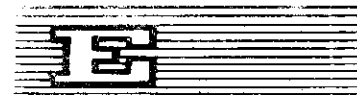




UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.14/STPA/7
E/CN.14/PSD.1/15
28 November 1979

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First session of the Joint Conference
of African Planners, Statisticians and
Demographers.

Addis-Ababa, 24 March - 2 April 1980

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

Addis Ababa, 22-26 October 1979

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK - - - - -	1-4	1
Opening and duration of the meeting - - - - -	1	1
Attendance - - - - -	2-3	1
Election of officers - - - - -	4	1
B. AGENDA - - - - -	5	1
C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS - - - - -	6-11	2
Opening address - - - - -	6-11	2
D. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STPA - - -	12-21	3
E. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON STATISTICAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND RELATED INQUIRIES - - - - -	22-33	4
F. CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PROGRAMME - -	34-106	7
(a) Selection procedures - - - - -	34-48	7
(b) Syllabuses - - - - -	49-58	9
(c) Fellowships for STPA - - - - -	59-85	10
(d) In-service training - - - - -	86-89	14
(e) Short-term courses and seminars - - - - -	90-96	15
(f) New areas of statistical development - - - - -	97-106	16

CONTENTS
(Continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
G. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES	107-117	17
H. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STPA - - -	118-130	19
I. OTHER BUSINESS - - - - -	131-136	21
J. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT - - - - -	137	21

ANNEXES: I. RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRES PARTICIPATING
IN THE STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (STPA)

II. OPENING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

IV. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

V. LIST OF DIRECTORS OF STATISTICAL TRAINING CENTRES PARTICIPATING IN STPA

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The meeting of Directors of Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 22 to 26 October 1979. The meeting was opened on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa by Mr. W.L. Booker, Chief, Statistics Division.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by the Director or representatives of the following centres: Department of Statistics, University of Botswana and Swaziland, Gaborone; Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan; Ibadan; Department of Statistics and Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Legon; Department of Statistics, National University of Lesotho, Maseru; Dar es Salaam; Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Makerere University, Kampala; European Centre for Advanced Training in Statistics and Economics for Developing countries (CESD), Paris; Abidjan School of Statistics, Abidjan; Institute of Statistics, Planning and Applied Economics (ISPEA), Yaounde; and Institute of Planning and Applied Economics Technique (ITPEA), Algiers.

3. Angola and the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for developing countries were also represented. Observers from the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commission of European Communities and the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), United Kingdom attended the meeting.

Election of officers

4. Dr. Sam Tulya-Muhika, Director of ISAE (Uganda) was elected Chairman of the meeting, with Mr. Paul Ngogang, Director of ISPEA (United Republic of Cameroon) as Vice-Chairman and Mr. R.K. Pillai, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, University College of Botswana (Botswana), as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

5. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening address
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Progress report on the implementation of the STPA
5. Dissemination of information on statistical training activities and related inquiries

6. Co-operative development of teaching programme
 - (a) Selection procedures
 - (b) Syllabuses
 - (c) Fellowships for STPA
 - (d) In-service training
 - (e) Specialized training and short-term courses
 - (f) New areas of statistical development
7. Special provision for Portuguese-speaking countries
8. Technical and financial assistance to the STPA
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the report

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening address

6. In his opening address read by the Chief, Statistics Division, the ECA Executive Secretary recalled that the aim of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) is to develop and co-ordinate a network of training facilities capable of meeting the national requirements of the region for competent statistical staff and to ensure that the centres participating in the programme become self-supporting..

7. The Executive Secretary indicated that the programme has now been operational for about one year and hope that the present meeting of Directors will provide a convenient forum to review the progress and to discuss problems facing it and their solutions.

8. The Executive Secretary noted with pleasure that a number of national and international donor agencies had sent representatives to the meeting. He pointed out that one of the difficulties experienced in the past had been that of establishing effective and viable procedures so that the interest expressed by donors may be translated into actual flows of funds for fellowships for students, for the training of counterpart teaching staff, for provision of lecturers and for other forms of assistance.

9. The Executive Secretary considered that the meeting also provided a good opportunity to discuss in detail the curricula of the Centres. He also invited the participants to examine how the STPA centres could contribute to the training of personnel for the Household Survey Capability Programme in whose preparation ECA has played a leading role.

10. The Executive Secretary thought that the Portuguese-speaking countries should not be allowed to develop a feeling that they might be neglected in STPA and accordingly suggested that the meeting should come out with useful proposals for establishing special assistance for those countries.

11. Finally the Executive Secretary wished the meeting every success in its consideration of the various items on its agenda.

D. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STPA

12. A representative of the secretariat submitted the report on implementation activities of STPA contained in the E/CN.14/STPA/1 document. This document gives an account of action already undertaken, especially with regard to programme organization, including the establishment of the regional component, appraisal of centre's needs and preliminary negotiations with donor agencies, curriculum development and surveys related to statistical training problems. The secretariat representative drew the attention of participants particularly to the problem of fellowships. He indicated that the centres will have to increase their capacity by about 60 per cent in the next ten years. He finally pointed out that the activities undertaken during the first STPA implementation year were exploratory and were aimed at defining a co-ordinated approach to the various problems that existed.
13. Participants at the meeting unanimously congratulated the secretariat for the highly significant work it had accomplished in the initial stage of the programme.
14. The phrases 'participating centres' and 'participating countries' were explained at the request of several delegates. The participating centres comprise the twelve statistical training centres currently members of STPA. Some flexibility was needed however in order to allow for the admission of new members or withdrawal of any current members of the programme. Participating countries are user countries who are members of ECA, and host countries. It was observed that some students are refugees who are nationals of countries not members of ECA.
15. In answer to a question, the secretariat indicated that the needs of Southern African countries have been taken into account and that details could be found in annex I of E/CN.14/STPA/5 on Financial and Technical Assistance to STPA.
16. The Director of the Department of Statistics, University of Ghana, informed the participants that a project document has been prepared with the assistance of ECA for expanding his centre and will shortly be submitted to the appropriate authorities in the country. It was confirmed to him that the project featured under paragraph 9 subparagraph 6 of the document under study referred to the project he had just mentioned.
17. The Director of the Makerere Institute expressed his appreciation to ECA for the support it had given to his centre. He indicated that his Institute will shortly be launching a post-graduate training programme. He also expressed his concern over counterpart training leading to the termination of external expert assistance and stressed the need for continuing the services of experts from other countries for the successful training of professional level statisticians.
18. The Deputy Director of CESD specified in reference to paragraph 17 of the document that ECA had not been invited to the meeting of directors of francophone centres which was held this year in Paris because that meeting was limited to the participation of the Director of IAMSEA (Kigali), of ISPRA (Yaounde) and of the Ecole Statistique d'Abidjan, as opposed to the June 1978 meeting which was extended to the other francophone centres in the region.

19. At the invitation of participants, the representative of the Commission of the European Communities stated that each African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) country had a national training programme under the Lomé Convention. Each Government could include in the programme the number of fellowships it needed for statistical training. This question will be further considered under item 6(c) of the agenda.

20. The meeting felt that it would be helpful to invite some representatives of user countries to their deliberations. The secretariat had arranged for this but the people invited had not yet arrived at the time of discussing this item on the agenda. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was yet another occasion for Directors of Statistics and Directors of Training Centres to meet. The participants suggested that the latter should also be invited to other meetings of statisticians.

21. Finally, the meeting recommended that, in pursuing STPA activities, emphasis should be laid on the three following aspects: hostel facilities for students, candidate selection procedures and fellowship problems.

E. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON STATISTICAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND RELATED INQUIRIES

22. This topic was introduced by the secretariat and reference was made to the Directory of Statistical Training Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA). The aim of the directory is co-ordination of statistical training activities in the region. It had been noted by the working group to review statistical training needs in Africa which met at Munich in August 1977 that the main reasons for the minimal participation of foreign students in the activities of statistical training centres were as follows:

- (i) Lack of knowledge about the existence and the nature of some training facilities available;
- (ii) Inadequate specific information on entry requirements in some cases;
- (iii) Fixed quotas for foreign students;
- (iv) Lack of scholarship awards.

23. The Directory aims at encouraging member States to take advantage of existing facilities for training statistical personnel needed to support the preparation and implementation of national development plans. It will be sent to the statistical offices of member States and to donor Governments and agencies. It will be updated and published every two years. In addition, brief information items will be included in the "Notice sur la formation" published quarterly by the Public Administration, Management and Manpower Division.

24. For each centre participating in the activities of STPA, the directory itemizes data under the following headings:

- (i) Official title of training institution;
- (ii) Name of institution to which it is attached;

- (iii) Full address of institution, with post office box number, telegraphic code and telephone number;
- (iv) Name of head of institution;
- (v) Objectives;
- (vi) Brief history of institution with date of establishment and source of financing;
- (vii) Teaching staff;
- (viii) Educational programme provided, duration of training, regulations, summary of courses;
- (ix) Entry requirements and student intake at each level of study;
- (x) Fees;
- (xi) Procedures for the award of scholarships;
- (xii) Boarding conditions;
- (xiii) Any other information of general nature.

25. The secretariat also mentioned a second study aimed to produce better information on statistical training requirements. That study deals with statistical organization in the African region with emphasis on staff problems. The final report will enable revision of STPA activities. The number of replies received is not yet sufficient for a comprehensive analysis of the situation in the region.

26. In view of the continuing transfer of statisticians from national statistical services to other branches of government and the private sector, the policy established for STPA was expansion of training facilities to a level which would meet all national requirements for statistical personnel.

27. After this brief introduction, the representatives of training centres present at the meeting were asked to comment on the information supplied in the directory and to update the data when applicable. The representative of CESD in Paris supplemented the information in the directory by indicating that his centre assists the three African institutes in Kigali, Yaounde and Abidjan in organizing an open competitive entrance examination; the deliberations of the selection board are held in Paris. CESD also assists development of the training centres in French-speaking Africa by organizing and financing short lecturing missions in collaboration with the "Institut national de Statistique et des Etudes Economiques" (INSEE). In the field of research and economic analysis, arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Co-operation for students to undertake research and one topic is a comparison of purchasing powers in selected African countries under the guidance of an EEC consultant. Another role of the CESD is to co-ordinate at the European level the practical training activities offered by various institutions for professional statisticians in third world countries. The CESD representative also indicated that the plan set up for educational programme reform is currently being implemented.

28. With respect to the Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan, it was mentioned that the entire training programme of the country at all levels is currently being examined. The outcome of this exercise, which will be communicated to ECA, will determine more precisely the country's priority needs. The three

programmes offered by the centre are designed to maintain a judicious balance between theory and practice, applications being emphasized. The post-graduate programme is specifically meant for non-statistics graduates with limited statistics backgrounds who wish to further their knowledge with a view to:

- (i) Becoming career statisticians;
- (ii) Achieving a higher level of competence when already practising as statisticians; and
- (iii) Preparing themselves for further graduate work in statistics.

Programmes of seminars and workshops are also run for personnel in government and other agencies. Less emphasis is being placed on certificate oriented training at the intermediate level since the Polytechnics now offer programmes at this level. Detailed documents in respect of items 9, 10 and 11 of the directory were submitted.

29. The Director of the Statistics Department at the University College of Botswana pointed out that his centre can cater for more students.

30. Documents on the statistical programmes and courses run at the University College of Botswana in Gaborone and the "Institut de Statistique, de Planification et d'Economie Appliquée" (ISPEA) in Yaoundé were circulated at the meeting.

31. The representative of the National University of Lesotho indicated that a Lesotho Institute of Southern African Studies is under active consideration. This institute will be attached to the University. An important function of this institute will be to act as a data base and data analysis centre for the subregion. The Statistics Department will no doubt be called upon to play an important role in this respect. The University is also expecting a consultant from Britain to visit the statistics department for two weeks at the beginning of January 1980 to assess the programme. The department also wishes to develop courses in health statistics (biostatistics) and economic and business statistics. Also, the diploma and certificate programmes will be developed in accordance with manpower needs. The University will welcome any input which can contribute to their efforts.

32. On behalf of the "Institut des Techniques de Planification et d'Economie Appliquée" (ITPEA) in Algiers, the Director pointed out the necessity of setting up an appropriate infrastructure at the Institute for the training of trainers effective from September 1980. In this respect the Institute hoped to secure assistance from UNDP. To broaden its field of activities, ITPEA intended to set up:

- (i) A sub-professional training programme starting in September 1980; and
- (ii) A research unit.

The Institute also has been developing a plan to reinforce the teaching programmes at the professional level.

33. In concluding the discussion it was agreed that the directors of centres will supply ECA with other information which may help to make their centres better known and will attach supporting course material. It was also agreed that two versions - one in English and the other in French - of the directory, giving detailed and complete information about each centre participating in STPA, should be published and periodically revised.

F. CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING PROGRAMME

(a) Selection procedures

34. The paper 'Co-operative Development of the Training Programme' E/CN.14/STPA/3, was presented in four parts, the first being 'Selection Procedures' under item 6(a) of the agenda. In the presentation of this section, reference was made to the fact that, in view of the comparatively short time, about one year, that the STPA had become operational, it might be considered premature to review the development of training activities. However, the opportunity provided by this meeting of directors to obtain authoritative opinions on the matters considered was too good to be missed. Reference was made to the report of the working group on statistical training needs in Africa adopted by the tenth session of the Conference of African Statisticians in its recommendation that training courses should have a practical orientation.

35. A great deal was to be learned from the experience of statistically developed countries such as France, United Kingdom and United States of America, but this experience in training needed to be adapted to the particular requirements of the African region.

36. In comparing admission requirements for non-professional training, it was noted that scholastic standards for French-speaking and English-speaking centres were comparable. French-speaking centres (e.g. Abidjan) referred to seven years of secondary education in either:

- (i) Mathematics;
- (ii) Experimental Science; or
- (iii) Economic Science;

whilst English-speaking centres (e.g. Dar es Salaam) stated passes at GCE 'O' level in Mathematics and English Language as minimum requirements.

37. A point of interest was that the Dar es Salaam Centre required one year's working experience in a statistical office for admission to the middle-level course. This was considered a valuable provision to ensure that the student would obtain maximum benefit from the course and to increase the likelihood of his remaining in statistical work after obtaining his qualification.

38. It was pointed out that some centres were prepared to exempt students from scholastic requirements on the grounds of maturity or experience. This was necessary for many countries where secondary education had not progressed as far as in other countries. It would be difficult to find a sufficient number of qualified candidates in such countries without a system of exemptions. Too rigid an adherence to high entrance standards would be self-defeating for educationally less developed countries, whose immediate need for statistical workers was great.

39. The same held true of entrance examinations which were a requirement in both types of non-professional level centres.

40. Such exemptions necessitated resort to other selection procedures, e.g., selection boards and personal interviews, which, if carefully carried out, could provide a good assessment of a candidate's capabilities.

41. At the professional level, a comparison of admission requirements for the ITS course at French-speaking centres and the B.Stat course at the Makerere Institute did not reveal too much disparity. The ITS course required baccalaureat in:

- (i) Mathematics;
- (ii) Experimental Science; or
- (iii) Economic Science;

whilst the B.Stat course required GCE A level passes, including mathematics.

42. Provision was made at Makerere for the substitution of certain equivalent qualifications. At the French-speaking centres, those students falling short of the required qualifications could be admitted to a one-year preparatory course to enable them to make up such deficiencies.

43. Some English-speaking centres admitted students with O level passes, thus enabling countries having difficulty in finding candidates with A level qualifications to participate. However, it was pointed out that such centres followed a four year degree programme instead of three years to make this possible. In some cases there was also a mature age entry procedure. Other English-speaking centres that ran three year bachelor degree programmes required A level entrance qualifications.

44. In connexion with certain English-speaking centres admitting candidates with O level qualifications to professional courses, the first year was in effect a preliminary year to enable students to attain a similar stage to that of A level students at the end of the year, the course lasting four years instead of three.

45. In the subsequent discussion it was pointed out that this was one of the most difficult questions to be dealt with, particularly where university requirements had to be met. There it was desirable for these to be made more flexible while still complying with the university arrangements.

46. Reference was made to exemptions from entrance examinations by certain centres for foreign students, because of the difficulty of holding such examinations. CESD held such examinations at different centres successfully, careful organization being necessary.

47. The requirements of one year's working experience before a course was praised, but it was considered valuable for candidates to be identified one year before participation, so that they might be given the opportunity of obtaining wide experience during that year and not working merely in some narrow field. The opinion was expressed that it was a pity that heads of national statistical offices were not present to express their opinions on this matter. It was pointed out that the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers in March 1980 would provide an appropriate opportunity for the consideration of such matters.

48. In response to a query as to the purpose lying behind the inclusion of this topic in the agenda, it was stated that it was not advocated that rigid standards for entrance requirements should be laid down, for each centre had its own particular needs to consider, but rather that benefits should be obtained from the pooling of

experience. Thus it became clear after the discussions that there are mainly four paths for the selection procedures, viz: (a) fixing the prerequisite qualifications; (b) setting up of equivalences for different qualifications; (c) providing mature-age entry possibility with entrance examinations and/or interviews; and (d) exempting from requirements but providing some sort of pre-entry preparatory training. Centres may sometimes adopt a combination of more than one of the above especially when the student comes from a foreign country.

(b) Syllabuses

49. In presenting the second part of the paper 'Co-operative Development of Training Activities' it was observed that in the next few months it was intended to conduct a thorough review of curricula at STPA centres. This would involve collection of information on curricula, examination of this material with directors of centres and provision of suggested syllabuses where appropriate.

50. In the present paper, curricula were compared at the two levels, sub-professional and professional for a French-speaking and an English-speaking centre. It was noteworthy that at the sub-professional level, the proportions of time devoted to statistical subjects were comparable, about 50 per cent for the English-speaking centre and 30 per cent for the French-speaking centre.

51. In general, it was considered that syllabuses for ancillary subjects such as mathematics, economics and accounting should follow the principle that topics should only be included to enable students to understand the material in the statistical courses, such as statistical methods, sampling and survey techniques and applied statistics. This should be the case for courses at the sub-professional level in particular. The inclusion of practical work and field projects was considered important. In fact, there should be a judicious balance between theory and practical work.

52. Discussion then produced further elucidation of the positions of different centres. It was explained that CESD offered in the third year of the ISE course 50 different subjects from which a student could build up a programme to suit his particular needs. This was far from a rigid specialization in one special field. At the centre in Ghana, whilst the certificate and diploma courses were practically oriented, it was admitted that the degree course was less so but efforts were being made to correct this. At Makerere there were two types of degree courses, B.Stat which was practically orientated and intended to produce well qualified statisticians to work in government and similar offices and B.Sc. (including statistics) which was of a more general nature. At the Lesotho centre there were two kinds of degrees relevant to this type of qualification, those in statistics with mathematics and these in statistics with economics. It was considered that the latter were more useful as a qualification for the practising professional statistician. Reference was made to a publication "Demystifying Social Statistics" which dealt with the question of marrying theory and practice.

53. One suggestion offered was that as far as feasible sub-professional courses should be shifted from University institutions and carried out in technical colleges.

54. Some discussion centred around the timing of mathematics instruction in relation to that in other subjects. The Ibadan centre referred to the three-year course there in which in the first year basic mathematics was taught as an introduction to

statistics; in the second year emphasis shifted more towards statistics; and the third and final year in which the instruction was all in statistics. Students were also required to take courses in subject matter areas such as economics, particularly in the first year and to a lesser extent in the second year.

55. The view was expressed that there should be a balance between theory and practice at the professional level as well. The subject of statistics is to be considered as the technical component, whilst that of economics as the cultural component. The balance thus achieved would enable a statistician in dealing with a problem as a member of a team to understand the issues involved.

56. The opinion was expressed that standardization of syllabuses was feasible at the sub-professional level and model courses could be produced for the guidance of centres.

57. Reference was made to a proposal adopted at the ISI meeting of International Training Centres in Rabat in May 1979. Case studies dealing with the blending of theory and practice in different subjects were to be prepared over a period of two years by participating centres. It was suggested that ECA should send STPA centres a brief on this matter so that these latter centres might participate.

58. In conclusion, it was felt that there should be two types of balance, a balance between theory and practice and a balance between statistics and other subjects like economics, mathematics, sociology, demography etc. It was also agreed that centres working in university frameworks may also have to handle service courses for other departments and specialists in other areas, but the meeting felt that it would be desirable to offer such courses when students had acquired sufficient knowledge in their special fields.

(c) Fellowships for STPA

59. The meeting considered the problem of securing adequate fellowship resources in the light of the situation reported in document E/CN.14/STPA/6 which dealt with technical and financial assistance to STPA. In making its presentation the secretariat emphasized the need to consider fellowship arrangements in the over-all context of the estimated requirements for the output of trained personnel by STPA during the ten-year period of the programme.

60. Essential data on staff requirements of national statistical services, other branches of government and private sectors had been compiled on the basis of surveys of national statistical organization and staffing, consultancy missions and a working group in 1977. The data were continuously revised as new information became available but the basic requirement was that STPA should produce 5,000 professional and 7,000 middle level statisticians by the end of 1987.

61. Although a large proportion of the necessary increase in output related to participating centres in the English language group, there were also special requirements with respect to the French language group.

62. In 1979 ECA had made a special effort to improve the fellowship position at the Makerere and Dar es Salaam centres which had specially urgent problems. This involved the establishment of a straightforward procedure for co-ordinating the

requirements of funding agencies with the selection arrangements of the centres. The procedure had worked well in the case of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, but the European Economic Community had recently cabled to report the receipt of only one fellowship request. The Directors of training centres were invited to identify faults in the arrangements.

63. The meeting stressed that, in a programme expected to produce 1,200 staff at various levels every year, it was essential for admission and fellowship procedures to work smoothly. It was suggested that this would be greatly facilitated by an early and informal indication of the fellowships likely to be available from each agency.

64. The representative of the European Economic Community then explained the interest of EEC in statistical training as a priority requirement. After the signing of the Lome Convention, guidelines had been issued to enable countries to draw up five-year programmes of fellowships. Participating countries had responded in an unselective manner and their requests often did not include statistical training. He emphasized the need for national initiative in this respect.

65. It was further pointed out by the EEC representative that funding arrangements were flexible and could be modified on a contingency basis. He identified the main current defect as lack of proper internal communication at country level. The selection and application procedure outlined in annex II of E/CN.14/STPA/6 was a welcome contribution because it provided a basis for systematic arrangements and the timing of operations would provide EEC with the normal three months needed to consider individual fellowship applications. In summary, he listed the following four operations for securing EEC fellowship awards: (a) preparation of a five-year indicative fellowship programme at national level; (b) annual submission of candidatures by governments within the context of the programme; (c) acceptance of nominated candidates by training institutions; and (d) award of fellowships. The time required in completing these arrangements could be shortened if selection procedures of training institutions were accelerated, as suggested in the ECA document.

66. It was noted that fellowship arrangements at the Yaounde Institute had been simpler during the period of UNDP assistance because the approximate number of awards was always known and the institute was responsible for their allocation. The meeting felt that there would be advantages if other donors could consider similar arrangements.

67. The representative of the Overseas Development Administration, United Kingdom, then explained the fellowship award procedure of his agency. He appreciated that it would be useful for centres and countries to have advance information on the numbers of fellowships likely to be available but believed that practical considerations would prevent most donors from providing these details.

68. He pointed out that the United Kingdom assistance programme is country-based and that each country programme is worked out according to national requirements within a given ceiling. Training is incorporated as an item in the programme which provides for only a limited amount of flexibility. Training awards are primarily intended for use at United Kingdom institutions but some could be used at centres in third countries. Requests in respect of individual candidates are submitted by governments on a prescribed form. At the national level they are normally handled by the British Council or Embassy and awards for statistical training are made on the advice of the ODA Statistics Division.

69. It is the practice of United Kingdom to discuss the over-all training programme with officials of the government concerned and this broad outline is subject to modification in the light of new requirements but normally without change in the ceiling. In this situation it is necessary for national statistical offices to negotiate with their own governments to ensure priority for their training needs. The United Kingdom procedure can take up to three months or possibly longer if further reference between the applicant's country and the United Kingdom is necessary.

70. The representative of the United Kingdom then went on to explain why it was not possible to approve all fellowship requests. He cited examples where requests for fellowships would not be accepted in 1979. These included cases where a country's allocation for training awards was fully committed when the requests for statistical fellowships were made. In other cases it was considered that the course was unsuitable for the candidates in that their knowledge of English was insufficient to benefit from it. There was an additional problem in the case of awards tenable at the Makerere Institute. At the present time no British Council office is located in Uganda and the British High Commission does not have the capacity to administer fellowship awards, which made it difficult to fulfil the United Kingdom policy of having a local agency to look after United Kingdom funded training.

71. It was expected that there would soon be official information on United Kingdom public expenditure cuts but it was expected that the revision of programmes would be complete by the end of the year or soon afterwards. As the training programme would be affected, requests for statistical fellowships would need to be given even higher priority by governments if they were to succeed.

72. The United Kingdom representative also spoke on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretariat. He said that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) was prepared to finance 30 students at the Makerere and Dar es Salaam centres which was a much more satisfactory position for these centres. Additional awards at other centres might be possible. Requests should be made by governments on a prescribed form and processing would normally take 2-3 months.

73. Finally he referred to the fellowship procedure suggested by ECA in annex II of document E/CN.14/STPA/6. In general it appeared to be satisfactory but he had some doubts about the practicability of communication between training centres and donors envisaged in the first part of the action plan. He also pointed out that awards can be requested before it is certain that places in training centres are available, in which case grants could be made on a conditional basis.

74. The EEC representative indicated fellowship procedures similar to those of United Kingdom. The Lomé II Convention would contain a five year training programme with an earmarking for each country, established through programming missions. It was not yet possible to say how much would be spent on training; amounts would vary between countries and would be high. He emphasized that governments decide the allocation of funds made available to them; the decision does not rest with EEC.

75. The Deputy Director of the Munich centre was invited to speak informally about the position of the Federal Republic of Germany, which he did in the light of close contact with the Ministry of Economic Co-operation. He said that bilateral aid was available for study outside trainees' own countries. Procedures were similar to those described by earlier speakers but the Ministry might not yet be aware of

important new fellowship needs with respect to statistical training. He raised the point that some African statistical centres are already working at full capacity and cannot expand their activities without more lecturers, fellowships and accommodation. The Federal Republic of Germany will contribute to the provision of a new building for the Kigali centre. It was noted that some other centres had similar requirements.

76. The UNDP representative mentioned the financing of the STPA regional component and pointed out that the UNDP contribution was specifically intended to support regional aspects of the programme. These included the training of teaching staff but not fellowships for persons who would later be employed in their own countries. Such fellowships could be obtained through UNDP country IPFs but required internal negotiation with the government agencies concerned. It was suggested that ECA could give some help in this respect by writing to the Resident Representatives.

77. In reply to a question about the total funds required for fellowships, the secretariat referred to table 4 in annex I of document E/CN.14/STPA/6. This provided estimated of annual expenditure during the ten year period of the programme. It was pointed out that a large proportion of this expenditure was already being incurred and that a significant contribution was coming from the African region. The proposed expansion of statistical training activities was therefore not a cause for alarm.

78. The representative of the Paris centres (CESD) made a statement which also covered the position of the centres at Abidjan, Kigali and Yaounde. He was pleased to record the assistance given by EEC and France and the provision of fellowships by some countries for their own trainees. Special problems were the increasing cost of running a centre in Europe and the personal difficulties encountered by trainees without adequate resources. The latter related mainly to trainees financed by their own governments and special measures had been necessary to provide them with satisfactory accommodation.

79. With regard to EEC fellowship awards, there were problems arising from the arrangement whereby ACP countries determined the allocation of funds made available to them. During the last four years there had been a decrease in the number of awards, mainly due to administrative delays in the countries themselves. He suggested that consideration should be given to the establishment of a special fund for fellowships.

80. With regard to admission procedures, the CESD representative indicated that there was no special difficulty in organizing entrance examinations in a large number of countries for the four centres under discussion. However there were delays in the administrative procedures leading to fellowship awards. In order to expedite these activities, results of the entrance examinations were now being widely distributed to candidates, donor agencies and national statistical services. This strategy was achieving some success.

81. The CESD representative had strong reservations about the admission procedure time-table proposed by ECA. He pointed out that present examination arrangements continued from November until July and that it would be difficult to conduct examinations in February in the context of these arrangements. Moreover this timing would be a severe disadvantage to trainees who had completed only part of an academic year;

this reservation was particularly important for people who wished to transfer from the lower level (ITS) to the higher level (ISE) course. He also stressed the need for the four centres to maintain proper academic standards in relation to ENSAF, which was another reason for avoiding premature entrance examinations. However the existing later timing of examinations necessarily resulted in a tight selection time-table. With a large number of candidates to be examined, computer analysis of the results was necessary and final allocation of places was made by a jury comprising the directors of the centres. He nevertheless said that the French-speaking centres would be prepared to consider a gradual modification of admission arrangements.

82. A final point made by the CESD representative was that it would be very helpful if donors would agree to make fellowship application forms available to centres for direct transmission to selected candidates.

83. The meeting noted that there would be strong advantages for African statistical training if EEC would agree to establish a fund for regional fellowships. After discussing the matter with the EEC representative, the meeting decided to make a proposal to the ACP secretariat in Brussels. The formal recommendation is given in the last section of this report.

84. It was agreed that a continuing effort was needed to persuade governments that statistics should be included in technical assistance programmes as a priority item. This would involve considerably increased activity at national level, with support from ECA.

85. With regard to problems concerning the time-table of admission procedures, the conclusion of the meeting was that all requirements of donors and training centres could be met only if fellowship requests were submitted before selection of candidates had been completed by training centres. However an award would come into operation only if the awardee was selected for admission. It was agreed that the secretariat would make a further examination of the proposed time-table and that it should be regarded as a flexible guideline.

(d) In-service training

86. The term 'In-service training' was capable of different interpretations. As far as STPA was concerned this was taken to refer to regular courses throughout the year attended part-time by workers in a statistical office. It was not meant to include briefing for a special project. Such training could be undertaken at the statistical office itself or achieved by part-time attendance at some national or regional centre or other institution. The level of such training was likely to be somewhat lower than that of full-time non-professional level programmes.

87. It was stressed that in-service training should be complementary to and not a replacement of the training at the sub-professional level at the regional statistical centres.

88. The STPA centres could assist in this work by advising on curricula and syllabuses and providing facilities for the use of part-time students from the statistical offices of their host countries.

89. There was general agreement with the sentiments expressed in this connexion. It was felt that the assimilation of techniques by middle-level personnel was a national necessity. The meeting urged ECA to ensure steps for more co-ordination between national centres and regional STPA centres.

(e) Short-term courses and seminars

90. Reference was made to the variety of short-term courses and seminars for practising statisticians available in the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, France and the United States of America as outlined in the fourth part of the paper E/CN.14/STPA/3. It was emphasized that there was need to encourage the expansion of this kind of activity at STPA centres in Africa.

91. The requirements of trained personnel in connexion with the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) led to an additional training demand. In meeting this co-ordination with the STPA was desirable. Paper E/CN.14/STPA/Add.1 suggested measures to achieve this co-ordination and these were brought before the directors of STPA centres to obtain their reactions.

92. Four types of courses were proposed:

- (i) Computer programming (say 16 weeks);
- (ii) Systems analysis (say one year);
- (iii) Refresher courses for statisticians in household surveys (say 3-4 months); and
- (iv) Workshop sessions in household survey organization and technology for practising statisticians (say 10 days).

93. In the discussion following the presentation of this portion of the paper and its addendum, several speakers brought the particulars of short-term courses at centres outside Africa up-to-date. It was agreed that such courses and workshops should be widely publicized. However, it was felt that the more important thing to do was to provide all encouragements immediately to the African centres to provide similar short-term courses (and para. 91 of document STPA/3 to be modified in this light).

94. In connexion with training for surveys, the United Kingdom representative referred to an EDP package development by Rothamsted known as RSPG which could be used for processing household surveys. He would send technical details to ECA.

95. Several centres expressed interest and willingness to participate in the survey training programme. Lesotho made the point that information would be required by January 1980.

96. The recommendations in paras 5-9 of E/CN.14/STPA/3/Add.1 were accepted in principle. Details of required courses were necessary before further action could be taken.

(f) New areas of statistical development

97. The secretariat presented document E/CN.14/STPA/4 which emphasized the need to depart from traditional statistical teaching and continuously up date syllabuses with respect to both theory and applications. With regard to the latter, the paper examined four emerging fields of statistics in relation to the African situation.

98. Development of household surveys had been recognized as specially important for the African region and establishment of the African Household Survey Capability Programme had already led to a global programme in this field. Yet statistical teaching was still confined to basic courses on sampling theory and methods. There was a clear need to extend teaching to all aspects of survey operations.

99. Social conditions and demographic characteristics were now accepted as essential considerations in the development process. Courses could be arranged on the basis of the UN work on the framework for the integration of social, demographic and related economic statistics but thinking in this area was still fluid and it was necessary to be selective in establishing teaching arrangements.

100. Energy statistics were an entirely different matter. They had been of special importance since the oil crisis of 1973. Satisfactory international recommendations were available and training centres could have responded with special courses in support of governmental efforts in this field. They did not respond.

101. The emergence of environment statistics was another different consideration. The scope of these statistics had not yet been properly defined and no special African needs had been identified. It was therefore an area which training centres should watch with a view to future action.

102. Three ways were proposed for dealing with new topics. The first and second envisaged their distribution within the existing teaching structure, or that they should be dealt with in an ad hoc combined course, with the aim of preserving the traditional structure as far as possible. The third option involved a more radical change through subject-orientation of teaching programmes, which would ensure better co-ordination of theory and applications with the reservation that there should be no reduction in academic standards. A constraint in the third approach was the lack of applied experience on the part of many teaching staff.

103. The meeting expressed general interest in courses on household surveys aimed at the establishment of operational capabilities. This was a clear requirement for which provision had to be made.

104. Need to organize selective teaching in the wide area of social statistics was recognized and the CESD representative described problems already encountered by his centre.

105. It was pointed out that teaching on some of the new statistical topics has already been included in the programmes of African centres but has not been fully implemented due to lack of staff. ECA assistance in this respect would be welcomed.

106. Since there may be some lack of practical experience on the part of teaching staff in certain areas of statistics, particularly new areas, the meeting agreed that there should be better co-operation between training centres and national statistical

services. The staff of the latter could assist at some of the normal university teaching seminars. In addition visiting specialists could also be asked to conduct seminars in their specialities.

G. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

107. The secretariat introduced this item on the basis of document E/CN.14/STPA/5. It was recalled that special assistance for Portuguese-speaking countries was one of the specific needs in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa and which required urgent attention. It was indicated that the objective is to set up the necessary arrangements which will enable the countries concerned to train adequate numbers of statistical personnel to ensure the collection and analysis of the data needed for economic and social planning.

108. The secretariat reported on the action undertaken to implement this project and invited the Directors of the STPA centres to make suggestions on ways and means of meeting the above objective. It put forward discussions possible solutions which include:

- (a) The establishment of one or two statistical training institutes which could be used by the countries in the group;
- (b) The utilization of STPA centres;
- (c) The utilization of statistical training centres outside the region; and
- (d) The organization of on-the-job training in individual countries.

109. The secretariat felt that countries in the group do not seem to be in favour of a single solution. Discussions held with representatives of these countries suggested that they would like to benefit from several training options which might be available.

110. The representative of Angola thanked ECA for including this important item in the agenda of the meeting. He indicated that the Statistical Office in his country is involved in the preparation and monitoring of the development plan. Therefore it was necessary to launch an intensive programme for training statistical personnel at all levels. An Institute of Statistics and Data Processing (Institut de statistique et d'informatique) was established in February 1979 at Lubango, in Huila Province, Angola, for training of middle level personnel. Courses in statistics are also offered at the various faculties of the University. In addition to the above institutional training, the National Statistical Office has a comprehensive continuing in-service training programme. The representative of Angola indicated that Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe have been contacted and have agreed to utilize the middle level training centre at Lubango. It is likely that Mozambique will also send students to that centre. The representative pointed out two problems in connexion with language and the recruitment of competent teaching staff. He was pleased to learn that a joint mission will be organized by ECA and the Economic Commission for Latin America to examine the question of recruitment of teaching staff. He was wondering whether the middle level centre in his country should be national or regional and came to the conclusion that a national centre would be more practical from the financing point of view. He considered that more

attention should be given to the training of data processing personnel. Finally he informed the meeting that his country is planning to carry out a population census in January/February 1983. This opportunity will be used to train as many statistical staff as possible and to establish regional statistical offices.

111. The Director of ITPEA, Algiers, was of the opinion that this project concerning special assistance to Portuguese-speaking countries should receive high priority. His institute has trained in the past and will continue to train candidates from Guinea Bissau who have been granted fellowships by the Institute on the same basis as for Algerian nationals, excluding travel expenses. The Government of Guinea Bissau had sent a request to UNDP to complement the cost of these fellowships as it was considered insufficient. The Director of ITPEA declared that this Institute would be prepared to accept as many candidates as possible from the Portuguese-speaking countries if the candidates could be granted UNDP or other fellowships. He was of the opinion that a regional solution to the problem of fellowships for this project should be found.

112. It was pointed out that the problem of fellowships for Portuguese-speaking countries was similar to that facing many countries of the region and might be treated in the same way.

113. The Directors of the centres in Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho and Uganda indicated that they would be willing to accept English-speaking candidates from the countries of the group provided that those candidates are granted fellowships. The admission requirements are more or less flexible in the centres concerned. In particular the centres in Botswana and Lesotho have experience in training refugees from Zimbabwe and Namibia. Emphasis is put on English language courses during the first year.

114. The Deputy Director of CESD noted that the problems of language and level of education make it difficult for his centre as well as for the three other centres in Abidjan, Kigali and Yaounde to accept candidates who do not meet the necessary requirements. He suggested that emphasis should be put on solutions (a) and (c) proposed by the secretariat. He indicated that his centre may consider the possibility of organizing specific courses for the countries of the group, in collaboration with the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) which has already received three candidates from Guinea Bissau for on-the-job training.

115. The representative of Angola thanked the Directors of STPA centres for their willingness to help the Portuguese-speaking countries. He pointed out that as far as his country was concerned, interest would be attached to solutions (a), (c) and (d) suggested by the secretariat. Solution (b) should focus on short-term seminars on various items such as prices and national accounts. The contribution of STPA centres could also be sought for the drawing up or review of teaching programmes of statistical institutes set up by some countries in the group as well as for the organization of local on-the-job training. These centres could assist by sending teaching material and by offering advice on curriculum development.

116. The representative of UNDP reported that her organization had recently financed on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) a training course on Organization and Management of Agricultural Co-operatives for some French and Portuguese-speaking countries. Since the Portuguese-speaking participants were using a third language, interpretation into Portuguese and translation of teaching material into that language was provided. The results seemed to be satisfactory. The UNDP representative suggested that it might be useful to follow similar procedures for short-term training courses in statistics.

117. Finally, the meeting recommended that donor agencies should pay due attention to special assistance needed by Portuguese-speaking countries.

H. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STPA

118. In introducing this topic the secretariat noted that the part of document E/CN.14/STPA/6 dealing with fellowships had already been considered under agenda item 6(c). With regard to the more general aspects of assistance to STPA it had to be borne in mind that a very significant contribution was already being made by UNDP, UNFPA, EEC, CFTC, France, United Kingdom and other donors. In addition African countries themselves were bearing a large proportion of the programme cost.

119. Although the required increase in cost was about 75 per cent during the ten year period of the programme, the basic objective of STPA was self-reliance in statistical training. There should therefore be a sharp decrease in the need for external assistance in the latter years of the programme. In securing assistance it would be necessary to demonstrate that STPA is effective in meeting the practical needs of the region. It was also necessary for governments to recognize statistics as a priority area in the development process.

120. In reply to a question about possible additional donors the secretariat reported that it had made fairly widespread contacts with some degree of success. In addition United Nations specialized agencies would probably be interested in assisting the technical aspects of the programme but would not be in a position to give financial help. It was suggested that African statisticians attending the Commonwealth Conference of Statisticians in Nairobi towards the end of 1980 would have a good opportunity for discussions with donors.

121. A number of minor questions were answered in connexion with table 4 in annex II of the document. The table provided a consolidated estimate of programme costs.

122. Teaching staff was identified by the meeting as one of the main external assistance requirements. One centre reported the need for more effective advertising of vacant posts. In this connexion it was noted that use could be made of lists of specialists such as the Directory of African Statisticians and the roster of experts maintained by United Nations Headquarters. It was also suggested that centres could share resources, e.g., through the exchange of lecturers.

123. Improvement in the supply of teaching staff was very much dependent on suitable training arrangements for these people, i.e., the "training of trainers". This should be pursued as a matter of urgency and it was stressed that provision of expatriate teachers was a temporary measure to fill the gap while local personnel were being trained.

124. The meeting drew attention to the very small provision made in table 4 for staff training. In response it was indicated that there was some provision for this kind of training in the budget for the STPA regional component but there was little prospect of any increase in that budget. It was suggested that staff training should be carried as economically as possible. One example given was the offer of CESD to take two trainee lecturers who would participate in teaching activities and attend some selected courses. Arrangements of this kind could often be more effective than the use of long post-graduate courses for staff training.

125. However it was pointed out that, in the case of centres attached to universities, higher degrees were usually required by the university regulations for appointment to teaching posts. In any case, a staff member with lower qualifications would be at a disadvantage with respect to promotion opportunities.

126. The meeting gave considerable attention to the question of whether staff training should be carried out in Africa or overseas. In the case of the latter some participants drew attention to the tendency of some trainees to remain abroad after completion of their courses. It was also pointed out that training organized on a local post-graduate basis could be much less costly than overseas training and that staff produced locally would be better oriented to African conditions.

127. In the light of these considerations the meeting recommended that staff training should be organized as far as possible within the region. This was part of the effort to make African statistical training self-reliant. The secretariat agreed to examine the possibility of developing a special project for this purpose. It was also pointed out that some provision for staff training could be included in fellowship costs.

128. The United Kingdom representative indicated the possibility of giving some assistance in respect of training staff and equipment. Requests for this help would be handled through local United Kingdom representatives. The equipment would normally be limited to teaching aids, etc., needed by United Kingdom funded teaching staff. The financing of buildings and supply of other equipment was also a possibility but more difficult. CFTC could assist with respect to staff and teaching aids.

129. Accommodation for training centres was identified as a further important requirement. Some directors pointed out that their centres were already operating at full capacity and they could not meet the expansion required by STPA without more accommodation in addition to the increase in teaching staff already mentioned. It was noted that the negotiation of assistance in respect of buildings would be based on project documents prepared in a prescribed format and that ECA would be prepared to assist in the preparation of these documents.

130. In summing up the discussion, the Chairman listed the following main technical and financial assistance requirements:

- (a) Staff;
- (b) Buildings;
- (c) Equipment;
- (d) Fellowships for the training of teaching staff; and
- (e) Fellowships for participation in the regular training courses.

The last of these requirements had been discussed under item 6(c) and he drew attention to adoption by the meeting of the action flow chart of fellowship operations which had been discussed and amended at the same time. The Chairman also requested directors of STPA centres to review the estimates concerning their centres as given in table 4 and forward any amendments to ECA.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

131. Speaking on behalf of all the participants the Chairman was grateful to ECA for its kind invitation to attend the meeting and expressed his appreciation of the efforts which resulted in the success of the proceedings.

132. The secretariat reminded the participants that their next meeting would take place either at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, or in one of the participating centres in 1981 on a date to be agreed jointly by ECA and the directors of the STPA centres. In any case such a meeting is scheduled to be convened every two years, either in July/August or in November/December.

133. The meeting recommended that some representatives of user countries should continue to be invited to future deliberations. It also recommended that ECA should seek finance from member States or other sources for the effective participation of directors of STPA centres in statistical meetings, starting with the forthcoming Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. That conference would provide an opportunity for directors of statistics and directors of training centres to meet and exchange views. In inviting directors of STPA centres to these meetings, ECA should stress to Governments the importance of the directors' attendance and the need to provide for the cost of their travel.

134. The secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that ECA member States usually meet the travel and subsistence expenses of their representatives at meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies. This will apply to attendance at sessions of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers which will meet at two-yearly intervals. The directors of STPA centres were also currently scheduled to meet at two-yearly intervals in years when the Joint Conference does not meet.

135. The representative of the CESD Paris expressed his pleasure to welcome in his centre any one of his colleagues who happened to make a stop-over in the French capital. In such an event he would ask his guest to address the students of the centre on a subject of interest. This would to some extent reinforce international co-operation between the different training centres.

136. On the basis of a proposal by the representative of the University of Lesotho the meeting recommended that ECA should play a co-ordinating role in the dissemination of information on statistical training activities and course material such as case studies. The directors themselves could also organize an exchange of prospectuses and any other document of interest on a bilateral basis. The secretariat informed the meeting that it is planning to publish an STPA newsletter and centres could contribute summaries of research and survey findings and other activities of interest to other centres.

J. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

137. The meeting adopted the present report and the recommendation annexed to it on 26 October 1979.

ANNEX I

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

Addis Ababa, 22-26 October 1979

STPA was proposed by the tenth session of the Conference of African Statisticians in October 1977 and has been approved by the relevant legislative bodies of the Economic Commission for Africa. It has a small regional supporting component financed by the United Nations Development Programme.

The objective of STPA is to make Africa self-reliant in statistical training by the end of the ten-year programme period in 1987. During that period the participating centres will need to train at least 5,000 professional and 7,000 sub-professional statisticians to meet public and private sector requirements of the region for development purposes.

Implementation of the programme calls for:

- (i) A steady flow of trainees from ECA member States to STPA centres in accordance with the estimates already established on a country/centre basis;
- (ii) Expansion of staff and other resources at STPA centres to enable an overall increase in output of about 50 per cent.

In reviewing the progress of STPA at their meeting in October 1979 the Directors of statistical centres have noted the significant assistance already being given to the programme by the European Economic Community and wish to recommend that the ACP secretariat in Brussels and ACP countries in the African region should:

- (i) Negotiate with EEC for the establishment of a regional fund for statistical training fellowships;
- (ii) Accord the highest priority in negotiations for assistance from EEC to the provision of resource staff at STPA centres and the expansion of facilities where necessary.

The Directors of STPA centres further recommend that ECA Member States should give high priority to the development of a co-ordinated statistical training capability within the African region in negotiations with all funding agencies. Africa will achieve self-reliance only when its own trained personnel are in a position to collect, process and analyse essential economic and social data on a competitive basis with data capabilities in other parts of the world.

The broad requirements of the programme are indicated in the following two tables.

Table 1: Fellowship requirements for professional staff (Annual average number)

Countries	NEC ISE	INSEPA Rabat	MSA Abidjan	CESD Paris	ISPFA Yaounde	IA/MPFA Kigali	ITPFA Algiers	ISAF Kampala	Univ. Ibadan	Univ. Ghana	UBS Gaborone	NUL Maseru	Total
<u>North Africa</u>													
Algeria	--	4	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Sudan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	4	--	--	7
Tunisia	--	11	--	1	--	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	20
<u>West Africa</u>													
Benin	1	--	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Gambia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	--	3
Guinea	--	4	2	--	1	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	10
Ivory Coast	2	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Liberia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	2
Mali	1	2	2	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Mauritania	--	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Niger	1	--	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Senegal	3	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	4
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Togo	1	--	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Upper Volta	2	--	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
<u>Central Africa</u>													
Burundi	1	--	--	1	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Cameroon	2	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	6
Central African Rep.	1	--	--	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Chad	1	--	2	1	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Congo	2	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Gabon	1	--	2	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Rwanda	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Zaire	1	2	--	1	4	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	12

Table 1: Fellowship requirements for professional staff (Annual average number) (Continued)

Countries	New ISE Course	INSEA Rabat	ESA Abidjan	CESD Paris	ISPFA Yaounde	IAMSEA Kigali	ITPFA Algiers	ISAE Kampala	Univ. Ibadan	Univ. Ghana	UBS Gaborone	NUL Maseru	Total
East Africa													
Comoros	--	1	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Ethiopia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	2
Kenya	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	4	--	--	--	15
Madagascar	2	1	1	1	3	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	10
Malawi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	2
Mauritius	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	2	--	1	--	--	5
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Somalia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	--	--	3
Swaziland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	--	3
Tanzania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	2	--	--	7
Zambia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	1	1	1	--	14
Djibouti	--	--	--	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	4
Total	23	27	16	23	23	19	14	38	6	18	4	2	213

Table 2: Fellowship requirements for middle level staff (Annual average number)

Training centres User countries	INSEA	ESA	ISPEA	IAMSEA	ISSER	EASTC	UBS	Total
	Rabat	Abidjan	Yaounde	Kigali	Legon	Dar es Salaam	Gaborone	
<u>North Africa</u>								
Sudan	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	16
<u>West Africa</u>								
Benin	-	2	3	3	-	-	-	8
Gambia	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Guinea	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	6
Liberia	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Mali	4	2	4	-	-	-	-	10
Mauritania	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	5
Niger	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	7
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Togo	-	2	3	3	-	-	-	8
Upper Volta	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	9
<u>Central Africa</u>								
Burundi	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	6
Central African Rep.	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	6
Chad	-	3	3	6	-	-	-	12
Congo	-	4	3	2	-	-	-	9
Gabon	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	5
Zaire	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	6
<u>East Africa</u>								
Comoros	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	15
Kenya	-	-	-	-	3	31	-	34
Madagascar	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	6
Malawi	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	7
Mauritius	-	3	4	6	-	3	-	16
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Somalia	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	8
Swaziland	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	25
Zambia	-	-	-	-	8	3	1	12
Djibouti	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
Total	6	34	44	38	31	101	6	260

ANNEX II

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to this first meeting of Directors of the centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA). May I recall that on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group to Review Statistical Training Needs in Africa, STPA was adopted at the tenth session of the Conference of African Statisticians in October 1977 and approved by the ECA Executive Committee at its eighteenth meeting in May 1978. The aim of the programme is to develop and co-ordinate a network of training facilities capable of meeting the national requirements of the region for competent statistical staff and to ensure that the centres participating in the programme become self-supporting.

The programme was put into implementation in July 1978 when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approved the financing of a regional machinery established at ECA to provide operational support for the improvement and expansion of STPA. Since the programme has now been operational for about one year, this meeting of Directors provides a convenient opportunity to review progress and to discuss problems facing it and their solutions. The estimates on which the Training Programme was based have now been up-dated, and the targets set for the centres may now be reviewed. In this connexion, it is important to prepare project documents outlining the needs of the centres so that they may attain their specific targets. Those centres which have not already completed such documents are advised to do so without delay. ECA may then assist in negotiations with prospective donors.

I am pleased to note that a number of national and international donor agencies have sent representatives to this meeting, thus confirming their interest in the programme. One of the difficulties experienced in the past has been that of establishing effective procedures so that the interest expressed by donors may be translated into actual flows of funds for fellowships for students at the centres; for the training of teaching staff, lecturers and for other forms of assistance.

This meeting also provides a good opportunity to discuss the curricula of the centres and syllabuses of the subjects taught at them. Bearing in mind the particular needs of Africa, the Working Group on Statistical Training recommended that courses should have a practical rather than an academic orientation. This is especially true of courses intended to produce qualified "middle-level" staff, the backbone of a good statistical office. For professional level courses, often associated with universities, there is a greater need to maintain academic standards, but, even so, practical projects should play a considerable role in teaching programmes.

In the coming years a great deal of attention will be paid to the development of the National Household Surveys Capability Programme, in whose preparation ECA has played a leading role. In this programme high priority will be given to arrangements for training personnel to participate in the work. I cannot put too much on the importance of co-ordinating this training programme and STPA to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure the optimum use of resources. I therefore invite you to this meeting to devote some time to considering how the STPA centres may be able to assist in the furtherance of this important programme.

Other questions submitted for your consideration relate to special assistance to Portuguese-speaking countries in the field of statistical training and to dissemination of information on statistical training activities and related activities. I am sure you will be able to make positive contributions to those parts of the programme.

Having drawn your attention to certain aspects of statistical training in which I consider you are exceptionally well-qualified, I will close by wishing you every success in your consideration of these matters, which are of vital importance to the economic and social development of the African region.

ANNEX III

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>Centres</u>	<u>Nom/Name</u>	<u>Fonction/Title</u>
Department of Statistics University of Ibadan (Ibadan, Nigeria)	Mr. Biyi Afonja	Head of the Department
Department of Statistics University of Ghana (Legon, Ghana)	Mr. S.I.K. Odoom	Head of the Department
Department of Statistics National University of Lesotho (Maseru, Lesotho)	Mr. W. Callvern Klass	Head of the Department
Department of Statistics University College of Botswana (Gaborone, Botswana)	Mr. R.K. Pillai	Head of the Department
Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda)	Mr. Sam Tulya-Muhika	Director
Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (Legon, Ghana)	Mr. O. Boateng	Director of Studies
Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développe- ment (Paris, France)	Mr. Ousmane Balde	Directeur-Adjoint
Ecole de statistique d'Abidjan (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)	Mr. F. Yattien-Amiguet	Directeur
Institut de statistique, de planification et d'économie appliquée (Yaoundé, Cameroun)	Mr. Paul Ngogang	Directeur
Institut des techniques, de planification et d'économie appliquée (Algéri, Algérie)	Mr. Mahfoud Bennoune	Directeur

<u>Centres</u>	<u>Nom/Name</u>	<u>Fonction/Title</u>
<u>Observateurs/Observers</u>		
United Nations Development Programme	Miss Ursula King	Assistant Regional Representative
United Nations Statistical Office	Mr. Anis Maitra	Technical Adviser
Commission of the European Communities	Mr. T. Waffelaert	Agricultural Adviser, Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Ethiopia
Overseas Development Administration (UK) and Commonwealth Secretariat	Mr. R.M. Allen	Chief Statistician
West Germany Government and Munich Centre	Dr. Stenzel	Deputy Director of the Advanced Training Centre for Statisticians of Developing Countries, Munich
Angola	Mr. Luis Colaço	Director of Statistics