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UNITED NATIONS

POPULATION COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION

(22 May - 2 June 1950)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS

FIFTH YEAR : ELEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

NEW YORK

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All United Nations documents are designated by symbols—i.e., capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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6 juin 1950



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS
FIFTH YEAR, ELEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

POPULATION COMMISSION

Report of the Commission (fifth session) to the Economic and Social Council
Lake Success, New York, 22 May - 2 June 1950

I. Introduction

1. The Population Commission met at Lake Success for its fifth session from 22 May to 2 June 1950.

2. The following representatives and alternates attended the session :

Brazil : Mr. G. Jardim ;

China : Mr. F. Ho ; Mr. Hsiu Cha, alternate ;

France : Mr. A. Sauvy ;

Netherlands : Mr. N. L. J. Van Buttingha Wichers ;

Peru : Mr. A. Arca Parro ;

Sweden : Mr. C. Quensel, alternate ;

Syria : Mr. R. Asha ;

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics : Mr. P. M. Chernyshev, alternate ;

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland : Mr. D. Glass ;

United States of America : Mr. P. M. Hauser ;

Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia : Mr. D. Vogeltnik.

3. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics attended only the opening part of the first meeting of the fifth session of the Commission. No representative from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic attended.

4. The following representatives of specialized agencies attended the meetings :

International Labour Organisation (ILO) : Mr. R. M. Woodbury

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) : Mrs. H. T. Eldrige, Mr. C. Taeuber

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) : Mr. P. de Bie

World Health Organization (WHO) : Dr. Mabel Ingalls, Dr. G. E. Hill

5. The following authorized representatives of consultative non-governmental organizations were present as observers :

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions : Miss T. Sender

World Federation of United Nations Associations : Mrs. E. P. Berg, Mrs. H. Thomas

Category B

Catholic International Union for Social Service : Mrs. A. D. Vergara

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population : Mr. F. W. Lorimer

Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production : Mr. E. F. Cruickshank

International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues : Miss J. Gartlan, Miss C. Schaeffer

International Co-operative Women's Guild : Mrs. M. T. Benden.

6. The Commission invited Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis, representative of India on the Statistical Commission, to attend and to participate in the meetings without vote.

7. The Commission elected the following as its officers for the current year :

Chairman : Mr. A. Sauvy (France)

Vice-Chairman : Mr. D. Vogeltnik (Yugoslavia)

Rapporteur : Mr. P. M. Hauser (United States of America).

8. Mr. John D. Durand acted as representative of the Assistant Secretary-General. Mr. George Sotirov acted as Secretary to the Commission.

9. The Commission adopted the following agenda for its fifth session :

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of agenda

3. Report of the Secretary-General

4. Demographic aspects of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed areas

5. *Studies of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors

6. Problems connected with 1950 censuses of population
7. Improvement of migration statistics
8. Migration studies and research
9. Demographic Yearbook
10. Possibilities for research on demographic aspects of employment and unemployment
11. Other items
 - (a) Improvement of vital statistics
 - (b) Study of the recent recovery of the birth rate in some countries
12. Future work.

II. Demographic aspects of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed areas

10. The Population Commission considered the documentation prepared by the Secretariat on "Demographic Aspects of Technical Assistance for Economic Development" (E/CN.9/52), which called the attention of the Commission to the action of the General Assembly at its third session (1948)¹ and at its fourth session (1949) relating to the economic development of under-developed areas.² The Commission also had before it resolution [268 B (X)] of the Economic and Social Council of 2 March 1950 dealing with economic development of under-developed countries. In this connexion, the Population Commission noted with interest and satisfaction the memorandum submitted by the representative of UNESCO on "Demographic Aspects of Technical Assistance for Economic Development" (E/CN.9/AC.1/L.5).

11. Having in mind the importance of considering the demographic consequences of economic development programmes, and desiring to ensure that adequate attention is devoted to demographic aspects of technical assistance programmes, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General :

- (a) To include in communication to governments of Member States regarding the Technical Assistance Programme the views expressed in the annex to the report of this session of the Population Commission, dealing with the demographic aspects of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed areas ;
- (b) To transmit the annex to the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) of the Economic and Social Council for information and help in the provision of technical assistance to under-developed countries ;
- (c) Under appropriate circumstances and at the requests of governments of Member States, to provide technical assistance in accordance with the suggestions made in the annex.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I, Resolutions*, No. 200 (III).

² *Ibid.*, *Fourth Session, Resolutions*, No. 306 (IV).

III. Studies of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors

A. FINDINGS OF STUDIES ON THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN POPULATION TRENDS AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS

12. The Population Commission, having studied the report prepared by the Secretariat, "Findings of Studies on the Relationships between Population Trends and Economic and Social Factors" (E/CN.9/55 and Add.1 and Add.2), commends the Secretariat on the documentation prepared. Having regard to the limited staff and facilities available, this represents a very substantial effort and a useful beginning of the investigation of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors. The Commission believes, however, that substantial changes should be made in this document, principally in the form of additions to fields which have been incompletely explored and by the use of sources which were not, or not sufficiently, utilized. In continuing its efforts to provide a sound factual and analytical basis for dealing with the demographic implications of technical assistance and economic development programmes and to provide Governments of Member States with available knowledge on this subject, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General :

- (a) To elaborate and expand the report in order to achieve a more comprehensive and balanced exposition of theories and points of view relating to the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors ;
- (b) To incorporate into the report a statement of the existing gaps in knowledge about the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors ;
- (c) To develop a general plan for field studies and for analyses of existing data which could be used by governments of Member States in order to attain a better understanding of and ability to deal with the economic and social problems arising from this interrelationship ;
- (d) To circulate the revised report incorporating the above recommendations to members of the Population Commission and to other technical experts for comment (in addition to the usual routine distribution of documents) ; the revised report to carry the sub-heading : "Provisional document, to be submitted to the Population Commission" ;
- (e) To present the revised report together with such comments as may have been received to the Population Commission for consideration at its sixth session.

13. In view of the basic importance of the study of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors to technical assistance and economic development programmes, the Population Commission recommends to the Secretary-General that special consideration should be given to the provision of adequate facilities and resources for continued work on this report, including

provision for the adequate utilization of existing library facilities outside New York City.

14. The Population Commission further expresses the wish that new inquiries, with a view to establishing the facts, be undertaken in various countries by the respective governments. Among such inquiries, those concerning the influence of economic and social factors upon mortality and fertility would be particularly useful.

B. HEALTH DEMONSTRATION AREAS

15. The Population Commission considered the documentation on health demonstration areas (E/CN.9/53) prepared by the World Health Organization. Since health measures necessarily go hand in hand with economic development and since reductions in mortality are among the more important demographic correlates of economic development programmes which must be taken into consideration, the Commission notes with satisfaction the proposal of the WHO to establish one or more health demonstration areas as a form of technical aid for economic development. The Population Commission recommends that the Secretariat co-operate with the World Health Organization and with other interested agencies in the establishment of such health demonstration areas and in the analysis of their accomplishments. More specifically, the Commission requests the Secretary-General :

- (a) To assist in the development of adequate vital statistics and demographic information in such areas, both to help to provide measurements of the accomplishments of the health programmes and to use the experience gained thereby in developing plans for the improvement of vital statistics methods and the quality of vital statistics data ;
- (b) To consider the possibility of conducting studies of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors in such health demonstration areas as may be established and to report on the feasibility of such co-operative studies at the sixth session of the Commission.

C. STUDIES OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS IN INDIA

16. Having before it the documents prepared by the Secretariat with reference to plans for a pilot field survey and for a study of existing data on the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors in India (E/CN.9/58, E/CN.9/L.6), the Population Commission notes with satisfaction the progress made in the development of these projects and the co-operation given by the Government of India.

17. In the judgment of the Population Commission, the proposed field survey, while it would constitute a useful beginning, should be regarded as able to cover only one aspect of the study of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors. The Commission therefore recommends :

- (a) That this pilot survey be considered as only the first step in a continuing programme of field surveys designed to obtain data on various aspects of the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors in selected areas of India ;
- (b) That this initial survey be extended as far as possible to include more detailed inquiries on fertility and on the social and economic characteristics of households ;
- (c) That this initial survey be co-ordinated with the Indian National Sample Survey in so far as is possible, but not at the expense of failure to meet the objectives of the basic study on the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors.

18. With reference to the study of existing data on the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors in India as a whole, the Population Commission recommends that the research staff for this work be expanded as soon as feasible to include, in addition to a demographer, experts in economics and in sociology or social anthropology. The Commission believes that this expansion would also be very helpful in assuring the maximum scope and usefulness of analysis of the results obtained from the pilot field survey.

IV. Problems connected with 1950 censuses of population

A. OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

19. The Commission had before it a progress report prepared by the International Labour Organisation (E/CN.3/C.1/15) on occupational classification, and a report by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/60-E/CN.3/C.1/23) on the draft recommendations on this subject prepared by the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas.

20. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States conducting censuses in or around 1950 to :

- (a) The importance of achieving international comparability in occupational statistics ;
- (b) The nine major occupation groups adopted by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians in September 1949,³ with the addition of the armed forces as a tenth major group ;
- (c) The thirty-four sub-groups of occupations developed by the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas. [Revised "Minimum List" of Occupational Sub-groups for Use in the 1950 Census of the Americas (to be published), originally submitted to the Second Inter-American Statistical Congress, Bogotá, January 1950, in Report of Sub-Committee 2, annex No. 1, document 1520a COTA 1/13/50.]

³ See International Labour Office, *Record of the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians*, document G.B. 110/11/15.

21. The Commission further requests the Secretary-General to urge Member States to adopt, as a minimum framework for international comparability, the nine major occupation groups, with the addition of the armed forces as a tenth major group, for censuses taken in or around 1950.

22. The Commission noted with satisfaction the intention of ILO to continue the work of developing a more detailed occupational classification for international use. The Commission, in view of its continuing interest in this problem, requests that a report on progress made be submitted for consideration at its sixth session. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that ILO is using as the basis of the classification of occupations the trade, profession or type of work performed by the individual, irrespective of the branch of economic activity to which he is attached, or of his status (as employer, employee, etc.).

B. CLASSIFICATION BY STATUS (AS EMPLOYER, EMPLOYEE, ETC.)

23. At its fourth session, the Population Commission requested the Secretary-General to circulate to Governments for comment proposals for defining status groups in population censuses.⁴ Having before it the comments received from Governments (E/CN.9/43 and Corr.1), and the observations of the Statistical Commission at its fifth session (E/1696/Rev.1, paras. 40-44),⁵ the Population Commission recommends the following procedures for censuses of population to be taken in or around 1950 :

- (a) The use of the four major status groups as adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in August 1947,⁶ proposed by the Population Commission at its third session in May 1948,⁷ and circulated by the Secretariat at the request of the Population Commission in August 1949 (E/CN.9/C.2/3/Rev.2)—namely, (1) employers, (2) own-account workers, (3) employees, (4) unpaid family workers ;
- (b) The definition of these four major groups as in the Secretariat's document E/CN.9/C.2/3/Rev.2, except that paragraph 25 should read as follows :
"Unpaid family workers. This group should be defined as including persons working without pay, for a specified minimum amount of time or a minimum proportion of a full-time day, week, month, or year (depending on the time reference of the census questions on economic activities) in an economic enterprise operated by any member of the household. Wherever expedient, the minimum adopted should be equal to approxi-

mately one-third of what is considered in each country concerned to be a normal amount of working time during the period to which the questions refer. Although unpaid family workers usually receive room and board, and often receive cash allowances, these should not be considered as pay in their case, since they are not dependent on the work performed. All such persons should be included in the category of unpaid family workers, and only those who receive an actual wage or salary for their work should be classified as "employees".

- (c) Where it proves to be impossible to distinguish between (1) employers, and (2) own-account workers, the consolidation of these groups into a single group of self-employed persons ;
- (d) The obtaining of greater detail in sub-classification of employees, where desired, through cross-tabulation of status by occupation and industry.

The Population Commission also recommends that the Secretariat, in collaboration with ILO and other interested agencies, give further study to the improvement of classification by status in the light of the experience which will have been gained in the current population censuses, and to the problem of classifying the entire population according to status.

C. CO-ORDINATION OF CLASSIFICATIONS BY OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY AND STATUS

24. The Population Commission had before it the proposals submitted in document (E/CN.9/51-E/CN.3/C.1/17, by the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with ILO, for the integration of classifications by occupation, industry, and status, including the preparation of a technical manual for this purpose. The Population Commission concurs in the recommendation of the Statistical Commission (E/1696/Rev.1, para. 45) "that a provisional manual be prepared which would apply to both census and other methods of collecting data on this subject, and that problems of co-ordination between the sorts of data should be considered, so far as this is possible in the time available". The Population Commission further concurs in the recommendation of the Statistical Commission (E/1696/Rev.1, para. 45) "that the coverage of the three classifications should be made co-extensive by adding an item for the armed forces to the occupational classification" as a major group.

D. STANDARD TERMINOLOGY FOR STATISTICS ON THE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

25. The Population Commission, after studying the proposals prepared at its request by the Secretariat in collaboration with ILO (E/CN.9/46-E/CN.3/C.1/16) and noting the concurrence of the Statistical Commission with these proposals, recommends the adoption for international use of the standard terminology in English, French, and Spanish contained in paragraph 18 of the document mentioned above.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 7* (E/1313), section IV, para. 14.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 4*.

⁶ See International Labour Office, *The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Studies and Reports*, New Series, No. 7 (part 4).

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 7* (E/805), annex A.

26. The Population Commission requests the Secretary-General to prepare corresponding terminology and explanatory notes in the other official languages of the United Nations—namely, Chinese and Russian.

27. The Population Commission recommends that the Secretary-General co-operate with the appropriate Member States in the preparation of similar standard terminology in languages other than the five official ones.

28. The Population Commission further recommends that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with ILO and any other interested agencies, extend the preparation of standard terminology to include the four major status groups—namely, employers, own-account workers, employees, and unpaid family workers.

E. TABULATION OF DATA ON URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION IN POPULATION CENSUSES

29. The Population Commission, at its fourth session, requested the Secretary-General to continue collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other interested agencies in order to develop suitable standards for defining urban and rural population (E/1313, para. 18). The Commission at this session studied the suggestion of FAO in regard to the tabulation of data on urban-rural population in population censuses (E/CN.9/56-E/CN.3/101). The Food and Agriculture Organization proposed, in effect, a modification of paragraph 49 of annex II of the report of the fourth session of the Population Commission (E/1313), suggesting that cross-tabulations of population of the type usually shown for urban-rural populations be expanded from agglomerations or clusters of population above and below 10,000, as proposed in paragraph 49, to three classes of population agglomerations, as follows :

Under 2,000
2,000 to 10,000
10,000 and over

30. Having in mind that the Commission has already proposed certain tabulations by size of agglomeration or cluster, including separate tabulations of population not in identifiable agglomerations or clusters, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General, in the interests of international comparability, to communicate to Governments the following proposals for use in population censuses taken in or around 1950, as a substitute for paragraph 49 of Annex II of the report of the fourth session of the Population Commission :

- (a) That population censuses include summary tabulations of the population classified as a minimum by sex and age (under 5, 10-year groups from 5 to 64 years, and 65 and over⁸) for agglomerations

⁸ Attention is called to the fact that the World Health Organization Regulations, No. 1, article 6, calls for the classification of mortality data for certain urban-rural aggregates by sex and by age in the following groups as a minimum : under 1 year ; 1-4 years ; 5-14 years ; 15-24 years ; 25-44 years ; 45-64 years ; 75-74 years ; 75 years and over. If population tabulations by age are to be used in conjunction with these mortality tabulations, the age group 65 and over in the former should be divided into 65-74 years and 75 years and over.

or clusters of population living in built-up contiguous areas which, according to the definition adopted in each country, are considered as single localities or population centres. These summary tabulations would be made for such population agglomerations grouped by size, as follows :

Under 2,000, together with the population not in identifiable agglomerations or clusters

2,000 and under 10,000

10,000 and over ;

- (b) That the categories presented in such tabulations not be termed "urban" or "rural" for purposes of international comparability ;
- (c) That the Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and other interested agencies, continue to study the problems of achieving a standard definition of urban and rural population for international use.

F. POPULATION CENSUS METHODS

31. The Commission was pleased to note the publication of the report *Population Census Methods* (ST/SOA/ Series A, No. 4)⁹ prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with specialized agencies. The Commission is of the opinion that this report will be of substantial value to Governments planning censuses of population.

V. Migration

A. IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS

32. The Population Commission considered the reports prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/47-E/CN.3/90 and Add.1) on the observations made by the Statistical Commission at its fourth session,¹⁰ by various Governments and by international agencies on the Draft Recommendations for the Improvement of Migration Statistics prepared by the Population Commission at its last session (E/1313, annex 3).

33. The Commission wishes to emphasize the view expressed at its last session (E/1313, annex 3, paragraph 11) that considerable improvement of migration statistics could be achieved without complicating further the formalities attendant upon the crossing of frontiers. The Commission is of the opinion that this improvement could be achieved even where frontier formalities are substantially simplified in accordance with resolution 147G (VII) of the Economic and Social Council, especially if, in each country, the various authorities concerned in frontier controls would co-ordinate their operations with a view to facilitating the collection and analysis of the appropriate statistical data. The use of sampling

⁹ United Nations publications, sales No. : 1949.XIII.4.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 6.*

methods may further prove helpful to reconcile simplified frontier controls with good quality of migration statistics.

34. The Population Commission considered the observations of the Statistical Commission at its fifth session (E/1696/Rev.1, para. 104-105) on the memorandum relating to future work for the improvement of migration statistics, prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/48-E/CN.3/91). Generally endorsing the suggestions presented in this memorandum, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General, in continuing collaboration with ILO :

- (a) To call upon those Governments which have not yet submitted comments to do so at their early convenience ;
- (b) To explore with the Governments concerned the minor reservations and suggestions arising out of terminological and legal differences with a view to improving the acceptability of the draft recommendations ;
- (c) To conduct a close analysis of the underlying difficulties of those countries which have made fundamental reservations, with a view to ascertaining the extent to which their problems can be met by adjusting the draft recommendations, bearing in mind the possibility of a step-by-step approach and of regional arrangements ;
- (d) To examine the possibility of giving more precise definitions of the categories refugees and transferred populations in the nomenclature of arrivals and departures ;
- (e) To examine the possibility of achieving a closer correspondence between the various major categories of arrivals and the major categories of departures ;
- (f) To examine the possibility of using sampling methods to obtain migration statistics and ascertain the views of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling on this subject ;
- (g) To report to the Population Commission and to the Statistical Commission at their next sessions on the progress made under heads (a) to (f), particularly on the extent to which it will be possible to implement the draft recommendations, with any appropriate modifications, and on the extent and timing of the progress anticipated in areas where immediate implementation is not considered practicable.

35. The Population Commission considered also the reports presented by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/49-E/CN.3/92, para. 9 (e) ; E/CN.9/44-E/CN.3/88, paras. 23-25) on the implementation of the other recommendations made by the Commission at its last session in connexion with the improvement of migration statistics. The Commission notes with satisfaction the progress accomplished as a result of the close collaboration between the Secretariat and ILO.

B. STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

36. The Population Commission, recalling the mandate given by the Economic and Social Council to the Population Commission with reference to migration studies and research [resolution 156 A (VII)] took note with satisfaction of the report prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/59) on research and studies on migration undertaken at the international level, in particular on the implementation by the United Nations and its specialized agencies of the programme of work on special problems relative to migration recommended by the Commission at its third session (E/805, paras. 11-13). The Commission expresses the wish that a further report on progress be presented at the next session.

37. Having in view the recommendations of the Preliminary Migration Conference at Geneva in April-May 1950¹¹ and the relevance to the Commission's work of the problems discussed at that conference, in particular with regard to the order in which the various studies of migration will be undertaken, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the interested specialized agencies and other bodies :

- (a) To prepare a summary statement of inter-war and recent migratory movements affecting various parts of Europe ;
- (b) To analyse emigration potentials in these areas ;
- (c) To analyse the possible contribution of migration from European countries to economically underdeveloped countries towards the economic and social advancement of countries of origin and destination ;
- (d) To begin these studies with countries for which adequate data are or will be made available and utilize them as a basis for extending research to other areas of actual or potential emigration and immigration.

VI. Demographic Yearbook

38. The Population Commission notes with satisfaction the appearance of the first issue of the *Demographic Yearbook* and commends the Secretariat for its excellent work in initiating this annual publication. Having considered the documentation dealing with future issues of the *Yearbook* (E/CN.9/49-E/CN.3/92), the Commission concurs in the proposals made by the Secretariat for planning of future issues, and recommends, in addition, that in this connexion the Secretariat give more adequate indications of the technical limitations of the data published in the *Yearbook* either by the use of footnotes or in other ways.

39. The Commission further recommends that the Secretariat :

- (a) Use and develop objective methods for appraising the validity of demographic data ;

¹¹ See International Labour Office, *Report of the Preliminary Migration Conference*, document G.B.112/J.M.P.C./D.2.

- (b) Prepare and make available to Member States plans to improve their demographic data ;
- (c) Consider the possibility and desirability of establishing minimum standards for the inclusion of data in future issues of the *Yearbook* ;
- (d) Consider the possibility of preparing a publication to fill existing gaps in the international compilations of time series of demographic statistics.

40. The Commission requests that a report of progress on these items be presented at its sixth session.

41. The Commission, having noted the plans of ILO to collect and publish statistics relating to the demographic characteristics of the unemployed, and noting the action of the Statistical Commission (E/1696/Rev.1, para 91), agrees that data on the demographic characteristics of the unemployed need not necessarily be published in the *Demographic Yearbook*. As long as such data are made generally available, it believes that the Secretariat should use its discretion in the publication of these materials so as to avoid unnecessary duplication among the various publications of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

42. The Population Commission, having studied the documentation on international statistics of occupational diseases (E/CN.9/45-E/CN.3/93), notes with satisfaction the plans of ILO to collect such data and concurs in the recommendation of the Statistical Commission (E/1696/Rev.1, para.92) "... that when sufficient data of good quality were available, they should be published". The Population Commission recommends that the place of publication of such data be left to the discretion of the Secretariat, for the reason stated in the preceding paragraph.

VII. Research on demographic aspects of employment and unemployment

43. The Commission, having studied the document "Demographic Aspects of Employment, Unemployment, and Labour Supply" (E/CN.9/57-E/CN.3/104), requests the Secretariat to continue its work, in consultation with ILO, of reviewing and evaluating the available statistics on this subject with the object of developing tables (in accordance with paragraphs 22 to 25 inclusive of the above document showing :

- (a) Age and sex classifications of the economically active population ;
- (b) The number of women in the economically active population by marital status and age, and
- (c) Cross classifications of industry and status by sex and age.

44. In view of the fact that studies of the availability of data in this field are now under way and that it can be expected that much of the basic data required will not be available until the results of the population censuses being taken in or around 1950 are available,

it is considered desirable to postpone until a future session final recommendations on the exact nature of the data to be published. These considerations apply also to the possibilities of preparing current and future estimates of the economically active population.

VIII. Vital statistics methods

45. The Population Commission notes with satisfaction the progress report by the Secretariat on the study of vital statistics methods (E/CN.9/54-E/CN.3/95).

46. Having before it the actions of the Statistical Commission at its fifth session (E/1696/Rev.1, para 88), the Population Commission endorses the proposal to supplement the basic studies now under way through the preparation of a handbook of vital statistics methods and the preparation of draft recommendations by the Secretariat in co-operation with WHO and other interested agencies and technical experts, for the improvement and standardization of vital statistics. The implementation of these recommendations of the Statistical Commission would improve mortality, fertility and other population data necessary for the study of basic demographic problems and the interrelationships of demographic, economic and social factors.

47. The Population Commission notes with satisfaction the provisions for the collection of vital statistics in health demonstration areas (E/CN.9/53), and urges continued collaboration between the World Health Organization and the Secretariat on these projects so as to maximize their contribution to the programme of improving vital statistics methods and the quality of the data.

48. The Population Commission notes the establishment of national committees on vital and health statistics (WHO document A3/83) and awaits with interest their contribution to the improvement of international comparability of statistics in this field.

IX. Other items

(a) RECENT TRENDS IN THE BIRTH RATE

49. At its fourth session the Commission recommended that the Secretariat, as a first step, examine the statistics for those countries in which the birth rate has risen in recent years, with a view to determining whether or not this rise represents an actual change in fertility levels and trends (E/1313, section IX). The Secretariat reported that the shortage of staff and the order of priorities established by the Commission had precluded further work on this subject up to the present time. Several members of the Commission expressed the opinion that the urgency and practical relevance of the problem made it desirable to proceed more rapidly with this programme of study. The Commission therefore requests the Secretary-General to obtain as far as possible the assistance of private organizations and individuals in preparing studies in this field in order that a substantive report may be made available at the next session of the Commission.

(b) DEMOGRAPHIC DICTIONARY

50. At its fourth session, the Commission drew up a specific plan for the preparation of a demographic dictionary (E/1313, annex I). Owing to limitations of staff and to the order of priorities established by the Commission, the Secretariat has been unable so far to implement this plan. The Commission noted the offer of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population as incorporated in a resolution of the meeting of that Union in Geneva, 27 August-3 September 1949, to assist in the preparation of the demographic dictionary. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to make such arrangements with the Union as may most effectively expedite the work and to report to the Commission at its next session on the progress achieved.

X. Future work (including priorities)

51. The Population Commission realizes that the implementation of the recommendations made at this session will involve a substantial amount of work on the part of the Secretariat, in addition to the continuing work on projects previously recommended by the Commission and by the Economic and Social Council.

Nevertheless, the Commission believes that it is important to press forward with the new work which it has recommended, giving priority to those items which are most closely related to the current operational programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Among the latter items are the studies of the inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors; the work on demographic aspects of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed countries; and the studies of emigration from European countries. High priority should be given also to the study of the recent recovery of the birth rate in some countries. In the opinion of the Commission, work on these items should proceed as rapidly as possible, even if additional costs are involved. At the same time, the Commission believes that work in process on continuing projects undertaken in accordance with its earlier recommendations should proceed without interruption.

XI. Time and place of next session

52. The Commission, having in mind the work programme of the Secretariat, recommends that the sixth session be held not prior to 1 May 1951, preferably in Geneva.

ANNEX

Demographic aspects of technical assistance for economic development of under-developed areas

A. THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

1. The General Assembly at its third session in 1948 appropriated funds for a programme of technical assistance to be rendered by the United Nations to Member States for the economic development of under-developed areas¹². At its fourth session in 1949 the General Assembly authorized a greatly expanded programme in this field and recommended that the Economic and Social Council stimulate its commissions to give urgent attention to the problems of economic development of under-developed countries, including social questions which directly condition economic development¹³. In a resolution 268 B (X) of 2 March 1950 the Economic and Social Council stated that it "looks forward to receiving from its appropriate commissions specific recommendations concerning further national and international action to promote the economic development of under-developed countries".

2. The Population Commission, having regard to the views of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, wishes to emphasize the importance of taking demographic factors into account in considering the development of under-developed countries, and of providing, for the countries concerned, technical assistance in the demographic field.

¹² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I, Resolutions*, No. 200 (III).

¹³ *Ibid.*, *Fourth Session, Resolutions*, Nos. 304 (IV) and 306 (IV).

3. Demographic considerations are of direct practical relevance to many aspects of economic development. They are involved in the working out of the objectives of the programmes. Development programmes aim at building an economy which can more fully meet the needs of the people, and the specific needs depend not only upon the size of the population, but also upon its composition and geographical distribution. Further, it is not enough to consider only the population at the particular point of time at which the programme is prepared; as far as possible, probable future changes in that population must be taken into account in order that suitable provision for those changes may be made in the plans for economic development. It is, in addition, important to take into account population changes which may result from the implementation of the development plans. Such population changes form part of the problem of developing and applying productive resources to meet the needs of the people. One of the primary resources is labour supply, and the volume and the characteristics of that labour supply depend mainly upon the size, composition and distribution of the population.

4. Many under-developed countries are characterized by an unfavourable demographic situation, reflected in high mortality (especially high infant mortality), and some of the countries concerned are experiencing serious agrarian over-population. The study of demographic conditions in the various parts of the world at the present time and the history of demographic developments in

countries which are now highly industrialized show that substantial improvements can be obtained, primarily by raising general standards of living, by improving health and medical conditions, and by a rapid development of production (and more particularly of the production of capital goods) in the under-developed countries.

5. Further, in most under-developed countries, economic development will probably be accompanied, at least for a time, by a rapid increase in the size of the population. This will occur because of the reduction of mortality which, in most cases, will probably not immediately be balanced by a corresponding fall in fertility. Successful economic planning will depend upon ensuring that production increases more rapidly than population, and it is thus of the greatest importance that probable population growth be taken into account.

B. TYPES OF PROBLEM

6. In this connexion, it is appropriate to give in more concrete form some examples of the points at which, and the ways in which, technical assistance in demographic matters may be of help to under-developed countries.

Survey of the demographic situation, as part of a general survey of economic and social conditions affecting development plans

7. To provide an adequate basis for plans for large-scale economic development, the Governments of under-developed countries will no doubt wish to undertake general surveys of relevant economic and social circumstances. In any such survey, the study of the demographic situation and of its relation to the problems of economic development would constitute an essential element.

Specific analytical studies

8. In addition to the demographic sections of any general surveys which may be undertaken, under-developed countries might profit considerably from studies of specific relationships between population trends and problems of economic development. These studies would, for example, have as their objectives :

- (a) To ascertain how birth rates, death rates and rates of population growth are influenced by economic and social conditions, such as marriage customs, family organization, urban and rural structure and trends, religion, occupational characteristics, education and sanitary conditions, and social structure and levels of living of the people ;
- (b) To examine how migration to and from the country, and migration within the country, are likely to affect the growth, composition and geographical distribution of the population, the occupational and age structure of the labour force, and the development of social institutions and attitudes ; and to consider the extent to which migration might help to improve the balance between population and resources in the country as a whole and in its component parts ;

- (c) To construct estimates on various bases of the future changes in the size, composition and geographical distribution of the population—estimates, for example, which assume the continuance of existing conditions and others which attempt to take into account the effects on demographic trends of contemplated economic and social measures. Such computations would help to provide the statistical bases of development plans ;
- (d) To ascertain the probable influence of prospective population changes upon the labour supply, the utilization of land and other natural resources, the formation of capital, the patterns of consumption, the volume of production and the level of living.

Improvement of demographic statistics

9. Under-developed countries are seriously handicapped in the study of the above question by the lack of adequate demographic statistics. Technical assistance might play a powerful role here in helping to improve the existing statistical system or organization, or to establish an appropriate system where none exists. Steps in this direction are of the greatest importance, for without an adequate statistical basis the effectiveness of the studies indicated in paragraph 8 above would be seriously reduced. Adequate statistics are also indispensable if the demographic effects of actual economic development are to be observed. In this connexion, complete or sample censuses might be undertaken and appropriate measures introduced to provide comprehensive and reliable vital statistics and migration statistics or to improve existing statistics on these subjects. Specific sample field surveys would also offer a valuable means of obtaining, at relatively small cost and in a short time, useful population and vital statistics. Over a longer period, such surveys would also be particularly useful in providing information on the population changes which may result from various types of economic development measures.

Formulation of legislative and administrative measures

10. Legislative and administrative measures in many fields (including public health, education, social welfare services, social security, housing, aids to the family, marriage and divorce, status of women, immigration, emigration, settlement and so on) may have an important influence upon populations. Technical assistance would be valuable here in estimating the probable influence of such legislative and administrative action and, in addition, in helping to ascertain the types of action most likely to achieve the objectives of the development programmes of the various under-developed countries.

C. FORMS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

11. Requests for technical assistance on the questions outlined may be met in various ways. The dissemination of existing knowledge is one means, and could be achieved at relatively small cost. The studies by the United Nations on census methods and on vital statistics systems and methodology would be of particular use in this

connexion. So too, when it is completed, will be the Secretary-General's survey of the literature concerning the interrelationship of demographic, economic and social factors. The proposed pilot survey of a specific case of these interrelationships (in India) is also likely to provide valuable methodological guidance, as well as useful substantive results.

12. In many cases, more direct assistance may be desirable. When a general economic and social survey of an under-developed country is indicated, the provision of a team of experts in various fields, including demographic experts, may provide the best solution. A team of experts may also be necessary to initiate field surveys, or to organize censuses or the collection of vital statistics. The services of individual experts may also be of considerable value here.

13. The usefulness of such technical assistance in the demographic field will be greater if the experts concerned collaborate with local technicians so as to build up, within the under-developed countries, groups of individuals who can subsequently take over the work. In fact, one of the most valuable forms of technical assistance in this field is the training of personnel to deal with the kinds of question discussed above. Training may be given in various ways—for example, by providing scholarships or fellowships, by exchanging personnel between countries and by organizing seminars, training centres and the like.

14. In view of the limited personnel available to provide technical assistance in the demographic field, due regard should be given to the co-ordination of United Nations technical assistance activities and bilateral arrangements.