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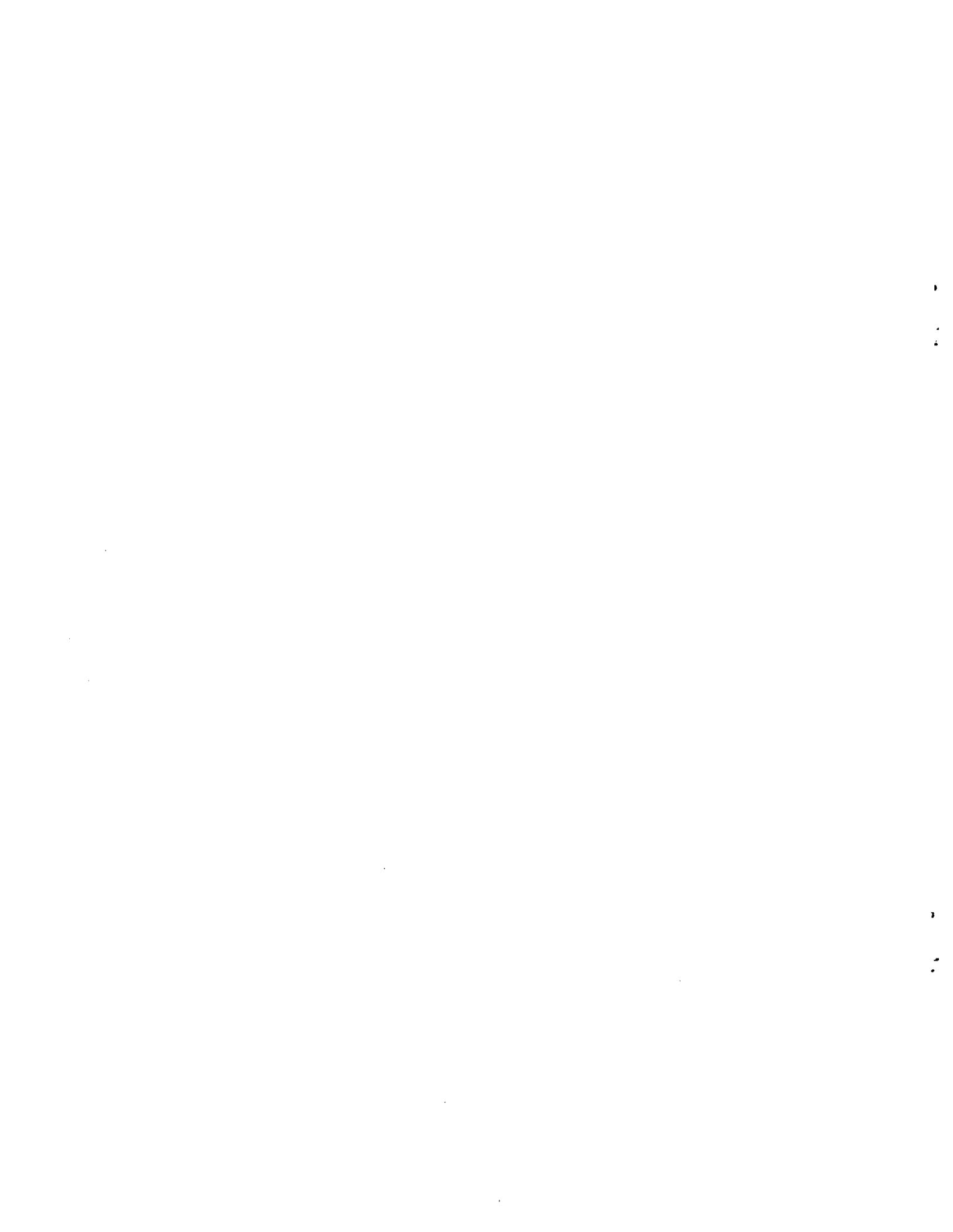
E C L A C

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

NOTES ON STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

These notes have been prepared by the Statistical and Quantitative Analysis Division of ECLAC as an informal contribution to the United Nations Interregional Workshop on Statistical Development in the Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries to be held from May 19 through 23, 1986 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The following notes are intended to provide an overall illustration of various aspects of the development of statistical output in the region, and at the same time to contribute certain guidelines which may serve as a reference in the discussions which will take place at the Interregional Workshop on Statistical Development in the Least Developed Land-locked and Island Developing Countries to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between 19-23 May 1986.

2. These notes have been exclusively written for this workshop, and consequently should not be taken as the result of any specialized task in the field. In so far as possible they attempt to follow the Provisional Agenda provided by the organizers, and the remarks made are only intended to develop the broad outlines of a number of specific features connected with the themes proposed.

3. Development of statistical activities is not only a concern of the less developed countries in the world, but also of other areas which have reached more advanced stages of growth. In this respect, ECLAC and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are fully aware that the region has still a long way to go. The process of consolidating statistical systems in the countries of the region is still far from complete and while there are significant differences from one country to another, it is quite clear that as in other developing regions, such systems are still in their early stages. Consequently, the following paragraphs only deal with the progress made and difficulties which are being faced.

II. THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

4. During the post-war period the population of Latin America and the Caribbean grew at a far faster rate than that of any other region in the world. Consequently, its share of the world's population rose from 6.5% in 1950 to 8.7% in 1985, and this percentage is expected to rise to 9.8% by the end of the century (see tables 1 and 2).

5. In some respects the population of Latin America and the Caribbean presents similar characteristics to those of other developing regions; in others, it occupies an intermediate position between the developed regions and other regions. Its crude birth rate is lower than that of Africa and Southern Asia, although more than twice that of North America and Europe. Moreover, its mortality rate is slightly lower than in these two latter regions, and less than half that of Africa. The decline in the mortality rate has not been offset by a corresponding decline in the birth rates, which has led to a demographic trend without precedent in other regions of the world (see table 3).

6. Despite its high rate of demographic expansion (2.7% per year between 1950-1985), Latin America and the Caribbean has recorded significant economic growth. During the last quarter century per capita gross domestic product increased at an annual rate of 2.1% in real terms, and attained US\$1 760 in 1985. Moreover, levels of nutrition, education, health and housing have improved considerably, and led to an increase in life expectancy which reached 65 in 1985. However, this average conceals extremely heterogenous situations both in so far as countries are concerned, and within the countries themselves. In this latter sphere, and in particular in the less developed countries there continue to be significant differences in the economic and social structure whereby they considerably resemble LDCs. While many of them are far from presenting indicators similar to those which have been established for a country to qualify as an LDC, high percentages of their population (30 to 40%) live in a situation of extreme poverty (see tables 4 and 5).

7. In accordance with the criteria adopted by the United Nations Committee for Development Planning (CDP), definition of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is based upon the level of gross domestic product (GDP), on the level of literacy and the share of manufacturing product in total product. The level of GDP has gradually been altered, and up to 1985 the bracket between 355 and 427 dollars was employed to this effect. As far as the level of literacy is concerned, a rate of 20% or less was adopted, and the share of manufactures in total GDP was set at 10% or less. However, provision is made for countries whose indicators are below the ceilings in the cases of these last two indicators, although their per capita GDP is above the lower limit of the bracket (US\$355 in this case); the same holds for countries whose level of literacy is higher than 20% but whose per capita GDP is below the lower limit of the bracket (US\$355) and whose share of manufactures in total GDP is 10% or less. Of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Haiti alone is considered to be an LDC.

III. STATISTICAL PRIORITIES

8. Whilst the vast majority of Latin American countries possess indexes which are far outside the limits described in the previous paragraph,^{1/} they all suffer in varying degrees from considerable weaknesses in the process of statistical production, even taking into account the fact that since the war, and above all since the creation of ECLAC (1948), efforts to carry out a broad range of statistical research have been intensified. The urgent need to develop a diagnosis of Latin America's economic and social development first required organization of macro-statistical frameworks; in this respect, priority was given to the System of National Accounts (SNA) and to statistics relating to the external sector. Simultaneously, demographic statistics and

^{1/} See table 5

statistics on social development were systematized; the latter, however, have only acquired significance in so far as the countries have overcome the most elementary stages of their economic growth and social service, both public and private, have developed significantly.

9. Naturally, in developing macro-statistical frameworks, priorities and information requirements were directed towards the field of production and consumption of goods and services. In this context, an important role was played by:

- i) statistics on the production of agricultural goods
- ii) the periodic censuses and surveys carried out into manufacturing and mining firms, and less frequently, surveys on construction and commercial firms and other services; and
- iii) statistics on external trade, which in practice were a by-product of customs records.

10. The majority of Member Countries of ECLAC base their estimates of agricultural production on the surface sown and on expected yield. In a number of cases, these estimates are the result of surveys, generally carried out among the modern sector of agriculture, and in other cases, they reflect the opinions of specialists in the Ministries of Agriculture and Stock Raising. With regard to livestock production, annual estimates are based upon interpolations of reproduction, mortality and stock composition, which are combined with that on the external trade in meat and livestock. As far as those agricultural products are processed industrially, or exported are concerned, it is possible to obtain more reliable data, which is in addition used to complement overall estimates of this type of production.

11. In theory the whole of agricultural production should be included in estimates using the method described above. However, this only provides reasonable estimates in the case of production which is sold on the market. As far as production for producer consumption is concerned, very few countries make estimates; when they do, it is on the basis of analysis of the type of

establishment defined in accordance with agricultural censuses. In this respect, it is considered that while production for producer consumption may be relatively unimportant, it is in every case linked to the poorest rural sectors, and consequently statistical research should be carried out at the household and not the establishment level, since a survey carried out among households would provide a wealth of information on social circumstances, which is certainly not obtained from research among establishments.

12. For the purposes of estimates of industrial production, the majority of countries in the region possess census data on manufacturing industry, on the basis of which annual estimates are produced by means of periodic surveys. Although the techniques employed in surveys of manufacturing have been widely disseminated, in quite a number of cases their high cost has prevented proper application. Thus, investigations frequently only bear on the largest establishments; the list of establishments and of products chosen is relatively rigid, as a result of which new activities and their output is regularly not included; separate data is gathered on quantities and value of the main finished products, but to a far less extent on raw materials and materials used; in the case of a number of branches of activity the data is complemented by data from Manufacturers Associations or Development Institutions; and, finally examinations of data consistency, mainly centre on aspects of an accounting nature rather than on technical or economic features leading to serious distortions particularly in economies with a high rate of inflation. In addition, in a number of countries craft industries are quite important and consequently when special surveys are carried out estimates of manufacturing production may contain a considerable degree of error in their coverage.

13. As far as estimates of construction are concerned, in most countries construction activity carried out for their own account by units which are included in categories of activities other than construction is extremely important, particularly with regard to construction for agriculture, electricity, transport, communications and housing. In practice such construction activity is not directly incorporated into the relevant sector,

but rather considered as secondary production of the firms or organisms which carry it out. Nonetheless, as far as housing is concerned it is possible to distinguish construction carried out for the builders' own account since a building permit is required. In this respect, it is worth mentioning that in Latin America statistics relating to building permits constitute the most important source of information in estimating the value of buildings in urban centres. These data at least provide indexes of costs of the principle construction materials and of labour, for different types of housing. Moreover, these calculations are complemented and broadened by indirect procedures based on the use of inputs; to this effect, data on the use of materials such as cement, bricks, timber, iron, etc. are used. The weighted average of the technical coefficients for input-gross value of production is generally calculated on the basis of surveys or analyses of projects representative of various building works.

14. In so far as production of services is concerned, two main areas are defined. That of the formal or organized sector, and the informal sector. Statistical research into the production of services in the formal sector is based on censuses, surveys and administrative records of firms, organisms and public and private institutions linked to the provision of education, health, housing, tourism, leisure, electricity, transport and communications, trade and financial services as well as other services. With the gradual introduction of computers, there has been a manifest improvement in statistics relating to this type of services and computers have played a major role in calculating national accounts. In this respect, it should be mentioned that all the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean possess estimates of gross domestic product by kind of economic activity based on the major divisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 2). However, in so far as the informal sector, made up of craftsmen, street vendors and independent workers who operate with low capital backing, out-of-date technology and little or no legal organization and who provide a wide range of services is concerned, the situation is quite different. By their very nature, it is extremely

difficult to measure their output, and only in recent years has any attempt been made to face the problem by means of Household Surveys.

15. Household surveys have proved to be a valuable instrument in collecting a series of data connected to the social and occupational situation of those persons who work in small establishments or for their account and who make up the main body of what is known as the "informal sector". Programmes relating to household surveys are being carried out in the majority of the countries in the region. They lay special emphasis on gathering the numbers of unemployed, the type of occupation of those in employment, the sector of activity in which they work and the remuneration obtained from the main occupation. They also include special modules with questions designed to obtain information on the income of employers and of independent workers, as well as other indicators of their social situation. There is thus no doubt that household surveys play a prime role in statistical research, especially if it is borne in mind that even if the quantitative aspect alone of the informal sector were considered, it would easily represent more than one-third of total occupation.

16. Thanks to the introduction of computers, considerable progress has been made in the collection of data on the external trade of Latin America and the Caribbean. As is well known, statistics on external trade for the purposes of economic analysis continue to be a by-product of customs records. However, the majority of countries have adopted international recommendations, and at the very least organize their statistics in accordance with the Customs Corporation Council Nomenclature (CCCN, previously BTN), which is in direct correlation with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). In this respect, it is essential to underscore the role played by the subregional integration organizations: the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Central American Common Market (MCCA) and the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), which, together with ECLAC have given an impetus to both the improvement and homogenization of statistics on the external trade of the countries of the region. For its part, in fulfillment of its role as a regional body, ECLAC has organized a Data Bank on the External Trade of Latin America and the Caribbean (BADECEL), which contains information ordered in accordance with the main international classifications. Although there is an average lag of two years between the collection and publication of these figures, it may be stated that in view of their origin (customs) they tend to improve rather more rapidly in terms of quality and usefulness than statistics on other sectors of activity.

17. An attempt has been made in the preceding paragraphs to provide a rough outline of the steps taken in the region to organize the main macroeconomic variables for purposes of economic analysis. In this context, no mention has been made of the calculation of the balance of payments, perhaps because by now it seems quite natural for both the Central Banks of countries, the International Monetary Fund and ECLAC to be quite used to handling this item. Nevertheless, it should not be assumed that the description of the evolution of statistical development in the region attempts to present an idyllic picture. On the contrary, there has been a certain amount of stagnation and regression which will be specified in dealing with the next item on the Agenda.

18. Finally, it should be emphasized that Latin American experience indicates that in the initial stages of statistical development it is of particular importance to maintain an equilibrium between the coverage provided by statistical research and its quality. For obvious reasons, there is an initial tendency to follow a large number of variables with the aim of obtaining an overall view of the way in which the economy operates; nevertheless, in the long term it is necessary to make use of vast amounts of resources to avoid interrupting this research, or failing that, to make estimates considerably reducing the quality of the data. Consequently, it must be stressed that statistical priorities and requirements must insofar as possible be in keeping with the technical and financial reality of economies.

19. As is well known, in the case of LDCs, in 1981 the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) was adopted. The SNPA is no doubt an ambitious programme which among other things, sets the following aims: to promote the necessary structural changes to overcome the very worst economic difficulties; to provide the poor with a minimum of well-being, in accordance with accepted international standards; to identify and provide support for investment priorities and opportunities; to as far as possible mitigate the effects of natural disasters, etc. As can be appreciated, the SNPA not only aims to bring about structural transformations in a material sense, but also to provide support for social change with specific reference to extreme poverty.

Consequently, in order to follow up the SNPA, it will be necessary to possess a broad range of statistics on social and economic development, which are apparent from the text itself and whose nature has been specified by the Secretariat of UNCTAD in pursuance of the mandate of SNPA (paragraph 121). Nevertheless, if it is wished to make an approximation and to provide coherence to the trilogy: priorities - requirements - possibilities, it will certainly be necessary to carry out a selection and considerably reduce "requirements", at least during the initial stages of statistical development in the countries with most limited resources. In this respect, annex 2 gives a tentative list of variables which could be considered as minimal.

IV. A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE HINDERED STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

20. The considerable restrictions on funds for statistical development is a widespread feature in the region. The high cost involved in activities of data compilation, processing, analysis and dissemination, and the manner in which statistical organizations fit within the administrative system of countries has often led to conflict with other institutions, resulting in statistical tasks being put into the background. This sets up a vicious circle, in which in addition to preventing the smooth performance of field work, the shortage of resources causes a deterioration in the technical quality of the statistics administration. In Latin America in particular, and in the Caribbean there is no apparent shortage of statisticians at every level. Teaching of statistics is quite widespread in institutes and universities, and many professionals in a variety of branches pursue parallel postgraduate studies in these fields. Nevertheless, as the remunerations paid are not particularly attractive, once they have gone through these stages of professional experience, officials in statistical bodies change profession, causing a turnover which weakens the technical capacity of these bodies.

Organizational and administrative problems

21. In order to analyse the forms of organization of statistical institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean it is advantageous to define the characteristics of the system in order to lay down a frame of reference. Consequently, a "centralized" system may be so described if the management and activities of the majority of national statistical services have been entrusted to an autonomous body run by a single person or by a committee. On the other hand, in the case of a "decentralized" system, statistical programmes are managed and carried out under the authority of different governments departments, while at the same time a specific body is responsible for co-ordinating the statistical activities of the various departments, for maintaining norms and performing other similar activities.

22. Naturally, these systems are not mutually exclusive, and in practice there is a certain degree of combination between the two. From the viewpoint of statistical production, nevertheless, it is considered that centralized forms of organization present a number of advantages for the planning and application of an integrated statistical system. Centralization facilitates the development and application of standard norms, definitions and classifications. However, a criticism frequently levelled at this system is that the procedures of statistics may be isolated from users and out of touch with their practical requirements; in addition, it is often observed that the centralized body is frequently far too rigid in its interpretation of the law ensuring secrecy over statistics, resulting in a loss of useful information. On the contrary, it is frequently argued that decentralization is preferable insofar as better use is made of information from a variety of governmental institutes which keep records in order to facilitate their own activities; nevertheless, with the introduction of computer systems this argument has lost its weight, as electronic calculation has enormously simplified processing and transfer of data.

23. In Latin America and the Caribbean a relatively centralized style of statistical organization clearly predominates. It is marked by centralization of the technical and regulatory tasks, with a certain degree of delegation of operational tasks to other administrative bodies. One of the advantages of this style is the active participation of many branches of government administration in the production of specialized statistics and the cost of statistical programmes is more satisfactorily shared out. Of the twenty countries examined in this analysis (see table 6), Haiti alone stated that its system was basically decentralized, in which the Haitian Institute of Statistics carries out executive functions, and the National Council of Statistics and Information Processing ensures co-ordination. On the other hand, the Statistical Institutes of Colombia, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic act both in a technical and regulatory role as well as in an operational one,^{2/} although in practice they delegate the preparation and dissemination of statistics to other departments.

Operational capacity and related problems

24. The essential activities of statistical organizations of the countries in the region cover the stages of compilation, processing of the principal statistical series and dissemination of the information (see table 7). Naturally, the scale of these activities varies from one country to another; some only disseminate that information which they produce directly, others on the other hand, publish most or all of the statistics produced in the country. It should also be mentioned that all of the centralized statistical bodies have borne responsibility for carrying out censuses into various economic areas, population and housing censuses, household censuses, industrial surveys, surveys of services, prices, etc.

25. With the exception of Haiti, in addition to performing the operational role connected with censuses and surveys, the statistical bodies of the other countries put out on-going statistics relating to production by kind of

^{2/} Although Cuba is not included in this survey, it should be mentioned that the degree of centralization of tasks is greater, due to the political and economic system.

activity, vital statistics, price indexes, construction indexes, and also, although less frequently, social statistics. In a number of countries the Offices of Statistics decentralize their activities within the country, by setting up offices in key regions or cities to carry out tasks. Moreover, they run specific back-up services for the statistical system; such as data processing, statistical cartography, document printing, training programmes, etc.

26. Particularly since the 1960s, Planning Offices have been established in a number of countries in the region. Among other things, this required the preparation of special macro-statistical tables in a number of cases (input-product for example), and in other cases improvement of the more widespread ones such as the System of National Accounts and the Balance of Payments. In view of the weakness of statistical offices in the countries, these last two areas have in the past been, and to a large extent continue to be dealt with by the central banks, who possess greater material and technical resources. Nevertheless, insofar as a number of statistical offices have acquired greater importance in the political and administrative sphere, they have taken over responsibility for preparing national accounts, leaving central banks deal with calculation of the balance of payments. This has been the case in Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Peru. In addition, they are legally responsible for these tasks in Brazil and Nicaragua, although they have not yet fully assumed this responsibility (see table 8).

Technical capacity and related problems

27. In Latin America, and to a certain extent in the Caribbean countries, technical co-ordination and orientation is provided by Councils, Committees and Technical Consultative Commissions, which may exercise control in the national, regional or local spheres. In many cases, such organs are permanent and are part of the structure of statistical offices, in others, they are set up exclusively to provide advice on particular areas of statistical activity. They are composed of groups of specialists whose viewpoint is not only that of

the producer of statistics, but also and perhaps mainly that of the user; since as a result of their academic training, and of the fact that they generally represent institutes which use specialized statistics, their opinions are given due consideration. An illustration of the countries which possess such technical mechanisms is provided by table 9.

28. The penetration of computers into statistical offices in the region has considerably increased their technical capacity. Without any fear of exaggeration it may be stated that every country in Latin America, and the majority of those in the Caribbean possess electronic equipment which is relatively suited to their needs. Moreover, the shortage of relatively high-level technicians as well as of programmers and operators to make efficient use of this equipment has gradually been overcome. Consequently, there is no bottleneck in this respect, as was the case towards the end of the previous decade. Nevertheless, as is the case of technicians in other areas of statistics, once they have acquired knowledge and experience, they are attracted to other public or private bodies, with higher salaries. Consequently, the problem of personnel turnover leads to a dwindling in technical capacity which on some occasions is of considerable importance.

29. The problem of personnel turnover in the statistical offices has to a great extent cancelled out the benefits expected of training. There is considerable concern in the region over this matter and in practice the national organizations themselves have set up training centres or units which provide regular courses and seminars designed to improve the technical capacity of grassroots and intermediate officials. As far as management and professional personnel is concerned, their training is provided both by national centres of learning and by specialized courses abroad; in this field, ECLAC, the Latin American Planning Institute (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) have performed a major role, as since the 1960s they have sponsored or participated jointly with other institutions in training activities at their own headquarters as well as in different countries in the region.

30. Finally, it should be stressed that Latin America and the Caribbean as well as other developing regions are facing a variety of technical problems in the production, processing and dissemination of statistics. These are occasionally serious, as in the case of agricultural statistics, whose quality has even worsened in a number of countries which carried out censuses while failing to adopt the necessary measures to produce consistent annual estimates. The same was the case of statistics on social development; only in the present decade have they been given any impetus through the application of household surveys, but even so they remain incomplete and out of date. Nevertheless, it should also be mentioned that these problems largely originate from the lack of sufficient material resources. Two factors have combined in this respect. On the one hand, statistics as such has lacked sufficient intellectual importance to attract technicians and politicians to direct the national statistical offices. On the other hand, as these offices were confined to a mere technical role, and insofar as governments have failed to strengthen medium and long-term planning, statistical research has concentrated on the short term and on immediate circumstances, an area which is generally dealt with by other specialized administrative units.

ANNEX 1

Statistical tables

Table 1

WORLD POPULATION BY REGIONS AND PROJECTIONS 1950 - 2000

Region	1950		1985		2000	
	Thousands	Percent.	Thousands	Percent.	Thousands	Percent.
Total population	2 513 045	100.0	4 829 804	100.0	6 198 638	100.0
Africa	218 992	8.7	544 545	11.3	828 052	13.3
Latin America	163 653	6.5	420 603	8.7	608 127	9.8
North America	166 048	6.6	258 494	5.4	289 546	4.7
Eastern Asia	673 248	26.8	1 203 638	24.9	1 405 916	22.7
Southern Asia	706 408	28.1	1 606 139	33.3	2 205 337	35.6
Europe	391 978	15.6	492 395	10.2	520 223	8.4
Oceania	12 648	0.5	24 433	0.5	29 620	0.5
Soviet Union	180 075	7.2	279 558	5.7	311 817	5.0

Source: World Population and Prospects by Country, 1950-2000: Summary report of the 1978 assessment U.N. New York 1979.

Table 2

RELATIVE WORLD POPULATION GROWTH, BY REGION

1950 = 100

Region	1975	1980	1985
World total	160	176	192
Africa	185	214	249
Latin America	196	224	257
North America	141	142	155
Eastern Asia	157	169	179
Southern Asia	177	201	227
Europe	121	123	126
Oceania	167	180	185
Soviet Union	141	148	156

Source: World Population Trends and Prospects by Country 1950-2000.
Summary Report of 1978 Assessment. United Nations, ST/ESA/SER/R/33

Table 3

LATIN AMERICA AND OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD: SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Region	Crude birth rate (per thousand)		Crude death rate (per thousand)		Life expectancy (years)	
	1975-80	1980-85	1975-80	1980-85	1975-80	1980-85
World total	28.9	28.1	11.8	10.6	57.4	59.2
Africa	46.0	45.0	18.3	16.6	48.7	51.0
Latin America	35.4	34.4	8.4	7.7	63.4	65.2
North America	16.3	17.0	9.0	9.8	73.2	73.4
Eastern Asia	21.7	19.7	8.6	8.1	64.7	66.5
Southern Asia	38.9	36.9	14.1	12.5	51.8	54.1
Europe	14.5	14.4	10.6	10.8	71.9	72.6
Oceania	21.6	21.3	9.0	9.2	65.7	66.5
Soviet Union	18.3	18.3	8.9	9.4	69.6	70.1

Source: Selected Demographic Indicators by Country, 1950-2000: Demographic Estimates and Projections as assessed in 1978. United Nations, ST/ESA/SER.R/38

Table 4

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

COUNTRY	Percentage share of urban population in total population; 1985	RATES (1980-1985)					Life expectancy 1985 (years)
		Urban population (annual rates)	Total population	Births (per thousand inhabitants)	Deaths (per thousand inhabitants)	Fertility rate (No of children)	
Argentina	84.6	2.1	1.6	24.6	8.7	3.4	69.7
Barbados	42.2	1.4	1.0	19.1	8.5	2.0	71.1
Bolivia	47.8	4.3	2.7	44.0	15.8	6.3	50.7
Brazil	72.7	3.8	2.3	30.6	8.4	3.8	63.4
Colombia	67.4	3.2	2.2	31.0	7.7	3.9	63.6
Costa Rica	49.8	4.4	2.7	30.5	4.2	3.5	73.0
Chile	83.6	2.2	1.6	22.7	6.7	2.6	69.7
Dominican Republic	55.7	4.4	2.4	33.1	8.0	4.2	62.6
Ecuador	52.3	5.0	2.9	36.8	8.1	5.0	64.3
El Salvador	39.1	2.9	3.0	40.2	8.0	5.6	64.8
Guatemala	40.0	3.6	2.9	42.7	10.5	6.1	59.0
Haiti	27.2	4.7	2.5	41.3	14.1	5.7	52.7
Honduras	40.0	5.6	3.4	43.9	10.1	6.5	59.9
Jamaica	53.8	3.0	1.5	26.3	6.4	3.3	71.2
Mexico	69.9	3.6	2.6	33.9	7.1	4.6	65.7
Nicaragua	56.6	4.6	3.4	44.2	9.7	5.9	59.8
Panama	52.4	3.0	2.2	28.0	5.4	3.5	71.0
Paraguay	44.4	4.4	3.0	36.0	7.2	4.9	65.1
Peru	67.4	3.6	2.6	36.7	10.7	5.0	58.6
Trinidad and Tobago	63.9	4.0	1.4	20.7	6.0	2.3	70.0
Uruguay	34.6	0.9	0.7	19.5	10.2	2.8	70.3
Venezuela	86.6	3.6	2.9	33.0	5.6	4.3	69.0

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of information provided by CELADE.

Table 5

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: SELECTED INDICATORS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

COUNTRIES	Thousands of KM ²	POPULATION 1985 (millions)	TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT 1985 (millions of dollars)	PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT 1985 (dollars)	PERCENTAGE SHARE OF MANUFACTURING IN TOTAL PRODUCTION 1984	LITERACY RATE FOR PERSONS OVER 15 (percentages)	DEATHS IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 (Average annual rates per thousand inhabitants)
Argentina	2 766.9	30.6	75 992	2 483	30.8	93.9 ^{d/}	36.0
Barbados	0.4	0.3 ^{b/}	1 145 ^{b/}	3 817 ^{b/}	12.7	99.3 ^{e/}	14.2 ^{z/}
Bolivia	1 098.6	6.4	4 988 ^{a/}	779	10.6	63.2 ^{k/}	124.4
Brazil	8 512.0	135.6	212 957	1 571	27.2 ^{z/}	74.5 ^{d/}	70.6
Colombia	1 138.9	28.7	34 119	1 189	21.0	80.8 ^{b/}	53.3
Costa Rica	50.7	2.6	3 527	1 357	22.6	88.4 ^{b/}	20.2
Chile	756.9	12.0	16 268	1 356	20.6 ^{e/}	91.1 ^{o/}	54.0
Dominican Rep.	48.7	6.2	8 800 ^{a/}	1 419	17.8 ^{e/}	67.2 ^{e/}	63.5
Ecuador	283.6	9.4	15 084	1 605	19.4	74.2 ^{i/}	68.8 ⁱ
El Salvador	21.4	5.6	5 710	1 020	15.6	62.0 ^{i/}	71.0 ^z
Guatemala	108.9	8.0	11 882	1 485	16.7 ^{p/}	55.8 ^{d/}	67.7 ⁱ
Haiti	27.8	6.6	1 923	301	15.5 ^{p/}	21.3 ^{i/}	108.1
Honduras	112.1	4.4	3 358	763	14.7	56.9 ^{i/}	81.5
Jamaica	11.0	2.3 ^{b/}	2 375 ^{b/}	1 033 ^{b/}	17.8	96.1 ^{e/}	16.2 ^{z/}
Mexico	1 972.6	79.0	187 961	2 379	23.9	84.0 ^{d/}	53.0
Nicaragua	130.0	3.2 ^{b/}	4 325 ^{b/}	1 352 ^{b/}	25.3	57.5 ^{f/}	84.0
Panama	77.1	2.1	4 659	2 219	9.0	87.1 ^{d/}	32.5
Paraguay	406.8	3.7	5 436	1 469	16.1	80.1 ^{e/}	45.0
Peru	1 285.2	19.7	17 984	913	20.1	82.6 ^{d/}	81.9
Trinidad and Tobag.	5.1	1.1 ^{b/}	9 229 ^{b/}	8 390 ^{b/}	9.7	92.2 ^{e/}	26.4 ^{n/}
Uruguay	176.2	3.0	4 078	1 359	21.8 ^{e/}	93.9 ^{d/}	37.5
Venezuela	912.1	17.3	49 609	2 868	19.5	76.5 ^{e/}	33.6

SOURCE: ECLAC, on the basis of official data.

/ table 5 (cont.)

a/ Preliminary estimate.

b/ Relates to 1984.

c/ Relates to 1983.

d/ Information taken from censuses held around 1980.

e/ Information for 1970.

f/ Information for 1971.

g/ Information for 1972.

h/ Information for 1973.

i/ Information for 1974.

j/ Information for 1975.

k/ Information for 1976.

l/ Infant mortality rate in 1983.)

m/ Infant mortality rate in 1978.) Statistical Yearbook, 1982.

n/ Infant mortality rate in 1979.)

o/ Information from the 1982 census.

p/ On the basis of 1980 prices.

Table 6

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TYPES OF ORGANIZATION OF
STATISTICS OFFICES

Countries	Basically centralized		Basically decentralized	
	Regulatory tasks	Operational tasks	Regulatory tasks	Operational tasks
Argentina	X(P)			X
Bolivia	X(P)			X
Brazil	X			X
Colombia	X	X		
Costa Rica	X(P)			X
Chile	X			X
Dominican Republic	X(P)	X		
Ecuador	X			X
El Salvador	X(P)			X
Guatemala	X(2)			X(2)
Haiti			X(3)	
Honduras	X(P)			X
Jamaica	X			X
Mexico	X			
Nicaragua	X(P)	X(4)		
Panama	X			X
Paraguay	X(P)			X
Peru	X			
Uruguay	X			X
Venezuela	X			X

Source: ECLAC, Prácticas Nacionales en la Organización Estadística (LC/R.482), December 1985.

- X = Total
- (P) = Partial
- (1) = In all cases refers to a part of the statistics produced at national level.
- (2) = Pattern of organization established in Decree-Law No. 2-85 of 15 January 1985.
- (3) = Co-ordination among producers at national level is carried out at the National Statistical Council
- (4) = Relates to some sectoral statistical activities.

Table 7

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN
STATISTICS OFFICES

Country	Collection	Preparation of basic statistics	Preparation of macro- statistical plans	Official dissemination of information
Argentina	X	X		X(P)
Bolivia	X	X		X(P)
Brazil	X	X	(2)	X(P)
Colombia	X	X	X	X(P)
Costa Rica	X	X		X(P)
Chile	X	X		X(P)
Dominican Republic	X	X		X(P)
Ecuador	X	X		X
El Salvador	X	X		X(P)
Guatemala	X(1)	X(1)		X(P)
Haiti	X	X	X	X(P)
Honduras	X	X		X(P)
Jamaica	X	X	X	X
Mexico	X	X	X	X
Nicaragua	X	X	(2)	X(P)
Panama	X	X	X	X
Paraguay	X	X		X(P)
Peru	X	X	X	X
Uruguay	X	X	(3)	X(P)
Venezuela	X	X		X(P)

Source: ECLAC, Prácticas Nacionales en la Organización Estadística (LC/R. 482).

X = Total

(P) = Partial

(1) = Tasks envisaged by Law-Decree No. 3-85 of 15 January 1985.

(2) = Statistics offices are legally responsible for this task.

(3) = The Central Bank of Uruguay is one component of the Statistical System and is responsible for preparing the national accounts.

Table 3

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TASKS PERFORMED BY NATIONAL
STATISTICAL OFFICES

Country	Body responsible	Co-ordinates technical/ regulatory tasks	Co-ordinates operational tasks		
			Preparation of macro-statistical plans	Conducting national censuses	Ongoing production of statistics (1)
Argentina	INEC (2)	X(P)		X	X
Bolivia	INE (3)	X(P)		X	X
Brazil	IBGE (4)	X		X	X
Colombia	DANE (5)	X	X	X	X
Costa Rica	DGEC (6)	X(P)		X	X
Chile	INE (3)	X		X	X
Dominican Rep.	ONE (12)	X(P)		X	X
Ecuador	INEC (2)	X		X	X
El Salvador	DGEC (6)	X(P)		X	X
Guatemala	INE (3)	X(7)		X(7)	X(7)
Haiti	IHSI (8)	X	X	X	X
Honduras	DGEC (6)	X(P)			
Jamaica	DS (9)	X	X	X	X
Mexico	INEGI(10)	X	X	X	X
Nicaragua	INE (3)	X(P)		X	X
Panama	DNEC (11)	X	X	X	X
Paraguay	DGEC (6)	X(P)		X	X
Peru	INE (3)	X	X	X	X
Uruguay	DGE y C (6)	X		X	X
Venezuela	OCEI (13)	X		X	X

Source: ECLAC, Prácticas nacionales en la organización estadística (LC/R.482), December 1985.

X = Total

(P) = Partial

(1) = In each case includes a substantial share of the economic, social and price statistics produced at national level.

(2) = National Institute of Statistics and Censuses.

(3) = National Institute of Statistics.

(4) = Brazilian Institute of Geography and Data Processing.

(5) = National Department of Statistics.

(6) = Department of Statistics and Censuses.

(7) = Responsibilities delegated under Decree-Law 3-85 of 15 January 1985.

(8) = Haitian Institute of Statistics and Data Processing.

(9) = Department of Statistics.

(10) = National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Data Processing.

(11) = National Department of Statistics and Censuses.

(12) = Central Statistics Office.

(13) = Central Office of Statistics and Data Processing.

Table 9

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: MECHANISMS FOR CO-ORDINATION AND TECHNICAL
ORIENTATION OF STATISTICS OFFICES

Country	Statistical plans or programmes		Technical and consultative councils, commissions and committees	Provision of services to components of the System	Training	OTHER (Agreements, joint studies, etc.)
	National and sectoral (1)	partial				
Argentina			X	X	X	X
Barbados						
Bolivia			X		X	
Brazil			X		X	
Colombia	X	X	X		X	X
Costa Rica			X			
Cuba						
Chile	X		X		X	X
Dominican Rep.			X			
Ecuador			X			
El Salvador			X		X	
Guatemala	(2)		X		X	
Guyana						
Haiti			X		X	
Honduras			X	X	X	
Jamaica	X		X		X	
Mexico			X	X	X	
Nicaragua			X		X	X
Panama		X	X		X	
Paraguay			X			X
Peru	X		X	X	X	X
Trinidad and Tobago						
Uruguay			X		X	
Venezuela		X	X			

Source: ECLAC, Prácticas nacionales en la organización estadística (LC/R. 482), December 1985.

(1) = Provided for in the legal arrangements made for the creation of the respective offices.

(2) = Initiated the preparation of a first National Statistical Plan.

ANNEX 2

Suggested short list of information needed in respect of
least developed countries (LDCs)



Suggested short list of information needed in respect of
least developed countries (LDCs)

I. POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Total population
2. Urban population and rural population
3. Crude birth rate (per thousand inhabitants)
4. Crude death rate (per thousand inhabitants)
5. Gross fertility rate (per thousand)
6. Life expectancy (years)
7. Structure of the population
8. Economically active population
9. Participation of the labour force in agriculture
10. Rate of unemployment

II. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

11. Literacy: number of literates and literacy rate by sex
12. Enrolment in primary, secondary and vocational/technical education: number of enrolees and rate of enrollment by sex.
13. Teachers in each level of education (number of students per teacher).
14. Public spending on education
15. Daily availability of calories per inhabitant: number of calories and percentage of minimum nutritional requirements represented.
16. Daily availability of proteins per inhabitant (grams)
17. Mortality in children under 5 (deaths per thousand)
18. Population with access to drinking water (percentages of total population)
19. Urban population benefiting from sewage systems (percentages of total urban population)
20. Physicians (number of inhabitants per physician)
21. Medical auxiliaries (number of inhabitants per medical auxiliary)
22. Hospital beds (per thousand inhabitants)

- 23. Public spending on health
- 24. Spending on housing: public and private

III. PRODUCTION, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

- 25. Gross domestic product per category of economic activity
- 26. Gross domestic product by kind of expenditure

Production indicators by origin:

- 27. Agriculture: foods, raw materials, exports
- 28. Mining: main substances
- 29. Manufacturing, consumer intermediate and capital goods
- 30. Electricity, gas and water
- 31. Construction: housing, other
- 32. Wholesale and retail, restaurant and hotel trade
- 33. Transport and communications
- 34. Finance, insurance and immovable goods
- 35. General government
- 36. Gross domestic savings
- 37. Net external savings
- 38. Total gross investment as a percentage of the product

IV. PRICES

- 39. Consumer price index
- 40. Wholesale price index
- 41. Index of unit value of exports
- 42. Index of unit value of imports

V. EXTERNAL SECTOR

- 43. Exports: value and physical volume
- 44. Exports: purchasing power
- 45. Destination of exports of goods
- 46. Exports, by principal products
- 47. Imports: value and physical volume

48. Imports: structure; if possible according to SITC
49. Imports of foodstuffs
50. Net donations received from abroad
51. Net factor payments abroad
52. Balance of payments: balance on current account
53. Capital movements
54. Variation of international reserves.

