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WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

COORDINATION OF THE STATISTICAL DATA-COLLECTION ACTIVITIES  
OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Inventory of statistical data-collection activities

Addendum

Future plans

Note by the Secretary-General

1. This addendum to the inventory of statistical data-collection activities (E/CN.3/AC.1/1993/R.6) discusses the plans of international organizations concerning data-collection activities in the immediate future. Since most organizations alluded to their future plans in the main inventory, this document is limited to additional information provided by organizations based on specific decisions they have reached regarding their future activities.

2. The following have no plans to change their data-collection activities in the immediate future: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

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\* E/CN.3/AC.1/1993/R.1.

3. No response to the inquiry was received from the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat

4. The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics questionnaire will be substantially revised in 1994, based on the results of the expert group meeting held in February 1993 to review the Bulletin and Statistical Yearbook and further consultations with organizations. However, the general size and periodicity of the Bulletin questionnaire are expected to stay the same. High priority will be given in the period 1994-1995 to developing methods to circulate this questionnaire, compile the data from countries and disseminate the results using electronic technologies such as electronic mail (e-mail), File Transmission Protocol (FTP) and United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT). In connection with the planned completion for electronic publication in 1993 of the CoreStat database (of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat) of the principal economic and social time-series of countries, a special effort will be made to compile available series for the transition countries, for which little data are currently available from the international questionnaire.

5. The Statistical Division has prepared a first proposal for a revised System of National Accounts (SNA) questionnaire; the questionnaire has been reviewed by means of discussion at the OECD meeting on national accounts held in Paris in June 1993 and will be further reviewed by meetings of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, the regional commissions and other forums. A revised questionnaire is intended to serve the analysis and policy-making needs of a varied group of international and regional organizations and other users. In view of this, the draft revised questionnaire will also be intensively discussed in the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat. The collection of data through a revised questionnaire will be complemented by improvements used in the Statistical Division to estimate data, particularly involving extended use of microcomputer networks.

6. Beginning in 1994, the General Industrial Statistics Questionnaire and the Supplementary General Industrial Statistics Questionnaire will not be sent to countries by the Statistical Division. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will take over this function.

7. Commencing in 1993, in May of each year a request will be sent to all countries (that may not have done so already) asking them to transmit their detailed trade statistics (commodity by partner) for the preceding calendar year on magnetic tape, diskette or in publication form. There will be a follow-up request in June of each year.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

8. ECE is going through a major review of its questionnaires and making several changes as the process continues. Some of the changes recently carried out or planned, and not referred to in document E/CN.3/AC.1/1993/R.6, include: (a) addition of the annual questionnaire entitled "Capacity in pig-iron and steel", (b) addition of the biannual questionnaire on arisings and consumption

of scrap in the steel industry and (c) replacement of the "Questionnaire for the statistical indicators of short-term economic changes (in ECE countries)" with a new questionnaire entitled "Questionnaire on selected macro-economic indicators for the transition countries. 1991-1993 - Economic Bulletin for Europe, 1993 and Economic Survey of Europe, 1993/94".

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

9. FAO is reviewing its questionnaires to reduce the number of their queries to a minimum and also to reduce their frequency. In particular, the former Quarterly Production Questionnaire will be replaced by a second issue of the Annual Production Questionnaire (that is to say, two questionnaires on production will be sent instead of five).

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

10. IMF is expanding the coverage of its statistics to include more countries, with the ultimate goal of covering all member countries in their statistical publications. Furthermore, IMF is encouraging various countries to enhance the comprehensiveness and quality of data submitted.

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