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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATISTICAL
TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA

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I. Introduction

1. Following a transitional period devoted primarily to organizational questions, there has been a rapid expansion in the activities of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) over the last two years.
2. The project personnel have been performing their functions during a large part of the period under review despite certain changes which have taken place, particularly with regard to the statistical training adviser posts.
3. In accordance with the recommendation of the first Meeting of Directors of STPA Centres, which was endorsed by the Joint Conference, two guide syllabuses for training middle-level statistical cadres were drawn up, one for French-language centres and the other for English-language centres.
4. Assistance to STPA centres has continued particularly in the form of consultants to provide training in various specialized fields and fellowships for the training of trainers. Preliminary negotiations have already taken place with a view to (i) solving the basic problem of fellowships for courses at STPA centres; (ii) strengthening the teaching staff at the centres pending the return of those teachers who have been sent for training; (iv) identifying centres outside the region which could play the role of associate STPA centres and developing links between STPA centres and non-African universities with a good reputation in the field of statistics.
5. The question of special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in the field of statistical training has received special attention during the period under review. It is hoped that the operational phase of the project will begin as soon as all the arrangements are completed.
6. Dissemination of information on statistical training activities has continued in the form of the STPA News and the Directory of STPA centres.
7. The second Biennial meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA was held at Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 November 1981. The meeting is supposed to advise the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers in the area of statistical training.
8. Lastly, pursuant to another recommendation of the Joint Conference, a Working Group on Statistical Organization and Manpower in Africa was held at Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 October 1981 under the auspices of STPA.
9. These questions will be considered in brief in the present report on STPA in the context of national statistical organization and staffing.

II. Programme organization

(i) Project personnel

10. As stated above, certain changes occurred in the project personnel during the period under review. The secretariat took steps to ensure that the changes did not noticeably affect the implementation of the programme as a whole.

11. Hence the chief statistical training adviser who resigned in July 1980 was replaced almost immediately. The new chief adviser joined the programme in August 1980, but for only 13 months as he was on leave of absence. The post thus fell vacant again as of October 1981. Recruitment could not be started before the decision of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning the continuation of the project in the third UNDP/ECA programming cycle (1982-1986) was known. The procedure is now in hand.

12. The successor to the statistical training adviser who had left ECA in April 1981 could not join the programme until September 1981 because of the period of notice which he had to give his former employer. The secretariat therefore recruited a consultant for three months to carry on the work in question. No other changes in this post are expected in future.

13. It should be noted in this regard that, at their meeting, the Directors of Centres participating in STPA recommended that an additional statistical training adviser should be recruited in view of the expanded activities in the programme.

14. Project support staff had to be strengthened by the recruitment of a French-typist and a documents and reproduction clerk. This category of staff is now expected to be fairly stable.

15. The table below shows the staffing situation of the project during the period March 1980 to February 1982.

	<u>On the job</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Chief statistical training adviser		
Mr. R.R. Oswald (United Kingdom)	March 1980	July 1980
Mr. Biyi Afonja (Nigeria)	August 1980	September 1981
Statistical training adviser		
Mr. J.M. Balla Avolo (United Republic of Cameroon)	March 1980	April 1980
Mr. Koffi K. Bockor (Togo)	June 1981	August 1981
Mr. Dogbe T. Kouassi (Central African Republic)	September 1981	February 1982
English secretary	March 1980	February 1982
French typist	March 1981	February 1982
Clerk	March 1981	February 1982

16. In addition to these staff members, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, also acts as STPA project manager. Moreover, the Director and Deputy-Director of the Division also extend their support to the programme on a continuous basis.

(ii) Missions

17. Various missions were carried out by the statistical training advisers and, where necessary by the project manager in implementation of STPA. These missions had several different objectives and covered the following.

Missions in Africa

- To discuss matters relating to the implementation of STPA, to evaluate the training centres' needs and to gain support for the requests to be submitted to the European Economic Community (EEC) for financing training fellowships at STPA centres, counterpart fellowships for the training of teaching staff and posts for teaching staff at the centres out of the regional component of the European Development Fund (EDF);

- To participate in meetings of the governing councils of advisory boards of the following STPA centres: Eastern African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Dar-es-Salaam; Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Makerere; Ecole de statistique d'Abidjan (ESA); and Institut africain et mauritien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA), Kigali.

- To evaluate the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries for statistical personnel and to review the steps to be taken to meet those needs;

- To participate in certain meetings of interest to STPA such as for example the ninth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians which was held at Nairobi in November 1980;

Missions to Europe, the United States of America and Canada

- To discuss the project document for the request submitted to EEC referred to above;

- To seek assistance for STPA in general.

18. The last two questions will be discussed below in the section relating to the co-ordination of technical and financial assistance.

III. Co-operative development of teaching programmes

19. Pursuant to the recommendation mentioned above concerning the establishment of a guide syllabus for middle-level training (adjoint technique et agent technique de la statistique), the secretariat decided to call upon two consultants, one for French-language centres and the other for English-language centres, in view of the language problems and differences between the educational systems of the two language groups. Unfortunately

the English-speaking consultant who had been contacted and who had initially accept the offer could not be available at the appropriate time. The ECA Statistics Division therefore used its own staff to complete the work on the basis of documentation available in the secretariat and particularly the syllabus of the Dar-es-Salaam centre (EASTC).

20. The meeting of Directors of STPA centres found the proposed syllabuses by enlarge acceptable, but it hoped that the following points would be clarified and if necessary modified:

(i) Time (hours) allocated to the different topics, particularly in English-language centre syllabuses;

(ii) Some trimming of the number of applied statistics options so as to give the essentials without the list being unduly unwieldy;

(iii) Inclusion of a comparative evaluation of available softwares and computer languages;

(iv) Need to consider training of statisticians with some knowledge of data processing.

21. The meeting made the following main recommendations:

(i) The terminology used at present could continue as long as no confusion arose;

(ii) Economics, statistics and mathematics were agreed as the core subjects and should be given suitable weighting;

(iii) Sociology studies were considered essential and should be included in the syllabuses;

(iv) French should be introduced in the English-language centres and English in the French-language centres;

(v) Some elements of commercial and business law as contained in the French-language programme seemed desirable;

(vi) Inter-language group integration was considered ideal but could be evolved only cautiously with time. For the time being ECA should make a start by identifying common areas where integration could be more easily and realistically achieved;

(vii) With regard to the acquisition of practical skills through project work, field work or direct attachment to offices should be included in the syllabuses.

(viii) Flexible syllabuses such as the proposed ones which made further training possible should be adopted.

22. The secretariat will revise the guide syllabuses for middle-level training as soon as possible in the light of the recommendations of the Meeting of Directors of STPA Centres. The views of the Joint Conference on this matter will also be taken into consideration.

23. Subsequently consideration should be given to syllabuses for high-level training. Already the Centre européen de formation des statisticiens-économistes des pays en voie de développement (CEFS) is considering work on the harmonization of syllabuses for training ingénieurs des travaux statistiques in French language African centres. ECA will be closely involved in this work.

IV. Co-ordination of technical and financial assistance

24. There is no doubt that one of the main activities of STPA is to co-ordinate financial and technical assistance. It has been estimated that external assistance, in the form of supplementary resources amounting to 9.4 million United States dollars per year, is required to enable STPA centres to develop and meet the demands of the region for statistical personnel. There are various aspects to co-ordinating such assistance: (i) STPA (ECA) prepares regional requests supported by countries in the region and submits them to the relevant donor agencies such as for example the UNDP regional fund which is now financing the regional component of STPA; (ii) STPA holds preliminary negotiations with the relevant donor agencies in agreement with the institutes and countries concerned which then have to send in the official request at the appropriate time; (iii) countries and institutes negotiate directly with donor agencies but inform STPA of the content of their requests, progress made in negotiations and results.

25. During the period under review, six fellowships for the training of trainers were granted by STPA through its regional component financed by UNDP. The fellowships were distributed as follows:

- Three for ISAE, Makerere, of which two were for training in statistical methods and one for sampling;

- One for EASTC, Dar-es-Salaam, for training in electronic data processing;

- One for the National University of Lesotho for training in applied statistics;

- One for the University of Ibadan for training in the field of experimental design.

26. Moreover, the formalities are being completed to grant two fellowships for the training of trainers at two French-speaking STPA centres. Nevertheless, it is unfortunate that so few requests have been received from this group up to now although the long-term objective is self-sufficiency on the part of the centres participating in the programme.

27. On the other hand, STPA has financed the participation of six French-speaking fellowship holders (three in 1980 and three in 1981) in a course for the training of trainers in statistical data processing. This 10-week course is organized each year in Paris by the Centre européen de formation des statisticiens-économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD).

28. STPA also organized and financed 15 missions of visiting lecturers to STPA centres during the last two years. The missions were distributed as follows:

- One two-week mission on the subject of social statistics to the Institut de statistique, de planification et d'économie appliquée (ISPEA), Yaounde, United Republic of Cameroon;
- One two-week mission on the subject of time series analysis to ISPEA;
- One three-week mission on national accounts to the Ecole de statistique d'Abidjan, the Ivory Coast;
- Two three-week missions in the same field to IANSEA, Kigali, Rwanda;
- Two three-week missions on sampling and surveys to IANSEA;
- One two-month mission on data processing to ISAF, Makerere, Uganda;
- One three-month mission on sampling to ISAE;
- One mission of three months and one five months on statistical methods to ISAE;
- One two-month mission also on statistical methods to EASTC, Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania;
- One three-month mission on applied statistics to the National University of Lesotho;
- One four-month mission on experimental design to the University of Ibadan, Nigeria;
- One three-month mission on sampling to the University of Legon, Ghana.

29. STPA also participated in the financing of a subregional seminar on the development of an integrated statistical system for developing countries organized by the Makerere Institute in June 1980. STPA will continue to involve itself in such activities to the extent that resources permit. Nevertheless, possibilities of securing assistance from other sources in this field should be explored.

30. A mission was sent in June-July 1981 to Europe, the United States of America and Canada to identify possibilities of securing assistance for STPA from some developed countries and donor agencies. With regard to financing student fellowships at STPA centres and fellowships for the training of counterpart staff, the provision of lecturers for the centres and so forth, it was confirmed that the relevant requests will be considered favourably if the countries concerned include them among the national priorities for submission to the various bilateral and multilateral aid programmes.

31. Many of the countries visited expressed keen interest in extending assistance to STPA through some of the institutions which had already organized or could organize short-term training courses for statisticians already on the job. Such institutions will act as associate STPA centres and will supplement the activities of the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries in view of the magnitude of the needs. It should be noted that in 1980 the Munich Centre started to organize courses in Africa itself in STPA centres in addition to its regular training sessions which take place at Munich. Such initiatives should be encouraged.

32. The question of the relations between STPA centres and universities outside Africa with a good reputation in the field of statistics was also favourably received in the countries visited. Such links would help to promote exchanges of lecturers, teaching materials and so forth, which could only contribute to the development of the STPA centres.

33. Lastly, as has already been stated, a request has been submitted to EEC to finance student fellowships and fellowships for the training of trainers and teaching posts. The request was submitted to EEC on behalf of African Governments by the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in accordance with the procedures used within the Community. The request was supported by two resolutions, one by the Council of Ministers of ACP and the other by Conference of Ministers of ECA.

34. When the question was considered at the second Meeting of Directors of Centres participating in STPA, statements made by the ECA secretariat and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities brought to light some difficulties being encountered in the consideration of the request. The Meeting requested the secretariat of ECA to take, without delay, necessary steps to surmount those difficulties with the view to finding a just solution to the problem of regional financing of statistical training in Africa in the framework of the Lomé II Convention.

35. In accordance with the recommendation made at the Meeting, representatives of the secretariat and of EEC met informally. The outcome of their discussions is contained in the annex to the report of the Meeting (ST/ECA/PSD.2/19). The following steps were proposed:

(a) To improve the process for the award of fellowships on the one hand by securing commitments from the countries concerned to the effect that they would confine their requests for fellowships to a specific range covering a period of one to three years and on the other hand by donors facilitating and speeding up their awards according to various existing possibilities;

(b) To prepare a joint study (ECA, EEC, countries members of EEC and ACP secretariat) to come out with a definition of possible actions and responsibilities of each party.

36. The secretariat of ECA has been informed by the representative of EEC that a meeting was to be held at Brussels on 17 November 1981 during which the matter of the regional request would be discussed. The results of the meeting were still awaited at the time the present report was written as was the formal response of EEC confirming its position. Reminders have been sent by cable to the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the ACP secretariat.

V. Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries

37. In accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, particular attention has been paid to the question of special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in the field of statistical training.

38. Accordingly a mission was sent to Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe in May/July 1980 for the following purposes:

(i) To evaluate existing training arrangements in each country;

(ii) To evaluate statistical personnel needs over the next ten years;

(iii) To discuss with relevant authorities in each country ways and means to meet those needs;

(iv) To prepare a full report on all aspects of the statistical training programme for Portuguese-speaking African countries.

39. Unfortunately the mission was not able to visit Cape Verde because the Government had indicated that the proposed date was not convenient.

40. The mission report and the proposals relating to projects at the national and regional levels were submitted to the meeting of representatives of Portuguese-speaking African countries on statistical training which was held at Addis Ababa in October 1980. The meeting, at which all the countries of the group apart from Mozambique were represented, particularly hoped that the national statistical office in the countries concerned would organize and develop a permanent in-service statistical training programme. The meeting also recommended that the Lubango centre in Angola should be converted into a regional one so as to ensure the training of middle-level statistical personnel for the countries in the group.

41. Within the framework of the implementation of the special assistance project for the countries in the group, a mission was sent to Angola in February 1981 to evaluate the facilities at the Lubango centre and discuss with the relevant authorities what measures should be taken by the various parties concerned to implement the project to convert the centre into a regional one.

42. Moreover, since Mozambique had not been present at the above-mentioned meeting, a mission was sent to that country in March 1981 to inform the relevant authorities of conclusions of the meeting and get their advice and suggestions.

43. The project was considered by the ECA Conference of Ministers at Freetown in April 1981. In its resolution 415(XVI), the Conference requested the ECA Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to extend technical assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries within the framework of STPA and requested the United Nations Development Programme to give adequate financial support to the national and regional projects to be proposed by countries in this group.

44. Lastly, it should be noted that the project to convert the Lubango centre into a regional one has been included in the requests submitted to UNDP for the third programming cycle, 1982-1986. All other things being equal, the regionalization of the Lubango centre could start effectively in 1983.

VI. Dissemination of information on statistical training activities

45. On the main activities of STPA is to disseminate information on training activities and related matters within and outside the region:

(i) Among centres, including associate centres, participating in STPA;

(ii) To all Governments of States members of ECA through their statistical services.

46. So far information has been disseminated primarily through:

(i) Ordinary correspondence sent out from ECA;

(ii) The Directory of STPA centres;

(iii) STPA News.

Directory of STPA Centres

47. A preliminary version was submitted to the first meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA in 1979, which recommended that it should be revised. So as to facilitate the work, the preliminary version was transmitted to all directors for their opinions and proposals with a view to making the necessary revision. The revised version was submitted to the second meeting of Directors. The ECA secretariat will ensure that it is distributed widely.

STPA News

48. For concise, up-to-date and easily accessible information about STPA in general on a more regular and more frequent basis in the Directory, STPA news had been introduced. The first issue, published in February 1980, gave brief information on STPA and the 12 centres providing basic training.

49. The second issue had been published in December 1980. It gave basic information on possible sources of external assistance (technical and financial), its nature and the procedures to request it. A section containing miscellaneous news gave up-to-date information and views on:

- (i) The STPA secretariat and its activities;
- (ii) The centres;
- (iii) Matters arising outside the region which have been brought to the attention of ECA and which are of importance for the region.

50. It has become clear that if the STPA News is to be issued sufficiently regularly to attain its objective, collective and concerted efforts will have to be made by the secretariat and by readers. For example no news can be published on the centres unless it comes directly from the centres. It is therefore essential that the centres should regularly send in information articles. For its part, the secretariat will continue to request information. If the publication of the News has to depend on information obtained on haphazard information, there is no sense in continuing it.

51. To remedy the situation and to ensure that the STPA news is useful, the following proposals were submitted for consideration to the Meeting of Directors:

- (i) Over-all objective: to give concise up-to-date and easily accessible information on STPA;
- (ii) Periodicity: (a) Two or three regular issues per year should come out around April and December; (b) special issues should come out whenever developments called for them;
- (iii) Distribution lists
 - (a) Directors of STPA centres;
 - (b) Directors of centres associated to STPA;
 - (c) Directors of central statistical services in member States;
 - (d) Directors of statistical services in federal States in countries which have them such as Nigeria, the Sudan and Zanzibar;
 - (e) National planning and labour ministries;
 - (f) National education ministries;
 - (g) UNDP resident representatives in the region;

- (h) National statistical associations in Africa;
- (i) Directors of international statistical training centres;
- (j) The International Institute of Statistics;
- (k) Other national and international statistical organizations;

(iv) Presentation: Three parts, namely:

- (a) Main section;
- (b) News on the secretariat and STPA centres, etc.
- (c) Opinions on various training sessions etc. of importance.

52. The meeting of Directors adopted the proposals and also suggested that:

- (i) News about staff changes at the centre should be included;
- (ii) A summary table of research work and results of major importance at the national level together with articles on the role of co-operation or collaboration of national statistical offices and related bodies should be published;
- (iii) Publications emanating from research work should be disseminated;
- (iv) Ministries and directorates of civil service staff and ministries or directorates of finance should be included in the mailing list.

Repertory of African centres not participating in STPA and statistical training programmes outside the region

53. The secretariat also intends to prepare a repertory of statistical training centres in Africa which do not participate in STPA. It would indeed be useful to know all the statistical training facilities available in the region.

54. Moreover, the Working Group on Statistical Organization and Manpower in Africa and the second Meeting of Directors felt that it was necessary to continue to take advantage of existing facilities outside the region, particularly with regard to short-term specialized training courses. In that connexion, the relevant information had to be sought.

VII. Matters arising from the Meeting of the Working Group on Statistical Organization and Manpower

55. Details on the results of the deliberations of the Working Group are contained in document ST/ECA/PSD.2/18. The present report will therefore confine itself to drawing the attention of the Joint Conference to some specific issues considered by the Group.

56. Because most African statistical activities are dispersed on both a geographical basis and among subject ministries, the Group took the view that co-ordination was a primary factor in accelerating statistical development. It therefore recommended that national statistical committees with sufficient authority to enforce their decisions should be established in all countries in the region.

57. The group also felt that the work programmes of statistical services had remained fixed for too long. Moreover, work programmes put too much emphasis on the production of a historical series and were imbalanced because of the preference for subjects for which data could be collected more easily. The conclusion reached was that work programmes should be more innovative and respond effectively to the data requirements of economic and social development. In particular, the Group recommended that work programmes should be extended to include the data required for evaluation and monitoring and close involvement in data analysis.

58. The Group agreed that the structure of statistical services should be as simple and flexible as possible, meaning that staff should be reasonably polyvalent, instead of being specialists in very specific fields. The Group felt that salaries were not entirely responsible for the loss of statisticians but rather there was a question of motivation and the extent to which statistical services offered interesting and stimulating work.

59. Insufficient staff and budgetary problems were identified as the most serious constraints to developing the activities of statistical services in the region. Nevertheless, the Group felt that effective management and use of available resources was one of the most important problems to be solved in the immediate future.

60. The Group considered that data processing and dissemination also constituted one of the most serious obstacles to statistical development in Africa because they tended to lag behind data collection. Efforts should be made to solve the technical and administrative problems at that level.

61. The Group considered various methods for setting statistical priorities in the region, namely to maintain existing priorities, to consider the priorities in the national development plan, to hold consultations with user and producer committees and to evaluate requirements. It was felt that national statistical services should suggest that a programme of work should be drawn up after consulting users. Then national statistical councils would take the necessary decisions on the content of the programme of work and the priority to be attached to the various components. It was stressed that the extent to which such priorities were respected depended largely on the how efficiently national statistical services were managed.

62. The Group agreed that the question of staff promotion should be solved in the context of a plan to improve career prospects and provide staff training. It was recommended that in countries where statisticians still appeared at a disadvantage steps should be taken to provide them with terms comparable to those of other officials with the same level of qualifications. The group also stressed the importance of in-service training which helps to improve the knowledge of junior staff and middle-level cadres and of training statisticians in electronic data processing. The question of associate STPA centres was also reviewed and will be considered below.

63. The Group felt that the inclusion of research and analysis in the activities of national statistical services helped to make the latter more interesting. Although it might be useful to make a distinction between research and analysis it should not blur the relation between them. Research, particularly of a methodological nature, should be encouraged. Analysis work led to a better use of data and closer links with users.

64. Lastly, the Group considered matters relating to the technical assistance programme in the field of statistics and the regionalization of statistical training centres in Africa. The conclusions on the latter will be summarized in the following section so as to take into account also the views expressed at the Meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA.

VIII. Matters arising from the second Meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA

65. Mention has already been made elsewhere in this document of the outcome of the Meeting of Directors particularly with regard to progress made by STPA over the last two years, the co-operative development of teaching programmes, the co-ordination of technical and financial assistance, special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries and dissemination of information on statistical training activities. This section will thus be confined to some specific issues to which the attention of the Joint Conference should be drawn.

66. The Meeting considered the integration of statistics and its implications for teaching. It felt that integration was desirable but that it could be achieved more effectively by improvements in the methods of training which produced a proper mix of theory, methods and applications. It was stressed that experience on the job could not be replaced by any kind of formal training but that such training could minimize the period spent in training on the job.

67. With regard to the question of statistical training for the implementation of the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) the meeting pointed out that the present syllabuses of the centres covered some of the subject fields coming under AHSCP and in some cases the practical work assignments related to household surveys. The main deficiency was in giving a practical orientation towards the type of work required for AHSCP. In that context, the Meeting emphasized the need for organizing refresher courses and workshops at the regional or country level.

68. The Meeting noted that all centres participating in STPA were actively involved in student research projects of relevance to national needs which in most cases were undertaken in collaboration or consultation with the Government or other agencies. However, not all centres were yet in a position to operate at the post-graduate level where research in the traditional sense was done, primarily for lack of resources. Moreover some centres provided only middle-level training. Research by staff members as distinct from supervision of student projects did not appear to feature prominently in some centres.

69. The Meeting was informed that as from academic year 1981/82 the Collège de statistique of the l'Ecole nationale d'économie appliquée de Dakar would begin to offer regional services by training ingénieurs des travaux statistiques for the countries of the Sahel. Accordingly the question of admitting that school as a participating member of STPA arose. The secretariat suggests that a mission should be sent to Dakar during 1982 to evaluate the centre. In the light of the results of the mission, the admission of the Collège de statistique to STPA could be confirmed by the Executive Secretary of ECA or postponed for review by the joint Conference.

70. The question of centres associated with STPA was considered both by the Working Group and the Meeting of Directors. It should be recalled that in the project document establishing STPA it was stated that STPA centres were to be encouraged to make available facilities for specialization. Courses offered by specialized training centres outside the region were to be considered as part of the STPA. It was also recognized that technical and financial assistance from developed countries in the field of statistics could be achieved more easily by using associate centres. As has already been stated, the secretariat identified centres which could become associate STPA centres during the mission to Europe, the United States and Canada in June/July 1981. The criterion applied for identifying such centres was their experience in training and refresher courses for statisticians from developing countries and the services they could offer in the future.

71. In addition to the Munich Centre for Advance Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries, which is now the only associate centre, the other centres identified are listed below:

- Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, United Kingdom;
- Applied Statistics Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom;
- Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Hague, the Netherlands;
- International Statistical Programs Centre (ISPC), United States Bureau of Census, Washington.

72. The secretariat suggests that the Joint Conference should endorse the list so that the Executive Secretary of ECA may notify the centres concerned.

73. The secretariat also intends to inventory other centres which may be able to make their contribution to the development of statistical training for the African region. At the same time, it is endeavoring to promote technical co-operation among developing countries.

74. The regionalization of training institutes was also considered both by the Working Group and by the Meeting of Directors. In the context of the implementation of STPA, ECA has been informed that some centres participating in the programme intend to change their status as national centres and offer regional services as fully regional centres. Moreover, the ECA Conference of Ministers had requested the secretariat to undertake a study on the problems common to institutions, which is an item on the agenda of the Joint Conference.

75. While supporting a move towards full regionalization, the two meetings felt that there were some attendant dangers and that arrangements would have to be worked out carefully over a long period. They noted that the first requirement in regionalizing any centre was a clear commitment on the part of several countries to support it financially and administratively and to use its services. It was necessary to make sure that commitments would be met before looking for any outside assistance. Experience had shown that countries did not often respect their commitments.

76. De jure regionalization did in fact have a number of advantages including the possibility of strengthening and developing some centres fully by pooling available resources, thus increasing the output. But it was also noted that the more traditional arrangement of having de facto regional centres, i.e. national centres providing regional services, had in fact not created insurmountable financial problems.

77. The conclusion was that a plan for the development of statistical training was needed for the continent as a whole to ensure that efforts towards regionalization were rational and effective. However, it was also felt that, even with a global regionalization plan, it would be necessary to work out special arrangements for each centre.

IX. Conclusions

78. Hence the secretariat has paid all due attention to the recommendations made by the Joint Conference at its first session concerning the implementation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa and the review of problems relating to national statistical organization and manpower.

79. It is appropriate to stress the need for African Governments to include statistical training among their priority programmes for external assistance. It is important that the various Governments should use their indicative planning figures (IPF) for statistical training, particularly since regional funds are not enough to cover the needs of the region and various components of STPA can be financed more efficiently at the national level.

80. Participants at the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers are called upon to:

- Assess the work accomplished in the implementation of STPA over the last two years;

- Give directives for future action;

- Consider the report of the Working Group on Statistical Organization and Manpower in Africa and adopt it, with any amendments that might be necessary;

- Consider the report of the second Meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA and adopt it, with any amendments that might be necessary;

- Discuss the secretariat's proposals concerning the admission of the Collège de statistique de Dakar as a participating member of STPA and the designation of STPA associate centres.

- Consider the question of the regionalization of training institutes in the light of problems common to such institutions.