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STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Tenth session

DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON
THE TENTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
HELD IN NEW YORK, FROM 28 APRIL TO 1958

I. Organization of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its tenth session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 28 April to _____.
2. The following representatives and alternates attended the session:
 - Canada: Mr. W.E. Duffett, Mr. S.A. Goldberg (Alternate)
 - China: Mr. Chung-Sieu Chen *
 - Cuba: Mr. C. Luhrsen Gonzalez
 - Denmark: Mr. Kjeld Bjerke *
 - Dominican Republic: Mr. K.L. Dipp Gomez, Mr. E. Cordero Michel (Alternate)
 - France: Mr. F. Closon, Mr. Ph. Marandet (Alternate)
 - India: Mr. P.C. Mahalanobis
 - Ireland: Mr. M.D. McCarthy
 - Netherlands: Mr. Ph. J. Idenburg
 - New Zealand: Mr. G.E. Wood, Mr. J.V.T. Baker (Alternate)
 - Romania: Mr. M. Levente, Mr. V. Trebici (Alternate)
 - Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: Mr. L.M. Koretsky
 - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. T.V. Ryabushkin
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Sir Harry Campion,
Mr. J. Stafford (Advisor)
 - United States of America: Mr. R.T. Bowman
3. Mr. B.A. Perez of the Philippines attended the tenth session of the Statistical Commission as an observer.

* Alternate, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the member confirmed by the Economic and Social Council being unable to attend.

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

International Labour Organisation: Mr. R.J. Myers

Food and Agriculture Organization: Mr. P.L. Sherman

United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization: Mr. B.A. Liu

International Monetary Fund: Mr. E. Hicks, Mr. W. Gardner, Mr. G. Dorrance

International Civil Aviation Organization: Mr. B. Kortekaas, Mr. A.M. Lester

World Health Organization: Dr. Y. Biraud

5. The following representatives of non-governmental organizations with consultative status were present at the session:

CATEGORY A

International Chamber of Commerce: Mr. G.L. Ridgeway, Mrs. R. Lusardi

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions: Mr. L. Teper

World Federation of Trade Unions: Miss E. Kahn

International Federation of Christian Trade Unions: Mr. G.C. Thormann

CATEGORY B and REGISTER

International Statistical Institute: Mr. R. Eckler

Inter-American Statistical Institute: Mr. O.A. de Moraes

International Association of Penal Law: Mr. S. Manuila

Election of Officers of the tenth session

6. The Commission unanimously elected the following officers for the tenth session:

Chairman: Mr. G.E. Wood (New Zealand)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Levente (Romania)

Rapporteur: Mr. M.D. McCarthy (Ireland)

Agenda

7. The Commission adopted the following agenda for the tenth session:

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

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Agenda (continued)

6. Wholesale prices
7. External trade statistics
8. National accounts
9. Statistics of capital formation
10. Distribution of income
11. Balance of payments statistics
12. Classification of government accounts
13. Demographic statistics
14. Social statistics
15. Programme of basic statistics for economic and social development
16. Matters referred to the Statistical Commission by other international bodies:
 - (a) Subjects referred by the Population Commission
17. Other business
18. Priorities of the Commission's work programme
19. Report of the tenth session to the Economic and Social Council

Concentration of Activities

8. In resolution 664B (XXIV) the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report along the lines of Observations on the Work Programme of the Council and on the Financial Implications of the Council's Actions (document E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2). The consideration of this matter at the Council's twenty-fourth session had not included the statistical programme owing to the fact that the Commission had not met in 1957. In accordance with the Council's resolution, the Commission reviewed its work programme and the work programme of the Statistical Office. It had before it document E/CN.3/249, Review of International Statistics, which summarized these work programmes.

9. The Commission gave particular attention to the publication programme of the Statistical Office which was summarized in paragraphs 11 to 17 of the Secretary-General's memorandum (E/CN.3/249). In view of the growth in number and size of the statistical publications, which was due partly to the expansion of statistics in recent years, selectivity and summarization of the statistical series would be necessary to keep the publications within the limits of the

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resources. Continued attention would have to be given to the need for economy and to the prevention of duplication. It was considered, however, that the regular statistical publications of the Office were of paramount importance for international purposes and of great value for public and private purposes in the individual countries. These publications, in particular the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook, the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, and the Demographic Yearbook, had become almost indispensable tools in the day-to-day activity of many government agencies and of a growing number of non-governmental and business organizations. The Commission wished, therefore, to record the importance which it attached to the work of the Statistical Office and of the other international agencies in the systematic publication of statistical data to serve a wide variety of needs. This was a prime function of the Statistical Office which, with the co-operation of the national offices, it was in a position to perform more effectively and economically than any other body. Failure to publish regularly would undoubtedly lead to a large number of individual requests for data which would, in the long run, be more expensive to meet. The Commission wished particularly to emphasize the need for prompt publication of data. Certain of the series, for example, data on world trade, were urgently required for current purposes in many countries, and the Statistical Office was, therefore, requested to endeavour to speed up the release of its quarterly data which were regrettably late in appearing. Since much of the delay was due to printing difficulties, perhaps a preliminary survey of the data could be circulated to countries by airmail each quarter.

10. The Commission felt that even wider use of the international statistical data, being compiled by the United Nations Statistical Office and the statistical divisions of the specialized agencies, would be facilitated by the publication of a revised bibliography along the lines of the List of Statistical Series Collected by International Agencies, published by the Statistical Office in 1955 (M 11, Rev.1). The Commission felt that this catalogue of statistical series had been of value to many countries and that it should be expanded to provide information showing the scope of each of the series and to include descriptive material.

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11. The manuals and other publications dealing with statistical methods were useful to the work of the statistical offices in all countries, as well as being particularly valuable to the countries where statistical systems were at an early stage of development. The attention of the Council and of the General Assembly should be drawn to the value of these publications. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a bibliography of all methodological publications in statistics produced by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional conferences to afford a ready means of reference to any country which wished to organize or reorganize a particular section of its statistical service.

12. It was felt also that certain subjects which had been discussed from time to time to time by the Commission were at present inadequately documented. For example, the Commission's work on wholesale prices had resulted in a number of very useful documents which were not readily available to national offices studying the subject, because the material existed only in the form of Commission papers considered at the various sessions. A publication which assembled the material of selected documents in one place would be very useful. Descriptive analyses of the problems of collection of statistics in the various subject fields were also required, together with descriptions of national experience in collecting and compiling data and in the utilization of international standards. It would, for instance, be useful to provide, on an international basis, similar information to that published by the United Kingdom in its National Income Statistics, Sources and Methods, which described the method of collection of the main categories of the United Kingdom national accounts. Such comparative studies were considered to be even more necessary than the development of new standards since they would be of great assistance to the national offices in the improvement of the quality of the data which they produced.

13. The Commission took note of the existing arrangements for the co-ordination of work programmes, in the field of statistics, of the international agencies. In addition, the Commission heard reports from the representatives of the specialized agencies concerning their statistical activities. It considered that it was most valuable to the Commission to receive these statements since by such means it was able to keep in close touch with the international statistical programme as a whole. Moreover, the statistical activities of the

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various agencies were reflected in the requests for information received by the statistical offices of member countries. These requests added considerably to the work of the national offices and it was essential that the Secretariat maintain continuous close co-ordination at the technical level to ensure that there was no duplication of effort and that data supplied to one agency were available for the use of all international agencies.

14. In this connexion the Commission noted that copies of statistical questionnaires prepared by the specialized agencies were submitted to the Statistical Office for circulation to all agencies. This system had been of help in previous years in avoiding duplication of statistical requests to the national offices. The Commission felt that the circulation of all questionnaires to all agencies was now unnecessary but that copies of agency questionnaires should continue to be sent to the Statistical Office. The purpose of the previous arrangement would be adequately served in future by the Statistical Office's review of the questionnaires.

15. In considering the problem of statistical work in the regional commissions, it was noted that the work programmes were integrated by the Statistical Office through its officers stationed at the headquarters of the regional commissions. The Commission felt that information on the work of the regional conferences of statisticians would be of interest to all Commission members and to national statistical offices, and arrangements for the dissemination of such information should be made by the Secretariat. In this connexion, it was considered also that the Commission should continue to receive reports on other regional statistical activities, such as seminars, and also on technical assistance provided to countries with the object of improving their statistics. While such reports might increase the documentation, it was felt that they were necessary to ensure that the Commission's review of the work programme was a comprehensive one.

16. The Secretariat was invited to explore methods of achieving a reduction in the volume of documentation received directly by the Commission. Possible methods suggested were the greater use of regional discussions and of groups of experts to carry out preliminary study at the technical level. Countries would also be greatly assisted by the earlier circulation of technical documents

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which required detailed attention by the national offices in preparation for the discussion of the Commission.

17. The Commission indicated that further work was required at the international level on problems connected with the integration of different statistical series and with the reconciliation of data which measured related but not completely identical aggregates. In developing statistical inquiries, it was always necessary to consider the principal uses to which the data would be put. This frequently indicated the degree of uncertainty which could be permitted and consequently determined the amount of resources which should be allocated to specific surveys. Attention should also be given to the assessment of needs for scientific and technical manpower in the less developed countries and specifically to the relation between the numbers of scientific and technical personnel and process workers in different industries. This subject is dealt with in a later section of the report.

18. The Commission noted that the General Assembly had decided on the setting up of a Special Fund for Economic Development (resolution A/1219 (XII)), as a means for expanding the economic assistance available to the less developed countries. The Commission considered that surveys of the resources and economic potential of those countries should be encouraged and that in the statistical operation involved in such surveys care should be taken to associate national statisticians with the foreign experts engaged in the work. In this way the national statistical services would be given the experience and knowledge which would assist them to continue the work in the future. It was felt that sampling methods would be of great value in these operations. The Commission also noted with gratification that it would be possible, by means of the Special Fund, to initiate training programmes in statistics for the assistance of countries requiring such help.

19. It was suggested that the kinds of projects which might be financed by the Special Fund should include statistical studies of resources from the broad economic point of view. For example, statistical studies, of the nature of operations research, could be undertaken to determine the changes required in the agricultural field in consequence of expected changes in the population and in the structure of the economy in the course of fulfilment of national

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economic development plans. The problem of allocation of resources to various uses in the course of these development plans was basically a statistical problem which could profitably be studied in the less industrialized areas.

20. On the general question of the work programme of the Statistical Office the Commission considered that the programme was satisfactory. While the Commission's discussion had revealed the need for certain additional work, it was felt that in general the new projects could be handled by rearrangement of the priorities of the work programme which are discussed later in this report. In general, the Commission considered that the progress made in international statistics to date represented a notable achievement.

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Tenth session

DRAFT REPORT

STATISTICAL SERIES FOR THE USE OF LESS INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES
IN PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The Commission considered two memoranda prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/248 and E/CN.3/L.41) concerning statistical series which would be of assistance to less industrialized countries in developing an integrated system of statistics for use in programmes of economic and social development. The former memorandum contained a list of statistical series for this purpose including, for each of the series, a description of components, scope, frequency, possible sources of information and supplementary series of interest. This list reflected the comments of Governments of Member States and of the specialized agencies on an earlier version of the list which was presented in document E/CN.3/L.41. The earlier memorandum contained, in addition to the list of basic series, a textual discussion of the uses of each of the series in programming and assessing development, and of the relation of the various series to one another.

2. The Commission felt that the list of series set out in Basic Statistics for Economic and Social Development, E/CN.3/248, would furnish valuable and realistic guidance to industrially less advanced countries in developing an integrated system of statistics for purposes of assessing and furthering economic and social development. The list was not to be considered a minimum or standard set of statistical series since a number of less industrialized countries did not have the necessary resources or experience to gather some of the series listed.

Moreover, certain of these countries did not need and might not find it feasible to gather, even at advanced stages in the development of statistics, all of the

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series enumerated. It was not possible for such a list to include all of the statistics which less developed countries might find necessary to meet their specific needs at various stages of development. The list did, however, contain the main statistical series which have proved to be feasible to collect and include the principal measures necessary to assess economic growth and changes in conditions of living as well as the resources for furthering development. The list would serve as a means by which the statistical offices of less developed countries could establish the objectives and the order of development of their statistical work by a process of selection in the light of national circumstances, needs and resources. The textual material of the document should be revised to set out clearly the relative importance and need for the various series in order to assist the statistically less developed countries in making their selection.

3. The Commission agreed that the system of national accounts should be excluded from the list of statistical series in view of the extensive data required in order to complete these accounts. However, many of the statistical series in the list would provide basic data for completing parts of the national accounts, and the compilation of an articulated set of national accounts should be regarded as an ultimate objective. In the revised text to accompany the list of series, emphasis should be given to methods of integrating the series by means of the national accounts. The value of having estimates, even though rough, of such aggregates as national income, gross domestic product consumption and total capital formation should be indicated in the text. In this connexion it was suggested that some attention might be given in the text to concepts of income and consumption appropriate for use in non-monetized economies. It would be desirable to provide in the text a general discussion of the usefulness of sampling - in particular, the advantages of an integrated scheme of sampling for gathering many of the series - although sampling has been dealt with in connexion with many of the individual series. The question of accuracy should be discussed in relation to the uses of the series and the available resources.

4. It was not feasible to suggest orders of priority for the collection of the statistical series in the list more specific than those already given in the text of document E/CN.3/L.41 because of the diversity of conditions among the less industrialized countries of the world. The differences in stage of development, needs for information and resources for gathering data would be

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less marked among the less industrialized countries of particular regions. It would be practicable to establish, on a regional basis, certain orders of priority among the series, and consultations should, therefore, take place for this purpose at the regional level.

5. The Commission felt that the following points should be referred to in the textual material accompanying the list:

- (i) The desirability of classification according to urban and rural areas should be indicated for some additional statistical series, for example, the number of registered doctors, nurses and related personnel.
- (ii) An important question facing countries engaged in programmes of economic development was the need for and availability of scientific, engineering and technical personnel. The distribution of the population by type and level of education completed, the number of students enrolled in schools according to level of education and type of school and the distribution of the economically active population according to occupation would provide useful benchmark information for this purpose. However, data were also needed on the requirements of industry for scientific, engineering and technical personnel at different levels of output and rationalization. For this purpose special studies of labour, industry and education would be required and internationally comparable data on the need for and availability of these personnel would therefore be valuable. This subject involved the responsibility of the ILO and UNESCO and it would be desirable that these agencies co-operate in the study of the subject. In particular, comparable definitions which were meaningful and realistic, were needed with regard to the scientific, engineering and technical occupations.
- (iii) Classifications of the population according to the socio-economic status of the head of the household were required for many kinds of economic and social analysis. Similar importance attached to classifications of agricultural holdings distinguishing those employing hired labour by numbers employed.

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- (iv) Where resources permitted, it would be useful to obtain classifications of the aggregate area of field crops during the crop year distinguishing size of holdings, area and number of trees and vines of productive age, and number of livestock held at a specific date. This information, the Commission felt, was too detailed for inclusion in the list proper.
 - (v) The value of gathering data on bank clearings and on interest rates in addition to the central bank rediscount rate should be mentioned.
 - (vi) The series on household income and expenditure might be gathered at regular intervals where resources permitted.
6. The Commission adopted the following resolution:
- The Statistical Commission,
Invites the Secretary-General
- 1. To revise the list of statistical series set out in his memorandum E/CN.3/248 and the textual discussion of the series contained in his memorandum E/CN.3/L.41;
 - 2. To circulate the revised document to members of the Commission for their comments and suggestions, to complete the document in the light of such additional comments and suggestions as may be received, and to circulate it to Member States for the use of the less developed countries in selecting appropriate series for the development of an integrated system of statistics in order to meet national needs;
 - 3. To consult with the statistical offices of the less developed countries through regional conferences and other means in order to assist countries which are developing their statistical systems in the selection of appropriate series and the determination of priorities of their statistical work programmes.

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Tenth session

DRAFT REPORT

STANDARDS FOR BASIC INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS
(Item 4 (a))

1. The Commission decided, at its ninth session, to consider (i) a world-wide programme of collecting comprehensive data on industrial units for 1962 or a proximate year, and (ii) alterations required in the standards in basic industrial statistics in the light of the experience of countries since the adoption of these standards by the Commission. The Commission considered these questions on the basis of a memorandum (E/CN.3/242 and Addendum 1) prepared by the Secretary-General. This memorandum set out information on the need for, and feasibility of, a world-wide programme of industrial inquiries. It also contained a preliminary set of revisions in the recommendations of the Commission concerning the coverage, the statistical unit to be used and the items of data to be sought in annual and less frequent inquiries. The document was the result of detailed analyses of recent country practices and experience in the field of basic industrial statistics and the comments of Governments on earlier versions of the memorandum (E/CN.3/L.40 and Adds.1 and 2).

2. The Commission considered that the compilation of comprehensive information on industry (i.e., mining, manufacturing, construction and the production of gas, electricity and steam) for 1963 or a year close to 1963 should be recommended to Governments of Member States. There were many urgent needs, both international and national, for internationally comparable data on industry. In view of the demand for such information, the Statistical Office was engaged in compiling data for 1938, 1948 and 1953 on the structure and key activities of industry in countries of the world. These data, classified according to groups of the

International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, would show the number of establishments, value added, employment and installed power capacity and the relationships between these items of data. It was hoped to extend this study later to other aspects of industry. Since 1952 over sixty countries have taken industrial inquiries, and almost as many countries had indicated their intention to collect comprehensive information on industry for 1963 or a proximate year. Other countries had indicated that they would consider shifting the date of their comprehensive industrial inquiries to the year adopted for the world-wide programme. Countries would gather these comprehensive data through censuses of industry, annual industrial inquiries or recurrent statistical or administrative surveys. While it was intended that construction should be included in these inquiries, some countries would encounter difficulties in gathering data for that industry. Specific recommendations would be needed for the world-wide programme with regard to coverage and to the items of data to be sought and their classification.

3. The Commission felt that the preliminary suggestions set out in Draft Resolutions to the International Standards in Basic Industrial Statistics (E/CN.3/242/Add.1) took adequate account of the recent problems, experience and practices of countries and improved on the existing standards in this field. The document, revised in the light of the discussions of the Commission, furnished an excellent basis for formulating, through further consultation with countries and regional organizations, a more definitive set of proposed standards for consideration by the Commission at its next session. In this work the proposals set out in the document should be supplemented by suggestions regarding the characteristics of the statistical unit that provide the most useful classifications for the various items of data. More attention should also be given to the experience and practices of countries with planned economies in gathering and compiling statistics on industry. Many of these countries had well-established programmes which yielded organized data on all aspects of industrial activity. The Commission considered that the Statistical Office should make a comparative study of the concepts and techniques of the principal industrial countries in this field with the object of improving international comparability of data on industrial production.

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4. The following specific points were made with regard to the preliminary proposals set out in Draft Revisions to the International Standards in Basic Industrial Statistics (E/CN.3/242/Add.1):

- (i) In discussing the frequency and coverage of basic industrial inquiries it was important to clarify and elaborate on the relationship between decennial, annual and current inquiries. Some countries found it convenient, for example, to sum annual data from monthly or quarterly inquiries. It was not possible to make rigid rules as to the periodicity of collection of items of data. The use of sampling in these inquiries should be covered more fully, emphasizing that the objective was to attain the required accuracy of data at a minimum cost. In the case of industrial establishments this would generally involve the use of stratified samples. It was not necessary in all countries to cover all establishments in ten-year inquiries; nor was it practicable or necessary to specify the precise percentage of industrial activity that should be covered.
- (ii) Although the establishment had particular advantages as the statistical unit, since it permitted distinctions to be made according to detailed kinds of industry and geographic regions, the enterprise was also a useful unit for the collection of certain items of data and was perhaps a more convenient unit for the collection of monthly and quarterly data. It was suggested, therefore, that studies of the relationship between establishment-based and enterprise-based data would be desirable. The treatment of ancillaries required to be clarified, and it would be helpful to introduce the notion of "usual combination of activities" in defining the establishment. It was noted that the statistical unit utilized in the countries with planned economies was similar to the definition of the establishment proposed in the Secretary-General's memorandum because of the emphasis given in both cases to the most narrowly defined accounting and managerial unit which could provide the required data regarding the resources and activities involved in production. It was emphasized by some members of the Commission that in their countries data on capital expenditures and inventories were easily gathered for establishments.

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- (iii) Information on date of founding of the establishment has been found useful in checking the register of establishments.
 - (iv) It had been found desirable, in some countries, to gather data on employees classified according to broad occupational categories and on employees sub-divided into full and part-time workers. Distinctions between maintenance workers and other categories of workers included in operatives might also be advantageous in some circumstances. The question of comparability between the definition of family workers in industrial and population inquiries should be examined. Home workers should not be considered to be proprietors of separate establishments.
 - (v) The items of data and definitions proposed for capital expenditures were sound. These items of data, together with the proposed item of data on cost of repair and maintenance work provided the basis for computing capital formation on either a "gross" or "gross-gross" basis. However, it should be clearly indicated how data might be gathered on capital expenditures on factories not yet in operation during the inquiry year. The purpose of gathering data on purchases and sales of land should also be clarified.
 - (vi) Distinctions between sales outside the enterprise and other shipments were not made in certain countries and were made only at infrequent intervals in particular industries in other countries. The valuation of particular kinds of output (e.g., of government-owned factories) presented difficulties in some countries. In this regard it would be useful to compare the practices of countries with planned economies and other countries in gathering data on output. Difficulties had also been encountered in valuing the output of construction activities on the basis of work put in place during the year.
5. The Statistical Commission adopted the following resolution:
- The Statistical Commission
Invites the Secretary-General
- (i) To continue work on the revised set of standards for use in basic industrial inquiries, including suggestions as to the establishment characteristics according to which the various

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items of data should be classified and to prepare a report for the consideration of the Commission at its next session.

- (ii) To prepare draft proposals for the consideration of the Commission at its next session on the coverage, items of data to be sought and their classification according to establishment characteristics, for inquiries which are part of the 1963 world programme of basic industrial inquiries.
- (iii) With the co-operation of the Governments of Member States, to prepare a comparative study of the systems of basic industrial statistics in use, in the principal industrial countries with the object of improving international comparability of data on industrial production.
- (iv) To consult with Governments of Member States, regional organizations and other interested bodies, in the course of the foregoing work.
- (v) To inform Governments of the 1963 world programme of basic industrial statistics.

6. The Statistical Commission

Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council

- (i) Recognizing the need for internationally comparable data on the structure and activities of industry (i.e., mining, manufacturing, construction and the production of gas, electricity and steam) in order to deal with questions of economic potential, growth and stability and related matters;
- (ii) Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the collection of basic industrial statistics throughout the world during the period 1952-1958, and the plans of Governments of Member States to gather comprehensive data on industry for 1963; or a year close to 1963;

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- (iii) Recommends that the Governments of Member States compile comprehensive data on industry for 1963 or a year close to 1963, taking into account as far as possible the international recommendations on this subject which are designed to improve the international comparability of of the data.
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Tenth session

DRAFT REPORT

THE STATISTICAL UNIT IN ECONOMIC STATISTICS

1. The discussion of this item was based on The Choice of an Appropriate Statistical Unit for Economic Inquiries (E/CN.3/24 and Add.1), a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General. The memorandum reflected the increasing pre-occupation of many countries with the question of the most useful statistical units to which different items of data might be related as well as with the problem of interrelating items of data obtained for different statistical units. Several types of units in common use in economic inquiries were examined as well as suggested definitions for these units. Proposals were also made regarding the items of data most appropriate to these statistical units, and methods of work were suggested on the subject of interrelating data collected on different bases.
2. The Commission noted that the choice of a statistical unit was a function of the uses for which a particular item of data was desired and the relative speed or ease of collection. The Commission felt that the Secretary-General's memorandum provided a realistic outline of the problems and a useful basis for future work in this field. It was noted also that the Conference of European Statisticians had convened an expert group which directed its attention to the definition of the various statistical units and the items of data appropriate to these units.
3. It would be desirable to establish standard translations and definitions in the several languages for certain of the technical terms in this field - particularly, the "establishment" and "enterprise".

The Statistical Commission adopted the following resolution:

4. The Statistical Commission,

Invites the Secretary-General

- (i) To examine the possibility of formulating useful operating definitions of the enterprise and its sub-divisions;
- (ii) To study useful methods of classifying the enterprise according to kind of economic activity;
- (iii) To develop suggestions regarding the kinds of data that can appropriately be related to the enterprise and its constituent parts and techniques that might be employed in the collection of these data, and to suggest methods for interrelating enterprise and establishment type data identifying the structural characteristics of the enterprise and its parts;
- (iv) To obtain the views of the national statistical services and other interested bodies on the memorandum, appropriately modified on the basis of the discussion of the Commission, together with information regarding the experience of countries in dealing with the problems treated;
- (v) To consult with national statistical services and regional organizations, looking toward a co-ordinated investigation of the forms of business organization and record-keeping practices with regard to selected items of data - such an investigation to be carried out in countries with differing economic characteristics and varying institutional arrangements.

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Tenth session

DRAFT REPORT ON EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

1. The Commission noted the progress made, as reported in document E/CN.3/234 Report on Free Ports and Customs Areas of the World in revising the Draft List of Customs Areas (E/CN.3/L.35) and expressed the wish that the Secretary-General circulate to national statistical offices of Member States, at the latest by mid-October of each year, a description of the changes required to keep the List up to date. It considered that the definition of Free Area contained in paragraph 3 of the Report was a better basis for the study of the statistical treatment of goods passing through free ports and free zones than was the definition of Free Zone, quoted in paragraph 4 of the document, and which appeared in International Standards and Recommended Practices which is Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation drawn up under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization. Nevertheless it suggested that in view of the existence of a large variety of types of Free Areas not all of them were covered by the former definition and that in order to improve the comparability of statistics of goods passing through them, more work would be needed including the collection by the Secretariat of further information from member countries concerned.

2. The Commission commented on a paper by the Secretary-General Problems of Adapting External Trade Statistics for Special Types of Economic Analysis (E/CN.3/235) which suggested a method for obtaining an approximate sector analysis of external trade by associating with each heading of the trade statistics a numerical code indicating the percentage of the total value of the heading which is to be allocated to each sector. The Commission recognized that goods entering

external trade could often not be allocated to economic sectors solely by reference to commodity headings and that sector analysis of trade must involve analysis of the value of such commodities according, in the case of imports, to the proportions used by the various sectors of the importing country and, in the case of exports, to the proportions of their values contributed by the sectors of the exporting country. To make the sector analyses described in the paper would require considerable research and, where the analysis was necessary, the method described by the paper might not always represent the easiest way of achieving the result. The Commission nevertheless felt that the paper would be of interest to technicians concerned with the problem. The Commission considered that the Statistical Office should investigate the methods used by countries to apportion commodities between capital goods and consumer goods. It recognized that this type of classification had to be made by countries individually and that even national classifications might alter from time to time.

3. It considered also that the basic documents at present available in most countries in relation to external trade will not give sufficient information to permit a thorough analysis of the proportion of the value of imports attributable to different countries which contributed to their fabrication, though this position might be altered with the establishment of the common market and free trade areas.

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DRAFT REPORT

ENTERPRISE STATISTICS

PROGRESS REPORT ON STATISTICS OF ENTERPRISES
(ITEM 5 (b))

1. The Commission discussed the subject of statistics of enterprises on the basis of a memorandum Developments in Statistics of Enterprises (E/CN.3/245) prepared by the Secretary-General. The memorandum described the increasing interest and work of Member States in this field and the recent activities of the International Monetary Fund and the Conference of European Statisticians on related matters. The work of the Statistical Office was directed toward the development of methods of compiling balance-sheet and profit-and-loss data for use in economic analysis. It was clear that whether figures were abstracted from available balance-sheets and profit-and-loss statements of enterprises or gathered by means of special inquiries, the data would need to be derived from the accounts maintained by the individual enterprises. Considerable information was therefore required concerning accounting practices and consultations had therefore taken place with the accounting profession on the feasibility of gathering the data required for economic analysis from balance-sheet and profit-and-loss accounts.

2. The Commission emphasized the importance of work on statistics derived from the accounts of enterprises. Such information was required, for example, for the compilation of data on the financial and capital transactions and on the liquidity and debtor-creditor position of sectors of the economy, as well as for the estimation of depreciation, profits and savings. A number of countries were, therefore, engaged in gathering and compiling data of the type usually

found in balance-sheets and profit-and-loss accounts. This material was frequently obtained from such accounts prepared in connexion with the requirements of income tax and company and business registration as well as through special surveys or regular recurrent reports. The subject was a complex one, but it was felt that the data were important as a supplement to the more traditional type of information gathered on production, consumption, expenditure and incomes. The collection of data on unincorporated business and on operating expenses of enterprises, appropriately classified, presented particular problems.

3. The collection of useful data of the balance-sheet and profit-and-loss type would be materially aided if accounting practices and statistical requirements were co-ordinated and if a sufficient degree of standardization would first be attained in accounting practices in individual countries. It was therefore necessary to investigate accounting practices and to consult the accounting profession as well as the statistical authorities in Member States. The Commission therefore welcomed the direction of the work of the Statistical Office in the field of statistics of enterprises. Some members of the Commission indicated that they were considering the use of this approach in their countries. In developing suggestions concerning concepts and classifications for statistics of the balance-sheet and profit-and-loss type, attention would, of course, need to be given to the uses to be made of these data as well as the records from which they were to be derived. From the former point of view the Commission felt that the very preliminary suggestions set out in the annex to document E/CN.3/245 for the classification of balance-sheet and profit-and-loss data might be modified in the light of the purposes for which the information was collected and that the data should be sought on an accrual basis. In addition it suggested that attention should be directed to the possibility of collecting information of the type in question not only from enterprises but also from the units comprising them.

4. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission

Requests the Secretary-General:

1. To continue work on the subject of statistics of enterprises along the lines set out in the document entitled Development of the Statistics of Enterprises (E/CN.3/245) with a view to developing

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suggestions, taking account of the related work of the International Monetary Fund, as to the items of data to be derived from the balance-sheet and profit-and-loss accounts of business enterprises and their definition, classification and organization into statements for such purposes as measuring the liquidity, savings and investment and flow of funds for sectors of the economy.

2. To maintain close consultation with the Governments of Member States on the work in this field, with the aid of experts where necessary.

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DRAFT REPORT

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION
OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
(Item 4(b))

1. The Commission considered the revisions required in the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities in the light of national experience with the classification since its adoption ten years earlier. The Commission based its discussion on a memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/243) which set out the revised classification together with a description of the principles underlying it and a discussion of its application. Also included was a plan for subdividing wholesale and retail trade which was suggested for purposes of providing some guidance on the subdivision of these categories in national classifications. The memorandum reflected the comments of Governments on an earlier draft (SI/STAT/4) which was prepared after a study of the uses made of the international classification and a detailed analysis of national classifications in current use.
2. The Commission was pleased to note that the revisions in the classification structure proposed in Draft Revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities consisted only of modifications and clarifications in the definitions of the individual groups of the classification and rearrangement of some of these groups. As a result, continuity between the former and the revised international classification structure could be easily maintained. This was important in view of the wide use which was being made, nationally and internationally, of the international classification in the fields of population, production, employment, national income and other economic statistics. For the same reason the Commission

was gratified to note the considerable degree of comparability which would exist at detailed levels of classification between national classification schemes and the revised international standard. Indeed a number of the revisions in the international classification were designed to increase the extent of such comparability. Other revisions were intended to adjust the international classification to changes during the last ten years in the organization of economic activities and to clarify the scope of individual groups. Because of the diversity in national circumstances, complete comparability, even at detailed levels of classification, between national schemes and the international standard, could not be expected. However, the revised international classification did furnish a frame for reaching an acceptable level of comparability and a number of members of the Commission indicated that this objective would be given due attention in their countries in the classification of data according to kind of economic activity. The use of the revised international standard would be facilitated if a numeric and alphabetic index to this classification were prepared. Countries would also find helpful the revised description of underlying principles of the development and use of the international standard.

3. It was noted that at broad levels of classification (e.g., the divisions of the international standard), the divergencies between national classifications and the international standards were more numerous than at detailed levels of classification. This was the case, for example, for the classification schemes of countries with planned economies where distinctions were drawn between "material production" and other kinds of economic activity and between agriculture, on the one hand, and forestry and fishing, on the other. However, it could, on the whole, be possible to re-group categories of classification schemes of these countries according to the international standard or the individual groups of the international standard according to these classification schemes. Co-operation would be needed from the statistical offices of these countries in exploring this question. Some countries would find it useful to have a key relating to the international standard and the classification schemes of countries with planned economies to one another.

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4. Improved definitions were given in the revised international classification for the individual groups on wholesale and retail trade. Although it would be desirable to suggest meaningful subdivisions of these individual groups for use internationally, the differences among countries in the organization and extent of specialization of wholesale and retail trade made this impracticable. Nevertheless, some countries would find it helpful to have the guidance furnished in the annex to the report.

5. The Statistical Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Having revised the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities in the light of current patterns in the organization of economic activity of national classifications and of experience during the past ten years with the international standard,

Recommends to the Governments of Member States

(a) That they review or develop their national industrial classifications with a view to either adopting the revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities as the basis for their national classifications or arranging, in so far as it is practicable, their national classifications so that they may be converted to the revised international classification;

(b) That they make available to the Secretary-General detailed indexes to their current national classifications for use in preparing indexes to the revised international standard;

Invites the Secretary-General

(a) To call to the attention of Governments of Member States the revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities set out in the annex to this report;

(b) To prepare numeric and alphabetic indexes to the revised international standard classification.

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DRAFT REPORT

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO "A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND SUPPORTING TABLES" AND "CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS OF CAPITAL FORMATION".

(Item 8 (a))

1. At its ninth session the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to formulate specific proposals for the amendment of the existing text of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables (SNA), to circulate these proposals for comments to Member Governments and to report to the Commission at its tenth session. A similar request had been made with respect to the related report Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation and it had been recommended that the work of revision on the two reports should be closely co-ordinated. In pursuance of these resolutions the Secretary-General has prepared and circulated to Member States a memorandum of proposals for this revision Proposed Amendments to "A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables" and "Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation" (E/CN.3/L.44) on which they had been invited to comment generally. The Commission had before it (E/CN.3/229) a summary of the comments which had been received on these draft proposals.

2. This summary noted that the draft proposals were designed in accordance with the request of the Commission to extend only to minor modifications of the existing concepts. They had largely been formulated, for the purposes of international consistency, jointly with the Secretariats of the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, and had in most cases been discussed at length at various international meetings. However many of the comments which had been received indicated that their

application to the existing recommendations of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables required further consideration and clarification.

3. The Commission welcomed the proposal that a National Accounts Manual be compiled to supplement the revised edition of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables. This Manual should be closely related to the latter report and should consist essentially of a detailed commentary on, and explanation of, its recommendations and their application in practice. The emphasis should be primarily exegetic and directed to the provision of guidance in those marginal cases where the application of existing principles had most frequently encountered difficulty. Special attention should be given to the problem of applying these principles in under-developed countries and to examining directions in which the system of accounts might be simplified or modified for particular purposes.

4. In its discussion of document E/CN.3/229 the Commission indicated its general agreement with certain of the specific proposals for minor modifications to the system of accounts. Some reservations were, however, expressed on a number of points, particularly the proposals (i) to modify the existing concept of domestic product, (ii) to introduce a revised treatment of pension schemes, (iii) to maintain the existing treatment of work in progress in the building and heavy construction industries, (iv) to distinguish current and capital transfers in the external account, and finally (v) to abandon the present imputed distribution of the undistributed profits of foreign subsidiaries.

5. The Commission stressed the importance of including within the proposed Manual guidance to under-developed countries in establishing a system of national accounts adapted to their own particular purposes and circumstances, but within the basic framework of the present concepts.

6. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Requests the Secretary-General:

1. To revise and consolidate the two reports A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables and Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation on the basis of the proposals contained in E/CN.3/229, taking into account the comments of delegates to the tenth session of the Commission, and to circulate the draft revised text for comments to Governments of Member States and interested international organizations;

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2. To prepare a National Accounts Manual as a supplement to A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables and to circulate the draft Manual for comments to Governments of Member States and interested international organizations;

3. To submit a report on this work to the Commission at its eleventh session.

7. With regard to the future development of the S.N.A., the Commission expressed the hope that a wider system could be established which would take account of the very considerable experience gained in this field by countries with planned economies, and at the same time permit translation from one system of accounts to the other. Such a system should also take account of the differing requirements of countries at various levels of economic development and for this purpose the system would need to be flexible. The establishment of this system, it was suggested, should be the subject of continuing study and might usefully be considered by such bodies as the Regional Conferences of Statisticians and by the promotion of expert working groups with broad terms of reference.

8. The Commission therefore adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Requests the Secretary-General:

To continue by means of consultation with statistical offices of Member States, conferences and, where necessary, by special working groups the study of existing systems of national accounts including those which did not conform to the S.N.A.



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DRAFT REPORT

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: POINTS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND DIFFERENCE IN
A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND SUPPORTING TABLES AND SYSTEMS
USED IN COUNTRIES WITH CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES.
(Item 8 (b))

1. The Commission at its ninth session had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the points of correspondence between the system of accounts employed in countries with planned economies and that set out in A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables and to report to the Commission at its tenth session. A paper entitled A Study of the Points of Correspondence and Difference between the United Nations System of National Accounts and that employed by the USSR (E/CN.3/R.1) was presented to the Commission for its consideration in compliance with this request. At the same time a paper of comments on the document by the Central Statistical Board of the USSR was also circulated (E/CN.3/R.1/Add.1).
2. The Commission took note of the study. The discussion brought out the point that when a major review of the present System of National Accounts (SNA) is undertaken at a later date emphasis should be placed on the need for flexibility of the national accounts system in order that it may be applicable to economies at various stages of economic development and with differing institutional arrangements.
3. The Commission suggested that document E/CN.3/R.1 be circulated to national experts of planned economies in order to amend and correct the study and that a revised study be issued by the Secretariat. The Commission requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with interested international bodies, and in consultation with the statistical offices of Member States to continue work

in this field with due attention to variations in basic concepts of the principal components as well as of the broad aggregates such as national income and product, and to report back to the Commission at its next session.

4. In connexion with further work on the revised study and on related subjects the Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission

Requests the Secretary-General:

To arrange for the setting up of an expert group to meet, preferably in Geneva, in co-operation with an appropriate group of the Conference of European Statisticians.

To associate with the expert group at an appropriate time experts designated by the Conference of Asian Statisticians and the Statistical Office in order to extend the study to cover the national accounts work of the less developed countries.



STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Tenth Session

DRAFT REPORT

A SYSTEM OF PRICE AND QUANTITY INDEXES
(Item 8 (c))

1. At its ninth session the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect information from countries on statistics of national product and expenditure in constant prices, to circulate a technical report on price and quantity indexes in national accounting to Member States and interested international organizations for their comment, and to submit a report to the Commission at its tenth session. In compliance with this request the Commission had before it the memoranda entitled A System of Price and Quantity Indexes for National Accounts (E/CN.3/L.45, E/CN.3/231) prepared by the Secretary-General.
2. The Commission agreed with the view of the Secretary-General that much of the matter in the basic report (E/CN.3/L.46) was tentative and exploratory, in regard to which the attitude of national statistical organizations must be one of reserve pending further examination. This reservation applied with special force to the tentative proposals with regard to the balancing of the system of accounts in constant prices. Generally it was felt that there should be a change in order and emphasis in this report, starting from the familiar problems of deflation of commodity flows with which countries were faced in their day-to-day statistical practice and which still posed unsolved methodological problems. At a later stage the conceptual and practical difficulties attendant on deflation of non-commodity flows could be dealt with.
3. The view was expressed that flows at constant prices were of far less importance than current flows in the study of inter-sectoral relationships.

4. The Commission welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General in entering these more speculative areas.

5. Prior to submission to statistical offices of Member States the Commission suggested that the proposals should be examined by national experts. The need for summarization of the concrete proposals in the report, for convenience of examination, was stressed. Further work should include a discussion of theoretical problems, including the uses of accounts in constant prices. In particular, it was pointed out that the validity of balancing the accounts in real terms required justification and that, even granting this validity in the case of the external account, there was a difference of opinion between experts as to the price index which should be used to deflate the current surplus. There were many interpretations to be placed on the concept of gains from terms of trade. The productivity implications of the system in constant prices also require further consideration.

6. Priority should be given to problems of deflation of the expenditure and product sides of the accounts rather than of the income sides. Even in regard to expenditure and product, formidable difficulties were encountered, for example in connexion with education and other service flows. Attention in the discussion was also devoted to the double deflation method, in the application of which there were many difficulties.

7. The problem of balancing national accounts in constant prices was further examined in connexion with the document entitled A Preliminary Analysis of the Nature of Aggregates at Constant Prices (E/CN.3/L.47) which was also submitted to the Commission in this connexion. This memorandum pointed out that the so-called "terms of trade effect" is only one of a general class of differences occurring, when aggregates at constant prices are compared with one another, even in closed economies. Attention was drawn to the analytic importance of these differences when they measure the extent of technical changes between the base and current periods, for instance change in the productivity of labour. The Commission suggested that the conclusions of the document be brought to the attention of interested experts. The Commission wished to encourage the Secretariat to make such technical studies of broad scope when the nature of the work permitted it.

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8. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Requests the Secretary-General

1. To continue to collect information from Governments of Member States on indexes of national product and expenditure in constant prices, on the related price index data, and on the methods of computing these indexes;
2. To assist countries in the preparation of systems of quantity and price indexes, and to consult with Governments of Member States on a continuing basis on their experience in applying particular concepts and methods in the preparation of these indexes;
3. To consult with interested regional and international organizations and individual experts on the proposals in the three memoranda which have been submitted to the Commission on these matters with a view ultimately to the preparation of a study on the conceptual and statistical problems in the computation of price and quantity index numbers for national accounts.

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DRAFT REPORT

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: PROBLEMS IN COUNTRIES
AT A VERY EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT
(Item 8 (d))

1. In dealing with this topic, the Commission had before it a report prepared by the Secretary-General, National Income Accounting in Countries at a Very Early Stage of Development (E/CN.3/256), which examined some of the main obstacles to the development of national income statistics in very under-developed economies and attempted to appraise the applicability of the relevant recommendations of the United Nations under the conditions prevailing.
2. The Commission was of the opinion that the major problems arose out of the dominant role of subsistence production. The United Nations recommendations in respect of subsistence production were reviewed and some of the difficulties involved in their application to the more under-developed economies noted. In addition to the particular difficulties cited in the report, it was observed that even in developed countries the principles involved were not fully satisfactory, since as economies evolved activities formerly carried on in the household came increasingly to be performed on a commercial basis where they were reflected in national product. As a result, national income series purporting to measure the growth of output had an inherent upward bias. Although no principle covering subsistence production could be satisfactory from every point of view, further study and experimentation were called for. One possibility worth exploring was inclusion of the whole of the output of material commodities.
3. As regards price, wage and other data needed for estimating subsistence as well as traded production, the difficulties of collecting reliable information were seen to be considerable. It was nevertheless suggested that the statistical

resources required for ensuring relatively comprehensive coverage would not need to be appreciably greater than where the coverage was more limited, if the use of sample surveys was envisioned. The difficulties of data collection did not therefore preclude broad coverage of untraded output.

4. Considering that even in the more simple economies production in some sectors would be carried on under primitive conditions while production in other sectors might be carried on under modern forms of organization, the opinion was expressed that the system of accounts most appropriate under these conditions needed to be flexible rather than merely simple. For such countries also undue restriction of the coverage of production outside the monetary sphere was inadvisable if differences and advances in welfare were to be studied. It was acknowledged that the changing proportion of untraded to traded output was in itself a valuable clue to the rate of development.

5. Inflationary tendencies evident in various countries of the kind under consideration made it all the more necessary to study prices in systematic fashion. The use of sample inquiries in this connexion was to be urged. The inquiries had in certain cases revealed large errors in previously accepted figures. The hope was expressed that the newly formed Economic Commission for Africa would find it possible to further the use and improvement of sample inquiries in the region. Indeed, close contact of the Statistical Office with this Commission and with national authorities in order to improve the level of national accounts work in Africa generally would be desirable.

6. The Statistical Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Requests the Secretary-General:

1. To undertake the development of methods for the compilation of national accounts in countries at a very early stage of economic development, having in mind the need for such data for planning economic and social development;
2. To explore the problems involved both in relation to other economic and statistical studies that may be undertaken and, on a more technical level, by further study carried out in close consultation with the Member States concerned.

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DRAFT REPORT

STATISTICS OF CAPITAL FORMATION: PROBLEMS AND METHODS WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
(Item 9 (a))

1. In accordance with its request at the ninth session, the Commission had before it a memorandum Capital Formation Statistics: Problems and Methods with Special Reference to Under-Developed Countries (E/CN.3/227) prepared by the Secretary-General. The memorandum dealt in particular with the general approach to the measurement of capital formation employed by these countries, with emphasis on statistical and methodological weaknesses and suggestions for overcoming some of the difficulties exposed. Among the problem areas to which the Commission's attention was drawn were the allocation problems arising from reliance on import statistics, the ascertainment of mark-ups and related charges, the estimation of construction by the use of building permits and the value of building materials and supplies used up, and the difficulties involved in covering own-account construction in rural areas.
2. The Commission observed that the memorandum by the Secretary-General served a useful purpose in bringing to light the difficulties confronting under-developed countries which were now so concerned with improving statistics in this field. It was generally agreed that, so far as possible, countries should follow alternative approaches, such as the expenditure and commodity-flow methods, as a means of improving and checking on the estimates. It was also recognized that certain forms of capital formation, such as the establishment of plantations, which might appear to be of minor importance in advanced countries could in fact be of considerable importance in certain under-developed countries,

and that careful attention to the problems involved was merited. The opinion was expressed that the difficulty involved in measuring own-account construction carried out in rural areas and the different economic consequences of this form of investment activity often made it advisable to indicate what part of total capital formation related to own-account construction as opposed to capital formation carried out on a normal commercial basis. It was further observed that certain forms of contract construction, e.g. the construction of luxury flats, also had a significance for the economy as a whole quite different from that of investment contributing more directly to development or industrialization.

3. The Commission took note of the fact that two different concepts of capital formation were in use among the various countries, namely the "gross" and the "gross-gross" (or Scandinavian) concepts, and that the issue was now under consideration by the European Conference of Statisticians. In connexion with measuring capital formation in the agricultural sector, the wider use of sampling methods was felt to be required, and it was suggested that some attention be given to possibilities of improving estimates by this means.

4. The Commission was of the opinion that the Secretary-General should follow developments in the field of capital formation statistics, especially in the less developed countries, continue to assess critically the methods and sources employed, and in general assist countries in all ways possible. A report on the progress made should be submitted to the eleventh session of the Commission to determine what future steps might be needed to accelerate progress in this field.

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DRAFT REPORT

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME
(Item 10)

1. The Commission had before it two memoranda by the Secretary-General entitled Statistics of the Distribution of Personal Income, the first (E/CN.3/L.42) in response to the request of the Commission at its ninth session that a report should be prepared on methods used by countries and the second (E/CN.3/233) incorporating comments of countries on the first document.
2. From the discussion it transpired that the basic report (E/CN.3/L.42), even as amended, still omitted references to the most up-to-date experience of certain countries. It was suggested that these be included in the definitive version of the report which should also contain a full bibliography.
3. The view was expressed that countries about to embark on the collection of these statistics should have a clear idea of the uses for which they were required.
4. The importance of evolving and studying single measures of income size distribution (for example the Lorenz curve and the log-normal parameters), in particular for examining changes in distribution in times, was stressed. Reference was made to the usefulness of income percentiles for comparisons between socio-economic groups. Attention was also directed to some recent work in curve-fitting to income size distribution.
5. The extreme difficulty of establishing international standards was generally recognized.
6. A certain flexibility in the definition of income in income size distribution should be regarded as inevitable, either because of the source

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of the statistics or the uses for which they were required. While economically advanced countries might base these statistics on cash income, clearly it was necessary to include subsistence income in the case of under-developed countries. In all cases the income concept used should be clearly defined and, wherever possible, the questionnaires used in compiling the statistics should be published by countries.

7. The need for the analysis of income distribution by occupational and socio-economic groupings was stressed. Such analysis was useful for a study of the national economy and, in particular, the level of living.

8. In under-developed countries it might in certain cases be desirable to measure income by aggregate expenditure, thus broadening the scope of these statistics. In such countries it was easier to obtain reasonably accurate statistics of expenditure than of income and the two totals were closely similar in the great majority of households.

9. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Requests the Secretary-General

1. To revise the report Statistics of the Distribution of Personal Income (E/CN.3/L.42) taking into account also the practice of countries which studied distributions of aggregate expenditure instead of personal income;

2. To make an appraisal of the conceptual and statistical problems encountered in this work on the basis of expert opinion; and

3. To formulate a statistical programme of work in the field of income distribution for the guidance of the less developed countries, which might serve at the same time as a preliminary step in the formulation of standards for international reporting.

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DRAFT REPORT

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS
(Item 11)

1. The Commission had before it a memorandum Progress Report on Balance of Payments Statistics (E/CN.3/253) prepared by the International Monetary Fund dealing with progress in balance of payments statistics since the ninth session. In an oral communication the representative of the IMF referred to the collaboration of the United Nations Statistical Office and the OEEC in narrowing the remaining conceptual differences between the IMF Balance of Payments Manual and the United Nations and OEEC Systems of National Accounts. The Fund representative stressed the importance of first establishing a logical and consistent basis for recording transactions before taking statistical difficulties into account.
2. The Commission noted with satisfaction the valuable work done by the IMF in improving and standardizing balance of payments statistics, and the close collaboration maintained with the United Nations and other international agencies. It concurred in the need to arrive at logical solutions to problems arising in balance of payments work. Nevertheless, it recognized that problems of data collection could not be ignored when recommendations required adjustment beyond the scope of data that might be available, and a number of questions were raised as regards the reporting of undistributed profits of subsidiaries.
3. The opinion was expressed that, in view of the different purposes served by balance of payments statistics and national income accounts, less than complete agreement might be countenanced. It was recognized, nevertheless, that where differences existed every effort should be made to reconcile them.

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DRAFT REPORT ON CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS
(Item 12)

1. The Commission reviewed a Progress Report on Classification of Government Accounts (E/CN.3/254) which described the work carried out by the Secretariat. The English version of the Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions (ST/ECA/49) was published last March and the French and Spanish editions of the Manual would be published within the next few weeks. The Commission noted that the Manual was intended to serve as a guide in the reclassification of Government transactions with a view to providing data for the formulation of economic and social policy. As was stated in the preface of the Manual the information to be obtained was not intended nor designed to have the legal and accounting significance of data presented in the basic systems of budget accounts. The schemes in the Manual were therefore put forward as supplements to, and not as replacements for, the usual budget classifications which served primarily to ensure accountability.

2. The Commission was informed that earlier drafts of the Manual had been presented as working papers to meetings of regional workshops on problems of budgetary reclassification and management held in Mexico City in 1953 and in Bangkok in 1955 and 1957. Comments made during the discussions at these workshops as well as observations from a number of experts working as consultants to the Secretariat in this field were utilized in producing the present version of the Manual. The report also referred to Secretariat studies on reclassification of government transactions according to economic and functional categories which had recently been carried out in a number of countries. In a paper entitled Reclassification of Government Expenditures and Receipts in Selected Countries (ST/ECA/52) to be published shortly, experiences of governments in this particular field would be summarized.

3. In accordance with the wishes expressed by the Commission at its ninth session, the Manual had been circulated in draft form to Member States for their information and comments. Arrangements had been made to obtain comments from the national statistical services and national fiscal authorities as well as from interested regional and international organizations.

4. The Commission took note of the completion of the Manual, and requested the Secretary-General to draw it to the attention of the statistical offices of Member States and to submit a progress report on the subject to the Commission at its eleventh session, the report to include a summary of the comments received from governments and interested regional and international organizations.

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DRAFT REPORT

WHOLESALE PRICES: PROBLEMS IN THE COLLECTION OF COMPARABLE WHOLESALE PRICE SERIES
(Item 6 (a))

1. The Commission discussed the question of compiling comparable wholesale price series on the basis of a memorandum Problems in the Collection of Comparable Wholesale Price Series (E/CN.3/246) prepared by the Secretary-General. This memorandum dealt with the difficulties of compiling comparable price series resulting from changes in the character and quality of goods, transactions in unique goods and discontinuities or marked changes, seasonal or otherwise, in the supply of commodities. The memorandum described the circumstances in which each of these difficulties arose and the relative advantages and disadvantages of alternative methods for dealing with the problems.

2. The Commission emphasized the importance of compiling comparable wholesale price series and the prevalence of the problem. The price series were being utilized for purposes such as deflating components of national accounts, constructing input-output tables and indexes of industrial production, comparisons of the quantum of production and evaluating business and economic conditions. Significant incomparabilities in the wholesale price series utilized for these purposes contributed to serious inaccuracies in the indicators. The statistical authorities were faced with rectifying numerous cases of incomparability in price series on transactions at the wholesale as well as at the retail level. New commodities appeared on the market while items which were being priced disappeared. There were frequent changes in the quality of highly fabricated goods and a high proportion of engineering goods and all construction projects differed to such an

extent from transaction to transaction that price quotations on successive transactions were not directly comparable. At the same time, if prices in these transactions were to be excluded from the price series, the representativeness of the price series gathered was questionable. Some countries were therefore devoting considerable attention and resources to these problems.

3. The Commission welcomed the Secretary-General's memorandum and felt that work should continue on methods of compiling comparable wholesale price series. It was noted, in this connexion, that the incomparabilities in question were usually most serious when comparisons over long periods of time were in question and that there was need for similar work in the field of retail prices. The Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians had in fact asked that work in the field of retail prices be undertaken by the International Labour Office. In further work more attention than in the memorandum should be given to the methods and experience of countries in rectifying incomparabilities in price quotations which were to be compared, in order to develop practicable suggestions for this purpose. The document E/CN.3/246 might be circulated to statistical offices of Member States in order to obtain descriptions of national practice and experience as well as views on the document. While the theoretical considerations set out in document E/CN.3/246 provided useful points of reference, it seemed doubtful whether, in view of the dynamic character of production, demand and markets, there was a theoretically perfect solution to the problem at all. The task of adjusting for incomparabilities in price quotations was therefore one of devising techniques which furnished adequate practicable approximations to comparability. It would be desirable to include, in the programme of future work, the questions of methods for gathering price information so that incomparabilities in price quotations might be detected quickly and easily and of criteria for the selection of transactions to be priced so that they will be an adequate sample of all transactions which were to be covered in the system of wholesale prices as well as of the validity of imputing the weight for groups of commodities to the price changes in a limited number of individual items. In view of the complexities of the subject it would be desirable, at an appropriate stage of the work, to assemble an expert group. It would be well if, when a more developed version of the memorandum was prepared, a bibliography of the subject were appended.

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The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Invites the Secretary-General:

1. To circulate Problems in the Collection of Comparable Wholesale Price Series (E/CN.3/246) to statistical offices of Member States in order to obtain their views on the document and descriptions of their methods and experience in compiling comparable and representative wholesale price series.
2. To develop suggestions, with the aid of national experts if necessary, on methods for gathering and compiling representative and comparable wholesale price series.
3. To report on the progress of work in this field to the tenth session of the Commission.

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DRAFT REPORT

WHOLESALE PRICES: GENERAL-PURPOSE INDEX NUMBERS OF
RETAIL PRICES
(Item 6(b))

1. The Commission discussed General-Purpose Index Numbers of Retail Prices (E/CN.3/247), a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General. The memorandum described the uses and character (e.g., transactions to be covered, classification and weighting) of general-purpose price index numbers. These included price index numbers for the sales of retail trade and related service establishments, the expenditures of resident households and private consumption expenditures in national accounts.
2. The Commission felt that it was not necessary, at this time, that further work would be done at the international level on price index numbers of the sales of retail trade establishments or of personal consumption expenditures in national accounts although these index numbers did have certain national uses. Price indexes on personal consumption expenditures were of course implicit in the estimates of personal consumption expenditures at constant prices that were being prepared by a number of Member States, using individual retail price series. Work at the international level on consumer price index numbers (i.e., price indexes of the expenditures of particular kinds of households) was, however, urgently required, and the Commission noted the interest expressed by the Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in this topic. There were a number of practical and conceptual problems in collecting representative and comparable retail prices. Extension of the traditional consumer price indexes to additional groups in the population might warrant consideration and in some countries these price indexes have been extended to cover the expenditure of almost all

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resident households. It was noted that there were some dangers in the extension and multiplication of price index numbers on the expenditures of households of different types in view of the very important specific uses made of the traditional type of consumer price indexes.

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DRAFT REPORT

1960 WORLD POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAMME
(Items 13(a) i and 13(a) ii)

1. On this item of the agenda, the following documents were before the Commission:

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

Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses (E/CN.3/236 and E/CN.3/236/Add.1)

Refugee Statistics (Conference Room Paper No. 2)

2. Supplementing the information contained in the Progress Report the Commission was informed that preparations are under way for the operation of two regional census training centres to be held during the second part of 1958. The centres are designed for the training of statisticians from the Far East and Latin America who will have substantial responsibility in planning and conducting the forthcoming censuses of population, housing and agriculture. They will be held in Tokyo and Lima. The two centres are jointly sponsored by the UN and FAO; the Inter American Statistical Institute cosponsors the centre for Latin America. In addition, the Commission noted that considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the new handbook of population census methods for use at the training centres and by governments in planning their new series of national censuses.

3. The Commission noted the work done in preparation for the 1960 World Population Census Programme, through the development of draft recommendations, the convening of regional technical conferences to review these recommendations and develop modifications, the broadening of the scope of the documentation to give attention to all phases of national census activity, the development of

technical manuals, the participation in census training centres, and the provision of direct technical assistance to countries which desire such assistance.

4. The Commission recommended that the Secretary-General continue to develop a programme of technical assistance, training and expert advice for the preparation and conduct of national censuses. This programme should be made flexible to meet expressed national and regional needs, recognizing that these may vary widely from country to country and region to region. The organization of training centres in addition to those already planned should be encouraged. In so far as feasible, the Secretary-General might undertake also to facilitate the participation by technicians from one country in the observation and demonstration of census methods in other countries, and the exchange of national experiences in planning and conducting censuses.

5. The Commission noted also the usefulness of the methodological studies and technical manuals prepared by the Secretary-General. It was pointed out that in several countries they are used extensively in planning their forthcoming censuses. The Commission expressed the hope that the Secretary-General will be able to continue assembling, analysing and disseminating technical information based on the experience of the new series of censuses and in particular on the extent to which international recommendations have been useful or require modifications.

6. The view was expressed that whereas recommendations concerning the applications of sampling methods to population censuses will be of assistance to countries, a practical manual illustrating the operational and mathematical aspects of sampling techniques under given costs in current use, would be of greater value.

7. The Commission considered the third draft of the Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses (E/CN.3/236/Add.1) which was submitted for final consideration and approval. It was pointed out that this document endeavours to reconcile varied and sometimes opposing views and should be regarded as a compromise of methods and points of view among a large number of countries in different stages of development, with different needs, resources

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and census experience. It was emphasized that the value of the recommendations can be determined only after they have been tested or applied.

The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Having studied the revised draft of Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses, gives general endorsement to the Principles,

Recommends that the Secretary-General take into account the comments of the Commission in preparing the final version and

Recommends that the Principles as revised, together with the handbook of census methods, be issued as soon as possible for the guidance of Member States in connexion with their forthcoming censuses of population.

8. The main revisions of substance relating to the principles and recommendations are briefly given in an annex to this Report indicating in parenthesis the respective paragraph number shown in document E/CN.3/236/Add.1.

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9. Annex to the Report

Suggested revisions to Principles and Recommendations
for National Population Censuses (E/CN.3/236/Add.1)

(Para. 102-E) A statement should be added to the effect that group enumeration can be considered to be a census if the way in which the information is collected and recorded is so devised that cross-tabulations can be made in the same way as in a census of individuals.

(106) In connexion with the timing and inter-relationship of various types of censuses, it should be stated that there is widespread opinion that, if a housing census is to be taken, it is preferable to take it simultaneously with a population census and that it is in any case essential to inter-relate the two censuses.

(209) It should be added that it is an essential preliminary to enumeration that every housing unit should be identified and noted, in order that no inhabitant be missed.

(308) In connexion with the application of the recommended list of topics for which data are to be collected the following observations should be made: (a) the value of collecting data, whenever feasible, for some topics on a sample basis and for other topics on a 100 per cent basis; (b) in areas where there is considerable dependence upon subsistence economy reliable information can be obtained only on location at the time of the census (and place of usual residence, if required) sex, age (or, failing that, age group), and ethnic characteristics (or citizenship, where applicable); (c) it may be possible to obtain fuller information from certain areas within a country or a territory than from others; the fact that in the greater part of a country or territory only a few topics can be covered (since that part is less developed than the rest) should not prevent the collection of further information from towns or other areas where this is possible, both for the intrinsic value of the data and for the experience it provides in taking a census.

(407) It is important to bear in mind that housing units and households, while they are clearly distinguishable concepts, are inter-dependent in the sense that one should not be considered without reference to the other. It is suggested to redraft the second part of sub-paragraph six to read: "However, in some countries it is the practice to use a different concept which equates the

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household with the housing unit and defines the household as the entire group of persons jointly occupying a housing unit. This concept of household does not provide direct information on the number of housekeeping units sharing a housing unit but may be justified where it is not feasible to distinguish between the housing unit and the household, e.g. where, in the particular circumstances of a country, the household (housekeeping unit) is generally coterminous with the housing unit".

(409) It is suggested that international standard specifications be made of age groups "(3) older children, (4) men in the economically active ages and women in childbearing ages, (5) men and women beyond these ages" which have been suggested in areas where it is not possible to obtain more detailed and reliable data on age.

(410) In connexion with the collection of data on marital status it is suggested (a) that the term "never married" be used instead of "single"; (b) to leave to each country to determine whether persons whose marriages have been annulled should be included with the separated or divorced or together with the never married; (c) that persons in stable de facto unions be included among the married only if considered necessary and desirable by the country concerned.

(412) Further study is recommended, possibly by regional conferences on the desirability of obtaining in the censuses of population detailed tabulations of aliens resident within the country classified by citizenship.

(414) Three main suggestions are made: (a) the definition of unemployed should be modified to correspond to the definition recommended at the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians; (b) it should be made clear that a person who is both economically active and a student or a home houseworker will be classified as economically active and not in the not economically active; (c) since the persons in the not economically active group may belong to two or more of the sub-groups (for instance, a person may be a student and home houseworker simultaneously) provision should be made to indicate what priorities are to be assigned; and (d) members of the armed forces should be a separate category of the economically active population, as recommended by the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

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(Para. 417) Since in a number of countries it is not feasible to distinguish unpaid family workers it is suggested to replace the status group "unpaid family worker" by "family worker" with an optional subdivision into "paid" or "unpaid".

(Para. 418-e) Information on population dependent on agriculture should be derived from the population census even when a census of agriculture is taken during the same census period. The total agricultural population should be defined as including those economically active in agriculture (separately distinguishing land-holders from land-less labourers) together with their dependents. If the members of a household whose head is engaged in agriculture are themselves engaged in other (non-agricultural) industrial branches, they should not be counted as population dependent on agriculture.

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DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS
(Item 13 (b))

10. The Commission had before it a memorandum (E/CN.3/238) which gave an account of the activities in the field of demographic statistics during the interval since the ninth session. Three principal aspects of a "maintenance" nature were described, namely: (a) assembling and publication of demographic series, (b) evaluation of the quality of the series, and (c) promotion of development and improvement.

11. The memorandum pointed out the increase in volume and complexity of available series during the period under review due in part to the large number of population censuses carried out between 1945 and 1957, the dissemination of these statistics in the Demographic Yearbook and the steps taken to evaluate the data in terms of completeness and accuracy. It also noted that since the formulation in 1953 of international standards in vital statistics the promotion of development and improvement based on the standards was carried out through technical assistance.

12. The Commission noted the progress made and recommended that work continue along the lines described. It also reiterated its request that steps be taken as soon as feasible to implement other aspects of Resolution 18 (IX), especially that a study and evaluation of continuous population registers be undertaken with a view to an examination of their usefulness as a statistical mechanism both in statistically developed countries and in those less developed.

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SOCIAL STATISTICS
(Item 14(a))

1. The Statistical Commission considered an International Programme of Social Statistics contained in document (E/CN.3/239) prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned.
2. The Commission considered that the programme outlined was of great importance since it is concerned with the utilization of statistics for the formulation, understanding and evaluation of social policies, as well as for the measurement of the effectiveness of social services.
3. In discussing the definition and scope of social statistics the Commission agreed that it is necessary and useful to define social statistics as those statistics which are relevant to the formulation and implementation of social policies, provided that the objectives of such policies are to raise the levels of living at the maximum practicable rate commensurate with long-term economic development, available human resources and within the framework of nationally accepted principles regarding human rights and responsibilities. In this connexion the Commission noted that the subject, thus defined, covered various sectors which may be rightly considered as belonging to the field of economic or demographic statistics and some of which were already covered by the relevant international publications. Nevertheless, the Commission agreed that it was proper to consider social statistics in a special context. Indeed, many types of statistics lend themselves to widely different purposes depending upon the particular focus of interest or approach.

4. It was observed that statistics do not constitute objectives in themselves but must be considered as useful tools for the improvement of conditions of living and that their proper use may contribute substantially to the over-all objective of achieving balanced economic and social development. They are needed not only for the formulation and evaluation of policies but they may also contribute to the development of the social sciences. The view was expressed that, since economic statistics as well as other statistics should be considered to have a bearing on social welfare, the time has come to seriously think of a system of statistics which would describe the various aspects of economic and social development in terms of human welfare.

5. The Commission considered that there was a need for the preparation of a Compendium of Social Statistics (described in section IV A) at approximately four-year intervals and recommended that the Secretary-General, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies, endeavour to prepare the first issue as early as it is feasible but not later than 1963.

6. The Commission recognized that there will be considerable difficulties involved in preparing the Compendium owing to lack of adequate statistics in certain fields, the danger that only more advanced countries will be represented and possible non-availability of the 1960 census tabulations. There was also the danger that the statistical comparisons of personal living conditions may be misinterpreted. The Compendium would, therefore, necessarily be of an experimental nature in its first issue and might be limited in scope but the Commission was hopeful that improvement would be made in future issues and that suitable steps would be taken to ensure that data from under-developed countries are included in so far as possible.

7. It was noted that considerable caution will need to be exercised in determining the contents as well as in assembling and analysing the statistical data to be included in the Compendium in that variations in interpretations will need to be dealt with in extensive technical notes.

8. It was noted that although the Compendium programme outlined is many-sided it would be desirable to emphasize the part concerned with unemployment, its causes, and with living conditions of the unemployed.

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9. The Commission recommended that careful attention should be given to the co-ordination of the Compendium with the next full Report on the World Social Situation scheduled to be issued in 1963 and with other related international publications and that the Secretary-General prepare a report on the plan, including an outline of contents of the Compendium for the consideration of the Commission at its next session.
10. The Commission was informed that the contents and co-ordination of work for the Compendium of Social Statistics will be discussed at the Secretariat level at inter-agency meetings on social statistics and that the experts on the substantive matters will be consulted. Regarding the contents of the annex to E/CN.3/239 it was emphasized that they are entirely provisional and subject to changes pending such discussions and that specifically the content outlined in part III, Health Conditions, are not to be considered as a WHO proposal.
11. The Commission considered that there is an urgent need for a series of studies to determine the ways in which social statistics can be used by Member States in formulating, understanding and evaluating social policies in each specialized field and requested that the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies assign high priority to the studies outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 of document E/CN.3/239. The collaboration and support of two non-governmental organizations in the development of these studies was offered.
12. In conducting such studies the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General consult with the statisticians of Member States, universities, and private or non-governmental organizations with a view to gathering information which may lead to the preparation of a report or series of reports on the uses of statistics for the formulation of social policies. The statistical services of each country should be kept informed of such consultations.
13. Commenting upon studies on the measurement of conditions and levels of living (E/CN.3/239, Section IV C) the Commission pointed out the need to intensify efforts to obtain from all the countries the statistical series required to provide those indicators which are already well established and that continuing efforts should be made toward the development of additional "indicators" of levels of living.
14. In commenting upon the value of household surveys as a means of obtaining data it was noted that although the great value of the method, especially for

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under-developed countries, was recognized there was a danger that Governments may concentrate efforts in this matter to such an extent that the development of co-ordinated national systems of social and economic statistics may be impaired (see draft report E/CN.3/L.48/Add.20 on item 14 (d) of the agenda).

15. With reference to the development of international standards for the compilation and analysis of social statistics (E/CN.3/239, Section IV D) the Commission expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would continue with this type of work. However, recognizing the difficulty of developing suitable standards for all the aspects envisioned in the above-mentioned document it was suggested that special attention should be given by the appropriate agencies to developing international principles for the compilation of housing statistics and statistics concerning households, families, social services and improved measures of mortality.

16. In connexion with methodological studies on the use of sample surveys in the collection of social statistics in under-developed countries (E/CN.3/239, Section IV E) several members of the Commission stressed the urgency of such studies (see also Draft Report E/CN.3/L.48/Add.20 of item 14 (d) of the agenda) and requested that the Secretary-General intensify efforts to improve the exchange of international experience in this field.

17. In discussing education and training in social statistics (E/CN.3/239, Section IV F) the Commission noted that the regular international training programme in the different subjects of statistics should contribute to the development of the various social statistical sectors. However, the clarification was made that no training on the over-all social statistics aspects was intended in paragraphs 42-44.

18. The Statistical Commission,

Noting the International Programme of Social Statistics presented in document E/CN.3/239:

Recommends:

1. That the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the specialized agencies, make arrangements to prepare a Compendium of Social Statistics, to be issued at approximately four-year intervals, the first to be issued, in co-ordination with the full Report on the World Social Situation in 1963.

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2. That the Secretary-General assign high priority to the preparation of a series of studies, in collaboration with appropriate agencies and in consultation with Member Governments, non-governmental organizations and experts, with a view to the preparation of a report on the uses of social statistics for the formulation of social policies.

3. That the Secretary-General undertake to promote the exchange of national experience in the use of sample surveys and to prepare, in collaboration with the specialized agencies, methodological studies on the uses of sample surveys for the compilation of statistics.

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HOUSING CENSUS
(Item 14(b))

1. The Commission had before it a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/240) stating the action that had been taken regarding the development of international principles for housing censuses and inviting the Commission to comment upon the General Principles for a Housing Census (Second Draft) (E/CN.3/240/Add.1-ST/STAT/P/L.22/Rev.1) as well as to express its views regarding issues which could not be resolved by further study of country experiences or on which different viewpoints have been expressed by governments or regional groups.
2. In considering the memorandum and its addendum the Commission noted the progress that had been made since its last session which was reported in the document submitted to it and that this was the result of consultations with national statistical services and regional groups. Members of the Commission expressed the view that the General Principles for a Housing Census would be useful to governments in planning and developing their national housing censuses, although an even more considerable degree of adaptation to local circumstances would be necessary than in the case of censuses of population. The Commission suggested the inclusion of a more specific statement which would make it clear to countries that the list of items and the tabulations shown did not necessarily represent a minimum programme and cautioning the countries regarding the adoption of an over-ambitious census plan which might jeopardize the success of the census operation as a whole.
3. In considering the relationship between the housing census and the population census some members of the Commission felt that, although it was feasible to

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combine housing and population censuses when only a few housing census items were required, as the housing census increased in scope the specialized nature of the data required a separate enumeration.

4. In considering specific items included in the addendum, the Commission noted that there was general agreement as to the need to define housing units in terms of physical characteristics, disregarding the actual occupancy at the time of the census, except that certain types of housing units need to be occupied for residential purposes in order to be covered by the census.

5. Some members of the Commission felt that, in addition to the number of rooms, the habitable area should be included in the list of items recommended for collection. It was suggested that, although there is sometimes difficulty in determining the rooms that are occupied for professional or business purposes, where possible such rooms should be counted, but in a separate classification in order not to include them in calculations of persons per room.

6. Since all buildings had to be investigated during a housing census in order to find out whether or not they were occupied it was suggested that it would be useful if a listing of buildings intended for non-residential purposes were made at population or housing censuses and that this listing could be made in such a way as to serve as a register for censuses of distribution and similar inquiries. It was also suggested that each country should, according to local circumstances, develop instructions for the recognition of permanent units.

7. Members of the Commission expressed their views regarding the priority of certain items, and discussed the inclusion as well as the exclusion of various items. The recommendations included in the Principles appeared to be over-ambitious for some countries and to fall short of the needs of others. However, the Commission did not attempt to reconcile the various points of view expressed concerning the items included in the Principles and felt that the recommendations should not be developed to such an extent that they would become inflexible but should be expressed in general terms in order that the users could adapt them to their individual needs.

8. It was stated that the recommendations could only be evaluated after they had been put to practical use in connexion with the forthcoming housing censuses and it

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was recommended that, in view of the proximity of the 1960 censuses, the principles should be revised and expanded according to the suggestions made by the Commission and circulated to Member States at an early date. The Secretary-General was asked to request Member States to transmit to the Secretariat their experiences in applying the principles to their particular problems in order that these might be taken into consideration in future publications.

The Commission adopted the following resolution:

The Statistical Commission,

Recommends:

- (i) that the Secretary-General prepare a revised version of the General Principles for a Housing Census taking into consideration the comments made by the Commission at its tenth session;
- (ii) that in view of the importance of housing censuses for the evaluation of the housing situation and as an important frame for sample surveys to be taken during the inter-censal period, the Secretary-General distribute the revised version of the Principles to Member States and international agencies concerned with housing statistics at an early date in order that they may be used in the planning and developing 1960 national housing censuses;
- (iii) that the Governments of Member States be requested to transmit to the Secretary-General their experiences in applying the recommendations to their particular problems with a view to revision and improvement so that they may more adequately meet varying national needs and circumstances;
- (iv) that arrangements be made for field tests of the Principles either as a part of the activities of international or national statistical training centres organized under the technical assistance programme of the United Nations or as separate projects;
- (v) that an evaluation of the international experience regarding the application of the Principles be presented to the Statistical Commission at a future session.

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DRAFT REPORT

LEVELS OF LIVING
(Item 14(c))

1. The Commission had before it a progress report on statistical aspects of the international definition and measurement of levels of living (E/CN.3/241) prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned.
2. In considering the question of terminology, which had been raised at a previous session, the Commission was in favour of retaining "Levels of Living" as a suitable expression, instead of adopting the term "Conditions of Living". The former term has gained acceptance and the Commission felt that it would not be advisable to make a change at this time.
3. In reference to indicators of the levels of health the Commission considered that the proportional mortality ratio, i.e., the percentage of deaths at age fifty and over to total deaths, which had been recommended by the Expert Committee on Health Statistics as a comprehensive health indicator on an experimental basis, could not be readily accepted since, it was noted, it does not necessarily reflect health conditions and is affected by changes in the age distribution of the population which may or may not be due to changes in mortality. However, the Commission welcomed the classification of indicators proposed by the Study Group on the Measurement of Levels of Health (World Health Organization techn. Rep. Ser., 1957, 137, pages 10 and 11).
4. In reference to the indicators of food and nutrition, attention was called to the need for further research regarding the determination of calorie and protein requirements. The FAO representative indicated the difficulties involved

in such a task and informed the Commission that new approaches such as the study of food preferences of people are being investigated in order to develop more adequate indicators for this component.

5. It was noted that no specific indicators on housing, including household facilities, had been developed.

6. The Statistical Commission,
Recommends

That the Secretary-General continue to devote efforts towards the development of indicators of levels of living in collaboration with the specialized agencies and present a progress report for the consideration of the Statistical Commission at its next session.

FAMILY LIVING STUDIES
(Item 14(d))

1. The Commission had before it a Report on Family Living Studies (E/CN.3/250) prepared by the International Labour Office.

2. In discussing the scope of family living studies several members of the Commission called attention to the difficulties involved in carrying out multi-purpose enquiries although it was indicated that household enquiries constitute a particularly effective method of collecting information regarding specialized subjects. However, it was recognized that multi-purpose surveys may afford a suitable method in under-developed countries where a national system of statistics has not yet been developed.

3. It had been suggested that some clarification in terminology was desirable to distinguish between fairly broad multi-purpose surveys and ones limited primarily to expenditure surveys. It was proposed by the ILO that the former might be designated as "household living enquiries" and the latter as "household expenditure enquiries". The Commission reached no decision on this point but agreed that the Secretariat might examine the question of terminology further.

4. With regard to the ILO programme of work in family living studies, the Commission agreed with the ILO proposal to concentrate work in small towns and rural areas while it was indicated that there was great urgency for the preparation of studies regarding the methods of carrying out surveys, definition of units and principles of classification in the various fields.

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5. The Commission noted with appreciation the plans of the ILO for the preparation of a Symposium on Family Living Studies and the fact that field studies in four countries were being arranged. The Commission wished to be kept informed about progress on family living studies.

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Tenth session

DRAFT REPORT

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS
(Item 14(e))

1. The Commission considered a memorandum prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.3/251) describing the work accomplished in the preparation of an International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), an activity in which the Statistical Commission has maintained a continuing interest. The final text of the ISCO had been prepared and issued in 1957 taking into account the decisions of the Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.
2. The Commission expressed satisfaction that this work had been completed, especially since it would be available for consideration by Member States in connexion with the 1960 censuses of population. The Commission noted that it would be important to take account of the experience of countries in applying the classification to censuses so that suitable revisions could be considered at a later stage. Representatives of several countries indicated that, while they might not be able to use the classifications as such in their censuses, they would undertake, as far as possible, to provide for international comparability, at least on a broad basis.

STATISTICS ON EDUCATION, CULTURE AND MASS COMMUNICATION
(Item 14(f))

3. The Commission considered a progress report (E/CN.3/252) prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) dealing with the publication of statistics on a number of subjects for which UNESCO is responsible and with the work on the standardization of education statistics. The Commission noted the importance of the publications, commenting especially on those which place figures on education in a larger context. The Commission hoped that this broader analytical approach might be maintained and extended. The Commission also hoped that countries would be able to adopt the standards for educational statistics, work on which was virtually completed.

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MATTERS REFERRED TO THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES
(Item 16)

1. The Commission heard a report from the Bureau of Social Affairs, on paragraphs 72-77 of the General Survey of Developments in International Statistics (E/CN.3/249) which discussed the work of the Population Commission in relation to that of the Statistical Commission. A report was also given on pilot studies in Mysore and the Philippines and reference was made to the Demographic Training and Research Centres in Chenbur, and Santiago. Provision had been made for the establishment of regional demographic experts in the headquarters of ECAFE and ECLA and in the Near East. The Commission took note and expressed interest in these activities.

GENERAL SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS
(Item 3)

2. The Commission discussed paragraphs 93-104 of the General Survey of Developments in International Statistics (E/CN.3/249) which dealt with the work of the FAO. The opinion was expressed that there should be more co-ordination between agricultural censuses and industrial censuses and that attention might be given to the problem of distinguishing operations such as those of agricultural machine stations.
3. It was also noted that the FAC's calculations of international indexes of agricultural production used different concepts from those used in similar indexes compiled by OEEC and by national statistical offices. A method by which this situation might be overcome would be to have a single set of international concepts.

This was a matter which could well be examined further by the Conference of European Statisticians. It was also suggested that where the international agencies prepared country indexes by methods different from those used by the national offices they should not publish the internationally computed country indexes separately even though they might be included in regional and world totals.

TOURIST STATISTICS
(Item 17)

4. The Commission took note of a communication from the Executive Director of the Pacific Area Travel Association urging the Commission to expedite the work, undertaken at its ninth session (E/28,6, para. 155), of standardizing and improving the comparability of international travel statistics. Several members emphasized the importance, to the balance of payments of their countries, of international travel and the question was raised of the extent to which the Embarkation and Disembarkation Card used for travellers by air could serve as a basis for migration and tourist statistics. The Commission was informed that the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) might shortly be able to initiate measures for the collection of statistics of international travel. Since the further development of standards could best proceed in conjunction with the international collection of data, the Commission expressed the hope that the related tasks would be undertaken together and that a progress report, including a discussion of the suitability of the Embarkation and Disembarkation Card for statistical use, would be made to it at its eleventh session.
