

POPULATION COMMISSION REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION

(7-17 February 1961)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

NEW YORK

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Thirty-first Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Supplement No. 3 (E/3451) (E/CN.9/165) April 1961 NEW YORK

POPULATION COMMISSION Report of the eleventh session

Paragraph 66, third line:

For "had been" read "was being".

Paragraph 74, fourteenth line:

For "days" read "years".

Paragraph 122, fourth line:

For "evidence" read "advice".

Annex I, paragraph 9:

The table should be revised as follows:

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
		(US dollar:	s)	-
Preparatory committee of the World Conference on Population a	2,500	2,500	_	_	_
Professional officer and one secretary (WorldConference on Population) a/	7,500	15,000	15,090	_	
Three professional officers to be posted at ECE, ECAFE and ECLA, and supporting secretarial assistance	35,300	35,300	35,300	35,300	35,300
Consultant for revision of The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	_
Printing and translation of new stu-	17,900 b	14,800 5		9,800₫	/ <u>48,800</u> e/
TOTAL	65,200	69,600	52,300	45,100	84,100

a/ The expenses listed here for the World Conference on Population represent only a part of the total expenses which will have to be charged against the budget of the United Nations (see para. 4 above).

b/ Translation and printing of the "Demographic and socio-economic survey of the metropolitan area of San Salvador, El Salvador", and printing of the English text of the "Study of factors affecting trends in the sectoral distribution of active populations."

c/ Translation into French and Spanish, and printing in French and Spanish, of the "Study of factors affecting trends in the sectoral distribution of active populations."

d/ Printing of the English text of the revised edition of <u>The Determinants and Consequences</u> of Population Trends.

e/ Translation into French and Spanish, and printing in French and Spanish, of the revised edition of The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

POPULATION COMMISSION

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the eleventh session of the Commission, held at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 17 February 1961 inclusive

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Population Commission held its eleventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 17 February 1961.

Attendance

2. Attendance at the session was as follows:

MEMBERS

Belgium: Mr. Jacques Mertens de Wilmars

Ceylon: Mr. Alfred Edward*
China: Mr. Pao-yi Tsao

El Salvador: Mr. Francisco Antonio Carrillo France: Mr. Alfred Sauvy, Mr. Paul Paillat*

Italy: Mr. Vittorio Castellano

Japan: Mr. Minoru Tachi, Mr. Masao Ito*

Mexico: Mr. Andrés Landa y Pina

Norway: Mr. Christian Berg-Nielsen,* Dr. Gunnar af Geijerstam**

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: Mr. Valentine F. Bourlin, Mr. Valentine I. Tsurkan**

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. Peter G. Podyachikh, Mr. Vladimir A. Yulin**

United Arab Republic: Mr. Hassan Hussein

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Mr. Bernard Benjamin

United States of America: Mr. Conrad Taeuber, Mr. Ansley J. Coale,** Mr. Howard C. Brunsman,** Mr. John E. Patterson**

Uruguay: Mr. Enrique Rodríguez Fabregat

OBSERVERS

Argentina: Mr. Héctor Bernardo

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation: Mr. E. Zmirou, Mr. H. E. Reymond

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: Mr. Joseph L. Orr

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Mr. Arthur Gagliotti

World Health Organization: Dr. W. P. D. Logan

Non-governmental organizations CATEGORY B AND REGISTER

Agudas Israel World Organization: Mr. Isaac Lewin, Mr. A. de Haas

Catholic International Union for Social Service: Mrs. Carmen Giroux

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: Mr. Richard Fagley

Inter-American Statistical Institute: Miss Ana G. Casis International Conference of Catholic Charities: Mr. Louis Longarzo

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population: Mr. Dudley Kirk, Mr. Frank Lorimer

Pax Romana: Mr. Edward J. Kirchner, Miss Sally Cotter

World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations: Mr. Dalton F. McClelland

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Miss Catherine Schaefer, Miss Alba Zizzamia

World Young Women's Christian Association: Mrs. Constance Anderson, Mrs. Jane D. Britt

3. The Secretary-General was represented by Miss Julia Henderson, Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs; Mr. John D. Durand, Assistant Director, Bureau of Social Affairs, in charge of the Population Branch; and Mr. William R. Leonard, Director of the Statistical Office. Mr. Jean Bourgeois-Pichat, of the Population Branch, acted as Secretary to the Commission.

Election of officers

The Commission at its 147th meeting on 7 February 1961, elected the following officers by acclamation:
 Mr. Jacques Mertens de Wilmars (Belgium), Chairman;
 Mr. Hassan Hussein (United Arab Republic), Vice-Chairman;

Mr. Conrad Taeuber (United States of America), Rapporteur.

Meetings, resolutions and documentation

- 5. The Commission held fifteen plenary meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in the records of the 147th to 161st meetings.
- 6. The decisions of the Commission appear under the subject-matters to which they relate. The draft resolutions submitted for consideration by the Economic and

^{*} Alternate.

^{**} Adviser.

Social Council are set out in chapter XIII of the present report.

7. The documents before the Commission at its eleventh session are listed in annex II to this report.

Agenda

- 8. At its 147th meeting the Commission unanimously adopted its agenda for the eleventh session, as set forth in the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/157) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission:
 - 1. Election of officers.
 - 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 - Objectives and accomplishments of the United Nations in the field of population.
 - The world demographic situation, with primary reference to mortality.

- World population census programme: evaluation, analysis and utilization of results of the censuses of underdeveloped countries.
- Demographic studies relevant to policy-making and planning of economic and social development programmes for under-developed countries:
 - (a) Population projections;
 - (b) Studies of demographic aspects of urbanization;
 - (c) Studies of demographic aspects of manpower, education, etc.
- 7. Population conferences.
- 8. Technical assistance in the demographic field.
- 9. Control and limitation of documentation.
- Progress of work during 1959-1960 and programme of work for 1961-1962 in the field of population.
- 11. Time and place of next session.
- Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council.

II. OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION

- 9. The Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/158 and Corr.1) summarizing previous statements of the Commission concerning major objectives of the United Nations in this field and briefly reviewing the principal accomplishments to date. The Commission was aware that it was meeting in its eleventh session at a time of mounting interest in population questions. The importance of these questions for Governments and the United Nations had increased since the Commission held its first session in 1947.
- 10. The Commission considered that, with the growing interest in planning for economic and social development, there was an increasing need for information about the interrelationships between population structure and growth on the one hand and economic and social development on the other. The rate of this development should ensure a steady increase in the level of *per caput* income and consumption. Accordingly, there would need to be increases in national investments for expansion of production and for social purposes.
- 11. The world is in the process of significant changes in the numbers, composition and territorial distribution of the population, which have far-reaching consequences. The rate of growth of the world population has risen since the Second World War as a result of the success of efforts to improve the conditions of health and to reduce death rates, especially in the regions where mortality was previously high. By 1960, the rate of growth of the world population was significantly greater than it had been before the war and the results of recent censuses show no sign of any slowing of the rate of growth in the world as a whole. In some countries, the flow of population to the cities exceeds the expanding demand for labour in urban industries. The United Nations cannot fail to take a strong interest in the possible economic and social consequences of the rapid growth and shifting distribution of population, particularly in those parts of the world where the level of living is low.

Objectives of the United Nations

12. It was emphasized that, from the beginning of its work, the Population Commission had been concerned

- with the problems of under-developed countries. At its first session, the Commission undertook to study the interrelationships of economic, social and demographic factors which hinder cultural development and the attainment of an adequate level of living. In subsequent sessions, the Commission emphasized more and more strongly its interest in the population problems of under-developed countries. The Commission had been mindful at all times that its role was to promote factual studies which would help national Governments in formulating their own goals and determining the means by which they could reach those goals.
- 13. Censuses of the population were being taken in many countries in connexion with the 1960 World Population Census Programme. These censuses would furnish a large body of new information about the numbers, distribution and characteristics of the world's peoples, which could be used as a basis for demographic, economic and social projections and for the formulation of development programmes. The new census materials would throw light on recent changes in demographic trends in various parts of the world. They would call for a re-evaluation of national policies and plans for economic and social development.
- 14. Considering that the present time was appropriate for a reiteration of the interests and objectives of the United Nations in the field of population, the Commission summed up its views in the following terms.
- 15. It is the responsibility of each Government to decide its own policies and devise its own programmes of action for dealing with the problems of population and economic and social development. In particular, each Government must decide for itself whether or not any measures should be taken for the purpose of modifying the trends of population as an aid to the solution of these problems, taking into account the work of the Population Commission. On the other hand, it is in the interest of the United Nations that decisions on national policies should be taken, and national action programmes should be planned, in the light of knowledge of the relevant facts, and that the programmes should be adequate to assure satisfactory economic and social progress. Among the circumstances which must be considered are

the relevant features of national culture and ideals as well as the trend of population, the physical resources and other economic circumstances of each country. It is appropriate that the United Nations should encourage and assist the Governments, especially of the less developed countries, in obtaining basic data and carrying out essential studies of the demographic aspects, as well as other aspects, of their economic and social development problems. It is also considered appropriate for the United Nations to give technical assistance, as requested by Governments, for national projects of research, experimentation and action for dealing with problems of population.

16. The Economic and Social Council could not foresee the far-reaching demographic changes which would shortly take place when it set out the Commission's terms of reference in its resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948. At that time the Council requested the Commission to arrange for studies and advise the Council, inter alia, on "the interplay of demographic factors and economic and social factors". It thus provided ample scope for the progressive reorientation of the Commission's work toward projects which would be helpful to the less developed countries in the study of interrelationships between population trends on the one hand, and problems of social and economic development on the other. The Commission considered it essential that it should continue to give increasing attention to the demographic problems of the developing economies.

Accomplishments

- 17. The means used in the past by the United Nations to encourage and assist the Governments in their demographic work could be classified under the following headings:
- (a) Regional and interregional projects of research on demographic questions of common interest. The Commission considered that the research done under its aegis by the Secretariat had contributed materially to the science of demography and had been particularly effective in bending this science to the service of the Governments of under-developed countries. These studies included such subjects as the following:
- (i) Surveys of the conditions and trends of population in different parts of the world, such as the one published in 1957 in the Report on the World Social Situation, and the world-wide survey of mortality trends which was to appear in the next issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations;
- (ii) Population projections for the world, its regions, and individual countries;
- (iii) The broad survey of findings of scientific studies on the interrelations of population growth and structure with economic and social factors, published in *The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends*, which was regarded as a fundamental reference volume for research workers and students of demography;
- (iv) Pilot studies carried out in co-operation with interested Governments for the purposes of demonstrating the utility of demographic enquiries, testing and illustrating methods of investigation, and producing information of interest to the co-operating Governments. Among these projects were the study of population trends and characteristics in Mysore State, India, carried out in co-operation with the Government of India, studies
 - 1 United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.IV.3. 2 United Nations publication, Sales No.: 53.XIII.3.

- of population growth and manpower carried out in cooperation with the Governments of the Philippines and the Sudan, and a study of births and deaths recently launched in co-operation with the Government of Brazil.
- (b) Improvement of demographic statistics. It was pointed out that, from the outset, the Population Commission had co-operated with the Statistical Commission in formulating international standards for population censuses and vital statistics, guiding the work of the Secretariat in the compilation and publication of demographic statistics and providing assistance to Governments in extending the scope and improving the quality of these data. Twelve issues of the Demographic Yearbook had been published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations since 1948, together with several technical publications on the methods of population censuses and vital statistics. Demographic statistics of the under-developed countries had been extended in scope and improved in quality through this collaboration.
- (c) Preparation and dissemination of technical material on methods of demographic analysis. It was further noted that the Secretariat had contributed to the use of demographic data by developing methods of analysis and estimation suitable for use in countries where demographic statistics were fragmentary and of relatively poor or uncertain quality. The study of age and sex patterns of mortality,3 which presented a set of model lifetables, had provided a new tool for studying demographic trends and for developing population projections. With the help of these model life-tables, the Secretariat had carried out studies of the properties of model stable, quasi-stable, and transitional populations which had furnished new means of assessing the quality of national demographic data and making estimates and projections of mortality, fertility and population growth in countries where statistics were incomplete or defective. The United Nations had also published manuals on methods of appraising the quality of basic data for population estimates, methods of estimating the total population of an under-developed country for current dates, and methods of making population projections by sex and age.4
- (d) Regional projects of training in methods of demographic research. The Commission noted that, in most under-developed countries, the lack of a sufficient number of persons trained in the methods of demographic analysis was one of the main obstacles to providing the information on population trends which the Governments needed. As a contribution toward eliminating this obstacle, the United Nations had given support to regional centres for demographic training within the less developed regions of the world and had provided fellowships, under the technical assistance programme, for nationals of countries within these regions to attend the centres. Two such centres had thus far been established, one with the co-operation of the Government of Chile at the University of Chile in Santiago, for the benefit of the Latin American countries, the other in co-operation with the Government of India at Chembur (Bombay), for the countries of Asia and the Far East.

³ Age and Sex Patterns of Mortality: Model Life-Tables for Under-Developed Countries (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.9).

⁴ Manuals on methods of estimating population: Manual I: Methods of Estimating Total Population for Current Dates (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 52.XIII.5); Manual II: Methods of Appraisal of Quality of Basic Data for Population Estimates (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 56.XIII.2); Manual III: Methods for Population Projections by Sex and Age (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 56.XIII.3).

Recently these two centres had also launched programmes of demographic research.

(e) Regional and interregional conferences and seminars on problems of population and relevant questions for research. In the view of the Commission, isolation was inimical to the healthy growth of demography, as of other sciences, and it was particularly damaging in countries where the number of persons working in this field was exceedingly small and the possibilities of crossfertilization of ideas among those in the same country were therefore very limited. Among the most effective means by which the United Nations had nourished the development of demographic studies in the developing countries were the conferences and seminars which had been held under the Commission's aegis. In addition to providing opportunities for international exchange of knowledge and experience, these meetings had served to stimulate interest in demographic studies, enhance appreciation of their importance, and orient their development in directions which were useful and in line with the interests of the United Nations and of the Governments concerned. The most important undertaking of the United Nations in this field was the World Population Conference, a major, world-wide meeting of experts in various disciplines, held in 1954.5 Five regional seminars had been held, under the United Nations programmes of technical assistance, for discussions among technicians of the major needs for demographic information and studies in the different regions, the problems involved in carrying out such studies, and useful possibilities of international co-operation in this field. Such seminars were held in Asia and the Far East in 1955 and 1960, in Latin America in 1955 and 1959, and in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region in 1958.6

(f) Co-operation with regional economic commissions. The Commission noted that the available resources for demographic research on the part of the United Nations had been enlarged at the regional level by the inclusion of demographic experts in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions in Latin America, Asia and the Far East, and Africa. Among the demographic studies which had been carried out under the auspices of the regional economic commissions were a study of human resources of Central America, Panama and Mexico, and a study of population trends in relation to problems of economic development in the countries of Asia and the Far East.

⁵ See Proceedings of the World Population Conference, 1954: Summary Report (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.8); Papers (in six volumes) (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.8, Vols. I-VI).

6 Asia and the Far East Seminar on Population, Bandung, 21 November-3 December 1955 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.II.H.1); Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Asia and the Far East, Bombay, India, 20 June-8 July 1960 (ST/TAO/SER.C/47-E/CN.9/CONF.2/1); Latin America Seminar on Population, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 5-16 December 1955 (ST/TAA/SER.C/33-ST/SOA/36); Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Latin America, Santiago, Chile, 30 November-18 December 1959 (ST/TAO/SER.C/46-E/CN.9/CONF.1/1/Rev.1); Seminar on Population Studies in Southern European Countries, Athens, 15-26 September 1958 (ST/TAA/SER.C/36-ST/SOA/38).

7 The Human Resources of Central America, Panama and Mexico, 1950-1980, in Relation to Some Aspects of Economic Development (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.XIII.) 8 "Population, Trends and Related Problems of Economic Related Problems of Economic

8 "Population Trends and Related Problems of Economic Development in the ECAFE Region" in the June, 1959, issue of the Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East, vol. X, No. 1.

(g) National projects of technical assistance as requested by Governments, for research, experimentation and action relating to the problems of population. It was pointed out that, up to the present time, the United Nations technical assistance programme in the field of population had consisted chiefly of regional projects and, especially, in the regional demographic centres and seminars mentioned above. Relatively few country projects of technical assistance in the demographic field had yet been requested by Governments. Apart from assistance in census-taking and the development of vital statistics or other basic demographic data, the Governments of Barbados, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, the United Arab Republic and Venezuela had requested and received technical assistance in demographic research, experimentation and action for

Needs for further work in the future

dealing with problems of population.

- 18. While the Commission wished to commend the Secretary-General on what it considered to be outstanding accomplishments in the demographic field during the past fourteen years, it was nevertheless impressed by the magnitude of the gaps which still remained. In view of the wide diversity of the tasks which lay ahead in the field of demographic studies, the Commission felt it essential to emphasize certain aspects of the work to which it attached special importance:
- (a) The Commission could not stress too strongly the shortages of trained personnel which impeded the efforts of Governments of less developed countries to obtain the demographic data and analyses needed for planning development programmes. The Commission urged the Secretary-General to seek all possible means of expanding and diversifying the facilities for the training of technical personnel, either abroad in institutions specialized in statistics and demography or within the regions where such training had already been initiated, and of extending such a programme to other regions where the need was equally great.
- (b) Since censuses of population had recently been taken, or would shortly be taken, in many countries, the Commission considered it of prime importance that the Secretariat should devote a considerable part of its resources during the next years to activities related to the evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results, particularly with a view to their use in facilitating economic and social planning and policy-making.
- (c) While mindful of the important demographic work which had been initiated with the assignment of demographic experts to the secretariats of the regional economic commissions, the Commission felt that the opportunities for demographic research provided by this arrangement had not yet been fully exploited. It therefore requested the Secretary-General to explore possibilities of intensifying the regional demographic programmes, and of integrating these programmes more closely with those of the demographic training and research centres.
- (d) As explained elsewhere in this report, the Commission considered it timely to begin preparation for the holding, in 1964 or 1965, of a second world conference on population. The success of such a conference would depend largely on sound preparatory work, and the Commission considered it important that the Secretary-General should begin this work at an early date.

- (e) While the Commission recognized that the activities mentioned above under items (a), (b) and (d) would necessarily occupy a large part of the time of the Secretariat at Headquarters, the Commission hoped that this Secretariat could continue its work on research of international concern. In this connexion, the Commission attached particular importance to surveys of the world demographic situation and to research on methodological studies relative to population projections and development planning and policy-making.
- (f) Some years ago the Commission had recommended that the Secretary-General should prepare and issue a report on the determinants and consequences of population trends. The resulting publication was a highly useful summary of facts, theories and analyses in this field.9 The Commission now expressed the wish that it might be possible to bring this report up to date, taking into account the results of research in this field that had become available since the publication of the report.
- ⁹ The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 53.XIII.3.

- 19. The Commission emphasized the increasing importance and variety of the urgent tasks which the units of the Secretariat concerned with demographic questions at United Nations Headquarters and at the regional economic commissions would have to undertake. It therefore expressed the hope that these units of the Secretariat would be adequately strengthened.
- 20. Mindful of the changing emphasis in the work that had been before the Commission since it was first established and of the need to concentrate limited resources on the most urgent problems, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to present, at the twelfth session, a long-range programme of work for the Commission. Without in any way wishing to limit the Secretary-General's freedom of action, the Commission suggested that he might wish, in carrying out this request, to consult with an ad hoc group of specialists from Member States chosen for their technical competence in various parts of the broad field under consideration.

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES Ш.

A. The world demographic situation, with primary reference to mortality

- 21. The Commission had before it a report (E/CN. 9/159) summarizing some major findings of a survey of conditions and recent trends of mortality in the world, prepared in response to a request of the Commission at its tenth session that surveys of various aspects of the world demographic situation should be made regularly in the future. The Commission wished to congratulate the Secretary-General on this report.
- 22. The Commission wished to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following facts brought out by the Secretariat's study and the Commission's discussion of it. In the years since the Second World War there has been progress in reducing mortality rates throughout the world. Special attention should be given to the progress achieved in under-developed countries, although in some of these countries the rates are still high. The advanced countries, where mortality

rates were already relatively low before the war, have made further progress in this field, but in general the gains in these countries during the last fifteen years have been relatively small. Nevertheless, there remain substantial differences between the mortality levels of some under-developed countries and those of the more highly industrialized countries. The need for continued efforts to reduce mortality rates in the areas where they are still high, is urgent.

23. The reductions in the crude death rates in the different regions of the world between 1937 and 1954-1958 were indicated in the Secretariat's study by the estimates reproduced in table 1 below. Although the estimates for some of the regions are only approximate, they make it clear that impressive reductions of death rates have been achieved since 1937 in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Asia and Latin America. There appears also to have been considerable progress in this respect in Africa.

Estimated crude death rates and expectation of life at birth for regions of the world

		and the same and t			
		l death rate population	Estimated expectation of life at birth (both sexes), in years		
Region	1937а	1954-1958ъ	1955-1958		
World total	24-27*	18*	50-60*		
Northern America	11	9	70		
Oceania	11	9	68		
Europe (excluding USSR)	14	11	68		
USSR	18	8	68		
Latin Americad	20-25*	16*	50-55*		
Asia (excluding USSR)	30-35*	21*	40-50*		
Africa	30-35*	26*	(Probably less than 40		

^{*} Approximate estimates.

a World Population Trends 1920-1947 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 49.XIII.3),

b Demographic Yearbook, 1959 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.XIII.1), table 2. ^e Canada, Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and the United States of America.
^d Including all America except the four areas listed under Northern America.

- 24. Regional figures tend to conceal important differences in the levels and trends of mortality in the various countries. The majority of the countries in Western Europe, Northern American and Australia and New Zealand now have an expectation of life in the range of 65-74 years. On the average they gained about six or seven years between the pre-war period and 1955-1958. For most countries of southern and eastern Europe, and the USSR, the present range of the expectation of life is 65-69 years; the average gain from the pre-war period is about ten years for the southern and eastern European countries, while the USSR has gained twenty years.
- 25. A number of countries in Asia and Latin America have an average expectation of life of between 55 and 69 years. For many other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the average expectancy of life from birth is now 40 to 55 years. Some of these countries have made very impressive gains in the expectancy of life since pre-war years, while in others the gains have been modest.
- 26. The age-old differences in length of life between rich and poor and between the people of developed and under-developed countries of the world continue, though they are being reduced through the development of health services and the progress of disease control.
- 27. Within the regions of advanced economic development, the range of national differences of mortality has narrowed, and there has also been a reduction of the differences in mortality rates between urban and rural sectors and between ethnic groups within the economically more advanced countries.
- 28. In Asia, Africa and Latin America, there is at present a greater disparity in mortality levels than in the more advanced regions. Some countries of the less developed regions have made much more rapid strides than others in improving conditions of health and in reducing death rates.
- 29. Within the under-developed areas, the utilization of modern opportunities in public health has been uneven, and there remain not only higher levels of mortality but a greater disparity of mortality levels than is found in the industrially developed areas. In the future, as modern methods of extending life are spread throughout the now under-developed areas of the world, a reduction in the disparity of mortality levels can be expected.
- 30. The level of infant and childhood mortality remains unnecessarily high in many of the under-developed countries, though improvements have been made. Increased income, improvements in nutrition, the development of broad educational programmes and the application of modern medical and health practices could lead to significant reduction in the number of deaths in infancy and early childhood.
- 31. Further large gains in expectation of life at birth can be expected in the future in under-developed countries. The progress in the 1960's in this field might be as impressive as the gains since the Second World War. The recent gains in some under-developed countries demonstrate what could be accomplished elsewhere, in countries where infectious and parasitic diseases and related ailments are still taking a heavy toll of life. The experience of the post-war years shows that these accomplishments are possible even in countries on a relatively low plane of economic development. Given world peace and continuing international co-

- operation, one can look forward to the time when all humanity will be brought under protection from premature death due to infectious and parasitic diseases.
- 32. Even in the under-developed countries which have registered the greatest gains since the Second World War, there is still ample room for further extension of the expectation of life within the limits of modern technical knowledge. Their further advances in this sphere, during the next decades, depend in an important measure on the success of their efforts for economic and social development. Even within their present economic means, they could achieve considerable savings of life by more intensive and extensive application of measures of health protection.
- 32. For the more advanced countries, where mortality rates are now lowest, the scope for further gains in the expectation of life will be comparatively narrow unless new medical discoveries show the way to postpone death in old age. The countries which now have the most favourable mortality records can obtain only marginal gains of life expectancy by total elimination of all deaths from the relatively tractable causes, including violence, and by removal of all remaining disadvantages in mortality of the socially and economically less favoured elements of the population.
- 34. The effect of large reductions of mortality in the under-developed countries and more modest improvements in the more advanced countries would be a tendency toward further equalization of age-specific mortality rates throughout the world. Some differences can be expected to remain, however, so long as important inequalities in economic and cultural development persist between countries.
- 35. The trend of mortality toward a relatively uniform low level throughout the world has a bearing on the prospects for population growth. As life expectancy at birth rises to over 65 years, fertility becomes the preponderant variable in population growth. Barring catastrophes such as war or a break-down of the economic and social order, changes in mortality are likely to have relatively little effect on population growth once mortality has been reduced to this level. Further reductions in mortality at the older ages would have no effect on the fertility of populations and therefore would have only a slight effect on population growth.
- 36. After all countries have reached such a low mortality level, those with the highest fertility would make the largest gains in population. Since fertility is relatively low in most of the economically advanced countries, and since there are no signs of a large, general rise in their fertility in the future, the foreseeable growth of population in this group of countries is likely to be slower than that of the less advanced countries. It is true that fertility rates in some advanced countries have risen in recent years above the low levels of the 1930s, but now these rates appear to have been stabilized at a level which remains much lower than the fertility of the under-developed countries.
- 37. On the other hand, the Commission noted, the birth rates of under-developed countries have in general remained at high levels. Eventually, fertility in these countries may also decline, but as yet there is no strong indication that an early, general decrease in fertility in the under-developed parts of the world is impending. Unless and until their birth rates fall, the continuing decline of their death rates will result in accelerated population growth.

- 38. The findings summarized above were derived from a study of a body of statistics which was incomplete and uncertain at many points. The Commission was aware of many uncertainties in the registration of deaths and that much remains to be done before reliable mortality statistics are available for all parts of the world. It was informed that death registration statistics are considered to be "complete" (that is, representing at least 90 per cent of the deaths occurring in each year) for only about 36 per cent of the estimated population of the world. For another 50 per cent of the world population, some registration data exist but the statistics cannot be considered complete, while for 14 per cent of the world population there is no indication that any death registration at all exists.
- 39. The Commission expressed its deep concern about the incompleteness of the registration of deaths in many countries. It recommended that the Secretary-General should again bring to the attention of Governments and of the appropriate international organizations the urgent need for the improvement of mortality statistics and urged that technical assistance for this purpose should continue to be made available.
- 40. The Commission considered that it might be worth-while to attempt to work with interested Governments in establishing "registration areas" for vital statistics in certain countries, or in establishing registration of deaths in a sample of localities within a country. If formal registration were not feasible, consideration might be given to establishing a form of voluntary recording in sample areas, pending the development of a full system of registration. Household sample surveys might also be useful interim means of obtaining data on deaths and other vital statistics.
- 41. Estimates of mortality could also be derived from the comparative analysis of the results of successive censuses. In the opinion of the Commission, such estimates had proved useful where death registration was lacking and also where the registration statistics were incomplete and required correction. The Commission recommended that provision be made for such prudent analyses as part of the programme for the evaluation, analysis and utilization of census data.

B. Surveys of other aspects of the world demographic situation

42. The Commission was pleased to be informed that plans had been made for a report on a world survey of fertility, to be issued in 1962, and for another report, which would emphasize the growth of population and the relative contributions of natural increase and international migration to the growth rates of countries and regions, to be issued in 1963, when results of the new censuses would provide essential information for such a study. The Commission considered that the preparation of periodic reports on the world population situation was an important service and expressed the hope that these reports could be prepared and issued as proposed.

C. Population projections

43. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress of work on demographic studies relevant to policy-making and development planning. Work in this broad field has been mainly focused on three subjects: population projections, studies of demographic aspects of manpower, and studies of demographic aspects of urbanization and rural-urban migration (E/CN.9/ 162 and Corr.1).

- 44. Considering the growing interest of Governments and international agencies in population projections as an aid to the planning of economic and social development, the Commission noted with satisfaction that projections by sex and age had been prepared by the Secretariat and published for the countries of Central and South America and for those of Asia and the Far East.¹⁰ Revisions of these projections and the preparation of similar projections for the countries of Africa and the Middle East would have to await the publication of the results of the censuses taken in and around 1960.
- 45. The main purpose of these projections, by necessity based on rather sweeping assumptions, was to provide figures for the major areas of the world and to indicate the relative positions of individual countries. For the purpose of specific development planning in individual countries, projections based on more detailed assumptions worked out by experts familiar with local conditions are usually required. The United Nations can assist in the preparation of such national estimates. In some instances, however, it may not be feasible to make improved projections locally, for lack of adequate data or for other reasons; the United Nations projections may then serve as a useful guide for national planning work. The Commission noted with great interest that the Secretariat's projections had been used as a basis for the projection of rural and urban population as well as for the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of the labour force in the Central American countries and Mexico.11
- 46. Work by the regional economic commissions in the field of population projections has been aimed at breaking down the total population figures in order to identify certain groups of special importance for planned economic and social development. The Commission expressed great interest in the projections undertaken for Bolivia, Colombia and Cuba by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Regional Centre for Demographic Training and Research in Latin America, particularly the rural-urban classifications and projections of the labour force for the latter two countries. It also took note of a forthcoming exploratory study by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) along similar lines for India, and made renewed reference to earlier estimates of the total and economically active population in the eastern European countries. ¹² The Commission

Mexico, 1950-1980, in Relation to Some Aspects of Economic Development (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.XIII.1).

12 The ECAFE study will be published in the June, 1961, issue of the Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East; the estimates for Eastern Europe were published in the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1957* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.II.E.1), chap. VII.

¹⁰ Future Population Estimates by Sex and Age, Report I: The Population of Central America (including Mexico), 1950-The Population of Central America (including Mexico), 1950-1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 54.XIII.3); Report II: The Population of South America, 1950-1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.4); Report III: The population of South-East Asia (including Ceylon and China: Taiwan), 1950-1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.XIII.2); Report IV: The Population of Asia and the Far East, 1950-1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.XIII.3). World-wide estimates are found in The Future Growth of World Population (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.XIII.2).

11 The Human Resources of Central America, Panama and Mexico, 1950-1980, in Relation to Some Aspects of Economic

also expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken in this field at the Demographic Training and Research Centre at Chembur, notably rural and urban manpower projections for Ceylon¹³ and a projection of school-age population in the Philippines.

47. At its tenth session, the Commission referred to the utility, for economic and social planning, of projections of the population of urban and rural areas, the economically active population, school-age population, and the number and size of households. The Commission then expressed the belief that it would be useful for the Secretariat to make studies of the methods of these types of population projections, but refrained from recommending that such studies should be undertaken during 1959 and 1960, because of the pressure of other work. In view of the rapidly increasing need for projections directly suited to the requirements of development planning, the Commission now recommends that work on methods of rural-urban population projections and projections of the economically active population and the number of households be given priority in the Secretariat's future work in the field of projections. It is recognized that the application of demographic techniques to these types of projections will require careful and extensive exploration for some time.14

48. The Commission discussed at some length the order of priority in which the methods of these types of projections should be studied. It was difficult to establish any general principles in this matter, since the needs for different types of projections are not the same in all countries. Furthermore, the types of projections mentioned above are interrelated; for example, the rural-urban distribution of the population bears a close relation to the trends of growth and structure of the economically active population. The Commission took note of a manual on methods of projection of school enrolment issued by the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization Educational, (UNESCO), 15 and of related work undertaken at the regional demographic centres, and recommended that the Secretary-General should consult with UNESCO concerning arrangements for further work to be done in this general area.

49. The Commission was pleased to note a plan for projections by sex and age of the total population and of the rural and urban populations in the Latin American countries, which is being worked out by ECLA and the Regional Centre for Demographic Training and Research in Latin America. The Commission welcomed the plan to publish, in the forthcoming sixth issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations, abstracts of population projections for various countries published since 1950. The Commission recommends the continuation of the publication of such abstracts, as a valuable means of international dissemination of such information, in future issues of the Bulletin. The Commission also welcomes the plan for the publication of population projections and other demographic data for the Latin

American countries in the Economic Bulletin for Latin America which was initiated with the October 1960 issue

50. In order to make the publication of abstracts of available projections in the *Population Bulletin of the United Nations* as comprehensive as possible, the Commission suggested that the Secretary-General should collect information about national work on population projections of various types through the circulation of periodic questionnaires to Governments. A broadening of the coverage of these abstracts to include projections of urban and rural population, economically active population, and number and size of households as well as total population by sex and age-groups is recommended.

51. The Commission was interested in the development of standards for national work on population projections, suited to the needs of developmental planning. For consideration at its twelfth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a set of proposals for such standards, including indications of the types of population projections which are most useful for economic and social planning and policy-making and for other purposes, classifications which it is most useful to include in projections, the time-span of projections, the utility of preparing alternative sets of projections corresponding to alternative assumptions regarding the future trends of the demographic factors, and indications of the types of data and other information needed as a sound basis for population projections.

52. The Commission noted the increasing interest of the Economic and Social Council in work on economic and social projections, both by international agencies and by national Governments. It took special notice of Council resolution 777 (XXX), in which the desirability of continuing efforts at the national and international levels to improve the techniques and reliability of projections in economic and social fields was recognized, and the Secretary-General was requested to intensify his activities in the field of economic and social projections, and to convene meetings of experts from representative groups of national Governments for the purpose of further evaluation of techniques of medium- and long-term projections, particularly in the economic field. The Commission wished to call the attention of the Council to the need for co-ordinating the work on population projections recommended above with the planned expansion of work on economic and social projections. The active participation of demographic experts in such meetings as may be convened and the preparation of a programme of active co-operation between the various agencies concerned were recommended.

D. Studies of demographic aspects of manpower

53. The Commission considered that the growth and characteristics of a country's labour force help to determine the productive capacity of its economy. Demographic studies of manpower and related questions therefore have a specific bearing on economic planning and policy-making. Projections of manpower, including its composition by sex and age-groups, its distribution by geographical areas, industrial sectors of the economy and levels of education and training, are especially useful for the determination of employment and production targets.

¹³ R. M. Sundrum, with the assistance of V. R. Rao and S. Selvaratnam, *Manpower Resources of Ceylon 1956-1981* (Colombo, Ceylon, Government Press, 1959).

¹⁴ A selected bibliography of works in these fields has been prepared by the Secretariat: "Selected bibliography of methods of projecting the school-age population, the economically active population, the urban and rural populations and the number and size of households" (E/CN.9/CONF.2/L.11).

¹⁵ UNESCO, Educational Studies and Documents, No. 32: E. G. Jacoby, *Methods of School Enrolment Projection*, 1959.

54. Conversely, the effect of population trends on employment in the framework of each country's economy can be explored to some extent by means of alternative sets of population and manpower projections, which may thus be useful for an objective assessment of different types of population policies, and for the allocation of available investment funds between competing demands.

55. The Commission welcomed the completion of a draft of the Secretariat's report on "Demographic determinants of the size and composition of the economically active population", prepared with the collaboration of the International Labour Office. This is a study to which the Commission had given high priority in its recommendations for the work programme at previous sessions. The report presents an international comparison of the patterns of economic activity rates (proportions of economically active persons within specified groups of the population) in about one hundred countries during the post-war years as shown by census statistics and results of demographic sample surveys. Economic activity rates are examined for principal sexage and marital status groups and measures of the length of working life are presented. Historical trends in economic activity rates are analysed for a selected group of countries. This study was welcomed by the Commission as a basic reference work for further analysis of manpower problems in the developing countries, since it will greatly facilitate international comparisons and evaluation of available information on the characteristics of the economically active population. The Commission urged the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the publication of this report as soon as possible.

56. More detailed analyses of certain demographic aspects of manpower had been undertaken in connexion with the demographic pilot studies in the Philippines and the Sudan (see paragraph 77) and the study of the human resources of the Central American countries (see paragraph 17 (f)). The Commission was pleased to be informed that ECLA and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had undertaken manpower studies, including analyses of some of the demographic aspects, for countries in their regions, and that ECAFE was engaged in a study of population growth and prob-lems of employment in the ECAFE region, which would be followed by studies of the growth of population and manpower in relation to savings and investment in the countries of that region. The Commission also took note of an article on certain demographic aspects of manpower in various parts of the world published in 1956 by the International Labour Office18 and of a statement by the International Labour Office representative on the technical assistance which the International Labour Organisation provides to a large number of Governments in the evaluation of manpower resources and manpower statistics.

57. The Commission believed that it would be timely during 1961 and 1962 to proceed, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, with the previously recommended study of the effects of urbanization and industrialization on the growth of the economically active population, including also an analysis of other economic and social factors affecting the trends of economic activity rates for sex-age groups of the popula-

tion. This would complement the Secretariat's study of demographic determinants of the size and composition of the economically active population, and would be helpful for the preparation of the recommended technical manual on methods of projecting the economically active population. The suggested world-wide study of factors affecting economic activity rates would also provide a valuable framework for national studies of demographic aspects of manpower and projections of economically active population for individual countries, including projects along these lines which may be undertaken by the regional economic commissions in co-operation with interested Governments.

58. These studies would lay the foundation for further work in the field of manpower and employment studies. The Commission was impressed by the need for more intensive analysis of the characteristics of the economically active population at different stages of economic development, including the distribution of manpower between rural and urban areas and between different economic sectors. Such analyses would improve the basis for a systematic approach to the problem of manpower projections. The Commission urged caution against seeking easy answers in the past experience of the industrialized countries of today to the question of the assumptions to be adopted for manpower projections in less developed countries. The characteristics of a country's labour force are determined by a highly complex set of demographic, political, technological, cultural, social and economic factors that cannot meaningfully be translated into simple, universally applicable formulas. The Commission was conscious of the need to co-ordinate work on the demographic aspects of these questions with the related economic studies undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat, the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies. The interest of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in integrated studies in this field is implicit in General Assembly resolution 1428 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 and Economic and Social Council resolution 614 C (XXII) of 9 August 1956. The Commission recommended that the possibilities for direct co-operation between demographers and economists in these studies should be explored. As an initial step, it might be feasible to arrange for pilot studies of the factors affecting trends in the sectoral distribution of manpower to be undertaken, in a few less developed countries, jointly by the Governments concerned and the regional economic commissions, with the co-operation of interested specialized agencies.

E. Studies of demographic aspects of urbanization and rural-urban migration

59. The Commission considered that the growing influx of migrants into the principal cities, observed in nearly all under-developed countries, is a major factor which must be taken into account in solving the problems of economic and social development of these countries. It is imperative to match the increase of population in the cities to the expansion of employment opportunities, housing, schools, health facilities, water supply and other utilities. An adequate programme of investments, planned with a view to future population growth, is indispensable if massive unemployment and crippling shortages of essential facilities are to be avoided without the waste resulting from short-sighted investments in inadequate installations which shortly have to be replaced.

^{16 &}quot;The World's Working Population: Some Demographic Aspects", International Labour Review, vol. LXXIII, No. 2, February 1956, pp. 152-176.

- 60. The planning of urban development programmes must be considered in relation to the economic and social development of the nation as a whole. In this connexion a question of national policy arises, with regard to the extent of concentration of population and economic activities in urban areas, and particularly in large cities, that is to be considered as desirable or tolerable in the national interest. Considerations of social welfare as well as of industrial efficiency and balance in the development of various sectors of the economy must be taken into account. Where the degree of urban concentration is considered to be excessive, or threatens to become so, Governments may wish to consider possibilities of adapting their social and economic programmes so as to discourage migration to the cities or to encourage the growth of smaller cities as an alternative to increasing concentration in larger metropolitan cities.
- 61. An intelligent view of this question and effective planning of urban development programmes and other relevant action require studies of the magnitude, composition and trends of migration between rural and urban areas, the factors which influence it, and its effects in both the urban and rural communities. Among the factors which require study in this connexion are the relative levels of living in rural and urban communities.
- 62. In the under-developed countries generally, relatively little work has yet been done on studies of rural-urban migration and demographic aspects of urbanization. In view of the magnitude and urgency of the problems connected with the rapid urbanization of these countries, this aspect of the demography of the under-developed countries appears to be particularly deserving of increased attention.
- 63. At its tenth session, the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General "to develop studies of internal migration in relation to economic and social development" by offering "the co-operation of the United Nations to less developed countries in the process of industrialization which are desirous of undertaking studies of the magnitude and characteristics of internal migration, especially between rural and urban areas", and by inviting "the co-operation of the interested specialized agencies in this work as a part of the proposed programmes of concerted action in the fields of urbanization and industrialization". The Commission's recomdation was adopted by the Council at its twenty-seventh session, as resolution 721 C (XXVII).
- 64. The Commission took note of the preliminary draft of a report being prepared for the Social Commission on the results of consultations with specialized agencies with regard to a long-range programme of concerted action in the field of urbanization. It was pleased to see that attention had been given, in the preparation of this programme, to the need for research on demographic aspects of urbanization and rural-urban migration, as a means of obtaining information for use in policy-making and planning for action in this field. The Commission welcomed the proposal that emphasis should be placed on studies relating to demographic aspects of urbanization and rural-urban migration in the programme of aid to Governments of less developed countries in the evaluation and analysis of population census results during the next five years. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to convey these views to the Social Commission, together with

- the request that consideration should be given to ways and means of co-ordinating the work on the proposed demographic studies with that of the agencies concerned with action programmes in which the results of such studies would be of practical use.
- 65. The Commission congratulated the Government of El Salvador and the Secretary-General on the preparation of a preliminary report on the pilot survey of demographic, economic, and social conditions in the metropolitan area of San Salvador, which was carried out with the help of a technical assistance expert upon the request of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee.¹⁷ The preliminary report contains valuable information on the size, sex and age composition, and fertility of the metropolitan population; the influence of in-migration on the rate of growth and structure of the population; differences between migrants and nonmigrants in sex-age composition, literacy, educational level, and other indicators of the level of living. The Commission supported the recommendation in this preliminary report that the remaining tabulations of the data obtained in this survey should be completed and analysed, and that a full report on the methodological experience and findings should be published. The Commission also supported the recommendation that similar studies should be carried out in the capitals of other Central American countries, either by means of special sample surveys like the one conducted in San Salvador or by detailed tabulations and analyses of samples of the results of the censuses of population; it likewise supported the recommendation that a complementary pilot study should be carried out in selected rural areas of one or more of the Central American countries.
- 66. The Commission expressed an interest in the model of urban and rural population change in Latin America which had been worked out by ECLA and the Regional Centre for Demographic Training and Research in Latin America, and in the studies of internal migration, including rural-urban migration, carried out by staff members and trainees at the Demographic Training and Research Centre at Chembur, in India. The Commission recommended that studies in this field should continue to be an integral part of the research programmes of the regional economic commissions and demographic centres in Latin America and in Asia and the Far East, and expressed the hope that similar work might soon be undertaken in Africa. The Secretary-General was requested to inform the Commission of the development of these regional research programmes at the twelfth session.
- 67. Although the Commission recognized that the problems or urbanization and rural-urban migration are of primary concern to countries which are in the early stages of industrialization, it drew attention also to the relevant experience of some of the older industrialized countries, Rapid urbanization in some of these countries, at an earlier stage of their industrialization, led to problems similar to those which are currently being met in the less industrialized countries, and the experience of the older industrialized countries may be relevant in meeting current problems.
- 68. At its tenth session, the Commission stated that it wished to give further consideration to a survey of

¹⁷ "A demographic and socio-economic survey of the metropolitan area of San Salvador, El Salvador" (E/CN.12/CCE/233).

existing information concerning rural-urban migration in relation to urban and rural population growth in under-developed countries. The Commission now recommends that work on such a survey should begin in 1963, when a substantial supply of data from the new censuses will become available. Estimates of net migration during the last inter-census periods should be utilized, in addition to census and sample survey data on place of birth, place of previous residence, and duration of residence.

69. The Commission shared the opinion of the participants in the seminars on evaluation and utilization of population census data in Latin America and in Asia and the Far East that it is important to take advantage of the opportunities to obtain data on internal migration in the censuses as well as by means of sample surveys. It recommended that the Secretary-General should emphasize this application of census results as a part of the programme for aiding the evaluation, analysis, and utilization of population census data in the developing countries.

F. Other studies relating to demographic aspects of economic and social development policies

70. The Commission considered that, in developing countries which are experiencing rapid growth in population, the population trend and its possible economic and social consequences should be taken into account

as a major consideration in the formulation of policies and programmes of action in the economic and social spheres. It is important, in such circumstances, to adapt development policies and programmes to the special needs of a rapidly expanding labour force and body of consumers, so as to avoid, so far as possible, the difficulties of unemployment, under-employment shortages of essential goods and services which may threaten as a result of population growth. Population projections and studies of demographic aspects of manpower trends, along the lines described above, are valuable aids to such an adaptation of policies and programmes. In addition, certain other studies are useful for this purpose, including studies of the needs for capital which result from the growth of population and manpower, and studies of the types of developmental investments which can most effectively aid the absorption of this growth. It is also important to take account of the possible effects of various types of economic and social action upon the population trend. In the latter connexion, the Commission took the view that studies of the relation between fertility and the level of education are particularly important. The Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the interested specialized agencies, to examine the possibilities of international co-operation in the study of these questions and to present a report on such possibilities for consideration by the Commission at its twelfth session.

IV. 1960 WORLD POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAMME

71. The Commission was highly gratified to be informed that about 130 censuses of population had already been taken in connexion with the 1960 World Population Census Programme and that censuses in about seventy-five additional countries were expected to be taken during 1961-1964. The Commission congratulated the Statistical Commission, the regional economic commissions, the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and the Inter-American Statistical Institute on the success of their efforts to enlist the co-operation of Governments in this important programme. The results of these censuses will be contributions of the first order of importance to the supply of information on the trends and characteristics of population, especially in those countries where a census is now being taken for the first time and in those where the taking of a second census now makes it possible to carry out essential studies of population trends by comparison with the results of a previous census.

72. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to convey to the Statistical Commission its wish that Governments participating in the 1960 World Population Census Programme might be encouraged to publish the results of their censuses as speedily as possible and in a form specifically adapted to the widest possible use of the data, particularly in the determination of policies and the preparation of plans for economic and social development programmes.

73. The Commission particularly stressed that the value derived from the results of these censuses will depend largely on the extent to which the data are analysed, interpreted in relation to the important questions of economic, social, and demographic policy which

face each Government, and applied to the formulation and execution of relevant programmes of action.

74. At the tenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to undertake several projects aimed at assisting the Governments of less developed countries in the utilization of census results and other demographic data as aids to economic and social planning and policy-making. The Commission was pleased to receive, at the present session, a report (E/CN.9/ 160) on the results of these projects, which, the Commission considered, have contributed substantially to the realization of the utility of demographic data and studies in this connexion and to an understanding of the methods and problems involved in such uses of census statistics and related data. The Commission considered it timely, during the next few days, to intensify international co-operation in projects which would facilitate and encourage work on the evaluation, analysis, and utilization of census results and related data. especially in the less developed countries.

Seminars, case studies and pilot projects relating to evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results

75. The Secretary-General had convened two regional seminars on evaluation and utilization of population census results, the reports of which were before the Commission.¹⁸ The first of these, for Latin America,

¹⁸ Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Latin America, Santiago, Chile, 30 November-18 December 1959 (ST/TAO/SER.C/46-E/CN.9/CONF.1/1/Rev.1); Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Asia and the Far East, Bombay, India, 20 June-8 July 1960 (ST/TAO/SER.C/47-E/CN.9/CONF.2/1).

was held in Santiago, Chile, in 1959 at the invitation of the Government of Chile and with the financial assistance of the Population Council, Inc.; and the second, for Asia and the Far East, was convened in Bombay, India, in 1960 at the invitation of the Government of India, which co-sponsored the project. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Chile and India as hosts to the seminars, and to the Population Council, Inc., for its assistance in the Latin American seminar. The programmes of the seminars covered the following principal topics: (1) Demographic data and studies required as an aid to planning and policy-making; (2) National programmes of tabulation, evaluation and analysis of population census results; and (3) Problems in the planning and execution of national programmes of tabulation, evaluation and analysis of census data. The Commission considered that these seminars had achieved a notable

76. The Commission also had before it the reports of five case studies on administrative arrangements for the evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results,19 carried out in co-operation with interested Governments, namely the Governments of Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran, Japan and the Sudan, by staff members of the respective regional economic commissions and the Regional Social Affairs Office for the Middle East, located at Beirut, Lebanon. The purpose was to draw the attention of Governments to the importance of preparing comprehensive, co-ordinated plans for the evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results as well as for the field operations of the census and the tabulations of statistical results, and to illustrate various types of arrangements for the preparation and execution of such plans. The Commission considered that these studies served their purpose effectively, and hoped that arrangements could soon be completed for the publication of the report of a sixth case study which was carried out in co-operation with the Government of the United Arab Republic by a staff member of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

77. The Commission was also pleased with the progress of work on two demographic pilot studies, undertaken with the co-operation of the Governments of the Philippines and the Sudan, which would demonstrate the utility of analyses of population census results and related demographic data as aids to economic and social policy-making and planning, and would also furnish information of direct interest to the co-operating Governments. Copies of the published report of the study in the Philippines, containing an analysis of the results of a national sample survey of the population of that country, were made available to the Commission.²⁰ The Commission congratulated the Government of the Philippines and the Secretary-General on the publication of this valuable report, in which the results of demographic analysis and population projections are examined with a view to their practical implications for the economic development plans of the Philippines. The Commission was also gratified to be informed that the analytical work of the pilot study in the Sudan had been completed and that the report of this study was being prepared for publication. The Sudan study, based on the results of the 1956 census in that country, will furnish a demonstration of the utility of the analyses which can be carried out, even in countries where only a single census has been taken and where complementary data on birth and death registration are lacking.

Proposed five-year programme of intensified international co-operation in the evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results and related data in under-developed countries

78. The Commission welcomed the proposals which the Secretary-General laid before it for a programme of intensified international co-operation in the evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results and related data in under-developed countries (E/CN.9/ 160). The Commission was of the opinion that such co-operation would be highly valuable as a practical aid to national policy-making and development planning in the countries concerned. The Commission expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would find it possible to increase the amounts of technical assistance funds which could be made available, upon request, to Governments of the less developed countries for regional and national projects connected with this programme, and that the additional funds required to give full effect to the proposed programme could be obtained from other sources. In this connexion, the Commission unanimously recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of draft resolution I in chapter XIII of this report.

- 79. Taking into account the details of the Secretary-General's proposals, with which the Commission found itself in general agreement, the Commission recommended that projects of the following types should be undertaken during the period 1961-1965, as far as possible with the resources available and those which may be obtained:
- (a) Strengthening of the regional demographic training and research centres in Asia and the Far East and Latin America so as to permit them to expand and diversify their activities in: (i) training in methods of demographic analysis for the larger numbers of persons who will be required to take part in projects of evaluation and analysis of census results in the countries in these regions; (ii) furnishing counsel, guidance and facilities to mature scholars who may wish to carry out research projects at the centres, based on the results of censuses of countries within the regions and on related data; (iii) giving supervision and on-the-job training at the centres to interns in demographic research and teaching; and (iv) co-operating with interested Governments in these regions in the preparation and analysis of samples of the punched cards of the national censuses, and in other projects of evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results;
- (b) Development of at least one regional demographic research centre in Africa, along the lines indicated in chapter VIII of this report;
- (c) Development of a demographic research centre in the region of Central America and Mexico, where projects of evaluation and analysis of the results of censuses and other demographic studies could be carried

¹⁹ Case Studies of Arrangements for Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Results, Report I: The Republic of the Sudan (ST/SOA/SER.R/1); Report II: The Republic of Guatemala (ST/SOA/SER.R/2); Report III: The Republic of Ecuador (ST/SOA/SER.R/3); Report IV: Japan (ST/SOA/SER.R/4-E/CN.9/CONF.2/L.22); Report V: Iran (ST/SOA/SER.R/5-E/CN.9/CONF.2/L.23).

²⁰ Population Growth and Manpower in the Philippines: A Joint Study by the United Nations and the Government of the Philippines (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 61.XIII.2).

out in consultation and co-operation with the Governments and research institutions in the region;

- (d) Organization of a team of expert consultants within each of the regions of Africa, Asia and the Far East, and Latin America, who would be available to render advice and assistance, upon the request of interested Governments in these regions, in national projects of evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results and related data, and in national or sub-regional seminars on evaluation, analysis and utilization of census data:
- (e) Rendering assistance to interested Governments, at their request, for institutionalization of demographic research in the government services or research institutions and universities in less developed countries.
- 80. The Commission was aware that implementation of these projects will depend on the possibility of obtaining substantial contributions of funds from outside sources, as well as on the possibility of increasing the amounts of technical assistance funds available for activities in this field during the next five years. The Commission considered that international co-operation in the exploitation of census data is a valuable means of aiding the planned and balanced economic and social development of less developed countries, and requested the Secretary-General to explore every possible means of financing the programme outlined above.

Principles and methods for national programmes of evaluation and analysis of population census data

81. The Commission had before it a statement prepared by the Secretariat entitled "Draft suggestions for national programmes of evaluation and analysis of population census data in under-developed countries" (E/CN.9/161). The Commission was impressed with

- this document and gratified that the results of the regional seminars and case studies mentioned above were sufficiently substantial to provide the basis for such a statement of principles. In the Commission's opinion, the circulation of such a statement would be helpful to agencies and institutions in many countries which may be interested in carrying out demographic studies on the basis of census results and other related data. Although the statement was drafted primarily with a view to the problems of the less developed countries, the Commission believed that it would be useful also to agencies and institutions in developed countries.
- 82. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a revised text of this statement, taking into account the comments made during the Commission's discussion of it, and to distribute the revised text widely to interested international and national agencies and organizations and to individual experts, requesting their comments. The Commission further requested the Secretary-General to revise the text once more in the light of the comments which may be received and to present it to the Commission at its twelfth session.
- 83. In addition, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare and publish as soon as possible a technical manual on methods of evaluation and analysis of census results, which should deal primarily with methods suitable for application in less developed countries where census tabulations are not carried out in very great detail and other sources of demographic statistics are relatively weak or lacking altogether.
- 84. Finally, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of collecting and publishing information on the methods and results of checks on the quality of census data which may be carried out in various countries.

V. IMPROVEMENT OF DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

- 85. In the opinion of the Commission, it is essential that renewed and intense efforts be made to broaden the coverage and improve the quality of vital statistics in under-developed countries. In addition to their usefulness as measures of fertility and mortality and as indicators of population trends, statistics of births and deaths are essential tools for appraising the quality of population census results and indispensable aids to policy-making and planning with respect to public health, education, and many other social and economic programmes.
- 86. Projects for the improvement of vital statistics in Latin America and Africa were of special interest to the Commission, which recommended that such projects should be undertaken in connexion with the programme of assistance to under-developed countries in evaluation and analysis of census results, with the aim of producing quickly, by sampling methods, useful vital statistics for some countries where they are now lacking, as well as of promoting the development of effective, comprehensive registration systems as a longer-range objective.
- 87. The Commission noted that, in Latin America, improvement of the civil-registration services would have first priority, inasmuch as compulsory registration is already a fact in all countries of the region. On the

- other hand, projects in Africa would need to have a different initial orientation in order to establish civil registration for its legal value and as a source of vital statistics. Here a pilot vital-statistics system, based on area sampling of registration units, would have first priority with a view to developing a working model for training purposes, an aspect which was strongly emphasized by the Commission.
- 88. The Commission felt that Governments should be urged to consider the whole range of steps which can be employed in improving vital statistics in general and knowledge of mortality in particular. Such steps include household surveys to obtain interim measures of population growth, the initiation of civil registers as a source of vital records and statistics, and the evaluation of current vital indices by whatever means are appropriate. The view was expressed that the sample recording area method was particularly appropriate for under-developed countries.
- 89. Even with concerted action on the part of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the respective Governments, many years of work would be required for the development of efficient national civil registration systems in under-developed countries now

lacking adequate birth and death statistics. The Commission was therefore particularly pleased to note that the Secretary-General is co-operating with the Government of Brazil in a pilot study which is aimed at testing the suitability of household sample surveys for the collection of birth and death statistics, and at developing possible techniques for eliminating some of the deficiencies commonly observed in results of previous household surveys in this field. The Commission hoped that the results of the preliminary survey in Rio de Janeiro would justify continuation of the project along lines tentatively planned jointly by the Government of Brazil and the Secretariat (E/CN.9/164, para. 48), and that results of this pilot study would be made available at an early date.

- 90. The Commission expressed the desire to see additional studies of this type carried out in co-operation with other Governments of less developed countries, which may request technical assistance for such projects, depending upon the success of the present study.
- 91. The Commission reaffirmed its view that the systematic evaluation of the quality of birth, death and other demographic statistics for under-developed countries is of vital importance. The Commission was pleased to be informed that the secretariat of ECA is preparing a report on the scope, reliability and accuracy of existing demographic data for countries in Africa, and also that the practice of indicating the reliability of statistics published in the *Demographic Yearbook* is being con-

tinued and extended as information permits. The Commission also noted that, through the Secretariat's continuing work on population estimates and projections, a body of information on the quality of vital statistics and population estimates is being accumulated. The Commission wished nevertheless to draw attention to its recommendation at its tenth session²¹ that intensified work on the evaluation of national demographic data should be resumed as soon as the results of censuses taken in and around 1960 and 1961 become available. The Commission realized that personnel resources available for this work are limited, both in the Secretariat and in the regional economic commissions, but it hoped that, in view of the importance of vital statistics for the evaluation of census results-in addition to their other uses—projects in this field can be taken up over the next few years as time and resources permit.

92. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the commendable job done in bringing together in the *Demographic Yearbook* the results of the various censuses and in assembling available population estimates and vital statistics for the various countries. The Commission firmly believed that having access to a single, reliable source of international demographic statistics greatly facilitates the work of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and Governments of Member States.

VI. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN MATTERS RELATING TO POPULATION

- 93. The Commission examined the draft of a report being prepared for the Social Commission on the findings of a group of experts who had undertaken to evaluate certain aspects of the United Nations programme of technical assistance in the social field, including demography, during the period 1 January 1953 to 31 December 1959.²² The Commission was pleased to note the experts' conclusion that the results had justified the expenditures of resources, and that the Governments served had reported favourable reactions to the technical assistance provided.
- 94. The Commission was of the opinion that a document relating specifically to technical assistance in the field of population would be useful, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare such a document for consideration at its twelfth session. This document should contain information on the relation of technical assistance in demography to assistance in other fields and on the various forms of demographic assistance rendered, including assignments of experts, conferences, seminars and fellowships.
- 95. The Commission noted with concern that relatively few country projects of technical assistance in the field of population have as yet been requested by Governments. It felt that many Governments could drive considerable benefit from such assistance and that more of them might take advantage of this opportunity if the utility of technical assistance in this field were brought to their attention. Although the Secretary-General has taken steps to inform Governments of the types of technical assistance that are available in matters relating to

population, as well as other fields, it appears that the value of such assistance is not yet sufficiently appreciated. The Commission thought that Governments should take the initiative in requesting technical assistance in matters relating to population through the United Nations. It also hoped that Governments and private institutions would co-operate by making qualified experts available for technical assistance assignments in this field. The publication of the reports of the regional seminars on evaluation and analysis of population census results is expected to contribute to appreciation of the importance of this work.

- 96. The Commission was impressed with the need for an expansion of technical assistance in the field of population during the next few years, especially for the evaluation and analysis of the results of censuses taken in connexion with the 1960 World Population Census Programme. The types of assistance to Governments of less developed countries which the Commission recommended should be made available for this purpose have been stated in another part of this report. In this connexion, the Commission wished to reiterate its conviction that the training and research programmes of the regional demographic centres in Asia and the Far East and in Latin America should be continued and expanded and that centres should be established in other regions where they are now lacking, especially in Africa.
- 97. The Commission considered it essential to the success of the technical assistance programmes that Governments should continue to be free to choose the technical assistance which they wish to receive, that the assistance rendered should be consistent with national economic and cultural development, that it should

²¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3, para. 74.

 $^{^{22}\,\}mathrm{The}$ report was subsequently issued as document E/CN.5/ 350 and Corr.1.

be directed to the most urgent needs of the recipient countries, and that a major objective of all such work should be the development of national cadres of personnel who would be trained to carry on the work in their own countries, after the technical assistance has been discontinued.

98. The Commission viewed training as one of the most important forms of technical assistance in demography, and considered that during their brief histories, the regional demographic training and research centres in Latin America and in Asia and the Far East had more than justified the Commission's confidence in their utility. The papers prepared by trainees at the two centres and presented to the regional seminars on evaluation and utilization of population census data in Latin America and in Asia and the Far East were

evidence of the effectiveness of the centres' training programmes.

99. The Commission considered that on-the-job training of personnel in the less developed countries would have the advantage of equipping additional persons for research in demography while at the same time adapting the trainees to the conditions under which they would work and familiarizing them with the kinds of problems with which they would later be confronted. Such a programme might be supervised by technical assistance experts assigned to the Government to carry out particular demographic projects. In such cases, the trainees might be expected to continue the projects, if necessary after the expert had completed his assignment. The Secretary-General was requested to explore the possibilities of training personnel in demography in this way.

VII. CONFERENCES

Proposal to hold a second world conference on population

100. The Commission considered that there was need for another world-wide conference of experts on population questions, similar to the World Population Conference which was held in Rome in 1954 under the auspices of the United Nations. It would be timely to hold another such conference in 1964 or 1965, when it will be possible to re-examine the trends and problems of population in various parts of the world in the light of the findings of studies based on the new information which the censuses of 1960 and 1961 will furnish.

101. In the Commission's opinion, the 1954 World Population Conference did much to improve understanding of the population problems facing the United Nations and the Member States, to stimulate interest in scientific research relating to these problems, and to enhance the effectiveness of research efforts by the exchange of ideas and experience among the experts concerned. The value of the conference in those respects grew out of the discussion during the conference, and also the publication of the proceedings,28 including the texts of more than 400 scientific papers on various aspects of demography and the interrelationship of population and social and economic development. Since the time of the conference, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of research being done in the field of demography, especially on the demography of the less developed countries; the scope of knowledge has been extended, and new methods of analysis and estimation have been devised. The results of the 1960 and 1961 censuses will greatly enlarge the possibilities of research. Another exchange of ideas and experience, and a fresh assessment of knowledge and of questions needing further study, would be valuable. There is an urgent demand for a full and authoritative examination of population questions and their connexion with the need for a steady growth in the economy and an improvement in the welfare of the people.

102. The Commission therefore recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of draft

resolution II in chapter XIII of this report, authorizing a world conference of experts on questions relating to population, to be held in 1964 or 1965 under the auspices of the United Nations.²⁴

103. The Commission emphasized the necessity of taking adequate precautions to ensure that the proposed conference would be devoted exclusively to an objective consideration of population and related questions, as well as relevant problems of data collection and research. In this connexion it is recommended that the Secretary-General should invite, in their individual capacity, experts nominated by: (a) Governments of States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies; (b) interested non-governmental scientific organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; or (c) the specialized agencies and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Some members of the Commission felt that only government representatives should participate in such a conference, although it was recognized that the conference would be devoted to scientific discussion.

104. The Commission recommended that the range of topics selected for discussion at the proposed conference should be made somewhat narrower than that of the topics discussed at the 1954 World Population Conference, without shortening the duration of the conference. The papers should be distributed to participants well in advance of the conference, and oral presentation or summarization of the papers during the conference should be avoided so far as possible. The topics could then be discussed more thoroughly than was possible at the 1954 conference.

105. In view of the major interest of the United Nations in the problems of economic and social development of developing countries, the Commission recommended that discussions relating to the demographic aspects of these problems should be given greater emphasis in the programme of the proposed conference than they received at the 1954 conference. Studies relating to the results of recent censuses and demographic sample surveys in such countries should occupy a prominent place in the programme. The Commission recommended that efforts should be made to arrange for the

²⁸ Proceedings of the World Population Conference, 1954: Summary Report (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.8); and Papers (in six volumes) (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XIII.8, vols. I-VI).

²⁴ The representatives of El Salvador, Mexico, and Uruguay abstained in the vote on this draft resolution.

articipation of a larger number of experts from these auntries than participated in the 1954 conference.

106. The Commission recognizes that the success of the 1954 World Population Conference was due in large measure to the close collaboration of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and of the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Health Organization. It is recommended that the Secretary-General should again seek the close collaboration of the International Union and the above-mentioned specialized agencies in the planning, organization and financing of the proposed conference. In addition, the Commission recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to explore possibilities of obtaining financial contributions from interested foundations, and from the host Government if the conference is held away from Headquarters or Geneva, or other Governments.

107. The Commission recommended that the budget of the proposed conference should contain a provision for publication of the proceedings, including translations in appropriate languages of brief summaries, prepared by the authors, of the papers contributed and the full texts, in the original languages, of papers regarded as having scientific value. It suggested that the Secretary-General should establish a small committee of experts to advise on the selection of the papers which would be published in full in the proceedings.

108. The Commission recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to establish a small preparatory committee for the proposed conference, composed of one or more representatives of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and representatives of the collaborating specialized agencies. It also recommended that the Secretary-

General should seek the advice of this committee on the planning of the programme and other arrangements for the proposed conference, in selecting a suitable site, and in fixing suitable dates for the conference in 1964 or 1965. In the planning of the programme, the Commission requests that the views expressed during the Commission's discussion of this matter at the present session should be taken into account. In considering practical alternatives for the site of the proposed conference, the Commission recommends that the desirability of holding it in an under-developed country, if possible, should be taken into account as well as financial considerations and any expressions of interest on the part of possible host Governments.

109. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at the twelfth session on the action taken pursuant to the above recommendations and any decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly relating to the proposed conference.

Asian population conference

110. The Commission welcomed the decision of ECAFE to convene a regional population conference for Asia and the Far East at some time after the middle of 1962. It believes that the holding of such regional conferences is an effective means of promoting research and understanding. It is the view of the Commission that the holding of the Asian conference would further the effectiveness of the proposed world conference and that there would be no conflict between them. It is recommended that the preparatory committee, in considering the programme of the proposed world conference, should take into account the plans for the Asian conference, so that the two would be so far as possible complementary.

VIII. REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PROGRAMMES

111. The Commission reviewed the demographic activities of the secretariats of ECA, ECAFE, ECLA and ECE.

112. The Commission was pleased to note that since its tenth session ECA had begun demographic work with the assignment of a demographer to its Research Division. Much of the demographic work in this region has necessarily been concerned in the initial stage with improvement of demographic statistics. In view of the fact that census data and vital statistics are lacking or seriously deficient for many African countries, the Commission took the view that the statistical survey of Africa, which ECA has begun and which includes provision for a five-year programme of development of demographic statistics, is to be highly commended. The Commission also welcomed the information that a statistical handbook on population, which will present existing demographic information, report on its scope, reliability and accuracy, and draw intraregional and international comparisons, is in preparation.

113. The Commission emphasized the importance of continuing the work already begun in the closest possible collaboration with the economic and statistical staff of ECA. It expressed the hope that it would be possible to continue to provide technical assistance to Governments in the African region which request it, and that

the work to be undertaken would be directly related to the needs of the countries in the region rather than being modelled on work done in other regions.

114. The Commission favoured the proposed seminar on African demography which is planned for 1962 and the proposed consideration of demographic questions by the working party on economic and social development which is to be held late in 1961.

115. The Commission was informed that the Secretary-General is taking steps toward the establishment of one or more centres in Africa for demographic research and training. Although it may not be practicable initially to carry on full-scale programmes of training at such centres, it might be possible to make available a limited number of fellowships for on-the-job training. It is recommended that the Secretary-General should pursue the discussions that are under way with the hope that at least one such centre in the African region will be established at an early date.

116. The Commission noted that the demographic work of ECAFE has become well established, and a number of highly useful publications have resulted in the last two years; it welcomed ECAFE's decision to hold an Asian population conference in the near future and appreciated particularly the recommendations that practical aspects of the demographic problems of the

ECAFE region should be considered at this conference. The Commission was pleased to learn that work is going forward on an evaluation of available demographic information in ECAFE countries, on employment problems in relation to population growth and on the effects of population trends on food supply. It recommended that the work should be continued along the lines now under way and that further efforts should be made to co-ordinate the demographic work done at ECAFE headquarters with that of the Demographic Training and Research Centre at Chembur.

117. The Commission was especially gratified to note the close co-operation in research which has been established between ECLA and the Regional Centre for Demographic Training and Research in Latin America. It considered that the integrated programme of demographic research in this region would make a significant contribution to the knowledge of the demographic factors that is required for the formulation of economic and social development programmes.

118. The Commission strongly endorsed the efforts that have been made to increase the research capabilities of the two regional demographic centres that are in operation, and urged that this phase of the work be continued, recognizing that actual participation in research projects often represents the most effective type of training.

119. The Commission recommended that steps should be taken to provide research fellowships to mature scholars from countries in the two regions, with experience in the relevant social sciences, who wish to develop their knowledge of demography by undertaking a year's research under the guidance of the staff of the centres. It believed that the provision of such fellowships would be an effective means of fostering the development of demographic research in the regions, as well as facilitating the execution of the co-operation between the research programmes of the centres and the regional economic commissions.

IX. CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

120. The Commission took note of General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII) concerning the control and limitation of documentation, which had been transmitted to the Commission in accordance with the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1046th meeting. Although the number of pages of documents prepared for the eleventh session was substantially less than the number for the tenth session, the Commission felt that there was no loss of anything needed for the conduct of its business. The Commission commended the Secretary-General for the gain in efficiency and for the skilful preparation of this documentation, and was

confident that the standards set by the documentation for the eleventh session would be maintained at future sessions.

- 121. It noted, however, that there may be instances in which the presentation of technical materials may require full statement in order to avoid misunderstanding and needless discussion in the meetings.
- 122. It was also stated that it would be useful for the Commission to have a short summary of the highlights of documents prepared for other bodies of the United Nations and on which the evidence of the Commission is requested.

X. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

A. Comments on the consolidated appraisals report

123. The Commission took note of the report, Five-Year Perspective, 1960-1964, 25 prepared by the Committee on Programme Appraisals pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 694 D (XXVI) of 31 July 1958.

124. The Commission recognized that this document was a summary of appraisal reports concerning the work done by various agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields. It expressed its satisfaction that the importance of population trends was recognized in a number of sections of the report, and that the work of particular concern to the Commission was included among the activities of the United Nations which are directly related to economic and social development.

125. Although the Commission recognized that such a summary could not deal with all the technical considerations which might appropriately have been included in a technical report, it did express its concern over a few items which were discussed in such a condensed way that misinterpretations and erroneous conclusions might easily result. For instance, the projections of gross national product to 1965 presented in table I of the report

of the Committee on Programme Appraisals are based on very uncertain statistics and the comparison of projected growth in gross national product and in population appears to suggest that the situation may be improved even without determined action by the Governments concerned. To imply that there is an automatic relationship between the improvement of living standards and a decline in fertility (paragraph 37 of the report) is to make an incorrect interpretation of the complex relationships among levels of living, economic development, cultural factors and fertility.

126. Despite these technical criticisms, the Commission believed that the consolidated report represents a highly useful review and hopes that similar reviews will be undertaken in the future.

B. Recommendations for the programme of work and priorities for 1961-1962

127. The Commission reaffirmed its view that there is not enough knowledge and awareness of either the facts of population trends or the complexities of their interrelations with the factors of social and economic progress. The Commission therefore felt that the principal object of the demographic work of the United Nations should be to help Governments in the techno-

²⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.IV.14.

logically less developed areas to understand the structure and trends of their population, to explore and determine the connexions between these factors and social and economic change and to utilize this knowledge in deciding and carrying out their policies.

- 128. At its tenth session the Commission had listed a number of topics to which it wished to give further study at the eleventh session.²⁶ The Commission continued its interest in these topics and included some of them in the programme of work for 1961-1962 as proposed in paragraph 131 below. It was of the opinion that the work on studies affecting fertility and mortality trends in under-developed countries and the survey of existing information on fertility in relation to social and economic development in selected under-developed countries are basic to a number of the studies that are included in the programme of work and that no separate projects along these lines are needed at the present time. It believed that the study of the influence of international migration on the total and economically active population of selected countries of emigration and immigration might be deferred. The Commission reiterated the importance of making a general survey of available data on rural-urban migration in relation to urban and rural population growth in economically less developed countries but suggested that work on this topic be deferred until 1963, when relevant data from the 1960 and 1961 censuses of population will become available. It was not prepared to make a specific recommendation concerning a seminar on evaluation and utilization of census results and other needed demographic studies in the Middle East, but left that for consideration in relation to the programme for co-operation in national projects of evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results in selected under-developed countries.
- 129. The Commission gave careful attention to the items included in the list of functions and projects for 1961-1962. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 1557 (XV), it considered the possibility of establishing priorities among these items, but concluded that all of the items listed were of major importance to the work of the United Nations and of real urgency. The Commission therefore recommended that every effort be made to find the necessary resources in order that effective work might be done on each of these items. It suggested that some of the activities might usefully be carried out in co-operation with the regional economic commissions.
- 130. The Commission, in drawing up this list of functions and projects, drew attention to the fact that many of them represent continuing activities or projects on which substantial work has already been done but which remain to be completed. The Commission limited its recommendations of new items or of new emphasis to the minimum which it deemed most necessary and urgent in view of the present status of the work of the United Nations.
- 131. The Commission recommended the following work programme for 1961-1962 (not necessarily in order of priority):

A. CONTINUING FUNCTIONS

(1) Population estimates, projections, and evaluation of national demographic data:

28 Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3, para. 76.

- (a) Studies of methods of projection of economically active population, urban and rural population and numbers and characteristics of households—these to be done seriatim rather than simultaneously;
- (b) Drafting of standards for national work on population projections;
 - (c) Publication of abstracts of population projections.
- (2) Co-operation with regional economic commissions, regional demographic centres, other technical assistance projects, and specialized agencies, in the following projects, *inter alia*:
- (a) Establishment of a demographic research centre in Africa;
- (b) Participation in the working party on economic and social development in Africa, to be held in 1961;
- (c) Seminar on African demography, to be held in 1962;
- (d) Asian population conference, to be held in 1962 or 1963:
- (e) Establishment of a demographic research centre for Central America.
- (3) An annual issue of the *Population Bulletin of the United Nations*, including a survey of some major aspect of the world demographic situation and information on the progress of United Nations activities in the demographic field.
- B. 1960 World Population Census Programme: EVALUATION, ANALYSIS AND UTILIZATION OF CENSUS RESULTS
- (4) Co-operation in national projects on evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results in selected under-developed countries.
- (5) Handbook of methods of evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results.
- (6) Aid to national institutions for demographic research in under-developed countries.

C. Demographic pilot studies

- (7) Study of results of the 1956 census of the Sudan.
- (8) Experiment with household surveys as a means of obtaining data on births and deaths in Brazil.
- (9) Completion of the pilot study of demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population and of migrants in the metropolitan area of San Salvador, El Salvador.
- (10) Pilot studies of demographic and other factors in the trends of sectoral distribution of the economically active population.

D. OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES

- (11) Studies of the effects of urbanization and industrialization on the growth of the economically active population.
- (12) Revision of The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends.²⁷

E. Conferences

(13) Preparations for a world conference on population.

²⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 53.XIII.3.

132. With regard to the proposed revision of *The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends*, the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General should start the work in 1961-1962. The Commission recognized that it would not be possible to complete the work during that time without undue interference with

other work as recommended. The Commission recommended that a revised report should be issued by the United Nations but would welcome assistance from other sources in the preparation of this report if the Secretary-General found it advisable and feasible to obtain such assistance.

XI. DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING OF NEXT SESSION

133. The Commission wished to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that, in order to give wider publicity to the work of the Commission, one of its meetings in the near future should be held, if this can be done in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 694 (VII), in one of the parts of the world where population growth is most rapid and where the problems of economic and social development are most acute. In the event that ECAFE convenes an Asian conference on population problems during 1962 or early in 1963, it may be desirable to fix the date of the twelfth session of the Population Commission so as to afford an opportunity for the Commission to discuss some of the proceedings of the conference.

134. In the event that the next session cannot be held in an area of rapid population growth, as specified in the preceding paragraph, the Commission would prefer to hold its next session at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, or at Geneva.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

135. The Commission adopted this report by a unanimous vote.

XIII. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Ι

1960 World Population Census Programme 28

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the report of the eleventh session of the Population Commission on the 1960 World Population Census Programme with special reference to the evaluation, analysis and utilization of results of the censuses,

Having in mind the necessity of ensuring a rapid rate of growth of employment and production, particularly in economically less developed areas,

Considering that adequate information on population trends and characteristics and their interrelations with economic and social factors in each country is a necessary part of the basis for constructing sound national policies and programmes of action for development and utilization of human resources and satisfaction of the needs of the people,

Emphasizing the value of the information relevant to these questions which can be obtained from appropriate studies of the results of national censuses taken in connexion with the 1960 World Population Census Programme,

1. Invites Governments of Member States taking part in this Programme to consider the utility of making whatever arrangements may be necessary and practicable in each country to ensure that essential analyses of the census results will be carried out, particularly as they relate to important national problems of economic and

social development and questions of national demographic, economic and social policy;

- 2. Requests the Secretary-General:
- (a) To intensify, during the next few years, efforts at international co-operation in the evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results and related data, especially in less developed countries:
- (i) By expanding and diversifying existing internationally sponsored facilities for demographic training and research;
- (ii) By developing such facilities in regions where they do not yet exist, especially in Africa;
- (iii) By making available to Governments of underdeveloped countries, at their request, the services of expert consultants to advise and assist in national projects of evaluation, analysis and utilization of census results and related data, and in national or sub-regional seminars for the discussion of relevant problems of research;
- (iv) By assisting such Governments, at their request, to establish continuing, institutionalized programmes of demographic research in the government services or in research institutions or universities;
- (b) To explore the possibilities of increasing the amounts of technical assistance funds which may be made available for activities of the types listed above, and the possibilities of obtaining supplementary funds from other sources;
- 3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Population Commission, at its twelfth session, on the progress of the activities of the United Nations and the Governments of Member States along the lines indicated above.

²⁸ See paragraphs 71 to 84.

World conference on population²⁹

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that a World Population Conference was held in Rome in 1954 under the auspices of the United Nations, as approved by the Council in resolutions 435 (XIV) of 10 June 1952 and 471 E (XV) of 14 April 1953,

Noting the views expressed by the Population Commission at its eleventh session with regard to the proposal that another such conference should be held,

Considering that the exchange of ideas and experience among the experts attending the World Population Conference in 1954 aided the advancement of scientific knowledge relating to population problems of interest to the United Nations and Member States,

Noting that the censuses of population taken or to be taken in many countries during 1960 and 1961 will furnish much new information which should be utilized for further studies of these problems, particularly those relating to the interrelationships between economic and social conditions and demographic trends in the economically less developed countries,

Having regard to the rules for the calling of nongovernmental conferences by the Economic and Social Council approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 479 (V) of 12 December 1950,

1. Approves the holding in 1964 or 1965, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a second world population conference of experts, in close collaboration with the

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and interested specialized agencies;

- 2. Decides that the conference shall be devoted to the exchange of ideas and experience on population matters among experts in the relevant fields;
- 3. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the financial arrangements for the conference and in particular the possibility of obtaining the participation in its financing of any interested specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and foundations;
- 4. Authorizes the Secretary-General, in association with the executive heads of interested specialized agencies and with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, to establish a small preparatory committee to assist him in formulating an agenda based on the suggestions of the Population Commission in paragraphs 100 to 109 of its report (E/3451) and in making necessary arrangements for the conference;
- 5. Requests the Secretary-General to invite, in their individual capacity, experts nominated by: (a) Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, (b) interested nongovernmental scientific organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, or (c) the specialized agencies and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- 6. Authorizes the Secretary-General in consultation with the Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences of the Economic and Social Council to convene the conference during 1964 or 1965;
- 7. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Population Commission at its twelfth session, for transmission, with its comments, to the Economic and Social Council, a report on the action taken pursuant to the present resolution.

²⁹ See paragraphs 100 to 109.

ANNEXES

Annex I

Financial implications of decisions taken by the Population Commission during its eleventh session

WORLD CONFERENCE ON POPULATION

- 1. Under draft resolution II (in chapter XIII) of this report, the Commission proposes that the Economic and Social Council approve the holding in 1964 or 1965, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a second world population conference of experts, in close collaboration with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and interested specialized agencies. Under the same draft resolution, the Commission suggests that the Council request the Secretary-General to explore the financial arrangements for the conference and in particular the possibility of obtaining the participation in its financing of any interested agencies, non-governmental organizations and foundations.
- 2. The first cost to be incurred would be related to the work of the small preparatory committee envisaged in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. In this regard, the Secretary-General believes that as far as additional costs to the United Nations budget are concerned, the expenses to be envisaged would be of the order of \$2,500 a year for two years.
- 3. For the proper functioning of the preparatory committee, it would be necessary also to envisage the services of a Professional officer and one secretary up to the end of 1965, at an annual cost of \$15,000. The expenses in this regard for the first year, 1962, might, however, be reasonably computed at half this amount.
- 4. An estimate of total conference costs will be submitted to the Commission on the basis of the consultations called for in paragraph 4 of draft resolution II. In the meantime, the Secretary-General wishes to state that the first World Population Conference held in Rome in 1954 cost approximately \$80,000 (taking account of all sources of funds), and that a second conference, even if it were no larger in size and scope than the first, would, under prevailing price conditions, cost not less than \$100,000.

FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION

5. In order to make it possible to carry out the programme of work for 1961-1962 proposed in chapter X of the Commission's report, the Secretary-General would find it necessary

- to make provision for three additional Professional posts at the Second Officer level in 1962 and thereafter. One officer would be stationed at each of the three regional economic commissions involved (ECA, ECAFE and ECLA), and a part of the work involved in carrying out the Population Commission's recommended programme would become the responsibility of these regional commissions. Specifically, the work would relate to items (2) and (3) of the Commission's proposed work programme (paragraph 131), namely, co-operation in regional demographic programmes and preparation of annual issues of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations. This shift would be in line with the recommendation of the General Assembly in its resolution 1518 (XV) concerning the decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions. The annual salaries and common staff costs of the three Professional officers are estimated at \$27,300, plus \$8,000 for supporting secretarial assistance, or a total of \$35,300.
- 6. The proposed revision and bringing up to date of *The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends*—item (12) of the proposed work programme (paragraph 131)—would make it necessary to obtain consultant services in special fields such as human geography and consumer economics. The cost of these services is estimated at \$2,000 a year over a period of three years, beginning in 1962.
- 7. The Secretary-General would also consider it desirable to obtain the services of a small group of experts on the scope and orientation of the revised report. An opportunity to obtain such advice is foreseen in connexion with the meeting of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population which is to be held in New York in 1961. The costs to the United Nations would be limited to subsistence allowance for the experts to be invited to advise on the project and would be absorbed within existing resources.
- 8. The proposal made by the Commission on the future work programme also has a bearing on the printing programme of the Secretariat. In addition to the publications already requested by the Commission at its tenth session, three additional studies would have to be published in the years to come; the estimated costs of translation and printing in various languages of these studies are given below:

Financial implications regarding the translation and printing programme

(US dollars)

	Translation into			Printing in		
Subject of the study	English	French	Spanish	English	French	Spanish
Study of factors affecting trends in the sectoral distribution of active population		3,700	3,700	4,300	3,700	3,700
Revised edition of The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends	_	16,200	16,200	9,800	8,200	8,200
	2,700	2,700		3,000	2,600	2,600
TOTAL	2,700	22,600	19,900	17,100	14,500	14,500
GRAND TOTAL			91,30	00		

a This study has been undertaken as a technical assistance project. The provisional report has shown that it fits fairly well into the series of reports on demographic pilot studies. For that reason it is proposed as a publication of the Bureau of Social Affairs.

9. Finally the financial implications of decisions taken by the Population Commission during its eleventh session can be summarized as follows:

64 1965	1966
lollars)	
000 —	-
000	_
- 9,800	0d 48,800e
	48,800
	,000 19,800

^a The expenses listed here for the world conference on population represent only a part of the total expenses which will have to be charged against the budget of the United Nations (see para. 4 above).

10. In connexion with these requirements, the Secretary-General called to the Commission's attention General Assembly resolution 1557 (XV), which endorsed the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat that, "pending examination of its final report by the General Assembly, United Nations organs should not, save in cases of real urgency, propose the initiation of studies or other projects involving additions to the budget or to the permanent establishment of the Secre-

tariat". Should the Economic and Social Council decide, in the light of this resolution, that real urgency should be attached to the holding of a population conference in 1964 or 1965 and the carrying out of the full work programme for 1961-1962, the Secretary-General would seek budgetary provision for the additional costs described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. The requirements for 1962 would be presented to the General Assembly as revisions of the Secretary-General's initial budget estimates for that year.

Annex II

List of working papers submitted by the Secretary-General

Symbol	Title
E/CN.9/157	Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh session
E/CN.9/158 and Corr.1	Objectives and accomplishments of the United Nations in the field of population
E/CN.9/159	World demographic situation, with primary reference to mortality
E/CN.9/160	1960 World Population Census Programme: evaluation, analysis and utilization of results of the censuses in under-developed countries
E/CN.9/160/Add.1	Progress report on the 1960 World Population Census Programme
E/CN.9/161	Draft suggestions for national programmes of evaluation and analysis of population census data in under-developed countries
E/CN.9/162 and Corr.1	Demographic studies relevant to policy-making and planning of economic and social development programmes for under- developed countries
E/CN.9/163	Comments on the proposal to hold a second world conference on population
E/CN.9/164	Progress of work during 1959-1960 and programme of work for 1961-1962 in the field of population

b Translation and printing of the "Demographic and socioeconomic survey of the metropolitan area of San Salvador, El Salvador," and printing of the English text of the "Study of factors affecting trends in the sectoral distribution of active populations."

^e Translation into French and Spanish, and printing in French and Spanish, of the "Study of factors affecting trends in the sectoral distribution of active populations."

d Printing of the English text of the revised edition of The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends.

e Translation into French and Spanish, and printing in French and Spanish, of the revised edition of *The Determinants* and Consequences of Population Trends.

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