



# Administrative Committee on Coordination

2 December 1998

English only

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## Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions

### Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections on its twentieth session

(New York, 23–25 June 1998)

#### I. Introduction

1. The twentieth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections was held at United Nations Headquarters from 23 to 25 June 1998. The discussion focused on the continuing collaboration in demographic and sectoral estimates and projections in the United Nations system. The issues that were discussed and the points that were agreed upon are presented below. The agenda of the meeting, the list of participants, the list of background documents and the provisional agenda for the twentieth session are contained in annexes I to IV to the present report.

2. The Director of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat expressed the Organization's pleasure at hosting the meeting. He emphasized the importance of the continuing efforts to prepare global and sectoral estimates, and to coordinate that activity in the face of limited and shrinking resources. The Economic and Social Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of population research activities, including the preparation of population projections. The newly formed Department of Economic and Social Affairs and, more particularly, the Population Division itself attached the utmost importance to that work and would continue to do so. He emphasized the critical importance of preparing and disseminating a comprehensive, consistent and internationally comparable set of estimates and projections that was being used throughout the United Nations system.

#### II. Matters brought to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

3. The attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) is drawn to the actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee (paras. 8–12), its substantive discussion (paras. 13–86) and the timing and venue of its twenty-first session (para. 91).

4. The matters set out below are particularly brought to the attention of ACC.

5. The Subcommittee decided to recommend to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) that Mr. Jerrold Huguet (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) be appointed Chairman for a two-year period, until June 2000, and that the appointment of Mr. Joseph-Alfred Grinblat (United Nations) be renewed as Secretary of the Subcommittee.

6. The Subcommittee agreed that it was essential to continue inter-agency coordination in the field of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections in order to strengthen the United Nations system database, maintain consistency in their coverage and timing and ensure homogeneity in the presentation of results. The Subcommittee

underscored the importance of this unique set of coordinated and consistent demographic and sectoral estimates and projections.

7. The Subcommittee agreed on a provisional agenda for its twenty-first session (see annex IV) and recommended that the session be convened at the headquarters of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at Geneva in June 2000.

### III. Work of the Subcommittee

#### A. Actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee

8. The most important actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee at its twentieth session are summarized in paragraphs 9 to 12 below.

9. The Subcommittee successfully arranged a schedule for coordination and dissemination of the 1998 rounds of consistent demographic and sectoral estimates and projections, undertaken by the Population Division in cooperation with the regional commissions (for demographic estimates and projections), ILO (for labour force estimates and projections), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (for agriculture population estimates and projections), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (for estimates and projections on literacy and educational enrolment) and the World Health Organization (WHO) (for mortality parameters for demographic estimates and projections).

10. The Subcommittee discussed arrangements for coordination of the 2000 rounds of estimates and projections, according to the plans of the Population Division, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO.

11. The Subcommittee once again regretted the absence of some members, particularly the regional commissions. The Subcommittee recommended that the heads of the relevant members should be informed that their input into the system-wide coordination of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections was valuable, and that in their absence, the work of the Subcommittee was seriously hampered.

12. Following the guidelines provided by ACC, the Subcommittee considered the formal application by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for admittance as an observer to the Subcommittee.

After a round of comments and observations, OECD was admitted as an observer.

### B. Summary of discussion

#### 1. Recent activities and plans

##### Population Division

13. The Subcommittee was informed by the representative of the Population Division that, since the nineteenth session of the Subcommittee, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had completed and published the 1996 revisions of its biennial series of global population and urban/rural and city population estimates and projections.

14. The global population estimates and projections were issued in two publications: *World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision*, which was issued as a working paper in January 1998 (the final publication is being printed), and *The Sex and Age Distribution of the World Populations: The 1996 Revision*, issued in November 1997. Selected data from those publications had been prepared in a wall chart, *World Population 1996*, issued in December 1996. As in previous revisions, the data had been made available earlier on magnetic tape and on microcomputer diskette for IBM-compatible computers, and advance copies of the computer printouts from the 1996 revision had been sent to all members of the Subcommittee.

15. The 1996 revision was characterized by a number of improvements and innovations. The horizon for the projections was kept at the year 2050, but the new base date, from which different variants start, is 1995. The number of countries for which the demographic impact of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) had been explicitly incorporated was increased from 16 in the previous revision to 28 in the 1996 revision, namely, all countries that had a population of at least 1 million and had reached the adult human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) seroprevalence of 2 per cent in 1994, plus India and Brazil.

16. In addition to the Division's regular projections to the year 2050, a new set of long-range projections, to the year 2150, was prepared, extending the horizon of the 1996 revision by an extra 100 years. Those projections updated the preceding long-range projections, based on the 1990 revision and published in 1992. The main results were issued on 1 February 1998 in the "Executive summary of world population projections to 2150", and the detailed results were issued in a working paper in May 1998. The final report would be available during the summer of 1998.

17. The 1996 revision of the estimates and projections of urban and rural populations, including large urban agglomerations and capital cities, was also published during the biennium. In August 1997, the Population Division published the wall chart *Urban Agglomerations 1996*, which provided population estimates, projections and certain other indicators for all agglomerations of 1 million or more people in 1996. The wall chart *Urban and Rural Areas 1996* was issued in October 1997. The complete results were issued in December 1997 in a working paper entitled "World urbanization prospects: the 1996 revision" (the final publication would be available in the summer of 1998). The results of the 1996 revision were also made available on diskette. The major change was an extension of the projection horizon for urban and rural populations, to the year 2030, instead of the year 2025 as was done previously.

18. The Subcommittee was also informed that work on the 1998 revision had been initiated in 1997 and revision of all individual countries has been completed. The results of the national population estimates and projections would be announced in the autumn of 1998, and become available before the end of 1998, in the form of an executive summary, annex tables and databases on diskettes. As usual, the detailed report would come out later. The Population Division was incorporating a major innovation by extending the upper limit for which detailed results were presented by age from age 80 to age 100. For that purpose, the Population Division organized a workshop on projecting old-age mortality and its consequences, in December 1996. The Population Division was also modifying its assumptions for the future course of fertility for countries whose total fertility rate was below replacement level. Partly in order to discuss those changes, the Population Division organized an expert group meeting on below-replacement fertility in November 1997.

19. It was also reported that work had already started for the 1998 revision of urban, rural and city population estimates and projections. The estimates and projections would be made available in early 1999 in the form of two wall charts, *Urban Agglomerations 1998* and *Urban and Rural Areas 1998*, in annex tables and on diskette. The report entitled *World Urbanization Prospects* would be available later in 1999.

20. The Population Division would start working on the 2000 revision in early 1999. The results should become available by the end of 2000.

21. The participants congratulated the Population Division on its work on extending the population estimates and projections to age 100. In particular, it was noted with satisfaction that the methodologies, data requirements and

results used by the Population Division and WHO in a similar endeavour were coherent and complementary.

22. The participants discussed the issue of AIDS-related under-five mortality. In that respect it was noted that the improving reliability of HIV prevalence estimates produced by the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) would lead towards greater precision. The representative of WHO also observed that, whereas UNAIDS had principal responsibility in the United Nations system for collection and validation of data on HIV/AIDS, in that process it consulted with the WHO Divisions for AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Emerging Diseases and Health Situation Assessment.

23. Inquiries were made regarding plans to include different projection variants regarding mortality and migration. The representative of the Population Division stated that the variants regarding all the demographic components were regularly reviewed.

#### **Regional commissions and other Secretariat offices**

24. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) reported that, effective January 1997, a new Food Security and Sustainable Development Division had been constituted to assist ECA member States in planning a critical programme for sensitizing their policy makers to the urgency of food (i.e., agriculture), population and environmental concerns and offering feasible solutions based on best practices within Africa and around the world.

25. Towards operationalizing such assistance, the representative added that the initial focus of the Division was to determine the nature of the interlinkages between the three core areas of food security, population and environment, and that such knowledge would be used in developing a powerful computer simulation model for the management of the linkages between population (P), environment (E), development (D) and agriculture (A), or PEDDA. The model was intended for use initially as an advocacy tool, and ultimately to enable ECA member States to estimate the proportion of their population that was food insecure.

26. In relation to the work of the Subcommittee, the representative of ECA noted that, although the estimates and projections prepared under its auspices adjusted for the HIV/AIDS pandemic and, to some extent, international migration and refugees, the model being used needed to be modified to capture (in a holistic manner), the effects of such other factors as environment, globalization and structural adjustment programmes.

27. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reported that four projections were revised during the biennium, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in the light of data from new population censuses (Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Uruguay). Furthermore, minor adjustments were made in Brazil and Costa Rica, in the light of information from other sources or in order to achieve greater consistency of hypotheses. Brazil and Mexico carried out population counts in the mid-1990s using abridged questionnaires, which enabled the Commission to ascertain that there were no major changes in available estimates.

28. The *Demographic Bulletin* would continue to be published twice a year, and would be devoted mainly to the results of those projections. In 1998, the *Demographic Bulletin* would celebrate its thirtieth anniversary and, to mark the occasion, changes were being made mainly in the presentation and dissemination of information. Changes were also envisaged in the method of distribution of information, which would include the use of available electronic means, in particular the ECLAC Web site and diskettes.

29. The following special activities would be conducted in response to concerns raised during the preparation of national population estimates and projections for the past biennium: (a) evaluation of levels and trends of elderly population estimates and mortality at older ages; age misreporting led to overestimation of the elderly and underestimation of old-age mortality. Consideration was therefore being given to conducting a study during the biennium 1998–1999 on standards and procedures used to evaluate and connect age-related data. That would entail a review of existing bibliography and an evaluation of current information on Latin American countries in order to ensure consistency of data in the census reconciliation exercise; (b) studies on trends in the distribution of age fertility rates.

30. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported that it had assisted the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat in the preparation of the biennial estimates and projections of the population of Asian and Pacific countries by providing relevant data and information and by reviewing preliminary versions of the country projections. While not implementing any projects specifically on population projections, ESCAP assisted member Governments in such matters through technical assistance and training and the dissemination of information in a newsletter, a quarterly journal and non-recurrent technical publications.

31. The Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat reported that, in preparation for the 2000 census decade, a

revision of *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* has been issued. In addition to strengthening countries' capabilities to implement census activities, the Statistics Division, as part of its continuing work on census methods, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was developing a series of handbooks on the issue. The Division was also working towards strengthening the capacity of the national census offices in applying new developments and technologies in census operations and towards improving the efficiency of producing population and housing census statistics in a timely fashion through training programmes.

32. According to recent information regarding planned population censuses, 185 countries were planning to conduct a population and/or housing census during the 2000 round census decade. The Statistics Division was providing technical assistance to countries in preparing for, conducting, processing and disseminating population censuses for the countries most in need. Recently, the Division provided assistance to the censuses of a number of countries, in particular countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

33. The Statistics Division was undertaking the review and revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* to incorporate the latest developments in concepts, definitions, classifications, coding systems and new available technology for storage, retrieval and data processing of vital records and statistics, which was expected to be available by the end of 1999. In addition, a series entitled *Handbooks on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems* has been prepared.

34. *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration: Revision I* was prepared in collaboration with the Population Division, adopted by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-ninth session, in 1997, and is currently in press.

#### Specialized agencies

35. The representative of ILO reported that the fourth round of the ILO programme on global estimates and projections of the economically active population was completed in December 1996. It provided estimates and projections of activity rates by sex and five-year age groups (from 10 to 64 and 65 and above) for the period 1950 to 2010 at 10-year intervals, plus 1995, and estimates of the distribution of the labour force by sex and major sectors of economic activity, i.e., agriculture, industry and services, for the period 1950 to 1990. Separate figures were also presented for manufacturing for the years 1980 and 1990. Data on labour force were based on the results of the 1996 revision of population data of the

Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The data cover all countries and territories of the world that had 200,000 inhabitants or more in 1990 (178 countries and territories), plus their aggregation into regions, major areas and the world, for a total of 207 geographical units.

36. Further to the discussion undertaken during the previous meeting of the Subcommittee, ILO had made ad hoc adjustments in order to include women's specific contribution to economic activity also for the years 1950, 1960 and 1970 in the countries where statistics ignored their contribution. Prior to the meeting, the adjustments were made only for 1980 and 1990. The results were made available in a set of diskettes in ASCII format and in a set of five working papers. Selected data had been analysed and published in the newsletter of the Bureau of Statistics for November 1997.

37. ILO intended to revise its estimates and projections of the economically active population by applying the 1998 revision of population data of the Population Division to labour force participation rates derived in its latest edition of the estimates and projections of the economically active population. A major development planned in connection with the next edition of estimates and projections for the economically active population was the integration of two related activities: (a) Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM), a new project launched by the ILO Department of Employment and Training, with the collaboration of the ILO Bureau of Statistics. Three of the 18 KILM indicators would be population, labour force participation rate and inactivity rate; (b) world and regional estimates of employment and unemployment.

38. The representative of FAO stated that FAO was not only a producer of sectoral demographic estimates and projections relating to agriculture but was also a major user of the population and labour force estimates and projections prepared by the United Nations and ILO respectively. The population and labour force estimates were used in preparing various indicators, e.g., per capita agriculture production, per capita food supply, man/land ratio, output/worker ratio, etc., as well as estimates of the number of people undernourished. The projections of the total population were used in preparing projections of food demand. Projections of the total labour force and its agricultural/non-agricultural breakdowns were used in determining the prospects of labour supply to the agricultural sector. Most of the derived indicators were published in the FAO statistical yearbooks, other reports pertaining to the food and agricultural statistics and on the Internet.

39. FAO had recently completed its estimates and projections of the agricultural population and labour force

corresponding to the United Nations 1996 revision of population estimates and projections. They were based on the ILO recent revision of the benchmark estimates of the sectoral distribution of the labour force for 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990 and the projections of the total labour force up to 2010.

40. As to future plans, the representative of FAO referred to the study entitled "Agriculture: towards 2030", which required an extension of the labour force projections up to the year 2030. In that connection, FAO planned to seek the collaboration of ILO in devising a suitable methodology for extending the currently available projections for the specific purpose of the FAO study.

41. UNESCO was unable to send a representative to the twentieth session; however, it had prepared a statement on its recent activities and plans, which was noted by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee was informed that, during the programme biennium for 1998–1999, the Division of Statistics of UNESCO planned to update both the literacy and the enrolment estimates and projections, using the results of the 1998 revision of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The updated results would be used in the end-of-decade assessment of Education for All, as well as in support of other worldwide monitoring exercises and indicator systems. The work would be carried out in two stages: (a) preliminary assessment in 1998 using the 1996 population estimates and projections; and (b) definitive literacy assessment using the 1998 population results.

42. It was expected that, in autumn 1998, a first set of updated literacy estimates and projections would be ready for release. To the extent possible, UNESCO would like to use the 1998 population estimates and projections at that time for deriving the estimated literate and illiterate population by gender and age groups. If that was not possible, those early estimates would be calculated using the 1996 population assessment results. Once the 1998 population estimates and projections became available, the corresponding literacy estimates would be recalculated. A new edition of the "Compendium of statistics on illiteracy", containing detailed analyses of trends, patterns and perspectives with regard to the eradication of illiteracy in the world, would be prepared and disseminated during the first half of 1999.

43. UNESCO also intended to update its enrolment projections, by the summer of 1999, using the 1998 United Nations population estimates and projections. The methodology would be the same as in the past; it depended heavily on enrolment data by age and gender. In that regard, UNESCO was actively encouraging countries to ensure the availability of such data, which was linked to its drive to

disseminate reliable, policy-relevant and timely indicators in the field of education. An analytical report would be issued in the autumn of 1999 to gauge the extent to which the goals in that area, elaborated at several international conferences, had been achieved and to determine those countries where increased efforts would be needed to attain universal basic education. The results would also be disseminated through the Internet.

44. The representative of WHO reported that, since the previous meeting, WHO had completed the third evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy of Health for All, conducted in 1997, based on returns from member States. Four demographic indicators were included: population growth rate, total fertility rate, crude birth rate and crude death rate. WHO also produced the fourth edition of *Demographic Data for Health Situation Assessment and Projections*, a compendium of essential health-related demographic data prepared for use by WHO technical programmes that was issued in June 1998 and that was based on the Population Division's 1996 revision of estimates and projections. The document was designed to encourage reliance on a single base of demographic estimates and projections in all WHO work.

45. The strategy to broaden the geographic scope of WHO mortality data has produced a substantial increase in the submission by member States of cause-of-death data that were compiled from non-standard sources. Accordingly, statistical information on deaths by cause for 21 countries appeared in the *1996 World Health Statistics Annual* (expected publication date: 10 July 1998) and 10 further data sets would appear in the *1997 World Health Statistics Annual*, to be issued in the last quarter of 1998. WHO expected to continue to publish incoming non-standard data yearly in the *World Health Statistics Annual*.

46. The representative of WHO reported briefly on new methodology to derive life expectancy measures that had reduced discrepancies with national estimates, and allowed for publication of standard errors. WHO also reported on the various innovations introduced to accommodate the transition from the ninth to the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases for the reporting and dissemination of causes of death.

47. With respect to future plans, the representative of WHO pointed out that substantial efforts in the next two years would focus on possibilities for electronic storage, retrieval and delivery of WHO mortality data by such means as the Internet.

48. In the absence of a representative from the Pan American Health Organization/WHO Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO/AMRO), the representative of WHO drew

the Subcommittee's attention to the most recent editions of two important PAHO/AMRO publications that relied on demographic estimates: *Health Statistics from the Americas* and *Health Conditions in the Americas*. It was also noted that substantial efforts by PAHO/AMRO to improve the quality of coverage and reporting of deaths in vital registration systems had been largely successful in the American region.

49. The representative of the World Bank reported that the units responsible for the clearance and dissemination of population statistics at the World Bank were located in the Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP) Group of the Human Development Network, and the Development Data Group of the Development Economics Vice Presidency.

50. The World Bank had several internal uses for population estimates and projections. Updates of current total population estimates were required for operational purposes several times a year. They were used to calculate per capita gross national product, on which interest rates and other terms for lending operations for each country were based. Updated per capita figures for a large number of other indicators were published annually in the Bank's *World Development Indicators*.

51. Cooperation between the Population Division and the Bank provides for an important interchange. The Bank uses the data from the United Nations revisions when accepted by World Bank country officers. Continuous updating of its database allowed the Bank to incorporate the latest findings from censuses and fertility surveys. Transparency, in base sources and data adjustments, as well as in assumptions for future fertility and mortality patterns, were critical for the Bank's operational uses of demographic data.

52. During the past year, the Bank hosted two meetings in which demographic estimates were of central importance. In July 1997, the Bank's Economic Development Institute organized a symposium on the role of demographic change in macroeconomic development. In January 1998, the Bank, in collaboration with UNAIDS, organized a three-day workshop on the effects of AIDS on mortality, fertility and population growth.

53. In addition to maintaining up-to-date demographic profiles for all countries, work in the past year has focused on developing estimates of adult mortality rates and on child mortality rates by gender. Also, an analysis of population growth was conducted to break down future growth into demographic momentum growth, mortality reduction and growth resulting from above-replacement fertility. Future plans included a tabulation of fertility and mortality estimates by wealth quintiles, using existing demographic and health surveys.

54. The participants engaged in a discussion on the periodicity of estimates and projections and the definitions of certain key concepts, such as literacy and population (de facto versus *de jure*). The importance of a unified and consistent data set within the United Nations system was again stressed.

55. It was suggested that two papers be prepared. The first, to be prepared by the World Bank, would be on the impact on key indicators of data that either become available between revisions or pertain to different definitions. The second, prepared by ILO, would be a study on the differences that occurred when applying their labour force participation rates to different base populations.

#### Other United Nations bodies

56. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) reported that the Centre was an extensive user of the Population Division's demographic estimates and projections. Those statistics were pivotal for its research, technical cooperation and information activities. In particular, the Centre had been using demographic estimates and projections as key input data for a household projection model developed in 1994. The model projected the number of households up to the year 2050 and calculated annual growth rates. The Centre intended to update the household projection model with 1998 data and carry out projections with it.

57. The Centre had finalized the global Urban Indicators Database, which contained basic demographic, household and income data as a background for information on socio-economic development, infrastructure, transport, environmental management, local government and housing. The Centre had made available for analysis the final version of the Database, which contained more than 20,000 pieces of information on the state of cities worldwide. Once the results of that analysis by research institutions and qualified individuals around the world were finalized, they would be included in the "State of the world's cities report", to be produced by the Centre at the end of 1998.

58. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was unable to send a representative to the twentieth session; however, it had prepared a statement on its recent activities and plans, which was noted by the Subcommittee. It was stated that UNHCR did not make demographic projections of the refugee population as such, mainly because future events relating to refugee situations were difficult to predict, but used population estimates for assessing refugee populations in cases when refugee registration or refugee census data were not available.

Refugee population estimation was also a useful tool for verification in that it helped to establish whether the official refugee statistics were accurately reflecting the de facto resident refugee population.

59. Within an inter-agency context, UNHCR was working to strengthen methods and procedures for the estimation of current refugee populations. Technical papers were likely to be one of the outputs of the process. The UNHCR registration guidelines, *Registration: A Practical Guide for Field Staff*, were being revised.

60. The representative of UNFPA reaffirmed the Fund's appreciation for the close cooperation with the Population Division. The Fund makes considerable use of the Division's biennial sets of population estimates and projections for a wide range of programme-related purposes.

61. UNFPA was aware that, in using any set of population projections, it was important to bear in mind that the assumptions made about the future components of population change inevitably contained a margin of error that could not be determined without hindsight. The uncertainties that the world was currently facing suggested that future population trends were far from being inevitably determined. The representative of UNFPA stated that there was a need for caution in presentations of the size of the world's future population, as well as in statements on the timing of population stabilization. Moreover, while the developed world and significant fractions of the developing world were experiencing replacement or subreplacement fertility, UNFPA was mindful that high population growth rates were still prevailing in many developing countries, particularly the poorest, and that acute reproductive health deprivations were being experienced by hundreds of millions of people, particularly poor women.

62. The representative of UNFPA stated that his organization actively supported country efforts to develop and strengthen national capacity for collecting and analysing relevant information necessary for policies, plans and programmes relating to population and development. The Fund gave considerable emphasis in its country programmes to measures aimed at improving reproductive health, in line with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In that context, UNFPA welcomed attempts to produce indicators for monitoring progress towards the achievement of global conference goals.

63. The representative of UNFPA reported that his organization had just completed work on the development of a set of thematic population and reproductive health indicators for monitoring progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference and for use in its

country programmes. Donors and recipients of aid alike have become increasingly aware of the need for sound statistical indicators to track progress in the achievement of important development goals. There was a need for the entire United Nations system to move towards agreement on a common set of indicators that would allow monitoring of conference goals and to focus on the relevant coordination, collection and capacity-building issues.

64. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that UNICEF continued to give priority to monitoring the goals of the World Summit for Children. The Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly, in September 1996, on the Summit's progress at mid-decade. Earlier, recognizing that many countries needed help in obtaining data for reporting on the goals, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat and other agencies, supported the development and implementation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) in 60 countries and add-on questions to household surveys in nearly 40 more countries.

65. The process for assessing the achievement of the Summit at end-decade has started and will culminate, in part, in a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in September 2001. UNICEF expects to use the experiences from the mid-decade process in helping countries obtain timely and relevant assessment data. In particular, it was envisaged that household surveys would have a major role, including revised MICS. The specific indicators for which data collection would be supported should be finalized shortly, after consultation with UNICEF field offices and with other agencies.

66. Over the past five years, UNICEF has worked with WHO on maternal mortality measurement, with UNFPA joining more recently. The main objective has been to develop better and more consistent maternal mortality estimates and to explore alternative methods for monitoring progress. The work produced, in 1996, a set of country-level estimates referenced to 1990, and a subsequent set of process indicators more appropriate to monitoring change over a two-to-three-year period. The work has highlighted major uncertainties in maternal mortality data at the country level for most countries, which indicated that use of the data for assessing progress over the short and medium term was inappropriate.

67. The Subcommittee noted that estimates of adult female deaths were not designed for use in regular monitoring of maternal mortality rates. It was critically important to improve data-collection techniques and estimation methods in order to improve availability and quality of adult mortality, and specifically of maternal mortality.

### Other organizations

68. The representative of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) informed the meeting that in recent years Eurostat had executed a comprehensive programme to satisfy the demand for consistent demographic projections for Europe. Various types of national and subnational long-term scenarios were compiled, estimates for current live births and deaths were produced, latest national population forecasts had been collected annually and published, and several international research projects were launched and completed.

69. In the near future, Eurostat would intensify its efforts to harmonize and improve existing national population forecasts, and prepare the revision and eventually the extension of the set of long-term population, labour force and household scenarios planned for 2003/04. Finally, the representative of Eurostat announced the joint Economic Commission for Europe-Eurostat Work Session on Demographic Projections, to be held in Rome from 18 to 21 January 1999. The meeting would basically discuss the current state of the art of national and subnational population projections.

70. The representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) described the activities of IOM in the four major areas of its work: humanitarian migration; migration for development; technical cooperation — advisory services; and research, information and fostering migration debate, including the five periodicals it regularly publishes, and informed the Subcommittee that, since 1951, IOM had assisted 10 million documented migrants.

71. The representative of IOM described in particular its involvement with the 1996 conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its follow-up, with the UNFPA/United Nations Institute for Training and Research IOM International Migration Policy and Law Course, with the major UNFPA-supported research programme on emigration dynamics in four subregions of the developing world, and with the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development, sponsored by the ACC Working Group on International Migration, which was held in the Netherlands from 29 June to 3 July 1998.

### 2. Coordination of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections, 1998 round

72. The representative of the Population Division reported that the 1998 revision of the world population prospects was currently being finalized and that the results would be announced in October 1998. The full results would be made available on diskette and magnetic tape in November 1998.

It was also reported that work on the 1998 revision of the world urbanization prospects had started. Results were expected to be announced in early 1999.

73. ILO and FAO planned to use the results from the 1998 revision of the world population prospects to update their estimates and projections. UNESCO would apply the 1998 revision to its most recent literacy rates and enrolment ratios. WHO recalled that, on its own initiative, it was extending the age groups for reporting mortality data to 95+, creating a consistency that would facilitate data exchanges between WHO and the Population Division. Some participants expressed the wish for an earlier release of results of the world urbanization prospects.

74. The representative of Habitat noted that it was of utmost importance that revisions were made available as early as possible. Habitat normally received the biannual demographic estimates and projections towards the end of the particular revision year. The related world urbanization prospects, which was important for the Centre's research work, was typically issued during the middle of the following year. Unfortunately, that was too late for its work. Habitat, therefore, appealed to the Population Division to make the data for both of the above-mentioned publications available on diskette immediately after they have been officially cleared.

#### **2000 round**

75. The Population Division would initiate its 2000 revision of estimates and projections in early 1999 by contacting the regional commissions. It was expected that the results of the revision would be available in the fourth quarter of 2000.

### **3. Dissemination of population and sectoral estimates and projections based on the 1998 round**

76. The Population Division reported that the new estimates and projections from each revision were disseminated in many forms, from the succinct wall chart to the very detailed tapes, with diskettes and hard-copy presentation intermediate to both. Accordingly, the mode of dissemination could be tailored to the specific need for detail. Special tabulations from the existing database could be made available upon request. The Subcommittee requested that consideration be given by the Population Division to the possibility of dissemination by CD-ROM of the population estimates and projections.

77. UNESCO expected to update its literacy estimates and projections with the results of the 1998 revision of the population estimates and projections as soon as results were

available. Results would be disseminated in a new edition of the "Compendium of statistics on illiteracy". In addition, UNESCO also intended to update its enrolment projections using the 1998 United Nations population estimates and projections. That activity would be concluded by the summer of 1999. An analytical report would be issued in the autumn of 1999. The results would also be disseminated through the Internet.

78. ILO disseminated its data on diskettes, as well as through hard-copy publications. It envisaged the possibility of disseminating all or some of the estimates and projections of the economically active population on the Internet. WHO disseminated data by electronic means, including making the available mortality database accessible through FTP worldwide, as well as hard-copy publications. WHO had a World Wide Web home page. UNHCR disseminated its data through publications; it also included statistical data on its CD-ROM, as well as on its World Wide Web home page. Habitat disseminated data on diskette, on the Internet and through hard-copy publications.

### **4. Technical papers**

#### **Towards coordination of and consistency among global and regional outputs of demographic estimates and projections**

79. The representative of ECA outlined the important characteristics of a computer simulation model that was being developed to model the interlinkages between population change (P), environment (E), socio-economic development (D) and agriculture (A). The PEDDA model was designed to demonstrate the impact of different policy options for ensuring food security and sustainable development in the ECA region. It had three modules: a human development module, a land module and a water module. The combination of land, water and productivity of the labour force, with capital investments in agriculture and technological innovation, was expected to yield an estimate of the proportion of the population that was food secure. By also modelling the vicious circle of poverty, the model was expected to provide a better understanding of possible policy interventions and their interlinkages.

80. Some participants raised questions regarding missing features relevant to development such as market mechanisms (prices), health issues and a policy component. It was also mentioned that past experiences with macro-level models of that kind demanded data in details often not easily available. It was noted that the model was explorative and designed for advocacy.

### **Worldwide estimates and projections of the agricultural population and labour force**

81. The representative of FAO reported on the fourth edition of the Organization's long-term estimates and projections of agricultural population and labour force (1950–2010). The paper discussed data sources, concepts and definitions and methods for benchmark estimates, and the projections methodology used, and provided an overview of the results. Special emphasis was given to a methodological improvement in the projection methodology that avoided a discontinuity in the logistic growth process by introducing two parameters that forced the fitted curve to pass through the base year data for the projections.

82. Questions were raised regarding the similarities between the urban projections carried out by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the agricultural projections of FAO. The similarity in methods was underlined.

### **Extending population projections to age 100**

83. The representative of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat reported on the Division's effort to extend the age format of the United Nations population projections to age 100 for the upcoming 1998 revision. The extension had become needed because of the rapid increase in the size of populations aged 80 and increasingly pressing requests from users of the estimates and projections. The Division reported on the various phases of the process of the extension exercise and on the approaches used to extend age-specific mortality patterns to very old ages, including the extension of existing model life tables beyond their current age-limits. It also presented the procedure used to estimate the size of age groups above age 80 for a given population. The Division emphasized that the current methodology was not final but would be improved when more knowledge of the mortality patterns in those age groups was available.

84. Questions were raised about the phenomenon of less than exponential growing mortality rates at very advanced ages. It was also noted that there were some countries that actually showed increasing mortality at very high ages, a phenomenon not easy to incorporate in the current projection methodology.

### **Labour force participation rates for children 10–14 years old**

85. The representative of ILO reported on a comparison between its estimates and projections of economically active population, 1950–2010, concerning the economic activity rates of children and specific surveys conducted in six

countries (Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey and Senegal). The comparison was made for boys and girls, respectively, but was limited to the age group 10–14. It was found that the estimates and projections tended to find higher child labour participation rates in comparison to those of the specified child labour surveys, with the exception of the Philippines. ILO intended to extend the evaluation to other countries and to draw conclusions for estimates and projections of activity rates at the lowest age categories. ILO also intended to prepare a detailed manual on conducting child labour surveys.

86. Questions were raised about child labour at ages below 10 and gender differences in child labour. It was noted that research was continuing and that the tools for the survey (questionnaire) were constantly improved.

### **5. Other items**

87. The representative of the Population Division informed the meeting of the preparations for the five-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/188, had decided to convene a special session from 30 June to 2 July 1999 for the review and had also decided that the Commission on Population and Development should serve as the preparatory body for the final preparations for the special session. A number of activities were planned in preparation for the review, including inter-agency consultations, technical, round-table and regional meetings and an international forum. Three reports would be submitted to the Commission on Population and Development acting as preparatory body for the special session, including a report on the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, coordinated by the Population Division, a report of the international forum on the operational review of the Programme of Action, coordinated by UNFPA, and a draft report for the special session, also to be coordinated by UNFPA. UNFPA informed the Subcommittee that the various documentation to be prepared for the five-year review process would be based, *inter alia*, on two field inquiries currently being conducted, as well as on country presentations made at relevant meetings of the regional commissions.

88. The Director of the Population Division, in his closing remarks, called upon the participants to maintain their current work with the highest scientific standards, to introduce innovations in order to meet new demands and respond to technological changes, and to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination. He suggested preparing a joint brochure for a general audience that presented the work of the

Subcommittee and its members, especially its relevance and importance for social and economic development.

89. Following the guidelines provided by ACC, the Subcommittee considered the formal application of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for admittance as an observer to the Subcommittee. After a round of comments and observations, OECD was admitted as an observer.

90. In view of the fact that the appointment of Mr. Joseph-Alfred Grinblat as Secretary of the Subcommittee would expire in 1998, the Subcommittee decided to recommend to CCPOQ that Mr. Grinblat's appointment as Secretary be renewed for another two-year term.

91. It was agreed that the twenty-first session of the Subcommittee would be held at Geneva in June 2000.

92. The provisional agenda for the twenty-first session was adopted, including the following suggested list of technical papers to be prepared for discussion at the session:

Effects of alternative sources of population data on estimates and projections of the economically active population (ILO);

Comparative study of agricultural labour force data from agricultural censuses and population censuses/labour force surveys (FAO);

Impact of revision of population data and varying definitions on key demographic indicators (World Bank);

Latest population projections in industrialized countries: a comparative review (Eurostat);

How to deal with uncertainty in population projections (Eurostat).

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections:
  - (a) Population Division/Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
  - (b) Regional commissions;
  - (c) Specialized agencies;
  - (d) Other United Nations bodies;
  - (e) Other organizations.
5. Coordination of the 1998 and 2000 rounds of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections.
6. Dissemination of population and sectoral estimates and projections through electronic networks.
7. Technical papers for further promotion of coordination.
8. Other items, including the provisional agenda and venue for the twenty-first session.
9. Adoption of the report.

## Annex II

### List of participants

#### United Nations

Department of Economic and Social  
Affairs

Population Division	Joseph Chamie, Director Larry Heligman, Assistant Director Joseph-Alfred Grinblat, Chief Population Estimates and Projections Section Nancy Yu-ping Lin, Senior Population Affairs Officer Thomas Buettner, Population Affairs Officer Serguey Ivanov, Population Affairs Officer Victor Gaigbe-Togbe, Population Affairs Officer Alessandra de Rosa, Population Affairs Officer
Statistics Division	Hermann Habermann, Director Sam Suharto, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch Alice Clague, Chief, Demographic Statistics Section
Economic Commission for Africa	Ita Ekanem, Senior Population Affairs Officer
Economic and Social Commission	Jerrold W. Huguet, Chief, Population and Development Section, Population Division
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Juan Chackiel, Chief of the Demography Area
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	Gaetano Leone, Human Settlements Officer, New York Liaison Office
United Nations Children's Fund	Gareth Jones, Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning
United Nations Population Fund	Richard Leete, Manager, Data Systems, including Indicators, Technical and Policy Division
United Nations Development Programme	Laura D. Mourino-Casas, Statistician, Human Development Report Office

### **Specialized agencies**

International Labour Organization	Angela Martins-Oliveira, Bureau of Statistics Farhad Mehran, Senior Statistician
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Loganaden Naiken, Chief, Statistics Analysis Service, Statistics Division
World Health Organization	Odile Frank, Statistician, Health Situation Analysis and Projection Unit
World Bank	Eduard Bos, Demographer, Population Health and Nutrition Sulekha Patel, Demographer, Development Data Group of the Development Economics Vice Presidency

### **Observers**

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)	Harry Cruijssen
International Organization for Migration	Stafford Mousky, Senior Consultant, New York

## Annex III

### List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/Author</i>
SCDEP/1998/INF.1		Provisional agenda
SCDEP/1998/INF.2		Provisional list of documents
SCDEP/1998/INF.3		Provisional list of participants
SCDEP/1998/INF.4		Provisional organization of work
SCDEP/1998/AP/1	4 (a)	Recent activities and plans of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs
SCDEP/1998/AP/2	4 (b)	Recent activities and plans of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
SCDEP/1998/AP/3	4 (b)	Recent activities and plans of the Latin American Demographic Centre
SCDEP/1998/AP/4	4 (b)	Recent activities and plans of the Economic Commission for Africa
SCDEP/1998/AP/5	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SCDEP/1998/AP/6	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans of the World Health Organization
SCDEP/1998/AP/7	4 (d)	Recent activities and plans of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
SCDEP/1998/AP/8	4 (e)	Recent activities and plans of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)
SCDEP/1998/AP/9	4 (d)	Recent activities and plans of the United Nations Population Fund
SCDEP/1998/AP/10	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans of the International Labour Organization
SCDEP/1998/AP/11	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans of the United Nations Children's Fund
SCDEP/1998/AP/12	4 (c)	Recent activities and plans of the World Bank
SCDEP/1998/AP/13	4 (e)	Recent activities and plans of the International Organization for Migration
SCDEP/1998/AP/14	4 (a)	Recent activities and plans of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/Author</i>
SCDEP/1998/TP/1	7	Towards coordination of and consistency among global and regional outputs of demographic estimates and projections: ECA contribution
SCDEP/1998/TP/2	7	Worldwide estimates and projections of the agricultural population and labour force (FAO)
SCDEP/1998/TP/3	7	Extending population projections to age 100 (Population Division)
SCDEP/1998/TP/4	7	Labour force participation rates for children 10–14 years old (ILO)

## Annex IV

### **Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session**

1. Opening of the meeting.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda.
  4. Recent activities and plans related to demographic and sectoral estimates and projections:
    - (a) Population Division/Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
    - (b) Regional commissions and other Secretariat offices;
    - (c) Specialized agencies;
    - (d) Other United Nations bodies;
    - (e) Other organizations.
  5. Coordination of the 2000 and 2002 rounds of demographic and sectoral estimates and projections.
  6. Dissemination of population and sectoral estimates and projections through electronic networks.
  7. Technical papers for further promotion of coordination.
  8. Other items, including the venue and the provisional agenda of the twenty-second session.
  9. Adoption of the report.
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