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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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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CICRED	Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
OAU	Organization of African Unity
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Population Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of the following draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I 1/

ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Population Commission on its nineteenth session (E/5913),

Bearing in mind that the World Population Conference adopted a World Population Plan of Action as a policy instrument within the broader context of the internationally adopted strategies and of international progress,

Also bearing in mind the efforts made by Governments, by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to give an integrated approach to social and economic development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 31/182 of 21 December 1976 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee for Development Planning as well as with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and other relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to collect data and information relevant to the formulation of a new international development strategy, and decided to consider at its thirty-second session appropriate action for the preparations for a new international development strategy,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the World Population Conference, including the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference and the World Population Plan of Action,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in pursuing the task of collecting data and information relevant to the formulation of a new international development strategy, to take due account of the World Population Plan of Action as one of the inputs of particular relevance to that task;

2. Recommends to the General Assembly that, when it considers the question of preparing a new international development strategy, the role of population and

1/ See para. 82 of the present report.

the importance of population policies and activities should be given due weight, and should be duly integrated into the goals, objectives and policy measures to be contained in any new strategy.

Draft resolution II 2/

POPULATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (POPINS)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974 and in particular those contained in the World Population Plan of Action, especially paragraphs 15, 80, 90, 91, 100 and 102, which place emphasis on the exchange, sharing and dissemination of information in the field of population,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action,

1. Notes the findings of the study undertaken with regard to the establishment of a world-wide population information system (POPINS);
2. Affirms the importance of intensified efforts towards the dissemination of scientific and technical information in the field of population, especially in the developing countries; the need to promote a better access to such information for users, particularly those directly or indirectly concerned with economic and social development; the need to develop at the national level appropriate institutional arrangements and supporting programmes to promote the sharing and exchange of information; the importance of establishing or strengthening regional capacities in the field of population information; and the desirability of establishing appropriate co-ordination and linkages among the already existing information activities and services in the field of population;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, with the collaboration of the regional commissions and the specialized agencies and with the advice of experts in relevant areas, to continue exploratory studies concerning the establishment of a world-wide population information system, with particular emphasis on:
 - (a) Gathering information about the volume of literature, institutions, potential users and their needs, especially by means of in-depth studies on a small number of national and regional institutions to estimate the amount of information which exists and to identify current and future needs of users;
 - (b) Consultations at the national and regional levels on arrangements for collaboration with existing programmes, especially as far as discussions with possible funders of the system are concerned;
 - (c) Aspects related to the design of the study, with particular attention to the operating costs of the possible options of the system at the national, regional and international levels;

2/ See para. 248 of the present report.

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding for the proposed activities through extrabudgetary resources;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit the findings of these exploratory studies to the Population Commission at its twentieth session for its consideration.

Draft resolution III 3/

WORK PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the World Population Conference and particularly of the World Population Plan of Action, General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on the World Population Conference, and General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on research on the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, and the emphasis in the World Population Plan of Action on human rights and the role of women,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council decision 87 (LVIII) regarding monitoring, review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, Council decision 89 (LVIII) concerning biennial review in depth by the Council of population matters with special reference to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, Council resolution 1945 (LVIII) of 7 May 1975 and decision 169 (LXI) on guidelines on population-related factors for development planners, and Council resolution 1946 (LVIII) of 7 May 1975 on activities in the field of population,

Aware of the need to take steps for the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, and the need to strengthen the monitoring, review and appraisal functions of the Secretariat,

Aware also of the important supportive role of the United Nations system to Governments in achieving the goals of the Plan through research, exchange of information and technical co-operation,

Stressing the supportive role of the work programme of the United Nations system in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the pursuit of goals of economic co-operation,

Taking note of the discussions of the Population Commission at its nineteenth session on the progress of work, the biennial work programme (1978-1979) and the medium-term plan (1978-1981) of the Secretariat,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the progress of work, the biennial work programme (1978-1979) and the medium-term plan (1978-1981);

2. Calls to the attention of the General Assembly, in its consideration of the work programme and budget, the need to strengthen the work of the Secretariat,

3/ See paras. 255-261 of the present report.

including the regional commissions, arising from the World Population Conference, taking note of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976;

3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue and strengthen the work on population trends and structure, demographic estimates and projections, factors affecting patterns of reproduction, population and development, and population policy;

(b) To arrange for the continuation of the monitoring of population trends and policies and for the establishment of appropriate machinery for the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action in the light of discussions of the Commission, contained in paragraphs 71 to 82 of the Commission's report on its nineteenth session (E/5913);

(c) To prepare a manual for the use of national planners and methods of incorporating demographic factors in development planning taking into account the interrelationships between demographic variables and economic and social factors;

(d) To continue and expand the United Nations programme of technical co-operation in the field of population to countries desiring this assistance; to adapt this programme to the requirements of developing countries; and to pay particular attention to support for development of population policies and establishment of population studies units at the national level;

(e) To strengthen the United Nations programme of training in population, in particular through continuation and expansion of the demographic training and research centres sponsored by the United Nations, support for the establishment of national training centres, and expansion of fellowships for training in population, giving attention to the training of administrators and development planners in the integration of population and development planning;

(f) To continue the publication, on a biannual basis, of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations as a forum for providing population analysts and planners with results of work in the population field by the international organizations;

4. Emphasizes the need for the organizations in the United Nations system to strengthen their collaboration and co-ordination in the planning and execution of their population programmes.

B. Issues brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. Certain other issues to which the Population Commission gave special emphasis are referred to the Council for its consideration.

3. The attention of the Council is drawn to the decision of the Population Commission regarding arrangements for review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action:

"In considering the question of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, the Commission decided that that undertaking should be carried out within the framework of the regular programme of work. But taking into account the fact that, for the purpose of the first review and appraisal, the Population Division needs assistance, it was considered that a small ad hoc group of experts should assist the Secretary-General in drafting the appropriate proposals. At the same time, opinions were expressed that that work could be carried out without any additional financial expenditures." 4/

4. In this connexion, the attention of the Council is drawn also to the information made available to the Commission on the administrative and financial implications of the above decision. 5/

5. Pursuant to Council decision 87 (LVIII), the Population Commission is forwarding its findings to the Council on the first of the biennial rounds of monitoring of population trends and policies undertaken in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 107 of the World Population Plan of Action. As requested by the Commission, its findings appear as an appendix to the present report: they consist of a digest of the reports on monitoring of population trends and policies 6/ presented to the Commission at its nineteenth session.

4/ See para. 80 of the present report.

5/ See para. 81 of the present report.

6/ See E/CN.9/323 and E/CN.9/324 and Conference room papers E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.5 and Add.1 and E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.7 and Add.1.

II. OPENING STATEMENTS

A. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

6. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, addressing the Commission at its 343rd meeting, referred to the great interest which the Commission's work had aroused in the international community with respect to a field it regarded to be of fundamental importance for the future of the world. The period since 1946, when the Commission had begun its work, had seen many changes. The World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974 represented a landmark achievement in the history of United Nations activities in population in that it had provided a forum at which both developing and developed countries had been able to work out a World Population Plan of Action.

7. In organizing conferences of that level of importance, the United Nations reaffirmed its special responsibility to keep close track of important world trends and to direct world attention to major problems that emerged and to solutions needed. Although conferences such as the World Population Conference and similar ones - the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, for example - could not provide instant solutions to those problems, they served to bring out different national experiences and viewpoints and, by fostering the interplay of ideas among nations, helped strengthen awareness of the global significance of the problems and promoted the formulation of solutions.

8. The Bucharest Conference had made it clear, however, that in the field of population no single global approach or set of norms was acceptable, since population policy was a national prerogative. It had therefore excluded any recommendations for population growth targets.

9. The Under-Secretary-General, stressing the fact that the escalating demands made by the growing numbers of humanity on the ecological environment could ultimately upset the natural balance between man and his environment, declared that one of the United Nations major roles was to help society recognize and deal with these needs before such imbalance occurred.

10. Because of many considerations, the Under-Secretary-General stated, the results of the Commission's present deliberations were eagerly awaited. Population was not only one of the most basic of questions but also one of the most controversial; action in that field was an essential factor in international development strategy, and population considerations must occupy an important place in the coming Third United Nations Development Decade. Population projections already formed part of "Project 2000", a preparatory project which would facilitate the elaboration of the recently completed United Nations report, The Future of the World Economy. 7/

11. Observation of over-all trends in population indicated that there had

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.A.6.

definitely been a deceleration in population growth rates in the industrialized countries, and that the developing countries also appeared to have entered a phase of reduced demographic growth. Such questions were of immense importance for the future. The observation of trends was obviously of great importance, and the Commission's views on a report on the problems of monitoring population trends and policies, recently prepared by the United Nations in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, were therefore awaited with interest.

12. Referring to the study on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, currently being carried out at the request of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General suggested that the Commission might wish to take the opportunity to state its views concerning its own mandate and its place in the United Nations system, since it was the only body qualified to examine all the facets of population questions at the world level.

B. Statement by the Director of the Population Division

13. In his opening statement the Director of the Population Division addressed himself in the first instance to the question of the monitoring of population trends and policies, reports (E/CN.9/323 and E/CN.9/324) on which were before the Commission for consideration.

14. From various observations, it seemed that demographic trends might be taking a new direction and that some long-accepted ideas on demographic evolution might have to be re-examined. Birth-rates had recently begun to decline, particularly in countries of the third world, while the continued improvement in mortality rates observed for several decades was being maintained at a much slower rate than had been expected, the net result being a rapid decrease in growth rates. At first sight, these findings were surprising if it was recalled that demographers had constantly repeated that in the field of population demographic inertia inhibits changes for long periods. Moreover, it was an established fact that prolonged periods of decline in fertility had never been accompanied by sustained increases in mortality.

15. The Director went on to assess the validity of the above-mentioned assertions in the light of certain basic demographic developments. Since 1964, there had been an unexplained decline in fertility in every European country, and in 1975 there were 12 European countries which had fertility below replacement, a fact which implied that those countries might not be able to replace the generations if that tendency continued for another 10 to 20 years. Fluctuations were occurring around a trend which seemed fairly stable but, in the Director's opinion, that might well be temporary; however, he did not expect markedly higher growth rates, nor did he consider negative growth rates likely to be a common feature of European population trends in the long run.

16. Although growth potential due to demographic inertia was nearing exhaustion in the industrialized countries (except Japan, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the prospect of a stable population level was not a source of great alarm to European demographers and other specialists since those were concerned more with the implications of fluctuations in fertility for such sectors as education and housing. These were among the questions which had been discussed at the post-World Population Conference consultation among countries of the European region.

17. The analysis of birth-rate trends in the countries of the third world was more complex, in view of the diversity of situations obtaining in those countries. However, it might be said that in general terms there was a definite downward trend in the birth-rate in those countries, as had been expected, and that that had been taken into consideration in the medium variant of the population projections prepared by the United Nations. The downward trend had just begun in most cases; it had spread to considerably more countries than had been the case 10 years earlier, and was also beginning to be seen in the large countries, although later than originally anticipated. There was some indication, however, that there had been a slight rise in the over-all fertility level in Africa. The Director drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that a United Nations study on world fertility trends was currently in press.

18. The question of mortality had become the subject of widespread concern and had been assigned high priority in the United Nations programme of work in population. Recent research had revealed that the downward trend in mortality rates in developing countries was proceeding more slowly than had been expected and in many cases had ceased altogether. In many countries the drop in mortality rates over the preceding 10 years had been offset by a drop in the birth-rate, but the over-all rate of growth was proceeding at a pace which, if sustained, would result in a doubling of the population by the first quarter of the next century.

19. With respect to population projections, the Director stressed the fact that it was the task of the United Nations to collect population data carefully and painstakingly and with due regard to their economic and social context, in order to give direction to strategies and programmes of action. The United Nations medium-variant population projection for the year 2000, which remained unchanged, was 6.2 billion, an increase of 50 per cent over the current world population. The high and low variants indicated that this figure might vary in absolute numbers, upward or downward, by 420 million people. This range of possibility could make a critical difference, in terms of the total needs for food and employment, both in the short term, namely, until the end of the current century, which was not far off, and in the long term, well into the next century. Accordingly, whatever was accomplished or left undone in the field of population over the next few decades would be of enormous importance to succeeding generations.

20. The Director stated that during the previous two years, the United Nations programme of work in population had concentrated on four areas: the interrelationships between population and development, to which the Bucharest Conference had given prime importance; technical co-operation; research on population policies; and the development of new methods of measuring the effect of family planning programmes on fertility trends. Further details on United Nations activities in these and other areas would be presented later in the session.

III. ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

A. General debate

21. In the general debate which preceded the more detailed consideration of item 3 of the agenda, the Commission felt that its deliberations at the present session would be particularly important since that was the first session at which action taken to implement the recommendations of the 1974 World Population Conference would be evaluated; in addition, they were taking place at a time when the Second United Nations Development Decade was coming to a close. It noted with gratification that, in the years since the Bucharest Conference, increasing attention had been paid to the need to adopt an integrated approach to development matters. The finest achievement of the Conference had been to focus attention on the need for developing countries to adopt an integrated approach in matters of economic and social development, and to keep constantly in view the interrelationships between population and the various other components of development planning. It was suggested that the question of the relationship between economic and social matters and population trends should be a permanent item on the Commission's agenda; attention over time to the integrated development approach was essential to obtaining an accurate forecast of what the world population picture would be like in the year 2000.

22. The Commission noted that since the Bucharest Conference, which had focused world attention on population problems, many developing countries had established specific policies to solve their individual population problems, involving, inter alia, the use of maternal child health programmes to reduce child mortality, the introduction of literacy programmes for women, and programmes to improve conditions in rural areas. Some representatives suggested that the time had come to shift attention from the dimensions of and trends in population problems to seeking ways and means of dealing with them more expeditiously and of sustaining and strengthening existing programmes of assistance. No simple, short-term solution existed; at the same time, certain broad measures might be taken, based upon knowledge derived from other countries' experience in the field, which had yielded some important principles as guidelines: that, in order to succeed, population action programmes must be long-term and must be incorporated into long-term programmes; that the active, sustained involvement in population problems of leaders at all levels - national, subnational, and village - was of major importance; that family planning programmes were more likely to succeed if they were an integral part of community development programmes and, in the case of many countries, if regular medical services were supplemented by paramedics who could provide advice and assistance in health, family planning, and nutrition; that population programmes were more likely to succeed where measures to enhance the health, education, and conditions of women within the family and society received proper attention; and that it was only reasonable to suggest that all donor nations and agencies be as forthcoming as possible, taking into account the sensitivities, needs, and circumstances of countries requesting assistance.

23. It was pointed out that family planning alone was not a solution to the problems of development and of raising standards of living, but at the same time it was considered unwise to underestimate the importance of population growth in the developing countries.

24. One representative, commenting on the concise report on monitoring of population trends (E/CN.9/323), expressed the view that it did not present a sufficiently balanced overview of the trends and changes that had taken place, but rather gave the impression that rapid population growth was a fundamental cause of slowing down of development. More information was needed on the factors affecting relationships among trends and on what measures should be taken to alter the situation, as required and in accordance with the wishes of individual Governments.

B. General background

25. The Commission in its consideration of this item recalled that at its eighteenth session, which was convened very shortly after the World Population Conference, it had been informed of a number of activities proposed by the United Nations in conformity with the recommendation of the World Population Conference especially the World Population Plan of Action adopted by the Conference. Special attention had also been given to General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and to those resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session which dealt with the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. The action taken since the eighteenth session of the Commission by the Secretariat and by other bodies of the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the Conference is described below.

C. Regional consultations to follow up the World Population Conference

26. In respect of the regional consultations, 8/ the Director of the Population Division drew the attention of the Commission to the Secretariat paper 9/ summarizing for its information the results of the consultations. These meetings had been sponsored by the United Nations and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in collaboration with the regional commissions and were held in: Bangkok, from 14 to 20 January 1975, for the ESCAP region; 10/ in Mexico City, from 3 to 7 March 1975, for the ECLA region, with CELADE (Latin American Demographic Centre) collaborating; in Doha, on 24 and 25 March 1975,

8/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6, paras. 29-34.

9/ "Results of the regional consultations subsequent to the World Population Conference", before the Commission as a conference room paper. It is intended to publish this paper in language versions in the forthcoming issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

10/ The results of this meeting were reported briefly to the Commission at its eighteenth session.

and Beirut, on 1 and 2 May 1975, for the ECWA region; and in Lusaka, from 16 to 22 April 1975, for the ECA region. The consultations among countries of the ECE region 11/ was held at Geneva from 7 to 11 July 1975. Consequently, from April 1974 to July 1975, Governments had consulted on the World Population Plan of Action twice in all five regions in addition to participating in the World Population Conference itself in Bucharest.

27. The Director emphasized that the primary intention of the consultations was to initiate action as soon as possible after the Conference to preserve and renew the momentum of the political consensus reached at Bucharest and to accelerate action that Governments might wish to take to deal with their national problems.

28. Recalling the Declaration on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action to implement it (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)), the Director noted that little stress had been given therein to population. Yet representatives of Governments in each of the regional consultations revealed their continuing concern with certain population-related problems characteristic of the conditions of their countries. Moreover, the high level of participation and the nature of the documentation prepared by the regional commissions sufficiently attested to the importance still accorded to population problems in the post-Conference period. In the Director's opinion the consultations were successful in generating concrete proposals for action in the field of population in the framework of the World Population Plan of Action, with differences in rationale and in formulation stemming from the development emphasis in the Plan. The Director noted that, more than two years after the Conference, the high response rate of Governments to the Secretary-General's inquiry on population policies (see E/CN.9/324, para. 68) was evidence of continuing and even increasing national interest in population policy. In general, for the countries of the ESCAP region, the problem of population growth was still seen as the most urgent in this context; in Latin America, there was more stress on development but with some interest in family planning; in the ECWA region, the emphasis was on the need for improvement in demographic data and for training of personnel in other aspects of demographic work; in the ECA region, mortality and infertility and health issues in general were the main concern. The meeting among representatives of the countries of the ECE region was informed by a sense of common problems, present and potential, and a foreshadowing by a number of Governments of announcements of considered positions as a result of the adoption of the Plan of Action.

29. The Commission recognized the utility of the consultations as an initial activity undertaken at the regional level to sustain the consensus of Bucharest. As will be seen from other parts of the present report, 12/ the regional commissions have drawn heavily on the conclusions of the consultations in formulating their work programmes in accord with the spirit of the Plan of Action.

11/ This consultation, like the pre-Conference consultation in that region, was convened by the United Nations, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of ECE.

12/ See also E/CN.9/328 and the conference room paper dealing with activities of the bodies of the United Nations system in recent years.

D. Measures undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to implement the World Population Plan of Action

30. In response to resolution 1 (XVIII), adopted by the Commission at its eighteenth session, the Secretary-General presented a report on action taken to implement the World Population Plan of Action by national Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations respectively (E/CN.9/325).

31. The report included a review of action taken by the Governments of 156 States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies in respect of recommendations of the Plan of Action, based on information provided by Governments in response to the Third Inquiry, and from other official statements on population. While in general expressing their satisfaction with the review, several representatives requested a clarification of the classification used and an explanation of certain items of information. Some representatives pointed out that the information was limited to action taken either to change demographic variables or to respond to problems associated with population, and did not include action taken to resolve economic and other processes which might have contributed to the appearance and maintenance of such problems. Particularly regretted was the absence of information on action taken to improve the status of women. Several representatives pointed out that their Governments found it difficult to separate their action taken with respect to population from that taken as part of comprehensive development plans. Moreover, their formulation of population policies was still at an early stage and it was therefore difficult to be precise about it. Other representatives urged the Secretariat to take into account the distinction between direct and indirect action, between policies that were being formulated and those that were being fully implemented. The need to take into consideration the contributions made by non-governmental organizations was recommended. It was suggested that classification by types of problem and policy might be more illuminating than classification by geographical area. The Secretariat expressed its appreciation of the comments made, and noted that they would be most valuable for the refinement and improvement of its work in that field.

32. The report also included information which had been requested of the 104 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had attended the World Population Conference. Twenty-six of the organizations had reported on positive action taken in support of the Plan's implementation. Nine had been directly concerned with demographic phenomena, while the remainder had been primarily concerned with economic and social development, the environment and resources, and human rights, particularly those of women and children. Several other organizations had expressed interest in the Plan's implementation, but had noted that their activities were not directly relevant. Some representatives expressed their disappointment at the absence of reports from several organizations known to be very active in the implementation of the Plan, notably the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Population Council, and urged that every effort be made to obtain a better response on the next round. The Secretariat shared their concern.

33. Twenty-three intergovernmental organizations had been asked to report on action taken by them, and of the five that had replied most were associated primarily with developed countries.

34. The observer for Romania reported the high priority given to the implementation of the Plan by his Government and the substantial progress achieved. The observer for Italy expressed his Government's close interest in the implementation of the Plan. Similar statements were made by representatives of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and International Educational Development, Inc. The representative of IUSSP also recalled the close co-operation between his organization and the Population Division and in particular the scientific aspects of the World Population Plan of Action.

E. Guidelines on population-related factors
for development planners

35. During its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documents: "Guidelines on population-related factors for development planners" (E/5780 and Corr.1) and summary records (E/AC.6/SR.772, 775, 776 and 779) relating to comments made at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council on those guidelines.

36. The guidelines, prepared at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1943 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, had been presented at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council held at Geneva in July 1976. In its decision 169 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Council "took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on guidelines for development planners on population-related factors and decided to transmit it, together with the comments made thereon at its sixty-first session, to the Population Commission for further consideration at its nineteenth session".

37. The Director of the Population Division, in introducing this topic, drew the attention of the Commission to a number of difficulties raised during the preparation of the guidelines, particularly to the short time available for the preparation; the limit to the length of papers presented to meetings of the Council; the lack of information on country experiences; the non-homogeneity of countries in terms of level of development, and involvement in population matters and their integration in development planning.

38. In this connexion, the Population Division had sent a questionnaire to the planning office of each country, the purpose of which had been to assess the experiences of the country on the integration of demographic variables and population policies in development planning. In spite of some delays in replies, the experiences of a number of countries had proved of great help in the preparation of the report. The guidelines had also benefited by the contribution of diverse specialized agencies and bodies, particularly UNESCO for population and education planning; the ILO for population, labour force and employment; WHO for population and health; FAO for population and agricultural development, and the regional commissions for their experiences in this field.

39. The guidelines focus mainly on two levels of development: aggregate and sectoral. At the aggregate level, emphasis was placed on population and development strategies and on labour force and employment. At the sectoral level, the guidelines were confined to the following sectors: food and agriculture, education, housing, health, social aspects of development and resources. Also included were some suggestions concerning the promotion of supporting programmes which could contribute to the fruitful integration of population-related factors

in development planning, such as those involving the improvement of data, the conduct of research on the cause-and-effect relationship between demographic variables and development factors, the training of personnel working in the field of population and development and the establishment of an appropriate institutional system to deal with those aspects.

40. The Director also summarized the discussions and comments on the guidelines of the Council at its sixty-first session.

41. As a whole, the Commission confirmed the comments made at the sixty-first session of the Council by recognizing the importance of considering population matters in the context of development planning and favourably commending the guidelines as helpful for development planners.

42. Particular emphasis on some aspects relating to population and development were suggested at the session, such as the impact of population change on regional planning, the interaction between population, labour force and production, and interrelationship between population, land use and environment as well as problems of human rights and population. Social problems relating to women, the aged, and youth were also stressed by some delegations.

43. It was also suggested that emphasis on basic and generally feasible action according to the priorities of the Government should be considered in cases where resources were limited.

44. It was agreed that, although in several parts special emphasis was placed on the demographic, social and economic problems of developing countries, the guidelines were applicable to both developed and developing countries.

45. After having considered, on the one hand, the report on the guidelines presented by the Secretariat and the complexity of the interaction between demographic variables and development factors and, on the other, the needs of technical assistance for national planners, the Commission strongly recommended that the guidelines should be followed up by a more technical and more substantial report including methods and techniques of incorporating demographic variables in development planning.

46. Some representatives suggested that there should be specific follow-up activities related to paragraphs 31 and 32 of the World Population Plan of Action. They might include a collaborative review of assistance efforts at the national level which would encourage the sharing of information in that area. The review, perhaps sponsored by the Population Division and UNFPA with the participation of other donors including the World Bank and international organizations, would complement the symposium planned on that subject to be held in Turkey in the spring of 1977, of which the Commission had been informed.

F. Interrelations between population, resources and environment

47. The Commission gave consideration to work on interrelations between population, resources and environment which, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX), was being undertaken by UNITAR, with the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat collaborating on the demographic aspects.

48. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Programmes for Future Studies, UNITAR, informed the Commission about current activities of the programme relating to population, resources and environment. Expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to address the Population Commission, the Director noted that, owing to modest financial resources, UNITAR was not in a position to give population questions the priority attention they deserved. He remarked also that the Programme for Future Studies did not envisage the development of a global model but instead had embarked on a comparative analysis of a number of specific aspects, bearing on policy issues, of existing models. He expressed the view that econometric models with a population component were of great importance if they were logically constructed but that empirical testing of such models was of the utmost importance.

49. The review by UNITAR of existing models would be useful for subsequent work in that area. The review included five of the most important recently constructed global models: Forrester-Meadows, Mesarovich-Pestel, Bariloche Foundation model, Kahn's model and Leontief's model.

50. He then commented briefly on some of the major characteristics of each of the models, including their data base, assumptions, level of disaggregation, etc. Turning to the treatment of demographic factors in the models, he noted that, with the possible exception of the Bariloche model, the population component was not fully developed and that most of the models did not consider the role of demographic factors in any detail.

51. The Director of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, at the invitation of the Chairman, presented the Commission with a statement on The Future of the World Economy (Leontief model). Thanking the Commission for the invitation to address it, the Director noted that in his opening remarks the Under-Secretary-General had already referred to "Project 2000" and that it might be of interest to the Commission to be informed on two aspects of the subject: the Leontief study and its "follow-up", known as Project 2000. The Leontief model, he noted, was a simplified quantitative image of the relations between a large number of variables, which divided the world into 15 regions, the centre-piece of which is an input-output matrix, based on a disaggregation of the economy into 48 consuming and producing sectors. The model was used to develop eight alternative scenarios or projections for the years 1980, 1990 and 2000, on the base year 1970. Each of the scenarios was based on assumptions concerning objectives, means and the evolution of exogenous factors, including population.

52. Two of the scenarios were of particular interest: scenario X, which could be characterized as a new international economic order, and scenario A. Scenario X, aiming at a considerable reduction in the income gap between developed and developing countries, a decline from the present ratio of 12:1 to 7:1 in the year 2000, would involve a number of structural changes. With respect to food, for example, this scenario would estimate a need for an agricultural production three to four times as high as in 1970, on a world-wide basis. This would imply an annual average growth rate in food output of 5.3 per cent during 1970-2000, which would be considerably higher than the 4 per cent growth target included in the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and which had also been adopted by FAO.

53. As regards natural resources and the environment, the model would estimate that, despite significant growth in global demand for minerals, world mineral

resources would be adequate to carry out economic development during the next quarter of a century; also, the cost involved in control of the environment would not hamper future growth. In his conclusion, the Director of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs stressed that a basic condition would be the acceptance of considerable internal social, political and institutional changes.

54. As regards "Project 2000", it was defined as an attempt by the United Nations system to develop, on a continuous basis, a long-term development research model to help make concrete proposals for a more equitable international order. Referring to the decisions of the General Assembly on the new international economic order, he noted that the problem was no longer a matter of merely extrapolating from the past what might occur in the future, nor even of changing a certain number of coefficients or ratios with the objective of narrowing or closing the income gap between developed and developing countries. The problem was first to work out a series of alternative scenarios which would bring out the different policies necessary, at both the national and the international levels, to achieve the long-term objectives. One aim of the exercise, he said, was to serve as a framework for the setting of medium-term targets in preparation of the development strategy for the next decade. At a later stage, the work undertaken could be used for monitoring purposes towards the implementation of the various long-term development objectives. The Director concluded by stating that the discussions in the Commission as well as the work to be undertaken by the Population Division, under the guidance of the Commission, would be of considerable interest and importance to the success of the work on Project 2000. The Commission expressed the wish that that work be supplemented by calculations which would treat population as a variable dependent on economic development and take account of an assumed sizable reduction in expenditures on armaments.

G. Monitoring of population trends and policies

55. The results of monitoring of population trends and policies were examined by the Commission pursuant to decision 87 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975 adopted by the Economic and Social Council in which the Commission was requested to examine on a biennial basis the results of the continuous process of monitoring the World Population Plan of Action, in accordance with paragraph 107 of the Plan, and to bring its findings to the attention of the Council. The Plan, in that paragraph, had requested that monitoring should be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of the United Nations and reviewed biennially by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, beginning in 1977.

56. On the basis of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session, which included the results of the Commission's discussion of the implications of the World Population Conference, including the monitoring, the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1946 (LVIII) of 7 May 1975 requested the Secretary-General to consult and make the arrangements required with the interested specialized agencies and the regional commissions on the responsibilities and co-ordination activities involved. The Secretariat accordingly undertook the 1977 round of monitoring in collaboration with those organizations.

57. Summaries of the findings of these studies were presented to the Commission in two reports presented as: "Concise report on monitoring of population trends"

(E/CN.9/323) and "Concise report on monitoring of population policies" (E/CN.9/324). Comprehensive reports were submitted in two conference room papers entitled "Report on monitoring of population trends" and "Report on monitoring of population policies". The reports on population trends were prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of inputs prepared by the Population Division and specialized agencies and additional information provided by the regional commissions. The reports on population policies, on the other hand, were prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of Governments' replies to the Third Inquiry among Governments entitled "Population policies in the context of development in 1976", statements made during the regional consultations after the Bucharest Conference, statements made by competent government officials in various circumstances, national development plans, and other official sources.

58. The Commission was very impressed with the quality of the work and the effort expended in preparing the inputs to these studies. The report on trends covered population growth, mortality, fertility, migration, population distribution and urbanization, aspects of population structure including age and sex, groups of special social and economic significance, labour force, dependency, agricultural population and agricultural labour force. The report also includes chapters on wider aspects of population and development, namely, the relation between population and employment, education and demographic variables and the relation between population and food. In preparing the report on policies, the Secretariat was able to provide for the first time a detailed analysis of Governments' perceptions and policies with respect to population variables in the 156 States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, using the material referred to in the preceding paragraph. The report on policies analysed the situation in mid-1976 regarding Governments' perceptions and policies relating to population growth, mortality, fertility, spatial distribution and migration and discusses the main changes which have occurred in those perceptions and policies since the Bucharest Conference.

59. In view of the wide scope which had to be covered in the first round of monitoring, it was necessary for the presentation to be selective with respect to depth of discussion. Owing to lack of accurate data from many developing countries the Secretariat was not able to extend its detailed analysis of population trends to the past two or three years on a global basis. Several representatives felt, however, that demographic changes had been taking place rapidly in the past few years and that accordingly a more detailed and up-to-date analysis of those recent trends, particularly in fertility and international migration, was necessary for the understanding of these new or emerging circumstances.

60. Some representatives also pointed out that it would be desirable to formulate questionnaires as carefully as possible so as to include in the reports on monitoring the results of more detailed analyses of the interrelationships between population and development, with more attention being paid to the impact of development factors on demographic variables than had been the case in the current round. In that regard particular attention should be paid to the entire relationship between social change and demographic trends. Though that latter type of analysis faces many methodological and measurement difficulties, its results would be highly beneficial to work on the incorporation of demographic factors in development planning. The studies should include such important areas as human rights and integration of women in development, and the "brain drain" should be given more attention in future rounds of monitoring.

61. Some representatives also suggested small changes, with regard to either population trends or population policies, mainly in their own countries or regions. The Secretariat would make these changes when revising the texts of the two reports.

62. The Commission expressed its conviction that the monitoring of population trends and policies was one of the fundamental functions of the United Nations. The Secretariat should continuously follow the world population situation and bring its findings to the attention of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system.

63. After a discussion of the possible ways in which the Commission could report on the results of the 1977 round of monitoring, as requested in Council decision 87 (LVIII), the Secretariat was asked to prepare a digest of its findings. This summary, which was reviewed by the Commission, is presented in the appendix to the present report.

64. The two comprehensive reports on monitoring of population trends and policies, of which the drafts were available only in the form of conference room papers, contain a wealth of information and analyses which should be made available to Governments, demographers and planners. The finalized versions of those two studies, together with their annexes, should be given wide circulation.

65. The Commission also felt strongly that a concise report on the world population situation, presenting in a very simple manner the highlights of the findings of the 1977 round of monitoring, would be very helpful in bringing the situation to the attention of world public opinion. The Director of the Population Division informed the Commission that this concise report would be prepared by the Secretariat and presented to the Economic and Social Council as the third in a series to be issued biennially in conformity with Council resolution 1347 (XLV) in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly biennially a concise report on the world population situation.

H. Proposal regarding arrangements for the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

1. Background

66. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General entitled "Proposal regarding arrangements for the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action" (E/CN.9/326) prepared in response to a request of the Population Commission at its eighteenth session that a specific proposal be developed by the Secretariat, after extensive consultation, for presentation to the Commission early in 1977. ^{13/} At that session, the Commission had been concerned with the need for early action to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference but had considered it premature to discuss the type of machinery required for review and appraisal in anything more than a very tentative way. ^{13/}

^{13/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6, para. 71.

67. The Director of the Population Division in a preliminary statement referred to the provisions of paragraphs 108 and 109 of the World Population Plan of Action and to subsequent legislative action relevant to review and appraisal as summarized in document E/CN.9/326. He gave special emphasis to the fact that the review and appraisal were to be carried out every five years, beginning in 1979, by the United Nations system, and in co-operation with Governments; and that the findings were to be considered by the Council with the object of making, whenever necessary, appropriate modifications of the goals and recommendations of the Plan. Further, it was to be co-ordinated with the International Development Strategy for the United Nations Development Decade and any new international development strategy. The Director, after speaking briefly of United Nations activities relevant to the development of the proposal, including the work on monitoring of population trends and policies, noted that the Economic and Social Council in its decision 87 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975 had requested the Population Commission to contribute, within its competence, advice for the review and appraisal and to report its findings to the Council. In the light of the five components identified in paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's note and the levels of appraisal which appeared appropriate (national, regional, sectoral and over-all), the Director saw the need for very early action to plan and implement the work both in regard to substance and to co-ordination of the work of the relevant bodies (national Governments, the United Nations regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Secretariat) respectively. The ACC mechanism, especially the Sub-Committee on Population, was considered the appropriate co-ordinating body.

68. The Secretary-General had proposed in document E/CN.9/326 that he consult with experts in the disciplines involved to devise the work plan and present the results to the Population Commission at its twentieth session in 1979. If this is agreed, the second round of monitoring should be taken up at once, the ACC Sub-Committee should meet, documentation should be planned and prepared according to the levels mentioned above, and the conclusions forwarded by the Population Commission to the Committee on Review and Appraisal of the Development Strategy, at its meeting in the second quarter of 1979, and thence to the Council.

69. The Commission considered that there were many subsidiary points to be clarified, including the technical nature of the Population Commission, the role of expert advice and the way in which it might contribute to the review and appraisal, the nature and timing of the various levels of appraisal and the relation between monitoring, review and appraisal. In addition staffing and financial implications had to be taken into account.

70. The Commission at its 348th meeting therefore decided to meet in an open-ended contact group to enable representatives to clarify some of these points by informal consultation. At the invitation of the Commission, the Secretary of the Economic and Social Council addressed the representatives on possible implications of structural changes in the United Nations; also on the invitation of the Commission, the Assistant Director-in-Charge, Technical Service for the Committee for Development Planning, informed the meeting of certain arrangements for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy which appeared relevant to the Commission's discussions. The Assistant Director-in-Charge pointed out that, as 1979 would witness the last biennial review and appraisal of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade and as the preparatory work for a new international development strategy was about to begin, the timing of the twentieth session of the Population Commission in 1979 would fit in well with the schedule for both the last review and appraisal and the preparation for a new strategy.

2. Functions of monitoring, review and appraisal and the integration of principles and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action in the Development Strategy

71. In the opinion of the Commission, the first of these functions was already being carried out in a satisfactory way. Review and appraisal, however, would involve an examination of implementation of the World Population Plan of Action in the last five years and an attempt to assess the scope for improved progress. This raised practical questions such as: Was an expert group a suitable means of helping to prepare the Commission in 1979, or of serving as a steering committee in the period 1977-1978? Could a fourth inquiry among Governments on population serve at least partly the needs of review and appraisal? Could a questionnaire combine the needs of monitoring and review and appraisal? The staff resources available in the United Nations and the timing would influence the decision on this, as would the inputs of the regional commissions and the secretariats of the regional commissions. The fact that decisions were pending on restructuring was likely to create some uncertainties here. As for integration of the Plan in any new development strategy, specific recommendations were needed at this session.

72. A number of these questions could be answered fully only when the subsequent item on the programme of work was completed, but there was certainly every necessity of economy to ensure that the review and appraisal be conducted on a moderate scale and that the machinery for it be correspondingly moderate. The opinion was expressed that the review and appraisal should not be confined solely to the demographic aspects of the Plan but should encompass the major recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action; and this appeared to be a function of the United Nations.

73. In order to facilitate the Commission's further discussions on review and appraisal, the Director of the Population Division elaborated in some detail some ideas on the objectives of the review and appraisal, its relation to monitoring, the bodies involved, co-ordination of the activities of the various bodies, the means of eliciting information from Governments, the desirable levels of the work, the timetable and the financial implications. In regard to the second round of monitoring, he proposed that one concise report be prepared on the recent demographic situation, using data available from research at the national level; a second report would deal with interactions between demographic, economic and social variables in a way which would go beyond monitoring and which would give more explicative information; and a third report would deal with recent developments in population policies and actions taken by Governments and relevant organizations.

74. On the question of means of obtaining recent data, the Director considered that it would be possible to utilize a questionnaire prepared for a fourth inquiry on population.

75. An ad hoc advisory group of experts might be an effective means of assisting in the work; it could be small (consisting of perhaps six persons) and might meet twice, once around April or May of 1977 and once around October 1978.

76. In view of the importance of the regional appraisals, the question how the work could best be organized at that level would require careful consideration both in respect of the facilities available and in respect of the timing of the activities. The specialized agencies and also presumably UNFPA would also be engaged in the work. As noted above, the various activities would require consultation and co-ordination amongst the bodies concerned.

77. In regard to the nature of the appraisal, it seemed clear to the Commission that it would deal with the extent to which countries have made progress in achieving goals they have set for themselves in the framework of the Plan; but it was stressed that adequate attention should be given to the importance to be assigned to socio-economic and other means of influencing demographic variables. Questions were raised about the emphasis that might be given to certain important aspects such as rural populations, and the extent to which individual countries might be identifiable in the reports or grouped at subregional, regional or other levels. Certainly, Governments must be given every encouragement and opportunity to undertake appraisal of their own activities; and to comment on possible modifications in the Plan. In this connexion the machinery at the national level would be important.

78. In moving towards a decision on arrangements appropriate to the review and appraisal, the Commission took note again of the expert advice referred to in Council decision 87 (LVIII). If an expert group were recommended, it would be necessary to give some indication of the functions of the group. It was proposed that at a first meeting it should advise the Secretariat in finalizing the draft of a questionnaire to meet some of the needs of review and appraisal as well as monitoring; give to the ACC Sub-Committee on Population through the United Nations Secretariat, such advice as appeared appropriate, on co-ordination of the regional and sectoral appraisals with other activities of review and appraisal; and advise the Secretariat on the type of documentation for review and appraisal and in so doing endeavour to ensure that the documentation to be considered by delegates of legislative bodies would be of moderate volume.

79. The following tentative time-table was noted by the Commission as a possible basis for the Secretariat's work of review and appraisal taking into account the proposals on documentation referred to in paragraph 73 above.

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|---------------|---|--|
| Early 1977 | - | Prepare a draft questionnaire for the Fourth Inquiry among Governments |
| Spring 1977 | - | Convene a meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on Population |
| Spring 1977 | - | Convene an <u>ad hoc</u> group of experts |
| Spring 1977 | - | Make contact with the Committee for Development Planning before its meeting in the spring of 1977 and present to it the recommendations of the Commission on the subject for transmittal to the Council |
| October 1977 | - | Finalize the draft of the questionnaire, translate it and send it out (12 months will be needed between the dispatch of the questionnaire and the completion of the analytic report on the replies received) |
| April 1978 | - | Convene the ACC Sub-Committee on Population again to discuss the progress of work on review and appraisal in the United Nations |
| October 1978 | - | Convene a second meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> group of experts to discuss the documents to be sent to the twentieth session of the Commission |
| February 1979 | - | Submit the text(s) to the Population Commission at its twentieth session |

- Spring 1979 - Revise the text(s) discussed by the Commission
- 2nd quarter 1979 - Send the text(s) to the Committee on Review and Appraisal of the Development Strategy
- Summer 1979 - Forward the text(s) to the Council for consideration at its summer session in 1979

The Commission requested that members be informed of the progress of the work undertaken for review and appraisal.

80. In considering the question of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, the Commission decided that that undertaking should be carried out within the framework of the regular programme of work. But taking into account that for the purpose of the first review and appraisal, the Population Division needed assistance, it was considered that a small ad hoc group of experts should assist the Secretary-General in drafting the appropriate proposals. At the same time, opinions were expressed that the work could be carried out without any additional financial expenditures.

81. At the 359th meeting on 20 January 1977, the Director of the Budget Division, Office of Financial Services, made a statement on the administrative and financial implications of the recommendation made by the Commission concerning the assistance of an ad hoc group of experts. He stated that, assuming the number of experts would not exceed six, the cost involved in 1977 would be absorbed within the existing resources for experts and consultants of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and, for 1978, provision might be made in the proposed programme budget.

I. Consideration of a draft resolution

82. At the 359th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom introduced a draft resolution entitled "Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action" (E/CN.9/L.130). The draft resolution was sponsored by Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Oral amendments proposed by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Spain, as well as by the representative of the ILO, were accepted by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution. The Commission adopted the draft resolution, as revised, without a vote. (For the text, see chap. I, draft resolution I.)

IV. PROGRESS OF WORK, 1975-1976

83. In considering the progress of work (agenda item 4), the Commission had before it the Secretary-General's report on the progress of work (E/CN.9/327): the concise report on the activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of population (E/CN.9/328), the Secretary-General's report on the progress of work, 1975-1976: meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Demographic Models held at Headquarters from 8 to 12 December 1975 (E/CN.9/329), the Secretary-General's report on the progress of work, 1975-1976: Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility, Geneva, 20-27 April 1976 (E/CN.9/330) and the Secretary-General's note on proposals regarding an international population information system (POPINS) (E/CN.9/332). The Commission also heard statements by the Director and staff of the Population Division introducing the item.

A. Population trends and structure

84. Before starting the discussion of the progress of work in population trends and structure, the Chairman of the Commission paid a tribute to the late Mr. John Grauman, who had served the Population Division with utmost devotion for many years. The important contributions of Mr. Grauman's work in the area of demographic studies in general and of urbanization in particular would always keep him in the memories of his colleagues.

85. The Commission was informed that work had continued on assembling and updating estimates of urban and rural populations and also of the populations of cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more. Recent studies had included sex and age characteristics of the population of urban areas; marital status and household and family size in urban and rural areas; and differences between the labour force in urban and rural areas. Results of much of the research had been presented in working papers, while some were being published in the Population Bulletin. When the work was completed, it was planned to issue the results in a publication entitled Salient Features of Urban and Rural Population Change.

86. A study on agriculture, industry and services in the urban and rural labour force, which described the industrial composition of the labour force, had been completed. Work had continued on the occupational structure of the urban and rural labour force and was being extended to include a separate statistical analysis of the occupational characteristics of men and women, in an effort to provide inputs for monitoring the status of women. An updated study of urban-rural differences in the marital status composition of the population in which data for each sex were separately analysed, had been completed. In addition, a text entitled "The family in rural and urban settings", prepared by expert consultants, contrasted the relative size and complexity of families and households in agrarian with urbanized societies.

87. A paper had been contributed to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976. The paper dealt with

the demographic aspects of the urbanization process. It appeared as chapter I of the document entitled "Global review of human settlements". 14/

88. The Commission was glad to learn that work on mortality had been resumed in the Secretariat after a long period, during which little attention had been paid to that important subject. Work on the project had not started until 1976, when additional staff had been made available to the Population Division. A comprehensive survey of the situation and recent trends of mortality in the world was under way. The study was designed to make maximum use of computers and the Statistical Office systems of data organization and manipulation. Arrangements had been worked out in collaboration with the Statistical Office and WHO to make use of their data and computer programs. Other areas in which WHO could collaborate in the study were being actively pursued. Research was under way on the correction, verification and supplementing of data to create the basic files for use in the analysis.

89. A draft report on trends and characteristics of international migration since 1950 had been completed and presented to the Commission for its information as a conference room paper. The study reported on the volume of international migration during the period 1950-1974 in the different regions of the world, distinguishing major countries of immigration and emigration, and separately examining intercontinental and intracontinental migration streams. It provided an assessment of the importance of migration as a factor in population change. It also included an analysis of the sex and age characteristics of immigrants and emigrants for countries providing such data.

90. It was noted that, owing to limited staff resources, the Secretariat had not yet been able to expand the scope of the studies to include other than demographic aspects, as suggested by the Commission at its eighteenth session. It was planned, however, to begin work on a study of some economic and social characteristics of international migrants following the completion of the report on trends and characteristics of international migration.

91. Following the recommendation of the Commission at the eighteenth session, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1926 B (LVIII), in which it requested that an ad hoc interagency group be established to study the appropriate measures related, inter alia, to the rights of migrant workers and their families. A meeting had accordingly been convened by the ILO at Geneva on 9 March 1976, within the framework of ACC, and was attended by 14 representatives of the various agencies of the United Nations system interested in international migration. In order to enhance the co-ordination of work in that area, the ad hoc group endorsed a number of practical arrangements summarized in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work, 1975-1976, in the field of population (E/CN.9/327, paras. 14 and 15). Some representatives emphasized that the subject of measures related to the rights of migrant workers and their families should be pursued further in view of its great importance.

B. Demographic estimates and projections

92. In response to the increasing demand for updated estimates of total

14/ A/CONF.70/A/1.

population and the basic demographic indicators from Governments, other divisions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and from other international organizations, work had continued during 1975-1976 on preparing a new series of estimates for the period 1960-1975, for the world, the major geographical regions, and individual countries. The work was also a basic step in the preparation of the 1978 round of population projections. In view of the importance of evaluating deficient data, it was suggested that case studies should be published, demonstrating how inadequate data had been evaluated and adjusted. The estimates and projections prepared by the Secretariat included not only those of population by sex and age for 1950-2000 but also those of nearly 40 different demographic indicators, such as average annual growth rates, crude birth and death rates, gross reproduction rates, life expectations at birth etc., derived from projections.

93. The Commission strongly emphasized the importance of the demographic projections prepared by the Population Division. It was noted that the results of the 1973 round had been made available in four working papers 15/ and the final manuscript of World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1973 was already in press.

94. In the preparation of the projections, there had been extensive co-operation and collaboration with the regional commissions and regional demographic centres in regard to data collection, the estimation of basic demographic measures in developing countries, and the formulation of assumptions. Feedbacks from specialized agencies had helped to rectify anomalies, which in some cases were found only when applied to parameters of each specialized projection. Some members of the Commission suggested that there should be more variants of the projections and that some of those variants should show the outcome of certain assumptions regarding population policies and action programmes.

95. The Commission was pleased to learn of the collaboration of the Population Division in "Project 2000" and noted that the projections prepared by the Division had been used in The Future of the World Economy: a Study on the Impact of Prospective Economic Issues and Policies on the International Development Strategy. 16/ It was noted, however, that in this model population should not be considered as an exogenous variable, but rather a variable which is interrelated with economic development and further studies were needed in this respect.

96. The preliminary projections of households and families for all regions of the world had been completed and the final manuscript was expected to be ready early in 1977. In view of the significance of those projections in planning for housing and production and distribution of consumer durables, the Commission recommended early publication of the results.

97. The Commission recognized the importance of developing demographic models,

15/ "World population prospects, 1970-2000, as assessed in 1973" (ESA/P/WP.53); "Selected world demographic indicators by countries, 1950-2000" (ESA/P/WP.55); "Single year population estimates and projections for major areas, regions and countries of the world, 1950-2000" (ESA/P/WP.56); and "Population by sex and age for regions and countries, 1950-2000, as assessed in 1973: medium variant" (ESA/P/WP.60).

16/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.A.6.

particularly micro-simulation models for improving the methodology of demographic analysis and projections. In this connexion, the Commission emphasized the importance of taking population policies and programmes into consideration when preparing the assumptions of the projections and considered that the use of simulation models in that regard should be pursued.

98. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Commission at its eighteenth session, a meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Demographic Models had been convened in December 1975. The Expert Group had prepared suggestions for further developing the Secretariat's work in demographic models (E/CN.9/329). The Commission agreed with the recommendations of the Group of Experts. The recommendation that the Population Division should serve as a clearing-house for information on demographic models was particularly important.

99. Since various specialized agencies drew up specialized or sectoral projections on the basis of the projections by sex and age prepared by the United Nations Secretariat, that work, and particularly the preparation of assumptions, needed to be co-ordinated. Co-operation with the regional commissions should also be helpful in preparing these projections. The importance of studying the interrelationships among the projections was reconfirmed by the Commission.

C. Fertility and family planning studies

100. The Commission was informed that a study of levels and trends of fertility throughout the world during the years 1950-1970 had been completed. The text emphasized the influence upon fertility of various demographic factors, including changes in age structure, nuptiality trends and age patterns of fertility. An effort had been made to estimate, in so far as was possible, a gross reproduction rate and a crude birth-rate for all countries of the world having 250,000 or more inhabitants.

101. The report of the Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility, which consisted of the report of the Expert Group Meeting convened in April 1976 and of the technical papers prepared for that meeting, had been completed and was in press. The Expert Group had reviewed problems and issues in the application of methods and, particularly, in the interpretation of results obtained when various methods were used to evaluate the impact of such programmes on fertility, with a view to determining the relative validity of results obtained from each method. The Commission had before it the report of the meeting, giving its recommendations and the response of the Secretary-General to those recommendations (E/CN.9/330).

102. The Commission was also informed that the Secretariat and staff of WHO had convened two working meetings, one at WHO headquarters and one at United Nations Headquarters, to deal with methodological issues in the analysis of family life-cycles.

103. Some representatives expressed satisfaction that, in response to its earlier request that more attention should be given to the causes of fertility change in developed countries, the Secretariat had begun an assessment of ideal, desired and expected family size in the developing and the more industrialized countries, particularly as a part of its continuing appraisal of conditions and trends of fertility throughout the world. The Secretariat was commended for starting the

work. It was noted that ideals and desires in respect of family size appeared to be the problematic factors of fertility change in developed countries. In the opinion of some representatives, the results of that study and of the research on the relationship of development factors to patterns of nuptiality would, in combination with analyses of data on other economic, social and cultural factors, give a more rounded, balanced picture of fertility levels and trends and the conditions affecting them. It was stressed that, in assessing fertility levels and trends, and in the study of ideal, desired and expected family size, particular attention should be given to the cultural factors that had a bearing on those phenomena.

104. The Population Division continued to support the World Fertility Survey. By closely collaborating with the Survey and providing it with substantive support, the Secretariat contributed its accumulated international experience in data collection and comparative analysis. The Division also continued to collaborate closely with two committees of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in dealing with outstanding critical issues of conditions of fertility change.

D. Population and development

105. The Commission was informed of the progress of work in population and development and the strengthening of work on the interrelationship between population and economic and social development.

106. Special consideration had been given, in accordance with the decisions of the Commission at its eighteenth session, to the study of the impact of socio-economic development on demographic trends and, in particular, on the implications of economic and social change on fertility decline in developing countries. It was noted that in the light of evidence or indications of a decline in fertility in a number of developing countries, the question of the role of economic and social development in the downturn of fertility was of particular relevance. For the purpose of the study, the Division was finalizing two documents, one dealing with a conceptual framework for the analysis and the other concerned with methods and techniques of analysis for measuring the impact of economic and social determinants of fertility. In addition, the Population Division and UNFPA were organizing a meeting related to the work in that area, on social and economic factors in fertility decline in developing countries where fertility was declining. The meeting was to be held in April and May 1977.

107. A study on the interrelations between population and development was nearing completion. The study was intended to establish the links between population and development through empirical and comparative analyses. Based on cross-section analyses for 1950, 1960 and 1970, the project involved the compilation of data, taking into account their availability and quality, on 44 demographic, economic and social indicators for 99 countries (74 developing and 25 more developed). One of the major purposes of the study was to develop a classification or partition of countries according to demographic, economic and social indicators individually and in combination. The Commission was informed of some of the major results obtained in the course of the study and noted that those findings were being further explored with special reference to such aspects as the interrelations within the homogeneous groups of countries under study, the changing structure of those groups and the patterns of such changes.

108. A project had been initiated on the review, appraisal and elaboration of demographic-economic models. In the first instance, the project would undertake a review and appraisal of the treatment of demographic factors in different models, including population-development models as well as economic and global models. In addition, the project envisaged a series of closely connected studies on models relating population and development, which had already been initiated. An initial prototype of a broad population-development model had been prepared in the Division, but it was still preliminary and as yet untested. The model would serve as a general background for more intensive investigations of specific sectors or issues. A preliminary version of a submodel on the interrelations between consumption and demographic patterns, which would explore in particular the impact of rural-urban migration on food and non-food consumption, was being completed.

109. Another major project in the field of population and development was concerned with the integration of demographic factors in development planning. After the completion of the guidelines for development planners on population-related factors and the consideration of the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/5780 and Corr.1) by the Economic and Social Council at its 2031st meeting on 4 August 1976, work had been initiated on a more substantive report, which would include methods and techniques for incorporating demographic variables in development planning. A beginning had been made with the consideration of the incorporation of demographic factors in over-all development planning, including such aspects as population and national income, consumption, saving and investments, and population and national, regional and sectoral economic planning models.

110. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the greater emphasis that was being placed in the work programme on interrelations between population and economic and social development and with the establishment of a Population and Development Section in the Population Division. It was recalled that the question of those interrelations was one of the areas that had received major attention at the World Population Conference, and that the strengthening of the work of the Secretariat in that respect was in accord with the decision reached at the Conference.

E. Population policy

111. The Commission was informed that a questionnaire entitled "Third Inquiry among Governments: population policies in the context of development, 1976" had been prepared by the Secretariat and sent in January 1976 to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. The Commission was pleased to learn that 107 answers had been received by November 1976. This was a much higher level of response than that achieved in the preceding two inquiries. The Commission commended the Secretariat on this achievement. It was mentioned that the assistance provided by the UNDP resident representatives and the UNFPA co-ordinators proved to be extremely valuable in obtaining the large number of replies. A preliminary report had been prepared by the Secretariat and was before the Commission in the form of a conference room paper. A comprehensive report was also being prepared, which it was expected would be completed by the middle of 1977. The Population Division was co-ordinating with the regional commissions the dissemination of the results at the global and regional levels.

112. In connexion with the discussions of the analysis presented in the report on the monitoring of population policies as well as in the report on the Third Inquiry, the question of the concept and definition of population policy was raised. It was suggested that at least two types of policies could be distinguished: the policies which had a direct effect on demographic trends and structure through specific action on such variables as mortality, fertility, migrations, etc., and the policies which were designed to have an indirect effect on the same demographic variables through action on socio-economic factors such as education, health, housing, etc.

113. It was noted, however, that the policies designed primarily for social and economic development might be considered by some Governments to have an indirect effect on population structure and trends while other Governments would not recognize or report on an indirect impact of that nature. It was for that reason that the definition of population policies as understood by Governments was used by the Secretariat, at least for the time being.

114. It was also pointed out that the Third Inquiry was not specifically designed to achieve a complete survey of governmental population policies, since some aspects, such as the equality of status for women, were not included. It was noted that the Fourth Inquiry would emphasize the global relationship between demographic and other social and economic phenomena.

115. The United Nations data bank on population policies was considered to be particularly important. It contained information on about 200 States Members of the United Nations or States or territories members of the specialized agencies. The need to give the information wide circulation was pointed out by a number of representatives. The Secretariat stated that there was not yet any provision for publishing the data.

116. The Commission was also informed that about 50 reports on national experience in the formulation of population policy had been prepared by the Population Division.

117. Owing to pressure of work in connexion with the above projects, the Secretariat found it necessary to delay until 1977 the preparation of the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of population policies. Special attention would be paid to the identification of institutional organizations appropriate for countries encountering varying economic, social and demographic problems and having differing administrative structures.

F. Monitoring and review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

118. The progress of work in the monitoring and review and appraisal is discussed in paragraphs 55 to 65 above.

G. Technical co-operation

119. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the United Nations programme of technical co-operation in population, as described in document E/CN.9/327, paragraphs 58 to 99, and in a conference room paper; this programme was designed

to provide direct assistance to Governments to enable them to develop their capacities for dealing effectively with population-related issues. The assistance provided by the United Nations had been limited to its areas of competence and had been carried out by experts in various disciplines, both in the Population Division and the Statistical Office in collaboration with the Office of Technical Co-operation, and by the regional commissions.

120. The Commission was informed of the major activities which had been undertaken by the United Nations during the 1970s with funds provided by UNFPA. It was recalled that assistance had been provided to 102 countries in the amount of \$37.6 million, broken down as follows: collection and appraisal of population statistics, \$20.3 million, representing over half of total expenditures; population dynamics, \$2.4 million; population policies, \$0.9 million; family planning programmes, \$2.4 million; communication, education and information, \$0.4 million; training, \$10.2 million, representing over a quarter of total resources; and programme development, \$1 million. Particular mention was made of the special attention which had been paid to the question of training in demography and other population-related disciplines. Since 1 January 1970, over 1,000 persons had received fellowships for study, of which slightly over 500 had been tenable at the United Nations demographic training and research centres and the remainder at other institutions.

121. Representatives expressed considerable interest in the United Nations programme of technical co-operation. A number of Governments expressed their appreciation of the assistance which had been provided. The representative of OAU expressed a widespread feeling in stating that technical co-operation and training were the best means of making countries self-reliant.

122. The Commission was informed of the work programmes of the regional commissions, as reviewed and endorsed by the legislative bodies of the respective commissions. The statements made by the representatives of the regional commissions are summarized in the section on the activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of population (see paras. 147-158 below). The representatives made strong pleas for increased financial support to the regional programmes in view of the support they provide to national programmes.

123. The question of training evoked wide interest among the members of the Commission, particularly as regards the regional demographic training and research centres sponsored by the United Nations. The directors of the two centres in sub-Saharan Africa, the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) in Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroon, and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra, Ghana, described their centres' programmes. It was noted that IFORD was the only centre in sub-Saharan francophone Africa providing training in demography. However, while the demand for IFORD's services was steadily increasing, the financial resources were being cut back and, unless sufficient financing was made available, it was stated that it might not be possible to carry out the necessary programmes.

124. The Director of RIPS stated that his centre was operating at a level which was below that required to meet the needs of the countries served by it, since they were showing increasing interest in its activities. With the present limitations of funds the Institute could not adequately meet the demands made on

it for more student places, nor could it carry out the fundamental responsibility of undertaking the research and providing consultants' services. With the growing interest in the activities of the Institute, it was most important to increase the financial resources to enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively.

125. The Commission was informed that CELADE was suffering from the same financial constraints and had, in fact, been obliged to reduce its staff by 20 per cent owing to lack of funds. It was important that sufficient financing be provided in view of the recent mandate given to CELADE and in view of the fact that the demand in the region far exceeded the facilities available.

126. The Commission was informed that the International Institute for Population Studies in Bombay was a Government of India undertaking which has its own training programme for the nationals of the country; support from the United Nations and UNFPA, particularly fellowships, had enabled it to provide training to fellows from other countries also. It was suggested that greater use could be made of the facilities offered by this Institute by countries of the region in view of their expressed demand for enhanced demographic training facilities.

127. It was noted that the scope and terms of reference of the United Nations centre in Romania, the Centre démographique ONU-Roumanie (CEDOR), were different from those of the five other centres in that CEDOR offered specialized training in the interrelationships of population and development, whereas the other centres were geared to the training of demographers and that there was therefore no duplication of programmes.

128. In view of the need to train not only technical demographers but also those responsible for the planning and implementing of national development plans, CEDOR's training was of great importance, and the hope was expressed that additional training of this type could be provided to help remedy the widespread lack of expertise in this area. In this connexion, mention was made of the training course on population policies conducted by CELADE in collaboration with the Government of Mexico. It was also pointed out that there was great need to train middle-level personnel and, in some cases, lower-level personnel to provide support to demographers.

129. The representative of OAU stated that regional programmes were particularly important in Africa, which had the largest number of least developed countries in which training at the national level was not always feasible. The representatives further pointed out that regional centres allowed for a more efficient utilization of scarce human and financial resources than national centres and that they provided for more continuity of action in view of changing circumstances and conditions in countries. A call was, therefore, made that a proper balance be established between the financing of regional and national programmes. Also, in view of the wide coverage of regional programmes and taking into account the state of development and facilities at the disposal of countries served by the commissions, it was imperative that the regional commissions enhance their efficiency.

130. As regards the awarding of fellowships in population, it was noted that there appeared to be some discrepancy in the allocation of such fellowships, and it was requested that the distribution be more balanced and that higher quotas be made available to countries experiencing shortages of demographers.

131. A number of representatives felt that the regional training centres of the United Nations should be strengthened to enable them to provide services on the scale required by the countries being served. It was also foreseen that continued financial support would be required on a long-term basis since it was unlikely that Governments would be able to assume the financial burdens themselves on a medium-term basis. The wish was expressed that the Population Commission would draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of UNDP to the need for increased levels of support for the regional training centres.

132. Appreciation was expressed for the assistance provided in connexion with the 1970 round of population censuses. The representative of OAU informed the Commission that the services of the Population Division and the Statistics Division of ECA had been of direct benefit to the countries in this connexion, and that ECA should play an important role in the analysis of the 1970 round of censuses and in the preparation of the 1980 round of censuses in Africa. Although most countries had now conducted at least one population census, it was noted that there was need for further assistance, particularly for the analysis of census results, it being pointed out that in some countries, census results had still not been analysed 10 years after the census had been conducted, which meant that demographic factors could not be sufficiently taken into consideration in many development plans. It was also recommended that special training programmes be provided for officials responsible for the conduct of the 1980 censuses.

133. The Commission was informed that the United Nations had provided assistance to countries for developing national capacities to undertake research and evaluation of family planning programmes, and it was suggested that there was need to extend facilities in this area. While it was noted with satisfaction that increased funding had been made available for regional projects in Asia, concern was expressed over the decrease of funding for such projects in Latin America and over the insufficient level of funding for regional activities in Africa and the Middle East, and the hope was expressed that sufficient financing would be provided to enable the United Nations to carry out regional programmes on a scale commensurate with the needs of the countries.

134. Under the item on the progress of work on technical co-operation, the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA expressed the Fund's appreciation of the high quality of performance of United Nations projects financed by the Fund and noted that a well-balanced programme in the field of population had been developed. He was pleased to announce that while maintaining the over-all ceiling of allocation for global, interregional and regional activities at the 1975 level, the Fund had allocated to the United Nations \$7.2 million for 1977 to meet most of its high-priority projects; that amount constituted an increase over 1976.

135. Concerning infrastructure support, he stated that the Fund had been consulting with the member organizations of the system through the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee to define more clearly project posts and infrastructure posts. As requested by its Governing Council, the Executive Director would report his proposals on this matter to the June session, taking into account the views expressed by the States members of the Council.

136. He informed the Commission that, in view of the increasing imbalance between demands and resources, the Fund had, at the request of its Governing Council, established criteria and procedures for identifying priority countries for population assistance and minimum programmes on population. After the decisions

had been made by the Council, the Fund intended to apply the priority criteria only gradually since it would have to live up to the commitments already made.

137. After the conferences in Bucharest and Mexico City, the Fund had formulated the guidelines for involving women more widely in planning and implementation of technical co-operation projects in the fields of population. In the area of publications, the Fund continued to issue Newsletters, Populi and Profiles on selected subjects to promote further awareness of population among the Governments and people.

138. Finally, he pointed out that the Fund had reviewed past and present inter-country activities. A strategy for future support of such activities would be prepared, keeping in mind the five general principles for allocation of future UNFPA resources adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-first session and the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

H. Publications

139. The Commission was gratified that the papers of the World Population Conference had been published early in 1976 in two volumes entitled The Population Debate: Dimensions and Perspectives. 17/ The publication had made the wealth of information included in the papers available to a large number of professionals in several disciplines, most of whom had been unable to attend the Conference.

140. The Commission was also informed that the following studies were in press: Levels and Trends of Fertility Throughout the World, 1950-1970; 18/ World Population Prospects As Assessed in 1973; 19/ and Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility. 20/

141. It had been agreed at the eighteenth session of the Commission that the Population Bulletin should be reinstated. Since then, funds had been secured, partly from the regular budget and partly from UNFPA resources, for publication of the Bulletin during the biennium 1976-1977. Volume 8 of the Bulletin, in English, was currently in press and should be available very soon. Arrangements were still being made for publication of the Bulletin in other official languages of the United Nations.

142. The Population Newsletter continued to give information of a less technical nature, reporting on programme activities of the Secretariat and on action of the legislative bodies of the United Nations with competence in the field of population. During the period under review, Newsletter No. 20, featuring legislative and other activities resulting from the World Population Conference, No. 21 highlighting the Third Inquiry among Governments, and No. 22 describing the activities of the Population Division, had been issued.

17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.4-5.

18/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XIII.2.

19/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XIII.4.

20/ United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/61.

I. Activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of population

1. Background

143. The Commission had before it a concise report on activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of population (E/CN.9/328) and a conference room paper entitled "Activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of population (1976-1977 and 1978-1979)". The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that the two papers had been prepared in response to several requests from legislative bodies. In resolution 1945 (LVIII) the Council had requested that analytic information be available to it when next it considered the programme budget and medium-term plan; the General Assembly in resolution 3392 (XXX) had requested that that be taken into account by the Secretary-General in submitting the next medium-term plan; the Population Commission at its eighteenth session had requested that information be made available to it at the current session on the activities of various United Nations bodies working in the field of population to enable the Commission to take these into account when considering the progress of work and the work programme. ^{21/} A further request from the Population Commission had been formulated in the resolution adopted at its eighteenth session in which it asked that the Secretariat report on work programmes and projects of regional bodies (including the regional commissions) and international bodies (including specialized agencies) designed to implement the World Population Plan of Action. Separate reference is made to this last topic in the section concerning measures taken by Governments and various organizations to implement the Plan of Action (see paras. 30-34 above).

144. The arrangements for preparation of the two papers had been made in the framework of ACC and its Sub-Committee on Population which had proposed that the information be presented in two papers: a comprehensive one giving all activities of the bodies concerned and a concise paper which would meet the request of the Economic and Social Council and would concentrate more on co-ordination than on the enumeration of activities. The Commission noted that there were currently 22 bodies in all working in the field of population; each of them was invited to submit to the Secretariat an account of the activities in their work programmes in the period 1976-1977, with some indications of what was proposed for 1978-1979. The activities were to be classified according to a Standard Classification of Population Activities, which had been negotiated in the ACC framework. The Commission noted that the members of the ACC Sub-Committee on Population had received a draft of the longer text and that it had been revised in accordance with comments received.

145. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the over-all view of the perspectives and objectives of the United Nations bodies working in the field of population presented as chapter I of the conference room paper. The Commission was informed also that each of the bodies of the United Nations system had stressed in its submission that work programmes were designed to reflect as fully as possible activities to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference.

^{21/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6, para. 53.

146. In the case of the concise paper (E/CN.9/328) the Secretariat emphasized that it was not simply a summary version of the longer paper, but a fairly detailed discussion of two selected areas which were currently receiving in-depth consideration by the ACC Sub-Committee on Population: (a) population dynamics and, within that category, population projections and population and development; and (b) fertility and family planning. Those two areas had been selected by the ACC Sub-Committee on Population by reason of their importance in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and because they involved a complex interdisciplinary approach. The Commission recognized that the selection of those areas of work in no way detracted from the importance of other items treated in a very brief way in the concise report; amongst the latter, population policy was an area to which the Sub-Committee was planning to devote special attention in the near future.

2. Activities of the regional economic commissions

147. The representative of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) of ECLA informed the Commission of the important institutional changes that had occurred at CELADE recently. Following the second Latin American Population Conference in Mexico in 1975, a regional programme had been evolved and a mandate given to ECLA for undertaking specified tasks in population in the fields of education and training, collection and analysis of data, studies on population and development, and technical assistance. The last session of ECLA, held early in 1975, had adopted, for the first time, a regional population programme to be executed through CELADE. It had also decided to include CELADE within its institutional framework.

148. It was noted that the knowledge of the demographic trends in the region was improving as a result of population censuses and that sample surveys had provided additional information, for example, on mortality trends, which showed a range of about 12 years in the life expectancy at birth for the different countries in the region. Integration of the demographic variables in policy making was also being promoted, for example by providing training in population policies, such as the course organized for the first time in 1976 by CELADE in co-operation with the Government of Mexico.

149. At its next session ECLA would examine, among other things, the population situation in the region and the population programmes of ECLA/CELADE. It was hoped that the integration of population and development would be accelerated through the evolution of models; emphasis was also expected to be given to regional advisory services, assistance in the formulation of national population policies, and in the collection and analysis of demographic data, demographic information and documentation, training and education and publication.

150. It was further noted that the gap between the demand for training and the resources available had widened recently, the current request for training being three times what could be accommodated, which stressed the importance of continuing and strengthening the regional training facilities. Because of lack of resources, CELADE had had to cancel the contract of one fifth of the staff at the end of 1976. While some funds were available from outside the United Nations system, the financial situation continued to pose serious concern.

151. The representative of ESCAP described the recent activities of the ESCAP secretariat. They included the analysis of demographic trends and structures,

which was focused particularly on population as related to development (and rural development in particular); a study of population aspects of manpower; the preparation of country monographs; the preparation of population projections; a study of the relation between fertility levels and education and employment; training courses on administrative aspects of family planning; studies of resources allocations in family planning programmes and of setting of family planning targets; a study of population change and agricultural change; a study of the role of population factors in development planning; an analysis of completed questionnaires of the Third Inquiry among Governments; information services and clearing-house activities; training programmes, including support to the International Institute for Population Studies; and advisory services to countries in all areas of population in general and in developing and strengthening national institutions in particular. Most of those activities were carried out with financial support from UNFPA.

152. The first meeting of the Committee on Population had examined the 1978-1979 work programme of the ESCAP secretariat and had asked ESCAP to consider population as a priority area. It was hoped that at its next session ESCAP would add population as a sixth priority area to the five already identified. The Committee on Population, recognizing the recent recommendations of the Governing Council of UNDP, had also urged UNFPA to increase substantially the allocations of funds for national and regional projects in the region.

153. The representative of ECA outlined its work programme in population, which was directed towards creating an awareness of the population situation in the region, helping Governments to set up offices dealing with population, training the personnel for such offices, assisting Governments in formulating and implementing population policies and programmes and in implementing the World Population Plan of Action. The programme was in line with the Plan of Action and, as recommended by the post-Conference regional consultation, emphasized the interrelationships between population and development, as well as studies on mortality, population distribution and population growth.

154. In the field of demographic analysis, provision had been made for assisting the countries to analyse data from population censuses and surveys to make the results available to planners. In regard to creating awareness of the population situation, the programme concentrated on country case studies on the interrelationship between population and development, followed by national seminars. The publication of the African Population Studies series and the African Population Newsletter were also being continued. One important aspect of population work in the region was the African Census Programme, under which 15 countries of the region had been assisted in undertaking censuses with funds available from UNFPA directly to the countries as well as to ECA; a few more countries were preparing to conduct their censuses in the near future. ECA intended to provide the requisite assistance to all countries in the region preparing for the 1980 round of censuses. In the field of family planning, ECA would continue assisting the countries in the region in integrating family planning in other welfare and community development programmes. On training, ECA would continue to assist in the operation of the regional training institutes and also to provide assistance in the training of personnel at the country level in national institutions. It was observed that the African countries were highly interested in assistance provided by ECA, and in one case, that of demographic surveys in connexion with Nigeria's new capital, the Government of the country was funding fully the cost of assistance provided by the ECA Population Division and the Regional Institute for Population Studies, Accra.

155. Like the other regional commissions, the ECA population programme was financed largely from UNFPA resources; it was facing the problem of dwindling resources, which would make it increasingly difficult to implement the regional population programme, a programme that had evolved as the collective will of the Governments of the countries concerned.

156. The representative of ECWA described the population work programme of the ECWA secretariat, which was proceeding almost on schedule in spite of the difficult conditions experienced by ECWA because of the conflict in Lebanon, its host country. The Commission noted the development of the work programme on population, which encompassed all the relevant fields of demographic data collection and analysis (including projections), research into the determinants and consequences of population trends, assistance in formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies, and clearing-house activities. The regional consultations following the World Population Conference had also identified the priority areas in the region, which included census taking and other data collection and analysis activities and studies of both internal and intraregional migration. The need for training materials in both Arabic and English, adapted to the requirements of the countries of the region, was particularly felt, and action had already been taken in that regard by the Population Division of ECWA.

157. It was observed that, in developing and implementing the work programme on population, regional projects could not be separated out from the country projects; some regional projects, such as the survey of nomads, training at high levels or in certain specialized fields, were actually combinations of country projects that could not be undertaken at the country level. However, while not separable, a rational balance had to be struck between regional and country projects.

158. Following the World Population Conference, interest in population had been generated in the countries of the region, which was evidenced by the rapidly increasing demands on ECWA services and also by the recent contributions by countries of the regions to UNFPA. It was considered important to sustain that momentum. However, the resources available to the ECWA Population Division had remained virtually constant at the pre-Conference level and that would eventually hamper the response of ECWA to those increasing demands.

3. Activities of the specialized agencies

159. The representatives of the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNICEF made statements on their work programmes in the field of population, highlighting and bringing up to date the information given in the concise report (E/CN.9/328) and the conference room paper.

4. Co-operation and co-ordination of activities

160. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the evidence before it of a considerable expansion of population activities in the United Nations system since the World Population Conference. The activities currently touched upon the many different aspects relevant to the subject; there had been technical and financial progress and co-ordination had been further developed within the framework of ACC and its Sub-Committee on Population and the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee of UNFPA. Satisfaction was also expressed at the fact that the reports available to

the Commission represented a first effort to move beyond the enumeration of activities of the various bodies to a consideration of the relations between the various work programmes on given aspects of population questions. A wish was expressed, however, that any future reports to the Commission analysing activities in population of United Nations bodies should if possible include data on resources.

161. There was marked interest in the Commission on the implications of the activities in work programmes for the allocation of resources. On the relation of regional and country programmes, several representatives stressed the view that, as the two were mutually supportive, a proper balance should be established in the extrabudgetary resources available to them. In the over-all allocation of resources, effective co-ordination of the work programme was considered essential to prevent duplication and to ensure optimum resource allocation; information on resources from regular budget and extrabudgetary sources would be useful for that purpose.

162. In response to observations by some representatives on possible duplication of efforts, the Director of the Population Division observed that the appearance of duplication might arise from the interdisciplinary nature of work in population. Fertility provided an example: while the United Nations and WHO both worked in that area, the activities of the two bodies were quite different. The Director further noted that through the ACC Sub-Committee on Population the co-ordination and articulation of the work of the United Nations, the ILO, FAO and UNESCO in projections had been most effective, and comparable efforts were being made in a number of other areas of which the Commission had been informed at its current session. He informed the Commission that the next session of the Sub-Committee would be devoted to an exchange of information and experiences on three subjects: population and development, models and family planning.

163. The Commission proposed that the Population Division within its mandate continue to act as a clearing-house for information on activities of bodies of the United Nations system in population and to pursue efforts which would make co-ordination between the work programmes both effective and efficient in terms of machinery involved. It was noted that the scarcity of human and financial resources must be borne in mind to ensure that programmes were realistic.

V. BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME (1978-1979) AND
MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (1978-1981)

A. Introduction

164. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1946 (LVIII), the Secretary-General submitted in documents E/CN.9/331 and Add.1 his proposals regarding the biennial work programme (1978-1979) and the medium-term plan (1978-1981). The Commission heard introductory statements on agenda item 5 from the Director and staff of the Population Division.

165. In his introductory statement the Director gave an over-all view of the work programme and the basic principles guiding the development of that programme. He stated that the responsibilities of the United Nations resulting from the World Population Conference made it imperative that priorities should be carefully studied and decided upon. He stressed in that regard that the United Nations was not a research body for theoretical ends; instead, all its research was directed towards specific action. A major task of the Secretariat consisted in providing the public with information on population. A great deal of work was involved and co-ordination with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies should therefore be strengthened.

166. A basic function of the United Nations in the field of population was the continued monitoring of population trends and policies. That activity had become mandatory, in accordance with the World Population Plan of Action, and the results would be examined on a biennial basis by the Population Commission.

167. An important consideration in the formulation and implementation of work programmes in population was the need to link such programmes to the system of international development strategies. That need reflected the basic principle which guided the decisions made at the World Population Conference, namely, that the solution to population problems must be found within the broader context of economic and social development. The Director stated that, owing to the important role of development factors and the need to understand the interactions involved, the work programme of the Secretariat had been considerably strengthened.

168. The demographic situation in the world and the need of countries for comparative studies which would promote an understanding of the issues involved and served as a basis for developing population policies and programmes accentuated the importance of the demographic studies prepared by the Secretariat. The imbalance in some developing areas between trends of population growth, distribution and structure, on the one hand, and social, economic and environmental factors, on the other hand, had created difficulties for the achievement of sustained development. Despite the mortality decline in many developing countries in recent years, there were countries, mainly in Africa, in which mortality levels were still very high. Special groups, particularly infants, young children and women of child-bearing age, suffered from high mortality in many countries. Urban populations throughout the world were growing at a considerably faster rate than rural populations, and in many countries that process was accompanied by overcrowding, poor housing, urban unemployment and the depletion of the younger and better educated segments of the rural population.

169. Many couples were unable to have the number of children they desired, owing to poor living conditions, social norms, health circumstances, an inadequate knowledge of contraceptive methods and the deficiency of the family planning services. In certain countries, on the other hand, problems of involuntary sterility and subfecundity continued to exist. Considerable attention also needed to be paid to factors behind the uneven success of national family planning schemes.

170. Demographic estimates and projections were the basis for studies, programme formulation and action in all fields involving population. However, because the necessary demographic statistics were still lacking or deficient in many developing countries, the estimates of basic demographic parameters and the projections must be provided in an internationally comparable manner. A key question was how to improve the formulation of assumptions regarding the future course of the components of growth for countries with different demographic conditions, at various stages of development, or having different population policies and programmes.

171. Although population policies had been given more attention recently, there were countries which still needed assistance in formulating effective population policies and incorporating them into over-all development policies. There was also need to develop systematic ways of acquiring knowledge about those policies and to assess their impact.

B. Population trends and structure

172. It was noted that a study of recent mortality levels and trends on a global scale would lead to the drafting of a comprehensive report on the subject, with particular emphasis on the changes that had occurred between the 1950s and the 1960s, as well as an assessment of the way these would be likely to continue into the 1970s and beyond. The leading causes of death would be examined, as would their association with economic and social conditions, and attention would also be paid to infant, child and maternal mortality. The projected report would substantially bring up to date the preceding one, Population Bulletin of the United Nations No. 6 - 1962; with special reference to the situation and recent trends of mortality in the world, 22/ and would also constitute an input in the next revision of population projections. The Commission emphasized the importance of studies of infant and child mortality in view of the very high levels of mortality at those ages in some developing countries. The study of the latter was also considered to be important because of the possible impact of the mortality of young children upon the parents' attitude towards fertility.

173. The United Nations model life tables, which had been published in 1956, had been widely used by analysts, and various methodological improvements had been suggested. Those models were indispensable for population estimation and projection in less-developed countries but could no longer be considered to be up to date. Beginning at the end of 1978, a revision would be carried out incorporating the most up-to-date findings and adopting improved methods.

174. The Secretariat would be completing a report on salient features of urban and rural population change, presenting urban and rural population changes, the growth

22/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 62.XIII.2.

of cities, urban-rural variations in population composition by sex, age and marital status, the family in urban and rural settings, the industrial and occupational composition of the urban and rural labour force, urban and rural employment problems and strategies, and economic and social factors of urbanization. It would also pay particular attention to the economic activities of women in urban and rural areas, including their occupation and branch of activity. Work would be initiated in 1979 on the construction of a model of modes of urbanization on the basis of strictly demographic components, namely, urban and rural fertility and mortality and rural-to-urban population movement by sex and age, and the resulting growth and sex-age structures of urban and rural populations. The model was intended for use as a submodel within models of demographic and economic change comprising wider systems of variables.

175. In response to continuous demand within the Secretariat and by specialized agencies, the data and estimates system for internationally comparable projections of urban, rural and city population would be continuously brought up to date. Revised estimates and projections would be produced from time to time, also including estimates and projections of the sex-age composition of urban and rural populations and of the components (birth-rates, death-rates and net rural-to-urban population movement) of urban and rural population change.

176. It was indicated that the study of urbanization needed to be expanded to cover an analysis of the factors behind migration from rural to urban areas, the policies aiming at controlling rural-to-urban migration, and the effectiveness of such policies. The Director of the Population Division agreed, pointing out that, owing to shortage of staff, the Division had not been able to undertake such studies of internal migration so far.

177. The study of economic and social characteristics of international migrants would examine, in particular, the occupational and educational characteristics of migrants. The statistics to be analysed would include both those pertaining to migrant flows, as derived, for example, from border control records, and those pertaining to immigrant stock, as derived from population censuses. Wherever possible, the latter data would be differentiated according to the period of arrival in the country. In order to distinguish the characteristics of different migrant streams, the country of birth, previous residence or citizenship would be taken into account, in so far as the available data would permit.

178. The increased significance of international migration in recent years was emphasized during the discussion. It was pointed out in that regard that, since illegal migration constituted an important part of total migration, it was necessary that attention should be paid to illegal migration, despite the sensitivity of the subject. The Director of the Population Division agreed, and suggested that a way of overcoming the problem would be to ask an outside expert to undertake a study in that area.

C. Demographic estimates and projections

179. A revision of the world population projections would be carried out in 1978. As part of that exercise, extensive evaluation and adjustment of available data for demographic projections would be made. Emphasis would be given to a re-evaluation and updating of data, taking into account more recent data, including the results of the African Census Programme.

180. A new round of estimates and projections, leading to a study on world population projects as assessed in 1978, would be carried out in collaboration with the regional commissions. The revised projections would cover total population by sex and age groups, as well as demographic parameters for individual countries for the period 1950-2000 and beyond. Long-range projections up to the year 2100 by regions would also be provided.

181. A number of representatives expressed the view that in conditions of rapid demographic change, and changing prospects for the future, United Nations projections should be brought up to date more frequently. In particular, future prospects had already changed substantially in a number of countries, as compared with the assessment made in the 1973 projections. It was important that users of projections should not have only out-dated information available to them. However, some other representatives expressed the opinion that revisions carried out at smaller intervals than five years would put too much pressure on the staff, which needs time to evaluate and adjust data from many countries before proceeding to prepare the estimates and projections.

182. It was also suggested that closer contact should be maintained with national institutions engaged in population research, through various channels of the United Nations and the regional commissions, in order to obtain new and balanced information on a continuous basis.

183. The Commission recognized the need for undertaking long-range projections beyond the year 2000. Such projections were significant in their own right, and also in relation to an important project undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs regarding the future prospects of the world economy. It was understood that the ongoing study on demographic simulation models would provide useful inputs to that study.

184. The Commission was gratified to learn that the Secretariat would intensify its efforts to enlarge the number of variants, including normative and hypothetical projections, in order to provide more analytical tools for economic and social planning and population policy assessment.

185. In connexion with assumptions underlying projections, some representatives requested that all assumptions used in the projections be spelt out more explicitly and in detail so that Governments as well as individual research workers could make the best use of them. It was pointed out in that regard that the paper on world population prospects as assessed in 1973 and its accompanying working papers already included many of the required details.

186. The Population Division had made available to demographers Manual II and Manual IV, dealing with methods of evaluation and estimation of demographic parameters from incomplete data. ^{23/} The manuals have been widely used and have been an incentive to demographic analysis in developing countries. The Commission, however, concluded that the two manuals should be revised to take into consideration the advances in methodology and the changes in the demographic situation in recent years. The Commission was therefore gratified to learn that the Division was

^{23/} Manual II. Methods of Appraisal of Quality of Basic Data for Population Estimates (United Nations publication, Sales No. 56.XIII.2); and Manual IV. Methods of Estimating Basic Demographic Measures from Incomplete Data (United Nations publication, Sales No. 67.XIII.2).

planning to prepare a revised manual on methods of deriving basic demographic measures from deficient data and that the revision would be started in 1979 with the assistance of a consultant.

187. The Secretariat's work on demographic models had started with an assessment of international experience and, as a consequence of that task, it was hoped that the Secretariat would act as a clearing-house for information on demographic and micro-simulation models related to population. The preparation of manuals and guidelines in that area was considered particularly important. The Secretariat should continue its efforts to develop models which simulated demographic processes, with particular emphasis on the course of fertility, in order to clarify interrelationships between fertility change and various demographic and population policy factors. During the biennium 1978-1979, the development of medium-sized simulation models would be pursued. The models would include demographic and policy variables as well as some selected socio-economic variables relevant to demographic projections. The models would be applied to selected developing countries at different levels of development and with varying types of population policies, partly to test their applicability and partly to gain more substantive knowledge on the interrelationships among variables involved.

188. Particular attention would be paid in the study of interrelationships among various demographic projections to the relations among the projections of urban-rural population, agricultural and non-agricultural populations and labour force and also among the projections of labour force and those of school enrolment.

189. For the purpose of preparing the assumptions for the projections of households and families, a study would be carried out with a view to understanding the variations in patterns and trends of formation, growth and dissolution of households and families. Particular attention would be paid to the development of methodology for projecting households and families by size.

D. Fertility and family planning studies

190. The Secretariat's programme of work in fertility and family planning studies involves four main categories of activities: the assessment and analysis of levels and trends of fertility throughout the world; analyses of relationships between fertility and other demographic, as well as cultural, social and economic phenomena, with a view to explaining the causes of fertility change; studies relative to the effectiveness of family planning programmes and to the assessment of their impact on fertility; and monitoring of the follow-up of the World Population Plan of Action and support for the World Fertility Survey.

191. The Commission noted that, in reorienting the work in fertility and family planning studies, the Secretariat was embarking on an important new dimension of research on demographic change, which would have great relevance for the understanding of fertility conditions in both developing and developed countries. Particular importance is attached to the study of factors affecting the acceptability of family planning programmes, as the results should add much to the knowledge of decision making about family planning. Moreover, there were important methodological lessons to be learned from the proposed secondary analysis of KAP survey data for purposes of the study. That was one of the projects for which data from the World Fertility Survey would be most valuable.

192. Several representatives emphasized strongly the need for the family life-cycle studies, which could lead to greater understanding of the causes of demographic change, and stressed that work should continue on them. It was noted with appreciation that officials and scholars in several European countries planned to co-operate in the studies by providing, for research purposes, family histories of some generations earlier. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Population Division had worked closely with WHO on some of the methodological issues involved in the family life-cycle studies, and expressed the view that, as specified in paragraph 33 of the note by the Secretary-General on the biennial work programme (1978-1979) and medium-term plan (1978-1981) in the field of population (E/CN.9/331), co-operation should also be undertaken with UNESCO.

193. The Secretariat was continuing the ad hoc studies designed to increase the effectiveness of family planning programmes and to improve assessment of the effect of those programmes on fertility. The Commission strongly endorsed those activities, which were described in paragraphs 32 to 34 of document E/CN.9/327.

194. The Commission endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 to 14 of the report of the Expert Group on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility (E/CN.9/330), with the exception of the call for a census every five years. In that connexion, the Commission strongly re-emphasized its long-standing position that an accurate vital statistics system was the most appropriate means of obtaining data on demographic change, and that improving vital statistics remained a top priority function of the United Nations. Members of the Commission also expressed approval of the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 15 of document E/CN.9/330. The Commission was informed in that regard that the Government of Tunisia had already adhered to the recommendations of the Expert Group when proceeding with its work on the evaluation of family planning programmes. It was hoped that Governments of other countries with family planning programmes would also take advantage of the findings of the Expert Group.

195. The Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes had also recommended, inter alia, that the United Nations should prepare a manual on the methodology of evaluating the effect of those programmes on fertility, and that research be undertaken to develop useful indicators of the impact of family planning programmes. The Expert Group also proposed that research be undertaken on service statistics, and the Secretariat had already initiated the work in collaboration with WHO. Several representatives welcomed the information that research was being done on family planning service statistics, but one representative cautioned that, although the work was valuable and should be continued, the usefulness of service statistics should not be overstressed; in his view household surveys might afford more valuable data.

196. The Commission was pleased that work had begun on the manual dealing with methods of evaluating the impact of family planning programmes on fertility. It concurred with the view of the Expert Group that knowledge in that area was currently confined to a few individuals in fewer countries, and that such expertise should be a part of the resources of every national family planning programme. It was hoped that the recommended methodological case studies could be carried out. The Commission was informed that the Government of the Philippines would be glad to participate in that exercise. The view was also expressed in this connexion, that countries be urged to effect co-operation and conformity among government agencies

and family planning programmes in the reporting and compilation of family planning service statistics, so as to enhance the value of the data. The United Nations should assist in this effort.

197. The Commission felt that the Secretariat should continue its support of the World Fertility Survey, through its technical advisers, and its participation in the functional committees, particularly by making available its experience in analysis of international fertility studies.

E. Population and development

198. The work programme in population and development had been strengthened with a view to advancing knowledge of the complex interrelationship between demographic and economic and social factors in development as a basis for and in support of effective national action and appropriate international measures. The work programme was directed towards assessing the implications of demographic and economic and social factors for demographic change and population trends. To attain that objective would call for studies and measures designed to promote the incorporation of demographic factors in planning for economic and social development as well as projects and supporting research, designed to take into account demographic elements in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) and the measures taken with respect to General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) on development and international economic co-operation.

199. The Commission reaffirmed the importance it had assigned in its preceding sessions to work in the area of population and development. The Commission noted that the work programme proposed by the Secretariat was of such a scope and nature that its implementation would have to be viewed on a long-term phased basis. The Commission observed, moreover, that in carrying out the work programme, appropriate attention should be given to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the international instruments of the new international economic order. The Commission also requested, especially in view of its earlier decisions, that the work programme in that area give more attention to the role of women in development.

200. The Commission noted that it was proposed to undertake in the biennium 1978-1979 a number of case studies in selected developing countries where fertility was declining. The studies would assess the impact of socio-economic factors on the decline of fertility. They would be followed by a comparative analysis of the results.

201. The Commission noted with great appreciation that as part of the comparative study a classification or partition of countries according to demographic, economic and social indicators was being prepared. It noted that such a typology would not only help in the study of the interrelations between population and development under different conditions, but would also be important for policy purposes. Interest was also expressed in the information provided to the Commission on some of the findings, which gave independent confirmation of the results of the other research on interrelations between population and development. The Commission requested that the work in that area should be pursued further and that, in addition to the proposed further study, the typology should be kept up to date as new data became available.

202. The Commission took note of the proposed work on demographic-economic models. The opinion was expressed that, in studying the relations between population and development, it would be necessary to consider not only the potentially adverse effects of population change on economic and social development but also such factors as internal and external economies of scale, internal migration and youth as a dynamic factor in social change.

203. Interest was expressed in the proposed project on population and income distribution and it was recommended that, in view of the complexity of the problems involved, the scope of the investigation should be limited in the initial stage. In that context it was noted that the first phase of the project would be one of conceptualization, in which the main elements and linkages of the relations between population and income distribution were to be identified and analysed. In view of the need to strengthen research on the role of women in the work programme, it was emphasized that appropriate attention should be given in the project to that question.

204. With regard to the study of demographic, social and economic aspects of youth and the aged population, the Commission expressed the view that the role and impact of youth and the aged should be analysed from a broad perspective. Attention should be given, in accordance with the recommendation of the World Population Conference, to such aspects as the potential for development embodied in a high proportion of youth and the broader societal repercussions of the aging of the population. The Commission also noted that the study would include the role of women in development as indicated in paragraph 199 above as well as the relationship between population and human rights.

205. In connexion with the project on criteria for demographic services in public administration, it was noted that work would continue on the formulation of administrative criteria to be applied in establishing demographic services that functioned satisfactorily in supplying information relevant to development planning and public administration. Special attention would be given, in accordance with the World Population Plan of Action, to taking population phenomena into consideration during the process of planning. It was felt that the study was of special relevance in so far as co-ordination of work in the field of population with that in public administration posed practical problems and difficulties.

206. The project on demographic studies needed for development planning, which was designed to promote the incorporation of demographic factors in development planning, had already been referred to in the Commission's discussion of agenda item 3 (d) (Guidelines on population-related factors for development planners). Work in that area should be continued, taking into account the comments of the Economic and Social Council and the Population Commission, and followed by a more substantive report, incorporating methods and techniques for the integration of population factors in development planning. The Commission, taking note of the fact that current work on population and over-all development planning would be followed by the study of demographic considerations in regional and sectoral planning, suggested that it might be desirable to consult national planners on those aspects of the question.

207. It was suggested that the study on population trends and conditions and the need for social services and amenities, concerned with demographic impact on the level and composition of public expenditure, should take particular account of the role of women in that context.

208. It was noted that the studies on demographic, social and economic aspects of population, resources and environment would continue to emphasize the problems of agricultural resources, food and rural development. It was recommended in that regard that the studies should aim at strengthening the population component of the work to be carried out under "Project 2000", as discussed in paragraph 54 above so as to achieve an integrated approach to economic and social development within the context of the establishment of the new international economic order and of the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States.

F. Population policy

209. The Commission agreed that the Fourth Inquiry among Governments should be designed with two main objectives: to assess Governments' perception of the relationship between demographic and other processes and to evaluate their policies designed to resolve problems arising from the relation and their integration of appropriate measures in their development plans. Special attention would be given to the most recent changes, i.e. since the Third Inquiry among Governments. Emphasis would also be given to direct and indirect policies and measures designed to modify demographic behaviour, as defined by the Governments themselves. The second objective of the Inquiry was to obtain governmental assessment of progress made during the period between the 1974 World Population Conference and the execution of the Fourth Inquiry. The replies to the Fourth Inquiry would be analysed in 1978 and reports on the results would be submitted to the Commission in 1979.

210. Information would be continuously collected on the population policy data bank from governmental and other sources on Governments' perception of the problems associated with population, and on the formulation and implementation of population policies. Work would also be continued on preparing and bringing up to date reports on national experience in the formulation and implementation of population policies.

211. The Commission requested that the concise national reports prepared by the Population Division on population policies should be made available to Governments and to individuals so that national experiences could be taken into account by other Governments in the formulation, evaluation and reformulation of their policies. On the basis of the replies to the Fourth Inquiry, a report would be prepared on the contribution made by the Governments to the review and appraisal exercise. The Commission emphasized that the work should be based on inputs from Governments. In addition, the Commission requested the Secretariat to formulate model questionnaires or norms to be used by Governments in order to facilitate an appraisal of the progress made during the period 1974-1978.

212. During the past few years, particularly since the Bucharest Conference, there has been considerable discussion among specialists and changes in governmental attitudes and practices concerning population policies. The Commission therefore agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat that an analysis of the evolution of the concept of population policy should be undertaken. It was suggested that attention should be given to policies which had a direct impact on demographic behaviour as well as policies which had a primarily socio-economic objective but had an indirect effect on demographic structure and trends. A full review of the situation from available data would be undertaken by the Secretariat. The exercise would also provide inputs for the formulation of standards to be used in the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action.

213. The Secretariat would undertake an analysis providing the background for the translation of population policies into measures and programmes. A comparative study would be undertaken of political and institutional problems constraining the formulation and implementation of sectoral policies designed to resolve problems such as those associated with mortality, the spatial distribution of population and international migration. A manual would be prepared to assist Governments in the formulation and implementation of their programmes in those areas. Another study would be carried out on the institutional procedures which led to the identification of population problems, the formulation of population policies and the integration of measures designed to influence demographic variables within development plans.

214. In view of the need to promote training in population policy at the national and regional levels, the Population Division would prepare a manual for use by training institutions, and provide other teaching material as well as advice, upon request, on establishing training programmes in that field. The Commission expressed the opinion that training in population policy should be carried out in collaboration with the regional commissions and the demographic training centres sponsored by the United Nations.

G. Monitoring and review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

215. This subject is dealt with in paragraphs 55 to 65 above.

H. Technical co-operation

216. The Commission noted with approval the proposed 1978-1979 work programme in the field of population set forth in documents E/CN.9/331 (paras. 55-62 and 100-104) and E/CN.9/331/Add.1 (paras. 19-22). That programme had been drawn up in the light of the role which the World Population Plan of Action had assigned to international co-operation, with due attention to the views of Governments regarding the types of assistance needed in each region, and in the light of the guidance provided by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

217. It was noted that the Population Division would continue to provide technical evaluation for project requests submitted to UNFPA when such project proposals were related to population activities within the United Nations mandate, whether the projects were to be executed by the United Nations or by another organization. Its main responsibility with respect to technical co-operation in population was to assist Governments in determining needs, to provide technical guidance in the formulation of projects, to monitor the implementation of projects from a substantive point of view, and to evaluate the results; those activities were carried out in close consultation with the regional commissions, other substantive divisions within the Secretariat and the Office of Technical Co-operation. In addition, two of the most important tasks of the Population Division over the coming biennium would be the monitoring, in collaboration with the Office of Technical Co-operation and the regional commissions, of the implementation of the 1978-1979 global, interregional and regional programme of United Nations operational and non-operational projects financed by UNFPA, and the co-ordination of the preparation of a consolidated programme of United Nations global, interregional and regional operational and non-operational projects for UNFPA financing in 1980-1981, in co-operation with the regional commissions, the regional demographic centres and all interested Headquarters offices.

218. Taking note of the increasing demand for trained demographic personnel to work in many types of population programmes in developing countries, the Commission paid special attention to the place of training in the proposed 1978-1979 work programme in population. It placed the strongest emphasis on the need to continue and strengthen the work of the regional demographic training and research centres sponsored by the United Nations, drawing attention to the crucial role played by those centres in population training. It was unlikely that national training centres would be established in sufficient numbers within the foreseeable future to make the regional centres redundant; nor was it clear that, from the point of view of a rational distribution of scarce economic and professional resources, the multiplication of national training centres could, for the time being, provide an adequate substitute for the work of the United Nations regional centres.

Representatives of several of the United Nations training centres informed the Commission of the financial difficulties currently facing them; and many members expressed the view that in the coming years financial support for the regional centres should be very much increased. The Commission was informed that UNFPA, at the request of its Governing Council, was conducting a review and evaluation of regional demographic training and research centres. Several representatives urged that the UNFPA policy of reinforcing support to projects at the national level at the expense of regional and intercountry projects should be eased in respect of the United Nations regional demographic centres, whose work was of the greatest importance and should be maintained.

219. The Commission also drew attention to the need for expanding the work of the regional centres in order to include matters now insufficiently covered. Several representatives mentioned the need to train middle-level personnel in the population disciplines, and reference was also made to the need in some regions for similar training of lower-level personnel. Seminars, directed towards administrators and development planners on the place of population matters in economic and social planning were generally recommended, and a number of representatives thought that their number should be increased. The view was also expressed that training programmes on the role of women in population policy, and on population factors in rural development, were needed and should be established. It was also recommended that a meeting of the directors of the regional training centres supported by the United Nations, directors of national centres and other experts should be convened to permit the exchange of views and experience on ways of improving curricula in order to respond better to the particular needs of individual regions. Moreover, taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1947 (LVIII) on the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the Commission stressed the importance of holding a series of training workshops in preparation for the 1980 round of censuses.

220. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the United Nations programme of fellowships for training in the population disciplines, but it felt that, since the demand for training far outstripped the current level of United Nations resources, the means should be found to increase the number of United Nations fellowships. The opinion was also expressed that, despite the essential role played by the regional centres, training overseas at institutions in the more developed countries could still play a very significant part in the total programme, and that fellowship awards should continue to be made to enable it to continue.

221. In relation to the possible establishment of new training centres, or programmes, mentioned in the proposed 1978-1979 programme, some representatives urged the need for caution in the light of current financial constraints. If it

proved possible for the existing regional training centres to undertake additional work, as might be the case if financial support to them were increased, that would very much reduce infrastructure costs, and at the same time encourage an interdisciplinary approach to training in the population disciplines. It was agreed, however, that the possibility of new centres or programmes should not be ruled out, when such programmes could provide new services to trainees in an especially practical way, as was the case of a proposed training programme, within a university context, on the practical use of demographic data for development planning.

222. With respect to other aspects of the proposed technical co-operation programme for 1978-1979, the Commission placed special emphasis on the following points:

(a) That the establishment of national population studies units, either in the national development planning offices or in universities, should be encouraged, in order to promote the growth of national self-reliance in the study of population data and the incorporation of findings derived from those data into national development plans;

(b) That the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, through the exchange of experts having a knowledge of the situation in the particular region or subregion concerned, should be strongly encouraged; and that, whenever possible, multidisciplinary experts should be recruited;

(c) That a prominent place should be given to population programmes designed to facilitate greater participation by women in decision making at the policy-making level, and that a determined effort should be made to resolve difficulties which tended to hamper the recruitment of women experts on the international level;

(d) That an integrated and co-ordinated approach in technical co-operation should be adopted in particular with respect to programmes of rural development in Africa, in which family planning should constitute one element in a spectrum of mutually supportive activities geared to promote better family living.

223. The Commission noted that the tentative targets for technical co-operation in 1978-1979 outlined in paragraph 100 of document E/CN.9/331 had been based mainly on the expectation that the United Nations would have resources of approximately \$25 million annually for its technical co-operation activities in population, and on projections concerning the types of assistance that would be requested and the number of countries that would request each type of assistance. Assistance would be provided chiefly in the form of experts, advisory missions, fellowships, manuals and publications, and promotion of the exchange of information and experience among developing countries. There had been approximately 150 United Nations population experts in the field in 1976 (including experts in statistically oriented aspects of population), some 50 of whom had received direct support from the Population Division at Headquarters; it was expected that the number would be maintained. The Commission also noted that there appeared to be a trend towards less use of long-term country experts and greater use of other means of technical co-operation, such as short-term advisory services, the sharing of United Nations experts among countries, and the exchange between developing countries of qualified personnel on a mutual technical co-operation basis.

I. Demographic publications

224. Volume 8 of the Population Bulletin was in press and volumes 9 and 10 were envisioned for 1977. The Population Division would continue to publish the Bulletin biannually. By that means articles containing some of the results of its research and that of other United Nations bodies and scholars would be conveyed to demographers and others interested in population.

225. Biannual publication of the Population Newsletter was also planned. The Newsletter would continue to give less technical information, reporting on programme activities of the Population Division and the activities of other organizations in the United Nations system in the field of population.

226. The Commission noted that there had been considerable delay in the publication of some of the important studies prepared by the Population Division owing to lack of funds. Notable examples were the French and Spanish versions of volume I of the Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends, all language versions of volume II of the same publication, and many working papers whose wide circulation would be useful to demographers and students of population. The Commission expressed its concern that much of the value of such studies would be reduced by the delay, and strongly felt that the budgeting of the work programme should accommodate the cost of publication. The Director of the Population Division indicated that every effort would be made to utilize both the limited publication funds available to the Division and possible extrabudgetary resources to publish those studies and others.

227. The Commission in its discussion of this topic also referred to the demographic statistics published in the Demographic Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. One representative expressed concern about the delay in the publication of the Demographic Yearbook and about the choice of demographic statistics that are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. The view was expressed that rather than publish annual population estimates for a 10-year period for every country each month, these data could be published only twice a year and the resulting savings in space could be devoted to the presentation of other demographic statistics, for example, data on infant mortality.

228. In response, a representative of the United Nations Statistical Office informed the Commission of the various efforts of the Secretariat to improve the timeliness of the Demographic Yearbook, which ranged from fundamental steps such as computerizing many aspects of the production of the Yearbook to the authorization of overtime to overcome critical production bottle-necks. In pursuing the very important goal of timeliness, however, the Secretariat exercises due care not to neglect equally important goals relating to the extensiveness of the tabular detail published, the widest possible coverage of countries, and the reliability of data presented. It was also noted that of the four stages involved in the production of the Demographic Yearbook, namely: the collection of statistics from the countries; their compilation; the printing of the Yearbook; and its distribution to Member States and other users - the Statistical Office had substantial control over only the compilation stage. For example, delays attributable to national and international mails affected both the collection of statistics from the countries and the distribution of the Yearbook. Despite these difficulties, the Secretariat was endeavouring to maintain the Yearbook as a useful, authoritative and timely source of demographic data which served the diverse needs of demographic and

population specialists in all parts of the world. A brief report on some of the improvements introduced into the 1975 Demographic Yearbook was also given.

229. With regard to the contents of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Commission was reminded that this publication attempted to serve a more general group of users than did the Demographic Yearbook so that the population statistics appearing in the former publication might appear somewhat superficial to demographers. However, revisions in the contents of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics were certainly possible, particularly in connexion with the work now under way in the Statistical Office on the development of an integrated statistical data base.

J. 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

230. The Commission was informed of the action in regard to the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme taken by the Statistical Commission at its eighteenth session, in 1974, and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1947 (LVIII), dealing with the development of the Programme. The Commission took note of document E/CN.3/480, which was an interim report on activities under the Programme submitted to the Statistical Commission at its nineteenth session, and was further informed of the action taken by the Statistical Commission in regard to the document and of the subsequent progress of work on the Programme.

231. Chapter III of the document, containing interim proposals with respect to recommendations for the 1980 round of population and housing censuses, was to be amended to reflect the Statistical Commission's views and circulated to Member States early in 1977 for their consideration in planning for their 1980 censuses. Draft international recommendations were to be considered by an interregional expert group at the end of 1977 or early in 1978 and to be circulated as soon as possible after the meeting of the expert group for the information of countries in their census activities. Final draft recommendations would be presented to the Statistical Commission for consideration at its twentieth session. Any views expressed by the Population Commission would be brought to the attention of the interregional expert group and the Statistical Commission.

232. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the diverse set of technical assistance activities planned at the global, regional and country levels, particularly the series of training workshops in the various regions, intended to train senior national technicians who would have full-time responsibility for the over-all planning, co-ordination and direction of operations for the 1980 censuses.

233. The Commission expressed its satisfaction at being informed of the developments in respect of the Census Programme as well as its appreciation of the significant help in the execution of national censuses and the provision of comparable data among countries that was rendered by the United Nations recommendations. It also expressed satisfaction at the growing number of countries that were able to conduct national population censuses, in part as a consequence of the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Particular gratification was expressed by one representative at the increasing co-ordination of concepts in the recommendations for population censuses and those for agricultural censuses.

234. Regret was expressed at the comparatively late date at which the new census recommendations would be likely to be adopted and made available to countries,

even though circulation of the amended chapter III of document E/CN.3/480 and of drafts prior to the adoption of final recommendations would be very useful. It was suggested that timing for the recommendations for the 1990 round of censuses might be improved by basing the recommendations primarily on the experience only of countries that would be taking censuses during the period 1975 to 1981.

235. There was some discussion of the necessity of continuing to issue new recommendations at 10-year intervals, because census taking was no longer so heavily concentrated in the years ending in "0" and "1" and there was likely to be little change in the foreseeable future from the topics and tabulations recommended for the 1970 censuses. The forthcoming recommendations might have a more permanent relevance than previous recommendations and might stay in effect until there were national indications of the need for major revisions.

236. The suggestion was made that, with the increased attention being given to internal migration and the spatial distribution of population, the new recommendations should recognize the importance of tabulations on urban agglomerations that encompass not only the population within the legal limits of cities but also the population in concentrated settlements (some of which were cities in themselves) on the outskirts of major cities, which were closely tied to the central city by economic and social activities.

237. The hope was expressed that the new regional recommendations for the African countries would stress the importance of the investigation of the economic characteristics of the population, which had received lower priority in the recommendations for the African Census Programme. It was explained that the latter recommendations had been prepared in an effort to simplify census taking in countries that would not have been able to conduct more extensive investigations and that they had succeeded in considerably increasing the number of censuses conducted in Africa during the 1970 round. Many of these censuses, which were first censuses, had in fact covered some economic characteristics of the population.

238. In response to a question by one representative regarding the degree of technical support likely to be available for censuses in the African countries during the 1980 round, it was pointed out that funding had been provided by UNFPA for the project officer and four regional advisers of the African Census Programme through 1977 and that the Statistical Commission, at its nineteenth session, had "strongly urged that the quantum of assistance available to developing countries from international and bilateral sources in connexion with the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme should not be less than what was available for the 1970 Programme". ^{24/}

239. One representative expressed the opinion that the proposed consideration in the new recommendations of standards for government acceptance or rejection of census results could conveniently be omitted.

^{24/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 2, para. 54 (d).

K. Proposals regarding an international population information system (POPINS)

240. In introducing the documentation on this item submitted to the Commission, the Director of the Population Division noted that the proposals regarding a world-wide population information system were drawn up in response to the views expressed by the Population Commission at its seventeenth session on this matter and, in particular, the emphasis placed in the World Population Plan of Action on the sharing and exchange of information in the field of population. The proposals before the Commission were based on the studies carried out by a Technical Task Force and Interim Steering Committee established to undertake a feasibility study of a world-wide population information system as recommended by a meeting on demographic information storage and retrieval organized by the Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography.

241. The proposals, the Director noted, were based on a number of principles, including the need for better access to population information, in particular in the developing countries; for a co-operative effort and active participation of countries in the proposed system; and for taking into account and utilizing the present and potential capacities of existing systems and services. On the basis of these principles, the major proposals which emerged with respect to the system were that it should be decentralized; built on existing bases in both more developed and developing countries; and backed up by extensive supporting programmes. A first conceptualization stage of the project was completed with the reports prepared by the Interim Steering Committee and Technical Task Force. Proposals were now before the Commission for a second stage. The final stage would be one of phased implementation. The second stage, according to these proposals, would involve fundamentally a series of tasks as described in document E/CN.9/332.

242. The representative of CICRED presented the work initiated recently by that organization on the publication of a review of reviews of demographic periodicals. He indicated that every year about 1,000 articles on population appeared. The Review constitutes a valuable aid to the dissemination of demographic information and the representative of CICRED expressed the hope that the means would be found to continue this publication.

243. In general, the Population Commission reaffirmed the importance placed in the World Population Plan of Action on the sharing, exchange and dissemination of information in the field of population. It also agreed with the principle that the need for increased access to population information was especially pressing in the case of the developing countries. Different views emerged as regards the specific proposals for future work in this area as contained in document E/CN.9/332 and its implications beyond the second stage proposed. With respect to the latter it was observed that a decision at this stage may imply considerable future expenditures at the national, regional as well as central levels, including the high cost of computerization. Therefore, it was noted, the Commission should consider the matter with caution. Concern was expressed about various other aspects, including uncertainties as regards the cost of the future system; the number of users of the system once it is established; assurance whether countries providing inputs to the system would also be adequately served by the system; the form and nature of the proposed system or the possible options and their relative cost-benefit; the relation between POPINS and other existing systems, including whether POPINS would take over any of those systems or result in savings in other systems. Concern was also voiced about the budget for the proposed second stage

and whether the proposed system would justify such expenditures. Some members proposed that the activities during the next two years should be limited to smaller pilot studies.

244. One representative expressed cautious support for the proposals on POPINS, provided that existing systems be used in building the system, that the system not be a highly centralized one; that existing systems and activities should be represented in the proposed committee to be established; that consultants to the project should be drawn from the field of population and information systems; that additional personnel should be kept to a minimum and that forthcoming funds should be destined especially to pilot projects, which would use the expertise available in the existing population-related systems. Other representatives expressed different views as regards the proposals before the Commission. The Commission, one representative said, should take a forward-looking approach in this area and not be excessively cautious. It was also noted that most of the questions raised in the discussions are found in the document and that the proposals before the Committee would precisely serve to answer these issues. It was also observed that document E/CN.9/332 emphasized strongly the needs of the developing countries and provided sufficient safeguards in this respect; that not only costs but also benefits to developing countries should be considered; that user demand may be created by this system itself; that the basic issue was one of transfer of advanced technology in this area from developed to developing countries, and that to the extent the system would promote this exchange, the matter should receive serious consideration. The representative of ECLA/CELADE stated that the experience of that institution in different areas, including DOCPAL, the Latin American Population Documentation System, has tended to confirm that creation of these activities also created a demand for information and promoted the transfer of technology.

245. In its subsequent discussion the Commission considered the concrete steps to be taken with respect to future activities related to the proposals for POPINS. It was proposed that further exploratory studies should be undertaken as to what a system could contribute to rapid dissemination of information on a continuing basis. Particular attention would be given to certain aspects among those proposed in paragraph 72 of document E/CN.9/333, specifically case studies in some depth of the system as it might operate in a few selected countries as relating to subparagraph (b), number (iii) and (iv), and the initiation of discussion on funding (subpara. (a), no. (vi)). In view of the prevailing conditions in Africa, the view was expressed that special attention be given to facilitating and promoting the flow of information in that region.

246. In his summary of the discussion, the Chairman observed that the Population Commission appreciated the work done by the Technical Task Force and the Interim Steering Committee in the limited time span available to these two groups. At the same time a number of representatives felt that they could not endorse in its entirety the proposals for the second stage which were placed before it. Even so, the Commission welcomes and endorses continuation of the work on a second stage, more exploratory in nature and of more limited scope. In particular, these activities would focus on specific aspects, not to the exclusion of others, to include the study of a sample of national and regional institutions on what population information exists and on present and future needs which would provide case studies. Special attention should also be given to consultations on funding. The findings of this second exploratory stage, which should not involve permanent arrangements, have no institutional implications and no commitment to the next

phase, should be presented to the Population Commission at its twentieth session for consideration. It was suggested that this second phase should, in addition, pay special attention to the costs of an information system at different levels including costs at the national level resulting from providing the national inputs to the system.

247. The Director of the Population Division noted that the proposals submitted by the Secretariat were prepared in response to instructions to that effect of the Population Commission at its seventeenth session. He would regret it if he had given the impression that POPINS is ready to be implemented. There were many options for such a system or network and the Secretariat had not eliminated any of those. It had not proposed to create new institutions; in fact, emphasis was placed on relying on those which exist. Nevertheless, the problem required systematic study and assessment, the primary concern being how such a system could serve the developing countries.

248. At the 359th meeting, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.9/L.132) concerning POPINS, and orally revised the text of the draft. The Director of the Budget Division, Office of Financial Services, made a statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution. One representative drew the attention of the Secretariat to the need to co-ordinate its work on the population information system with other ongoing activities within the United Nations system, in particular that of the proposed interdepartmental information systems board. The Commission then adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote. (For the text, see chap. I, draft resolution II).

L. Budgetary implications

249. The Commission, in its consideration of items 4 and 5 of the agenda, had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Population programme: utilization of resources for the 1976-1977 biennium by programme objectives contained in the medium-term plan (1978-1981)" (E/CN.9/L.128). In submitting the note, the Director of the Population Division informed the Commission that he had not been able to present the allocation of data resources for the 1978-1979 biennium, which had been requested by the Commission at its eighteenth session, ^{25/} since the Secretary-General's programme budget proposals for the 1978-1979 biennium were in a preliminary stage and were not expected to be completed before the end of February for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which was scheduled to meet from 9 May to 3 June 1977. Document E/CN.9/L.128 contained information on the work-months expected to be utilized by the population programme for the biennium 1976-1977, taking into account the redeployment of resources during the first half of the biennium in order to increase considerably inputs for the new areas of priority, namely monitoring of population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action in accordance with the request of the Population Commission at its eighteenth session. ^{26/} Those modifications in the 1976-1977 programme had been

^{25/} Ibid., Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6, para. 117.

^{26/} Ibid., para. 122.

considered by the General Assembly at the thirty-first session in its review of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977. 27/

250. During the discussion, the Commission recognized the difficulty of the Secretariat in presenting resource allocations for the 1978-1979 biennium at the current session. The Commission reiterated its view that future work programmes and medium-term plans, as well as reports on progress of work, should provide information on personnel requirements for specific projects. The Commission had had available to it at its eighteenth session in 1975 the resource requirements for the 1976-1977 biennium and those had proved helpful in the Commission's deliberations. The Commission felt that such information was essential for an understanding of the relative importance placed on specific projects in the programme.

251. The Commission's attention was drawn to the discussions in the Governing Council of UNDP at its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions and at the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee of UNFPA, held in September-October 1976, in which stress was laid on the need for the progressive phasing out of the UNFPA infrastructure support through its absorption into the regular budget. The Director of the Population Division informed the Commission that discussions were now under way on the question of absorbing some of those posts within the regular budget in connexion with the presentation of the Secretary-General's proposals for population programmes for the biennium 1978-1979 to the appropriate bodies concerned.

252. At the 359th meeting, on 20 January 1977, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.9/L.129) concerning the biennial work programme (1978-1979) and medium-term plan (1978-1981), on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, namely, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America. The text of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The Population Commission

"Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

'The Economic and Social Council,

'Recalling that at the third special session of the Population Commission held from 4 to 15 March 1974, the Commission recommended that its eighteenth session be rescheduled so as to bring its activities more into line with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations,

'Noting that at the eighteenth session, which was so rescheduled, the Population Commission requested and received information on resource requirements for the biennial work programme 1976-1977 and the medium-term plan 1976-1979,

27/ A/C.5/31/37 and Corr.1, paras. 5A.22-5A.33.

'Recalling further that at the eighteenth session the Commission, having found the information on resource requirements to be useful for its deliberations, had expressed the view that at the nineteenth session it should be provided with information concerning personnel and budget requirements for specific projects as noted also in respect of the progress of work,

'Aware that at the nineteenth session the Secretariat had informed the Commission that information on personnel and budget requirements as requested by members of the Commission could not be made available because those requirements were still under discussion within the Secretariat,

'1. Requests the Secretary-General to provide for subsequent sessions of the Commission information on personnel and budget requirements for specific projects in the progress of work, the biennial work programme, and the medium-term plan;

'2. Recommends that in order to ensure the availability of such information, future sessions of the Commission be scheduled so as to be in line with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations.'"

253. The Commission heard a statement by the Director of the Budget Division in connexion with the question of resource allocations for the biennium 1978-1979 and the draft resolution (E/CN.9/L.129). The Commission was informed that, while the quantitative data to be included in the programme of work for 1978-1979 - namely, estimates in terms of work-months of the resources envisaged for its implementation - could not be prepared in time for the current session, the Secretariat would try its best to make such information available at the following session. As for the recommendation in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, if it were possible for the Commission to meet in April or May when the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget would be available, that document might be usefully commented upon by the Commission. But, since the Commission's role was essentially to review the substantive programme in population and provide general policy guidance, the Commission's deliberation on work programme proposals would be of particular use in the preparation of the Secretary-General's programme proposal for the biennium. In that context the Commission's attention was drawn to the fact that budgetary allocations in terms of specific staffing tables and financial resources between various sectoral activities should remain the prerogative of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the General Assembly.

254. The representative of the United States of America, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, took note of the clarifications and the assurance given by the Director of the Budget Division in respect of the work-months envisaged for the implementation of future programmes, and on that understanding withdrew the draft resolution.

255. At the 359th meeting the representative of Spain, on behalf also of India, the Philippines and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Work programme in the field of population" (E/CN.9/L.131), which he revised during his statement. Sierra Leone joined as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

256. The representative of Norway, on behalf also of Finland and Sweden 28/ introduced an amendment (E/CN.9/L.133) to the draft resolution. On behalf of the sponsors, the representative of Spain accepted the amendment.

257. The Director of the Budget Division, Office of Financial Services, made a statement regarding possible financial implications of the draft resolution and drew attention to the table on page 21 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its sixteenth session. 29/

258. Oral amendments to the draft resolution were proposed by the representatives of the USSR, Uganda, Ecuador and Ghana.

259. At the 360th meeting, on 21 January 1977, the representative of Spain, on behalf also of India, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and the United States of America, introduced a revised text of the draft resolution (E/CN.9/L.131/Rev.1).

260. During the discussion of draft resolution E/CN.9/L.131/Rev.1, one representative, while complimenting the Secretariat on the programme of work for the biennium 1978-1979, indicated that that did not commit his Government on future budget decisions which may have to be made. The discussions in the Commission on the work programme had provided guidance to the Secretariat on priorities in the preparation of the budget. In that connexion, it was necessary to explore whether certain aspects of the increased programme envisaged could not be offset by reduction of programmes of less priority elsewhere within the work programme. Another representative emphasized that the future work programme should be carried out within the framework of existing budgetary resources through identification of priorities and necessary adjustments within the Population Division.

261. At the 360th meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution without a vote. (For the text, see chap. I, draft resolution III.)

28/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions.

29/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 38.

VI. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION

262. In compliance with paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, the Commission considered, at its 359th meeting, held on 20 January 1977, a draft provisional agenda for its twentieth session (E/CN.9/L.126), as drawn up by the Secretary-General.

263. The Commission was generally agreed that it should not be put in the position of having to discuss at its twentieth session any documents that had not been received in adequate time for careful consideration by all concerned departments of States members of the Commission. The wish was expressed that there should be only one consolidated document for each item or subitem. Several representatives felt that the agenda headings as given in the document prepared by the Secretary-General were too general and should be considered more as a skeleton outline for the agenda rather than as an actual agenda. It was generally agreed that the topic of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action should be a separate agenda item, in the light of the importance of that subject. One representative proposed that the agenda should include a separate item on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

264. It was also generally agreed that the Secretariat should submit to the Commission at its twentieth session an estimate of the work-months for the work programme.

265. The Director of the Population Division stated that every attempt would be made to meet the suggestions made by delegations. Documents for translation and prior circulation would be limited in number and size. Nevertheless, detailed presentation of the Secretariat work would be submitted as conference room papers. In order to ensure that representatives would be aware of progress made during 1977 and 1978, a short report would be circulated to them at some intermediate date.

266. The Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session as contained in document E/CN.9/L.126, taking into account the views expressed thereon during the discussion. It was agreed that the provisional agenda for the twentieth session is as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:
 - (a) Review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action;
 - (b) Other matters pertaining to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

4. Matters pertaining to population arising from recommendations for the restructuring of the United Nations
5. Progress of work
6. Work programme of the United Nations in the field of population
7. Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Commission
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

267. The Population Commission held its nineteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 21 January 1977. The Commission held 19 plenary meetings (343rd-361st meetings).

268. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs opened the session and made a statement.

B. Attendance

269. All States members of the Commission were represented at the session except Zaire. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States, representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A complete list is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

270. At its 343rd meeting, on 10 January 1977, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation: Chairman: Mr. Dirk van de Kaa (Netherlands); Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Eduardo Santos (Ecuador) and Mrs. Serla Grewal (India); Rapporteur: Mr. Samuel B. Jones (Ghana).

D. Agenda

271. The Commission considered its agenda at its 343rd meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/322) drawn up by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions. The agenda was adopted without objection.

272. The agenda adopted by the Commission (E/CN.9/322) is reproduced in annex II of the present report.

E. Resolutions and recommendations

273. The draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the decisions taken by the Commission of special relevance to the Council are reproduced in chapter I of the present report.

F. Documentation

274. The documents which were before the Commission are listed in annex III.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

275. The Commission considered the draft report (E/CN.9/L.127 and Add.1-16) on its nineteenth session at its 361st and 362nd meetings. It adopted the report (E/CN.9/L.127 and Add.1-12 and Add.15-6) at its 362nd meeting, as amended during the discussion. It took note of the summary of recent population trends and policies (E/CN.9/L.127/Add.13 and 14) which, as previously agreed, was included as an appendix to the report.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE a/

Members

BRAZIL	Luis Paulo Lindenberg Sette
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Luis González Fabra, Myrtha A. Grossman,* Máximo O. Molina*
ECUADOR	Eduardo Santos
FINLAND	Kauko M. Sipponen, Elina Visuri,* Anja-Riitta Ketokoski*
FRANCE	Alfred Sauvy, Jean Bourgeois-Pichat*
GHANA	Samuel B. Jones
HUNGARY	József Bálint, Egon Szabady*
INDIA	Serla Grewal, Mr. Shashank,* Nina Sibal*
INDONESIA	R. Sardjono, Pek Poedjioetomo,* Achmad Pamekas*
JAPAN	Shinozaki Nobuo
MAURITANIA	Turkia Ould-Daddah, <u>b/</u> Mamadou Kane*
MEXICO	Luisa María Leal, Sergio Correu,* Jorge Cueto García,* Ramón Ojeda Mestre,* Valentin O. Trevino*
NETHERLANDS	Dirk J. van de Kaa, E. J. N. Brouwers*
NORWAY	Petter Jakob Bjerve
PANAMA	Hildebrando Araica, <u>b/</u> Ithzel de Villarreal*
PHILIPPINES	Mercedes Concepcion, Laura Lopez-Lising*
RWANDA	Silas Niyibizi
SIERRA LEONE	Rosalind Omolaja Forde
SPAIN	Salustiano Del Campo

* Alternate.

a/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2836 (XXVI), para. 3 (f),
a full list of names of participants is not given in this report.

b/ Did not attend the session.

THAILAND	Visid Prachuabmoh
TUNISIA	Mezri Chekir, <u>b/</u> Taoufik Kilani*
UGANDA	Moses Mukasa, Harold E. L. Acemah,* Hilda B. Rwabazaire*
UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOVIET REPUBLIC	A. A. Zhuk
UNION OF SOVIET SOVIET REPUBLICS	Arkady Isupov, A. Zhukov*
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	J. H. Thompson, J. D. Greig,* E. Grebenik,* M. A. Pattison*
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Marshall Green, Fred O. Pinkham,* Conrad Taeuber*
ZAIRE	Not represented at the session

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Bulgaria, Italy, New Zealand, Romania and Sweden

Non-member State represented by observers

Holy See

United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Western Asia

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization

Other intergovernmental organizations

Organization of African Unity

Non-governmental organizations

Category I

International Planned Parenthood Federation

Category II

Bahá'i International Community

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:
 - (a) Monitoring of population trends and policies
 - (b) Measures undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to implement the World Population Plan of Action
 - (c) Proposal regarding arrangements for the Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action
 - (d) Guidelines on population-related factors for development planners
 - (e) Regional consultations to follow up the World Population Conference
 - (f) Interrelations between population, resources and environment
4. Report on the progress of work, 1975-1976
5. Biennial work programme (1978-1979) and medium-term plan (1978-1981)
6. Draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/5780 and Corr.1	3(a)	Guidelines on population-related factors for development: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.6/SR.772, 775, 776, 779	3(e)	Summary records of the Economic Committee at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.3/480	5	1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/322	2	Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session
E/CN.9/323	3(a)	Concise report on monitoring of population trends: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/324 and Corr.1	3(a)	Concise report on monitoring of population policies: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/325	3(b)	Measures undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to implement the World Population Plan of Action: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/326	3(c)	Proposal regarding arrangements for the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/327	4	Progress of work, 1975-1976, in the field of population: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/328	4	Concise report on activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in population: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.9/329	4	Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Demographic Models, held at Headquarters from 8 to 12 December 1975: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/330	4	Expert Group Meeting on Methods of Measuring the Impact of Family Planning Programmes on Fertility, Geneva, 20-27 April 1976: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/331	5	Biennial work programme (1978-1979) and medium-term plan (1978-1981) in the field of population: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/331/Add.1	5	The United Nations and population training in the coming decade: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/332	5	Proposals regarding an international population information system (POPINS): note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/333	5	Biennial work programme (1978-1979) and medium-term plan (1978-1981): note by the Secretariat
E/CN.9/L.126	6	Draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission
E/CN.9/L.127 and Add.1-16	7	Draft report of the Commission on the nineteenth session
E/CN.9/L.128	5	Population programme: utilization of resources for the 1976-1977 biennium by programme objectives contained in the medium-term plan (1978-1981): note by the Secretariat
E/CN.9/L.129	5	Biennial work programme (1978-1979) and medium-term plan (1978-1981) - draft resolution submitted by the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.9/L.130	3	Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action: draft resolution submitted by Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
E/CN.9/L.131	5	Work programme in the field of population: draft resolution submitted by India, the Philippines, Spain and the United States of America
E/CN.9/L.131/Rev.1	5	: revised draft resolution submitted by India, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tunisia and the United States of America
E/CN.9/L.132	5	Population Information System (POPINS): draft resolution submitted by Ecuador, France, Thailand and Tunisia
E/CN.9/L.133	5	: amendment submitted by Finland, Norway and Sweden ^{a/} to document E/CN.9/L.131
E/CN.9/NGO/11		Statement submitted by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
E/CN.9/XIX/INF.8 and Corr.1		List of representatives to the nineteenth session of the Commission
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.1	3	Results of the regional consultations subsequent to the World Population Conference

^{a/} In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.2	4	Orders of magnitude of the world's urban population in history
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.3	4	Activities of the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of population, 1976-1977 and 1978-1979
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.4	4	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities in population through field programmes
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.5 and Add.1	3	Report on monitoring of population trends
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.6	6	Preliminary report on the Third Population Inquiry among Governments: Population Policies in the Context of Development in 1976
E/CN.9/XIX/CRP.7 and Add.1	3	Report on monitoring of population policies

Appendix

SUMMARY OF RECENT POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES

A. Summary of population trends

1. Recent vital trends and population change in general have been closely interrelated with social and economic development, both as causes and effects, as they have been throughout modern history. Such interrelationships, while evolving in their substance and specific forms, continue to underline the importance of regarding population questions as essentially development issues.

2. World and regional population trends during 1950-1975 have been marked by extraordinary dynamism and momentous breaks with the past. Global growth rates, which for much of the period have hovered about a 2 per cent mark, give few clear signs of abating from levels extending far beyond those of any earlier era. Imbedded within the recent global rates have been enormous regional disparities, almost surely no less unique in history.

3. World population rose to 4 billion as the third quarter of the century came to a close. The 60 per cent increase represented by this size over the 1950 level of about 2.5 billion was equivalent to an average annual growth rate of nearly 2 per cent, was well over double the rate during the first half of this century and 3 to 4 times the 1800-1900 rate.

4. In the more developed regions, as in many of their national parts, rates of natural increase have slowed to a point where near-equality of births and deaths could soon materialize on a wide basis if recent downtrends continue only a little longer, and an increasing number of these countries already have negative rates of growth. The current tendency towards near stagnation of natural increase in these regions differs from previous trends. It has occurred despite the near elimination of mortality as a factor affecting replacement, since mortality under age 50 is already so low that even its full disappearance would have slight influence on either actual growth or long-run potentials for increase. National fertility levels, the current dominant cause by far of growth potentials among industrialized populations, are typically close to or at the lowest magnitudes ever reached in history, except possibly in periods of acute depression or war.

5. In the early 1950s, expectation of life in the more developed regions as a group was close to 65 years as an over-all average. In the mid-1960s it reached 70 years and since then it has only been inching up. As a result the 1950-1975 increase has been well under 10 per cent. The crude death-rate has declined by much the same limited margin, from about 10 per 1,000 to somewhat over 9 per 1,000, although in recent years death-rates in some countries have declined more slowly or the trend has even been reversed.

6. Over-all, birth-rates in the more developed regions have declined steadily, from approximately midway between 20 and 25 per 1,000 in the early 1950s to nearly midway between 15 and 20 per 1,000 in the early 1970s, a drop of 25 per cent in round terms. Almost surely, current mortality and fertility are such that net reproduction is within percentage points at most above replacement, if not below this level, for the combined low-fertility population of the world.

7. These patterns and prospects are in remarkable contrast with the situation in the less developed regions, probably to a greater extent than at any period in at least several centuries. Growth in these regions as a whole appears to have averaged well above 2 per cent annually over the last quarter century and is today close to 2.5 per cent.

8. Although the reliability of the available indications is often subject to question, there is evidence that a mounting number of developing nations, including some of the largest ones, give recent signs of decelerating growth, while the rate of growth of other such populations may well be accelerating. There is reason to believe that while fertility has not fallen far below traditional levels on average among such regions, it has begun to decline from centuries-old patterns in a no longer small number of individual nations.

9. In the less developed regions, many nations in which expectation of life at birth is today beyond 60 years, as in much of Latin America, East Asia and Micronesia-Polynesia, are probably further removed from the populations at the 40-to-45-year levels estimated for Eastern, Middle and Western Africa than was true a quarter century ago. The remaining regions in the less developed areas, or Northern and Southern Africa, Melanesia and Eastern, Middle and Western South Asia, are all estimated to be at approximately 50-to-55-year levels, or roughly midway between the extremes. With respect to crude death-rates, those in Africa appear to range between 15 and 25 per 1,000 in broad terms, while the rate for the region "other East Asia" is below 10 per 1,000. Rapid declines from these higher to lower orders of magnitude would not be uncommon in the light of the international experience of recent decades.

10. In the case of fertility, dramatically sharp downturns in some less developed areas have been accompanied by unchanging or perhaps even rising levels in others. Unfortunately neither the level nor the trend of fertility can be reliably measured for any of the seven largest nations in the less developed regions, comprising fully two thirds of the total population of the developing regions and half of the world's population. Nevertheless, the odds favouring further fertility decline in many low-income areas in which such declines have already begun, or the near onset of substantial declines where such processes are still potential rather than realized, are no longer small.

11. To rough orders of magnitude, gross reproduction rates currently range from about 2.0 among most East Asian populations to approximately 3.0 in all regions of Africa and South Asia, and in the Middle America and Melanesia, with the Caribbean, Tropical South America and Micronesian-Polynesian populations at intermediate levels. A number of individual nations in these regions now have gross rates closer to 1.5, for the first time in recorded history.

12. "Medium variant" projections as assessed in 1973 by the Population Division suggest an essentially downward movement of growth rates over the next 25 years. For the world as a whole, its more developed and less developed regions, the projected rates are 1.5, 0.5 and 2.0 per cent in round terms, respectively, by the end of the century. "Low variant" projections would reduce the first and third of these rates, for the world and less developed regions, by about 20 per cent, while "high variant" measures would raise them by a like margin. The corresponding reduction and elevation of the rate for more developed regions would amount to some 30 to 40 per cent. Recent changes in trends in some regions suggest that these projected rates require modification.

13. If the facts were known, the present over-all difference of more than 1.5 percentage points between the less and more developed regions in their rates of growth might well be found to exceed the largest disparities at any period in human history among comparably large geographic groupings of populations. Similarly, current levels of fertility in the less developed regions appear to be some 2.5 times higher over-all than those in the developed regions. If this ratio is approximately accurate, it would almost surely be a historic peak compared to earlier international ranges of fertility behaviour.

14. As striking as these comparative patterns themselves, has been the speed with which they have emerged. In the case of fertility, the essential dynamic elements recently have been precipitous declines in large parts of the industrialized regions within a period of a few years, often following sharp increases after the Second World War. In the case of growth rates, the prime mover has been mortality in the less developed regions. Dozens of previously high-mortality countries with reliable data have experienced rates of mortality declines without precedent anywhere in the modern era. For dozens more, highly pronounced downtrends can be inferred from indirect but persuasive indications. As a result of this "mortality revolution", most of the populations of Latin America and Asia, along with a possibly not small part of Africa, have suddenly moved well within the twentieth century range of mortality levels in the industrialized regions, after traditionally lagging behind the latter by a century or more.

15. A major process of converging longevity has taken place within the more developed regions. As a result of a strongly inverse relation between life expectancy about 1950 and subsequent amounts of change to 1975, practically all nations in these regions have life expectancies today which are close to or above 70 years. The convergence itself, which continues, and the associated fact that the nations with highest longevity have registered only minimal gains over the past decade, suggest an important interpretive conclusion: for the first time in the modern era, a technological ceiling on length of life is being approached throughout today's developed regions. However, in the case of males, some tendencies towards rising adult mortality in a number of low-mortality countries could conceivably lead to a decline in longevity if sustained. Whether or not this tendency proves transitory, it constitutes the first potential threat to long-run downtrends within low-mortality populations in a century or longer.

16. Until recently, declining mortality rates in the infant, childhood and young adult years have been the overwhelmingly important determinants of gains in expectation of life at birth for either sex. This has been true of all regions, both more and less developed. Today, for the first time in history, a substantial portion of the world's population has reached a stage at which further large uptrends in longevity would have to depend predominantly on mortality in the advanced years of life. Indeed, so far has the convergence of mortality at the younger ages progressed within the more developed regions that male-female differences of life expectancy within nations have typically come to be far higher than the differences between nations for either sex. However, in the developing regions future mortality gains in the young ages are likely to be the major sources of future gains in expectation of life at birth. The levels of mortality among infants, young children and women of maternity ages are still very high in many of these countries.

17. New patterns of change, of kinds and magnitudes often not known in the modern

era, have also been characteristic of international migration movements over the 1950-1975 period. Three major shift points in this respect have been the changing direction of the main movements within Europe, the sudden turn-around of that continent from being a net sender to being an apparently net receiver relative to other continents, and the sharp recent acceleration of the numbers migrating from the less developed to the more developed regions. Another emerging problem of significance has been the "brain drain" phenomenon which has often involved the movement of professionals and relatively skilled workers from the less developed to more developed regions.

18. Recent decades have witnessed great transitions in the scale and growth of world urbanization. Although urban aggregates are often amalgams of geographical, administrative and demographic criteria, applied in variable fashion over time and space, some major orders of magnitude seem clearly enough indicated. In broad terms, the global urban population more than doubled between 1950 and 1975, implying a greater increase than in all previous history. Although meaningful historical series of urban trends by region are lacking, it is obvious that the current 4 per cent annual rate of urban increase in the less developed regions could not have been long sustained in the past, if indeed it has ever been reached before. About 1975, a new world demographic milestone was reached when the urban size of the less developed regions became equal to that of the more developed regions. It seems safe to say that, measured by population aggregates, urbanization in today's agrarian regions is likely not to be exceeded again for centuries, if ever, by urban size in the world's currently most industrialized areas. Yet as recently as 1950, urban population of the developed regions outnumbered the urban number in less developed areas by something like a 2-to-1 margin.

19. The contrasts between population trends in the rural parts of the more and less developed regions have been no less outstanding, though differently structured, than in their urban areas. Starting about mid-century, the developed regions as a group began to lose rural population and the rate of decline has apparently been mounting ever since. This cross-over from rising to falling non-urban members has been the result of a massive process of social evolution, one which first became important among a few of the earliest developing nations in the nineteenth century and has since extended to every industrialized population today. In the less developed regions, on the other hand, despite high rates of out-migration to urban areas, rural population has continued to grow at elevated rates. As a result, the ratio of rural numbers in the less to the more developed regions has accelerated in probably unparalleled fashion, from over 3-to-1 in 1950 to a 6-to-1 margin in 1975.

20. The uniquely expanded dimensions of global population change during the post-war decades have had necessarily novel impacts in social and economic spheres. This can be seen directly with respect to labour force, educational trends, labour-force dependency patterns and food supply. Reciprocally, development, for example in the health and education areas, have had major impacts on population trends and characteristics.

21. Between 1950 and 1975, the world's economically active population rose from 1 billion to 1.5-plus billion, according to available estimates, a rise of about 50 per cent. Its lower rate of increase as compared to the 60 per cent growth of total population implies a 5 to 10 per cent decline in the global crude

(all-age) rate of labour force participation, a trend almost wholly attributable to declining participation rates among younger and older males. Age composition, another factor potentially capable of causing a shift in the aggregate participation rate, was comparatively unimportant. It changed relatively little in the less developed regions, and its main shifts in the more developed regions were compensating ones at ages under 15 and over 65, which have little significance for average participation probabilities. Although changes in age composition between 15 and 65 may have been of some importance in a number of individual industrially advanced nations, their effects have been secondary from a global viewpoint.

22. Labour force in the less developed regions as of 1975 had become equal to the world's total labour force in 1950, as their number of economically active persons rose at almost double the quarter-century rate in the more developed regions. Each of four large groupings of less developed areas - Latin America, Africa, East Asia and South Asia - has higher rates of growth than did Northern America, the USSR or Europe, while only the developed part of Oceania, because of high rates of immigration, deviated from this comparative pattern. The net effect of these disparities has been to raise the proportion of the world's labour force in the less developed regions from about 64 to 68 per cent, while lowering the share in the more developed regions commensurately. Barring unexpected future trends in participation rates in either group or both groups of regions, this tendency should continue and gain strength in the decades to come.

23. In demographic structure no less than regional composition, the world's labour force has shown marked recent transformations. The number of economically active females has risen at a rate about 50 per cent higher than the male rate, so that it constituted about 35 per cent of the total labour force in 1975, compared to 30 per cent or so at mid-century. With respect to age, the proportion of the labour force in the 25-55 interval rose substantially, mainly because of rising numbers of females, while both the young-worker and older-worker proportions declined perceptibly. The young-worker downtrend seems nearly certain to continue and might accelerate, given the rapidly changing role of women in many of the world's economies. The upper-age tendency may have a more uncertain future, not only for substantive reasons but also if statistical procedures were to change in distinguishing between the economically active and inactive parts of the older female population.

24. With respect to education, enrolment rates of primary school-age children have been rising in all regions and have come to exceed 90 per cent levels in the more developed areas. On the other hand, the number of children 6 to 11 who are not at school appears to have increased, rather than decreased, in the less developed regions, where the estimated enrolment rise of three fourths, or over 60 million, during the 1960s was well below the rise in eligible numbers. An analogous observation holds for the succeeding age interval of 12 to 17, which includes the years of high school education and involves greater variability of national goals. For this age group, rapid increases in both the numbers and ratios of enrolled students have taken place in the more developed regions, as could be anticipated from educational targets. However, despite a doubling of enrolment rates in the less developed regions, their increased number at school has not been sufficient to avoid a rise in the out-of-school number.

25. Estimates for 1950 and 1975 indicate that the global labour dependency ratio

has risen by about 10 per cent, or not far from the increase of the corresponding population dependency ratio. In round terms, the number of non-active persons per 100 active persons moved up from about 125 to 140, as a result of the fact that the former group grew by about 70 per cent more in size than did the latter. Regionally, and again as with population dependency, the main increase was in the less developed areas, where the labour-force measure rose from about 135 to over 150, or 15 per cent on average. In developed regions, the over-all ratio has hardly moved at all, remaining between 115 and 120. Today, several industrially advanced regions, including Eastern Europe, the USSR and Japan, have fewer dependants than workers. In contrast, substantially more dependants than workers are found in all regional groupings of less developed populations. East Asia, as a result of marked fertility declines, shows an excess of dependants of about 15 per cent, but in the others the excess ranges typically from over 30 to about 150 per cent.

26. Population during the third quarter of this century has continued to be a dominant determinant of global needs and effective demand for food. With respect to the low-income areas, a number of studies suggest that growth in numbers account for almost three fourths of the rise in their demand during recent periods, or for more than can be attributed, at least statistically, to income plus all other causal factors combined. For the more developed regions, the food needs situation since the war has been of a different kind. Demographic influences account for about half of the post-war increases in the more developed areas, according to studies. Actual consumption and nutritionally suggested standards of consumption have remained comparatively close to each other on average. Indeed, energy (calorie) intake per capita is one fifth too high compared to requirements in these areas, even though several tens of millions of their inhabitants are estimated to be severely malnourished.

27. A main uncertainty today surrounding world food and population interrelations is whether per capita output gains can be resumed on a self-sustaining basis in the less developed regions, or whether the declines of the early 1970s are early warning signals of forthcoming deterioration. The question would appear to involve both production and population in central ways. Thus, the 1950-1970 gains in these regions occurred despite rapid population growth, which was outweighed by production uptrends of a high order by long-run standards. Since 1970, setbacks have reversed the balance. Although output has often continued to increase at a substantial rate, it has done so erratically over time and space and at a slower pace than in preceding decades; as a result, it has become matched or out-distanced by sustained population growth in most low-income regions. Within both Latin America and large parts of Asia, whereas countries with energy intakes normally above nutritional requirements tended to improve their position after 1970, those with below-standard consumption have generally experienced deteriorating trends. The recent food setbacks in both of these regions, the only ones for which adequately current data exist, may therefore have more serious consequences for nutrition, health and possibility mortality than is suggested by the region-wide averages. In Africa, whether or not recent output declines and low levels of consumption have been similarly correlated, it has been clear that supply shortfalls have lately reached dangerous and often lethal dimensions over a large part of the northern half of the continent.

28. In this connexion, it is well to take note of the newly prominent and highly controversial possibility that climatic conditions may be taking a drastic

long-run turn for the worse. Although in the absence of scientifically confirmed evidence the likelihood of such a turn cannot be judged, even a small risk in this regard could be ominous. Nevertheless, it is likely that more long-standing problems of regional food deficiencies will continue to command major attention. Such attention should simultaneously emphasize production and population. It is true that population pressures in many less developed countries hamper productivity gains in their agrarian sector. The problems of achieving a better balance between the world's food needs and supplies is very largely one of production. Although reduced population growth in the less developed areas can facilitate and add to the gains made possible through improved agrarian technology and organization, it cannot be a substitute for such progress. New land utilization patterns, improved seed varieties, favourable credit and marketing conditions, greatly expanded irrigation facilities, intensified agricultural investment, agrarian reform and non-conventional food-stuffs, among others, are non-demographic factors whose productive potentials are still enormous and far from being realized.

B. Summary of population policies

29. A number of conclusions emerge from the study of the mechanisms by which government attitudes to demographic processes are formed. Of the 156 countries Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies, 37 countries consider that a "higher rate of natural increase is desirable", 70 perceive the rate is "satisfactory" and 49 believe that a "lower rate is desirable". Only one country of 42 in the developed regions considers a "lower rate desirable", as against 48 of 114 in the developing regions. In the "satisfactory" category are 25 of the 42 in the developed regions and 45 of the 114 in the developing regions. Lastly, the "higher rate desirable" category comprises 16 of the 42 developed countries and only 21 of the 114 developing countries. In terms of population, 13 per cent of the world population is resident in countries which declare a "higher rate desirable", 29 per cent in countries which feel "satisfied" and 58 per cent in countries which declare a "lower rate desirable". In the case of the developing countries, the breakdown is as follows: 3 per cent of their population is resident in countries which "desire higher rates", 16 per cent in countries "satisfied" with their rate and 81 per cent in countries which "desire lower rates".

30. Among the 42 countries in the more developed regions, 32 consider their mortality level acceptable and 10 consider it unacceptable. Among the 114 countries in the less developed regions, 27 consider the level acceptable and 87 consider it unacceptable. The degree of acceptability varies according to the level of mortality expressed by expectation of life at birth. Of 54 countries, with an expectation of life at birth of 50 years or less, none considered their situation acceptable. On the other hand, of the 37 countries with an expectation of life at birth of 70 years and over, 31 considered that level acceptable.

31. Of 156 countries, 18 (including 11 in developed regions) perceive their fertility rate as "too low", 83 (including 30 in developed regions) as "satisfactory", and 55 (including only 1 developed country) as "too high". Among the 83 countries which perceive their fertility rate as "satisfactory", there is wide variation in demographic conditions. It should be noted that 82 countries have no avowed policy of intervention in fertility; 14, including 10 in developed regions, have a policy aimed at increasing the fertility rate; 20, including 10 in

developed regions, are trying to maintain the present rate, and 40, all of them in developing regions, have decided to reduce their rate. In terms of total population, this means that 3 per cent of the world's population lives in countries whose Governments have policies aimed at raising the level of fertility, 10 per cent in countries whose Governments are maintaining the present level, 56 per cent in countries where the policy is aimed at lowering the level, and 31 per cent in countries whose Governments do not have a policy of intervention in the matter of fertility.

32. A branch of policy in which Governments have difficulty in accepting the population situation facing them concerns geographical distribution and internal migration. Half, or 78 out of 156 countries, regard their situation as "largely unacceptable". Of these 78 countries, 71 are in developing regions. Moreover, another 59 countries regard the situation as "unacceptable to some degree". Only 19 consider the situation "acceptable". A majority of 100 countries wishes to slow down the flow of migration; of these, only 19 do not wish to change the structure of urban and rural areas while 81 hope to change that structure either completely or in part.

33. Only 39 countries consider immigration to be demographically significant. Of these 8, including 2 in developed regions, regard the rate of immigration as "too low", 24, including 13 in developed regions, regard it as "satisfactory"; and 7, including 3 in developed regions, regard it as "too high". The remaining 117 countries do not regard immigration as significant. Among the countries which regard the immigration rate as demographically significant, 8 countries, including 2 in developed regions, have policies which are designed to increase the rate; 17 countries, including 6 in developed regions, have policies which are designed to maintain the rate at its current level; and 14 countries, including 10 in developed countries, have policies aimed at curbing the rate.

34. More Governments are demographically concerned over emigration than over immigration - 52 countries compared to 39. This situation reflects the fact that emigration, particularly from developing countries, is directed mainly to a relatively small number of developed countries and, quite recently, some developing countries. Only 4 countries, including 1 in developed regions, find the rate "too low"; 28, including 1 in developed regions, find it "satisfactory"; and 20, including 7 in developed regions find it "too high". Among the 52 countries in which emigration is perceived to be significant, 9 in developed regions and 43 in developing regions have emigration policies. Seven out of the 9 in developed regions and 13 out of the 43 developing regions wish to curb emigration. The policy of maintaining the level of emigration is the one selected in most cases, or 28 countries, consisting of 1 in developed regions and 27 in developing regions. Only 4 countries have policies of encouraging emigration.

35. The changes that have recently occurred in government perceptions and policies seem less surprising if the programmes or statements of Governments over the last 10 years are examined. Most Governments, even those which had given priority to programmes designed to modify fertility trends, had already recognized that measures dealing only with fertility were insufficient and that global strategies were necessary to solve the problems arising from the interaction between demographic and non-demographic processes. In those countries, a very clear trend had emerged in favour of integrating such programmes in development plans. The recommendations contained in the World Population Plan of Action to

integrate demographic processes with development only confirmed a need that had been felt for many years but which could not be expressed until then for lack of an appropriate international forum.

36. Most Governments perceive the implications of the complex relations between the rate of population increase and economic and social factors first and foremost as basic postulates favouring or preventing the success of their development plan. Those complex relations develop generally in a predictable manner, as a result of processes of technological innovation and the effects of economic and social restructuring observed throughout the world. However, their development may sometimes be influenced by other factors, such as the geopolitical environment, the localization of some components of the international economic system, the legacy of certain socio-cultural traditions, and so on.

37. One of the most striking developments in the last 10 years has been the growing awareness of the complexity of population phenomena and the emergence of a very sophisticated level of perception. To take the case of the Third Inquiry among Governments on Population Policies in the Context of Development in 1976, it will be noted, first, on the purely quantitative level, that 107 countries responded, compared with 74 which responded to the Second Inquiry in 1972 and 53 to the First Inquiry in 1963. Such a development certainly shows a growing interest in population problems on the part of Governments. On the qualitative level, it will be noted that, although this Inquiry dealt with a very difficult subject, the interaction between demographic and non-demographic variables, it produced replies not only from developed but also from developing countries. To mention Africa alone, in 1972, only 13 countries responded to the Second Inquiry; in 1976, 32 countries responded.

38. With regard to intervention, the Governments of developing countries, like those of developed countries, are adopting population policies that are increasingly sophisticated but still insufficient. As an example, mention might be made of a complex case of intervention, that of an industrialized country which is trying to check the decline in fertility while at the same time encouraging the employment of women, although it knows that the latter has a negative effect on fertility. Why is such an apparently contradictory choice made? Because this same Government, for reasons of internal and external policy wishes to increase the national female labour force in order to reduce its dependence on what it regards as too large a foreign labour force. It would be possible to give examples of the same level of complexity in the developing countries where their lack of human and financial resources and of institutions constitutes an additional obstacle.

39. Lastly, a new dimension of population policies is the right of the individual. In a world where behaviour is, both in appearance and in fact, increasingly determined by systems of economic, social and political constraints imposed in the name of the general good, there have been frequent conflicts of interest between the individual and collective goals.

40. On the level of policy objectives, there has been increasing use of policies which might be described as non-demographic in their means but demographic in their ultimate purpose. An awareness of the interaction between demographic and non-demographic factors leads to the application of programmes aimed mainly at changing the general environment by ensuring the well-being of the population.

Measures designed to improve nutrition, housing and education, to provide work, to industrialize a region or to change the status of women, have an indirect effect on the demographic behaviour of individuals and, therefore, on the over-all demographic trends of the population. Policies designed to promote the well-being of the population have helped place population policies in the broader context of development, and at the same time have led to a clearer definition of their content. Population policies include action with regard to the four principal demographic variables: mortality, fertility, internal migration and external migration.

41. To sum up, in 1976 a dual trend in the formulation of demographic policies may be observed. On the one hand, there has been an expansion of the dimensions of demographic intervention; for example, interventions in the matter of fertility now have elements that they had previously lacked. On the other hand, there is almost general recourse to interventions designed to act on economic and social structures, yet also have, inter alia, indirect effects on population levels and trends.

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