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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POPULATION
With the co-operation of
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION
Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee
for the African Population Conference
Addis Ababa, 3 - 5 June 1970

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZERS OF SESSIONS

The agenda items and the guidelines have been prepared to meet the main objectives of the African Population Conference, namely, a comprehensive review of the demographic situation, population studies, and programmes in the region with a view to evolving guidelines to the African governments and the United Nations for population studies and programmes.

The Conference will be organized in two parts - the first comprising scientific meetings under the joint sponsorships of the UN/ECA and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and the co-operation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation - and the second, an ECA Conference of African Demographers (that may constitute a Standing Technical Committee for the ECA such as the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Planners), composed of representatives of African governments, which will provide on the basis of the review of the scientific meetings, guidelines to the African governments and the UN for future programmes on population.

The present guidelines for organizers of Sessions have been prepared to meet the main objectives of the joint meetings, namely, a comprehensive, scientific review of the demographic situation in the region and its implication. These guidelines, by their very nature, cannot be considered exhaustive.

The scientific meetings under the joint sponsorship will be organized under two groups: (A) Plenary Sessions (formerly called Joint Meetings) which will be devoted to the studying of the population situation in Africa and the practical applications of demography to planning for social and economic development; and (B) Special Group Meetings which will deal with methodological problems. Although important, the Special Group Meetings will be of interest to a limited number of participants and may, therefore, be prepared as Seminar types: the preparation of formal papers is not envisaged for these meetings, but the discussion leaders are invited to prepare such papers with a view to facilitating discussions.

The present guidelines relate to the working papers, country statements and solicited and contributed individual papers for the Plenary sessions. There should be a working paper and organizer's statement for every session. Organizers are requested to prepare brief outlines of papers they intend to invite from contributors and send a copy to the Director, Population Programme Centre, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa.

SESSION I. Topic 1. Problems in Demographic Data Collection:
(a) Censuses; (b) Demographic inquiries (including sample surveys); and (c) Non-conventional sources of demographic data.

The working paper for the topic should review the present position on the conduct of population inquiries - both censuses and sample surveys - in the African countries, and the general problems and future plans including the UN and other collaborative efforts in this direction. Country statements and individual papers may bring out special problems in African countries relating to the planning and the conduct of population enquiries such as financing; use of maps or lists of localities, formulation of questionnaires, concepts, their definition and interpretation by the enumerator/interviewer; testing and the evaluation of tests; training of staff; administrative supervision; statistical control; etc.

Among the non-conventional sources of demographic data may be mentioned the administrative census and their utilization as also use of tax and election registers, educational records, agricultural and social surveys, and registration on migration where applicable.

SESSION II. Topic 2. Vital Statistics: (a) Vital registration; and
(b) Vital data collected through sample inquiries
(on an ad hoc or a current basis)

The papers under sub-topic (a) may deal with the problems of establishment of efficient registration systems in African countries which relate to factor such as staffing, delayed registration and lack of motive on the part of the public. The results of experiments carried out in individual countries on selected areas using methods such as law enforcement with penalties, incentives for reporting, etc., may usefully be reported and the efforts of the African governments and of the United Nations described. The conference may take note of the recommendations of the African Seminar on Vital Statistics (1964) and of other international bodies and meetings.

Under sub-topic (b) the different types of sample inquiries conducted to provide vital data may be described under the following groups, considered by the Inter-regional Workshop on Methodology of Demographic Sample Surveys, Copenhagen, 1969.

(i) Single-round retrospective household surveys, i.e., recalling vital events which occurred during a specified period preceding the date of interview; (ii-a) Multi-round repetitive retrospective household surveys; (ii-b) Multi-round repetitive retrospective household surveys combined with continuous registration of vital events and the matching of events from the two sources; and (iii) Follow-up surveys comparing persons found in the sample areas at different dates for ascertaining changes due to births, deaths, and migratory movements.

The papers may also deal with the problems of estimation procedures especially for analytical purposes such as the study of the relation of population with social and economic factors and of the methods of obtaining estimates adjusted for different types of biases such as those due recall lapse, age mis-statement, and other non-deliberate causes. For sampling inquiries relating to sample study areas, the problems of expanding these to cover the whole country may be considered and the experience of individual countries studied.

It may also be considered whether topics 1 and 2 should be covered in one session.

SESSION III-IV Topic 3. The Demographic Situation in Africa

While assessing the demographic levels and trends, the papers should also be analytical in content, by presenting both indices of the demographic conditions of the population and also stressing the interrelationships between the various variables which throw light on the determinants of a given situation and on trends.

The seven sub-topics under this heading have been divided into two sessions.

SESSION III. Topic 3. (a) Demographic structure and socio-economic characteristics of the population; (b) Nuptiality; (c) Fertility; (d) Mortality.

These four topics should preferably be analysed in their inter-relationships: e.g. sex and age structure of the population and size of the school-age population, or size and distribution of the labour force and economic dependency ratios; sex and age distribution and fertility rates; economic, social and cultural factors (religion, tradition, literacy/education, etc.) affecting nuptiality and fertility rates; nuptiality and fertility (in particular with reference to age at marriage, nuptiality rates, polygamy, marriage customs, cohabitation, divorce and widowhood and remarriage rates); fertility and infant and maternal mortality; fertility, parity, intervals between births, and mother/child health; etc.

SESSION IV. Topic 3. (e) Spatial distribution of population; (f) Internal migration and urbanization; (g) International migration; (h) Population prospects.

Each of these three items may be analysed separately. The analysis may centre on the inter-relationships between socio-economic variables such as sex, age, education, employment and economic activity, rural/urban residence, and differences between migrants and non-migrants with regard to employment, economic activity, etc., so as to reveal the determinants of migration - the "push-and-pull" factors.

These three items should also be analysed in their relationships to one another: for example, internal migration as it affects the spatial distribution of the population; the impact of internal migration on the socio-economic characteristics in particular of the receiving population, but wherever significant, also, of the "source" population (i.e. the consequence of a rural exodus in both the rural and urban areas); and similar analyses for cases of migration from less-developed to more developed areas. A similar approach may be adopted with regard to the analysis of international migration: where possible an appraisal of the effects of long-term international migration on the economies of the countries may be attempted.

The population prospects - both the total and its segments (sex, age, rural/urban, etc.) - will constitute a running theme throughout the Conference.

SESSION V. Topic 4. Analysis of Demographic Data

It is suggested that this topic might deal more with analysis of demographic data than their processing. The use of population data and analysis for planners and administrators should be covered, including useful forms of measurement and presentation such as population maps. Recent experience in computer processing for demographic analysis - projections, simulation models and study of inter-relationships - in the African countries may also be dealt with. Analysis of demographic data is implied also in other topics particularly in Topic 3.

SESSION VI-IX. Topics 5 & 6. Application of Demography to Economic and Social Planning

The difficulty of separating economic and social aspects of development planning is appreciated. However, in order to organize this subject in a manageable form, a division has been proposed under topics 5 and 6, relating to the application of demography to social and economic planning respectively; but studies in which these aspects are considered together will be welcome.

The ECA secretariat proposes to prepare a number of case-studies of actual relation of population and socio-economic factors with economic-demographic growth models in selected African countries for presentation to the Conference.

SESSION VI-VIII. Topic 5. Application of Demography to Social Planning

The three sub-topics should be discussed mainly from their social aspects, though economic aspects, in relation to their social consequences, should also be included. Strictly economic aspects of demography will be discussed under Topic 6.

Practical illustrations of experience in Africa should be provided, rather than mere theoretical discussion of "implications" as corollaries of, for example, rapid urbanization.

SESSION VI. Topic 5(a) Labour Force (supply and demand), Unemployment and Underemployment

A paper dealing with the broad factors of labour force, including labour supply projections might be prepared on the basis of the variables mentioned under Item 3(a), namely, the levels and trends in the distribution by sex, age, type of activity, occupation, etc. Another paper on labour-demand projections (future labour requirements for various economic sectors) might also be prepared. Comparison between the supply and demand projections should show up imbalance, if any, raising the question formulating policy decisions.

The importance of evolving policies and programmes to meet under-employment as also to meet the shortage of skilled manpower may be brought up in the papers: this may have to be seen also in the light of overall economic and social development.

SESSION VII. Topic 5 (b) Planned Spatial Redistribution of Population and Urbanisation

The papers should discuss the experience and possibilities of planned redistribution of population to avoid the unfavourable consequences of overpopulation in certain areas, or overcrowding in urban areas, and positively, to achieve a better spatial distribution, economically and socially, of the population as a whole, with illustration from a number of directed, organized, even planned population movements on the African continent can be illustrated: resettlement of population arising out of special development projects - e.g. building of dams and flooding of particular areas, or resettlement for the better utilization of newly developed areas (e.g. Ghana, U.A.R., Sudan, etc.), the sedentarization of nomads in some countries and the special case of the settlement of refugees.

Experiences of planned population distribution or redistribution in other continents may also be examined in the light of African realities.

SESSION VIII. Topic 5 (c) Social Services: Better family living, public health, education, social welfare, employment, housing, etc.

The development of social services should be based on population data and analysis. Requirements in the field of social services can be estimated on the basis of the population estimates and projections and the standard of social service adopted.

Papers will deal with the utilisation of population estimates and projections for the determination of social service requirements, and on the supply of skilled manpower. Better family living programmes for increasing² the welfare of the family-units are a main objective of such social services.

SESSIONS IX. Topic 6. Population Growth and Economic Development
(a) Land use, agriculture, and food supply; and
(b) Production and consumption in other sectors

Economic development to meet the needs of a growing population will be discussed under these two items. Under sub-topic (a), the working paper should deal with the situation and prospects of land use, agriculture and food supply; country statements and individual papers may be concerned with experience in selected countries.

Under sub-topic (b), the working paper will deal with the production and consumption requirements for the present and the near future, and the recent experiences of industrial development in the region; country statements and individual papers may deal with specific sectors of the economy and in different countries.

SESSION X-XI. Topic 7. Implications of Population Structure and Change for Policy Formulation

A review of the demographic situation in Africa and the trends of population growth, which frequently render impossible a desirable margin of investment savings leading to the lack of realization of development goals, should lead to a discussion of population programmes and policies.

The demographic contents of African development plans may be reviewed in the working paper and the importance of making population factor an integrated part of the whole development process highlighted. The Conference will take note of the recommendations of the different regional and international conferences on this.

There are three main areas of activity which, according to circumstances, require policy formulation and implementation. These may be dealt with in two Sessions.

SESSION X. Topic 7 (a) International Migration Policy

The international migration situation will be discussed under Topic 3 (g) (Session IV). Papers for this session should present a review of emigration and, particularly, immigration policies in action or in the planning stage, as a part of the goals of a country, methods of implementation, and an evaluation of the results achieved.

SESSION X. Topic 7 (b) Population Distribution and Urbanization Policy

The planning and carrying out of a spatial redistribution of the population in one or more areas in a country, or in one or more urban centres and the experience gained in these fields will be discussed in Session VII, Topic 5 (b). Here, the formulation of such a policy and its implementation should be discussed; in formulating distribution policies and in defining their objectives, reference should be made to the "physical" plan, if any, for the countries. The intent is to study as to how to plan, induce and direct a desired redistribution of population and how such a policy, if implemented, is likely to help solve particular population problems.

For the implementation of redistribution policies, experience in Africa and in other parts of the world may be discussed in some detail, including pre-requisites such as finance, administrative and organizational machinery, incentives, such as better employment opportunities, tax waivers, better housing, social amenities, etc., and communications.

In practice it may be difficult to separate out sessions VII and X and it may be considered whether the three sessions IV, VII and X should be regrouped to form two sessions.

SESSION XI. Topic 7 (c) Family Planning

The discussion should deal with family planning in the broadest sense. The following main aspects should be analysed: objectives, methods of implementation; evaluation of achievements (in the light of the original objectives); and training.

On all these aspects, the working papers should include the recent African experiences as also the deliberations of the different regional and international meetings.

(i) Objectives: These should be analysed from both the point of view of the individual and the family and also that of the nation as a whole. The individual and family welfare may relate to the spacing of births, maternal and child health; family size and standard of living (nutrition, education, housing conditions, etc.); child spacing, employment of women and family income; child spacing and changing modes of life in a developing society (changing aspirations of women and their new status in society). National objectives might be dealt with as the sum of individual aspirations and also as integrated with socio-economic development in general, which should set up targets in this field, e.g., a reduction in the rate of population growth.

(ii) Methods of implementation: These will include: financial provisions; administrative and organizational machinery; health facilities (staff, clinics, equipment, supplies, etc.); and extension services and mass communication media.

(iii) Evaluation of family planning programmes: These should relate both to the assessment of the quality of the programmes and to the measurement of the effects. Evaluation projects are in operation in a number of African countries, and the techniques of evaluation still being developed. The African experiences should be analysed and discussed taking into account the methodological and the substantive aspects.

(iv) Training: Various aspects of training in family planning action and evaluation programmes will be covered.

SESSION XII. Topic 8. Research and Training in Demography

The Conference may discuss the present stage of research and training in the region, taking stock of the progress achieved, analysing the experiences acquired, and suggesting guidelines for future activities, so as to satisfy requirements in the field of research, socio-economic planning, and administration. The working papers may review the present status of research and training in Africa in general, dealing both with the UN-sponsored and nationally-provided facilities. In addition, some country statements on research enquiries and training might be invited as a part of a broader statement on the demography of each country. The utilization of demographers who had been trained in research centres should also form a subject of discussion.