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STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Tenth session  
28 April to 16 May 1958

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers of the Commission
2. Adoption of agenda
3. General survey of developments in international statistics
4. Industrial statistics
5. Enterprise statistics
6. Wholesale prices
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~~STATISTICAL COMMISSION~~

Tenth session  
28 April to 16 May 1958

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. Election of officers of the Commission

A chairman, a vice-chairman and a rapporteur should be elected to serve as officers from the beginning of the tenth session to the beginning of the eleventh session of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to make deletions or additions to the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/226). They will also wish to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. General survey of developments in international statistics

The survey (E/CN.3/249) contains a description of the statistical activities of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other international organizations and describes the developments in economic and social statistics which have taken place since the review (E/CN.3/196) which was submitted to the Commission at its ninth session. A description is also given of the activities in technical assistance during the period under review.

4. Industrial statistics

- (a) Proposed revisions of the standards for basic industrial statistics  
(E/CN.3/L.40 and Addenda 1 and 2, and E/CN.3/242)

In response to the request of the Commission that a review of its recommendations on basic industrial statistics be made to take into account national practice and recent developments, information has been sought from governments. The results of this investigation are submitted in document E/CN.3/242 for the consideration of the Commission, together with draft proposals for changes in the recommendations which the Commission adopted in this field. Information has also been sought from governments as to their plans for industrial censuses in and around 1962 and the results of this enquiry are contained in the above-mentioned report.

(b) Proposed revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ST/STAT/4 and Addendum 1, and E/CN.3/243)

At its ninth session the Commission requested that a study be made of the changes required in the Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities in the light of national needs and practices and that governments be consulted on the changes proposed. The report on this undertaking is contained in document E/CN.3/243, together with proposals for these revisions.

5. Statistics of enterprises

(a) Reporting unit for economic statistics (E/CN.3/244)

This study is submitted in response to the Commission's request that an investigation of the experience of governments be made on the reporting unit used in collecting and compiling different statistical series, with a view to ascertaining the problems involved in utilizing the establishment or the enterprise as the more appropriate unit.

(b) Progress report on enterprise statistics (E/CN.3/245)

This progress report gives an account of the research undertaken on statistics of business enterprises and of their balance sheet and profit-and-loss accounts.

6. Wholesale prices

(a) Problems in collection of wholesale prices (E/CN.3/246)

The problems involved in the collection of comparable price series for goods which are highly fabricated or which are subject to wide changes in quality or supply are described in document E/CN.3/246 and alternative solutions are submitted for the consideration of the Commission.

(b) General purpose retail price indexes (E/CN.3/247)

This report examines the concepts and methods for general-purpose indexes for sales at retail. It is the result of an enquiry, in co-operation with the International Labour Office, which was undertaken at the instigation of the Commission at its ninth session.

7. External trade statistics

(a) Report on free ports and customs areas of the world (E/CN.3/234)

In connexion with the revision of a listing of national definitions of customs areas considered by the Commission at its ninth session, the Secretary-General was requested to enumerate the free ports and free zones indicating the magnitude of trade of each; document E/CN.3/234 presents this information.

(b) Problems of adapting external trade statistics for special types of economic analysis (E/CN.3/235)

This paper discusses systematic methods of improving the usefulness for general economic purposes of merchandise import and export statistics and of indexes of quantum and unit value for external trade.

8. National accounts

(a) Proposed amendments to A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables (E/CN.3/L.44 and E/CN.3/229)

In accordance with the request of the Commission, proposals for the modification of the existing text of the United Nations System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables have been circulated for comment to Member Governments (E/CN.3/L.44) and a report on the results of this enquiry is submitted to the Commission in document E/CN.3/229.

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- (b) Points of correspondence and difference in A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables and systems used in countries with centrally planned economies (E/CN.3/230)

This report has been prepared in response to the Commission's request that the study should be continued of other existing systems of national accounts, with special reference to those of countries with planned economies, so as to indicate the points of correspondence and difference between them and the United Nations System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables. This study is submitted to the Commission in document E/CN.3/230.

- (c) A system of price and quantity indexes (E/CN.3/231 and E/CN.3/L.46)

At its ninth session the Commission drew attention to the need for improvement in the quality of price and quantity indexes in national accounting, and requested that a technical report on the subject be prepared for circulation to governments and that a progress report be submitted to the Commission. Document E/CN.3/231 contains this report.

#### 9. Statistics of capital formation

- (a) Problems and methods with special reference to under-developed countries (E/CN.3/227)

The report contained in document E/CN.3/227 is submitted in response to the Commission's request that the collection of information on methods of estimation be continued with a view to the preparation of a programme for the collection and presentation of statistics of capital formation and capital consumption, taking the needs of the under-developed countries especially into consideration.

- (b) Proposed amendments to Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation (E/CN.3/L.45 and E/CN.3/228)

Proposals for the revision of the United Nations recommendations set forth in Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation have been circulated for comment to governments (E/CN.3/L.45). The results of this investigation, together with draft revisions which have been formulated to take account of the comments received, are submitted for consideration in document E/CN.3/228.

10. Distribution of income (E/CN.3/L.42 and E/CN.3/233)

The Commission at its ninth session considered a study (E/CN.3/208) of practices employed by countries in the compilation of basic data on the distribution of personal income by size classes and other socio-economic characteristics. At the request of the Commission, this study has been revised in the light of their discussions and circulated for comment to governments (E/CN.3/L.42) and a progress report is submitted to this session (E/CN.3/233).

11. Balance of payments statistics (E/CN.3/253)

Document E/CN.3/253 contains a progress report from the International Monetary Fund on the developments in the field of balance of payments statistics since the ninth session of the Commission.

12. Classification of government accounts (E/CN.3/254)

A progress report is submitted in document E/CN.3/254 on the revised version of the United Nations Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions, together with a summary of the comments received from governments and interested regional and international organizations.

13. Demographic statistics

(a) World population census programme

(i) General principles for a population census (E/CN.3/236)

At its ninth session the Commission requested that a revision of the preliminary recommendations for the 1960 world population census (E/CN.3/211) be prepared to incorporate the modifications it had indicated as well as those arising from regional consultations. These revised recommendations have been submitted to the Population Commission as requested by the Statistical Commission and are now presented in document E/CN.3/236 for final consideration.

(ii) Progress report (E/CN.3/237)

This report contains general information on the various activities carried out under the 1960 World Population Census Programme.

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(b) Progress report on vital statistics (E/CN.3/238)

This paper contains a review of the developments in the field of vital statistics since the ninth session of the Commission.

14. Social Statistics

(a) International programme of social statistics (E/CN.3/239)

In accordance with the request of the Commission, expressed at its ninth session, an international programme of social statistics is outlined in document E/CN.3/239. The programme has been drawn up with a view to promoting the study of the methodology of the use of statistics in the formulation of national social policies. It also contains a proposal for the publication of a compendium of social statistics at four-year intervals starting with a 1963 issue. The Commission may wish to indicate the nature of the studies and activities to be undertaken with a view to the implementation of the above-mentioned programme.

(b) General principles for a housing census (E/CN.3/240)

At the request of the Commission a set of general principles for a housing census (ST/STAT/P/L.22) was prepared and circulated to governments and discussed by regional groups, namely the Conference of European Statisticians and the Inter-American Statistical Institute's Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS). A revised version incorporating the conclusions of this national and regional consultation is submitted to the Statistical Commission in document E/CN.3/240. In view of the proximity of the 1960 censuses the Commission will wish to make final recommendations regarding these principles.

(c) International definitions and measurement of standards and levels of living (E/CN.3/241)

Document E/CN.3/241 contains a progress report of the work done in this field by the United Nations and interested specialized agencies.

(d) Family living statistics (E/CN.3/250)

At its ninth session the Commission expressed the hope that the International Labour Office would present a summary to the tenth session on the work undertaken in the methodology of family living studies, as well as on the methods used to measure under-employment. Document E/CN.3/250 contains this information.

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(e) International Standard Classification of Occupations (E/CN.3/251)

The Commission, at its ninth session, asked to be informed by the International Labour Office about the action taken by the Ninth Conference of Labour Statisticians on the status of the International Standard Classification of Occupations. Document E/CN.3/251 presents a report on this subject.

(f) Educational and cultural statistics (E/CN.3/252)

A progress report on educational and cultural statistics is submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in document E/CN.3/252, in response to the Commission's desire to be kept informed of developments in this field.

15. Basic statistics for economic and social development (E/CN.3/L.41 and E/CN.3/248)

In accordance with the Commission's request that work be continued on a basic list of important economic and social statistical series for use by less statistically advanced countries, a preliminary document (E/CN.3/L.41) was circulated to governments and specialized agencies for comment. Document E/CN.3/248 reflects the results of this enquiry.

16. Matters referred to the Statistical Commission by other international bodies

(a) Points discussed by the Population Commission which are of interest to the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/255).

17. Other business

Under this item the Commission may wish to discuss questions which do not appear on the agenda.

18. Priorities of the Commission's work programme (E/CN.3/232)

The Commission will wish to assign priorities to its work programme. In addition, the Commission will have before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing his observations on the work programme of the Commission, pursuant to resolutions 630AI(XXII) and 664B(XXIV) of the Economic and Social Council. These observations (together with the comments of the Commission thereon) will be included

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in the Secretary-General's Report to be submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Council. (This report will be similar to the report submitted to the twenty-fourth session (E/3011), under the title, "Observations on the Work Programme of the Council and on the Financial Implications of the Council's Actions").

19. Report of the tenth session to the Economic and Social Council

The report of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council on its tenth session will be prepared by the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat, upon termination of the discussion of each item on the agenda. A separate paper on financial implications of the recommendations made by the Commission will be prepared, should the necessity arise.

The reference numbers of the Statistical Commission reports on previous sessions are given below:

|         |              |        |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Nuclear | E/39         | (1946) |
| First   | E/264        | (1947) |
| Second  | E/577        | (1947) |
| Third   | E/795        | (1948) |
| Fourth  | E/1312       | (1949) |
| Fifth   | E/1696/Rev.1 | (1950) |
| Sixth   | E/1994       | (1951) |
| Seventh | E/2365       | (1953) |
| Eighth  | E/2569       | (1954) |
| Ninth   | E/2876       | (1956) |

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Tenth session  
28 April to 16 May 1958

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. Election of officers of the Commission

A chairman, a vice-chairman and a rapporteur should be elected to serve as officers from the beginning of the tenth session to the beginning of the eleventh session of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to make deletions or additions to the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/226). They will also wish to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. General survey of developments in international statistics (E/CN.3/249)

The survey discussed in this document contains a description of the statistical activities of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other international organizations and describes the developments in economic and social statistics which have taken place since the review (E/CN.3/196) which was submitted to the Commission at its ninth session. A description is also given of the activities in technical assistance during the period under review.

Section II of the survey contains the observations of the Secretary-General on the work programme pursuant to resolutions 630 A I (XXII) and 664 B (XXIV) of the Economic and Social Council. The substance of these observations, together with the views of the Commission thereon and its specific recommendations, concerning priorities for future work, will be submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Council (summer 1958).

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4. Industrial statistics

(a) Proposed revisions of the standards for basic industrial statistics  
(E/CN.3/L.40 and Addenda 1 and 2, and E/CN.3/242 and Addendum 1)

In response to the request of the Commission, a study was undertaken of the feasibility of a world-wide industrial census programme and of the revisions required in the recommendations of the Commission on basic industrial statistics in the light of recent national practices and developments. In the documents E/CN.3/242 and Addendum 1, as a result of analyses of recent national experience and consultations with governments, information is set out on the plans of countries to take industrial censuses in and around 1963 and on the revisions needed in the recommendations of the Commission in this field. The problems involved in making these revisions are also reviewed to enable the Commission to indicate the direction which further work on this subject should take.

(b) Proposed revisions in the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ST/STAT/4 and Add.1, and E/CN.3/243)

At its ninth session the Commission requested that a study be made of the changes required in the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities in the light of national needs and practices and that governments be consulted on the proposed changes. The report on this undertaking is contained in document E/CN.3/243, together with proposals for revisions in the international classification.

5. Statistics of enterprises

(a) The statistical unit in economic statistics (E/CN.3/244)

This study is submitted in response to the Commission's request that an investigation be undertaken of the practices and problems of countries in utilizing the establishment, the enterprise or other statistical units in collecting and compiling economic statistics. The paper contains a discussion of the character of the different statistical units which have been utilized, the consideration involved in choosing the appropriate statistical unit for different economic statistics, and the need for linking each of the statistical units chosen to one another. This information is presented to enable the Commission to indicate the character of the further work that is needed on this question.

(b) Progress report on statistics of enterprises (E/CN.3/245)

This report gives an account of developments in the field of statistics of enterprises and of the progress in the work undertaken at the request of the Commission on the character, definition and classification of items of data which might be derived from the balance-sheet and profit-and-loss accounts of business enterprises.

6. Wholesale prices

(a) Problems in the collection of comparable wholesale price series (E/CN.3/246)

In response to the request of the Commission at the ninth session, this document consists of a discussion of alternatives for dealing with the problems involved in compiling comparable price series for goods which are highly fabricated and other goods which are subject to wide changes in either quality or supply. The advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives and the need for further investigation of them are set out for consideration by the Commission.

(b) General purpose index numbers of retail prices (E/CN.3/247)

In this report are surveyed the character, uses and systems of classification and pricing of general-purpose index numbers on the sales of retail trade and related establishments, the expenditures of households and private consumption expenditures in national accounts. This discussion is designed to enable the Commission to indicate the direction in which further work in this field should proceed. The International Labour Office was consulted on the report.

7. External trade statistics

(a) Report on free ports and customs areas of the world (E/CN.3/234)

In connexion with the revision of a listing of national definitions of customs areas considered by the Commission at its ninth session, the Secretary-General was requested to enumerate the free ports and free zones indicating the magnitude of trade of each; document E/CN.3/234 suggests for consideration of the Commission a draft definition of "free area" in terms of which the enumeration might be carried out and reports progress made in revising the draft list (E/CN.3/L.35) of customs areas.

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(b) Problems of adapting external trade statistics for special types of economic analysis (E/CN.3/235)

This paper discusses systematic methods of improving the usefulness for general economic purposes of merchandise import and export statistics and of indexes of quantum and unit value for external trade.

8. National accounts

(a) Proposed amendments to "A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables" and "Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation" (E/CN.3/L.44 and E/CN.3/229)

In accordance with the request of the Commission, proposals for the revision of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 2) and Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 3) have been circulated for comments to member Governments (E/CN.3/L.44). A summary of the comments received, together with a number of final recommendations on this work, is submitted to the Commission in document E/CN.3/229.

(b) Points of correspondence and difference in A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables and systems used in countries with centrally planned economies (E/CN.3/230)

A preliminary report has been prepared in response to the Commission's request that the study should be continued of other existing systems of national accounts, with special reference to those of countries with planned economies, so as to indicate the points of correspondence and difference between them and the United Nations System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables. If it is possible to submit this study to the Commission, it will be distributed as document E/CN.3/230.

(c) A system of price and quantity indexes (E/CN.3/231 and E/CN.3/L.46)

At its ninth session the Commission drew attention to the need for improvement in the quality of price and quantity indexes in national accounting, and requested that a technical report on the subject be prepared for circulation to Governments and that a progress report be submitted to the Commission. Document E/CN.3/231 contains this report.

(d) Problems in countries at a very early stage of development (E/CN.3/256)

In view of the rather unique problems to which the economic and social arrangements typical of very under-developed countries give rise in national income work, an exploratory report touching on the main issues has been prepared for the information of the Commission (E/CN.3/256).

9. Statistics of capital formation

(a) Problems and methods with special reference to under-developed countries (E/CN.3/227)

The report contained in this document is submitted in response to the Commission's request that the collection of information on methods of estimation be continued with a view to the preparation of a programme for the collection and presentation of statistics of capital formation and capital consumption, taking the needs of the under-developed countries especially into consideration.

(b) Proposed amendments to "Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation" (E/CN.3/L.44 and E/CN.3/229)

See item 8 (a) above.

10. Distribution of income (E/CN.3/L.42 and E/CN.3/233)

The Commission at its ninth session considered a study (E/CN.3/208) of practices employed by countries in the compilation of basic data on the distribution of personal income by size classes and other socio-economic characteristics. At the request of the Commission, this study had been revised in the light of their discussions and circulated for comment to governments (E/CN.3/L.42). A summary of the comments received, together with suggestions for future work in this field, is submitted to this session (E/CN.3/233).

11. Balance of payments statistics (E/CN.3/253)

A progress report from the International Monetary Fund on the developments in the field of balance of payments statistics since the ninth session of the Commission is contained in document E/CN.3/253).

12. Classification of Government accounts (E/CN.3/254)

A progress report is submitted in this document on the revised version of the United Nations Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions. Copies of the manual have been despatched to central statistical

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offices as well as to fiscal authorities with a request for comments but it is unlikely that many replies will have been received by the time of the tenth session of the Commission.

13. Demographic statistics

(a) World population census programme

(i) Principles and recommendations for national population censuses  
(E/CN.3/236 and Add.1)

This document constitutes the latest draft of the world-wide population census recommendations and is presented for the final consideration of the Commission. Two earlier drafts were considered by the Statistical Commission and the Population Commission respectively, as well as by national governments and regional bodies.

(ii) Progress report (E/CN.3/237 and Add.1)

This report contains general information on the various activities carried out under the 1960 World Population Census Programme.

(b) Activities in the field of demographic statistics (E/CN.3/238)

This paper contains a review of developments in the assembly, publication and evaluation of demographic statistics.

14. Social statistics

(a) International programme of social statistics (E/CN.3/239)

In accordance with the request of the Commission, expressed at its ninth session, an international programme of social statistics is outlined in document E/CN.3/239. The programme has been drawn up with a view to promoting the study of the methodology of the use of statistics in the formulation of national social policies. It also contains a proposal for the publication of a compendium of social statistics at four-year intervals starting with a 1963 issue. The Commission may wish to indicate the nature of the studies and activities to be undertaken with a view to the implementation of the above-mentioned programme.

(b) Report on the development of general principles for a housing census  
(E/CN.3/240 and Add.1)

At the request of the Commission a set of general principles for a housing census (E/CN.3/240) was prepared and circulated to governments and discussed by

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regional groups, namely the Conference of European Statisticians and the Inter-American Statistical Institute's Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS). A revised version incorporating the conclusions of this national and regional consultation is submitted to the Statistical Commission in document E/CN.3/240/Add.1. In view of the proximity of the 1960 censuses the Commission will wish to make final recommendations regarding these principles.

(c) Report on statistical aspects of the international definition and measurement of levels of living (E/CN.3/241)

This paper contains a progress report of the work done in this field by the United Nations and interested specialized agencies.

(d) Report on family living studies (E/CN.3/250)

At its ninth session the Commission expressed the hope that the International Labour Office would present a summary to the tenth session on the work undertaken in the methodology of family living studies, as well as on the methods used to measure under-employment. Document E/CN.3/250 contains this information.

(e) The International Standard Classification of Occupations (E/CN.3/251)

The Commission, at its ninth session, asked to be informed by the International Labour Office about the action taken by the Ninth Conference of Labour Statisticians on the status of the International Standard Classification of Occupations. Document E/CN.3/251 presents a report on this subject.

(f) Statistics on education, culture and mass communication (E/CN.3/252)

A progress report on educational and cultural statistics is submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in document E/CN.3/252, in response to the Commission's desire to be kept informed of developments in this field.

15. Basic statistics for economic and social development (E/CN.3/L.41 and E/CN.3/248)

In accordance with the Commission's request that work be continued on an integrated list of basic economic and social statistics for use by statistically less advanced countries in programmes of development, a preliminary document (E/CN.3/L.41) was circulated for comment to governments and specialized agencies. This document consisted of a list of basic statistics together with a

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discussion of the way in which the series might be utilized and interrelated to one another in programmes of economic and social development and of the broad methods and priorities of gathering these series. In document E/CN.3/248 is set out the list of basic series resulting from these consultations for the consideration of the Statistical Commission. The nature of the changes required in the text of document E/CN.3/L.41 is also indicated.

16. Matters referred to the Statistical Commission by other international bodies

Points of interest arising from the ninth session of the Population Commission are described in document E/CN.3/249, the General Survey of Developments in International Statistics.

17. Other business

Under this item the Commission may wish to discuss questions which do not appear on the agenda.

18. Priorities of the Commission's work programme (E/CN.3/232)

The Commission will wish to assign priorities to its work programme (see item 3 above). A paper reflecting the views expressed during discussion of the various items on the tenth session agenda will be submitted toward the end of the session for consideration by the Commission as document E/CN.3/232.

19. Report of the tenth session to the Economic and Social Council

The report of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council on its tenth session will be prepared by the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat, upon termination of the discussion of each item on the agenda. A separate paper on the financial implications of the recommendations made by the Commission will be prepared, should the necessity arise.

The reference numbers of the Statistical Commission reports on previous sessions are given below:

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| Eighth  | E/2569       | (1954) |
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