may cover only details of exports and imports.

<sup>g/</sup> In FIB. (Gross Internal Production)

<sup>h/</sup> Cattle slaughtered or exported (the main agricultural industry).