

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.3/L.51  
11 January 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Eleventh session  
18 April - 6 May 1960

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. Election of officers of the Commission

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

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to make deletions, additions or other modifications to the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/262). They will also wish to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. Review of developments in international statistics (E/CN.3/263)

The review will serve to inform the Commission of a number of matters of general interest, and will include a description of regional activities in statistics and plans for future work in the regional setting. Particular attention will be given to the work being undertaken for the development of statistics in Africa. Other topics include basic statistics for economic development, sample survey methodology and a new international compilation of industrial statistics. The review will contain the customary summary of the status of United Nations and specialized agency activities in the development of statistical standards for various subjects. While proposals for new or revised standards will be noted in the review they will be taken up for specific action

in separate documents. As in the past, technical assistance activities in statistics (advisory services, fellowships and training) will be described from the point of view of the size and content of the programme and the developments achieved. The observations of the Commission are requested on all the topics of the review.

4. Industrial statistics

(a) International standards in basic industrial statistics  
(E/CN.3/257 and L.40/Rev.1)

The Commission will be asked to consider (i) draft revisions in the International Standards in Basic Industrial Statistics, which relate to the field to be covered and items of data to be sought, including definitions, in annual and ten-year inquiries of industrial establishments, and (ii) proposals for classifying these items of data according to the characteristics of the statistical unit. The Commission discussed draft proposals on these subjects at its last session. Final consideration is sought at the present session. The documentation will also include a review of the content of recent industrial inquiries (E/CN.3/257/Add.1) and the methods of collection utilized in these inquiries (E/CN.3/257/Add.2) and a progress report on the comparison of systems of industrial statistics of selected highly industrialized countries (E/CN.3/281).

(b) 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Inquiries (E/CN.3/258)

This document contains draft recommendations on the objectives and content of inquiries that are part of the 1963 World Programme. It should be noted that the Economic and Social Council, on the suggestion of the Commission, recommended to Governments that they compile basic data on industry for 1963 or a year close to 1963, taking account of international recommendations on this subject. The proposals consist of a selection of items from the suggestions made for ten-year inquiries in the revised International Standards in Basic Industrial Statistics. Final consideration of recommendations for the 1963 World Programme is sought at the present session.

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5. The statistical unit in economic inquiries (E/CN.3/259)

This document explores the requirements for and uses of various statistical units in the field of economic statistics, possible definitions of these units and ways of interrelating the different statistical units and the data gathered for each of them with a view to developing an integrated body of economic statistics. The Commission is asked to consider the direction and content of further work on this subject.

6. Statistics of enterprises (E/CN.3/260)

This report examines further possible definitions of the enterprise and the classification and definition, including valuation, of items of data that might be gathered from the balance-sheet and profit-and-loss accounts of enterprises in order to provide the data required for financial and other kinds of economic analyses as well as for flow-of-funds and similar types of accounts. The Commission is asked to consider the character of further work in this field.

7. Wholesale price statistics (E/CN.3/264)

This document consists of further examination, which the Commission requested at its last session, of the problems and techniques of collecting and compiling representative and comparable series of wholesale prices. The paper also contains a review, in the light of these and other questions, of the recommendations made by the Commission at its seventh session (E/2365) on the scope and collection of wholesale price statistics.

8. External trade statistics (E/CN.3/261, with Annex)

Following consultations with Governments, the international agencies concerned with external trade have collaborated in a project to combine the Standard International Trade Classification and the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature. A draft classification, SITC-BTN III, suggests modifications to the SITC and to the BTN to facilitate the combination. The Brussels Customs Co-operation Council have approved the project from the point of view of its effect on the BTN. The Commission is asked to review the project and to indicate its views on the suitability of the combined system for international use.

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9. National accounts and associated topics

(a) Capital formation in under-developed countries (E/CN.3/265)

At its last session the Commission requested the Secretary-General to give further critical study to possible methods and sources for the compilation of capital formation statistics, particularly for use in under-developed countries. The document is based largely on special studies of methods actually in use in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

(b) Input-Output statistics (E/CN.3/266)

This document describes the methodology of constructing input-output tables, and surveys country practices. The views of the Commission are asked concerning the nature of further work.

(c) Progress report on other topics (E/CN.3/267)

This document summarizes other work in the field of national accounts: the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables, the status of work on financial flows, price and quantity indexes and statistics on the distribution of income.

10. Statistics for social programmes

(a) Progress report and proposed work programme (E/CN.3/268)

This document brings together the main aspects of work in statistics for social programmes described in detail in the documents supporting items 10b, c, d and item 11. The document also requests the Commission's guidance on the Secretary-General's proposals for future work on each of the items.

(b) Compendium of social statistics (E/CN.3/269)

A revised outline of tables for the proposed compendium is submitted for consideration as requested by the Commission at its last session. The revised outline was prepared by the inter-agency Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes.

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(c) Progress report on the definition and measurement of levels of living (E/CN.3/270)

The inter-agency Working Party also reviewed progress on this subject, at the Commission's request. A revised list of components and indicators was prepared on the basis of experience gained since the preparation in 1954 of the report International Definitions and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living (E/CN.3/179 - E/CN.5/299) by a Committee of Experts convened by the United Nations, ILO and UNESCO.

(d) Progress report on methodology of household surveys (E/CN.3/271)

The Working Party also proposed to prepare jointly a methodological guide for use in connexion with multi-subject household inquiries. As the number of sample surveys of social and economic studies of family living conditions increases, the Working Party considered that some guidance should be given countries concerning the kind of questions which can usefully be asked in given conditions.

11. Housing statistics

The documentation includes a summary report on housing census plans and activities (E/CN.3/272), a technical report on statistical indicators of housing conditions and a description of their uses (E/CN.3/R.2), a report of comments received on the proposed indicators (E/CN.3/R.2/Add.1), a paper dealing with proposed methods of estimating housing needs (E/CN.3/274) and a document containing proposals for developing a programme of current housing statistics (E/CN.3/275). The Commission's views are sought on the substantive aspects as well as on directions of further work on housing statistics.

12. Progress report on World Population Census Programme (E/CN.3/276)

Developments in the world-wide programme of population census activities are summarized. Information is provided as to the status of census plans in the different countries.

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13. Other progress reports

(a) Other demographic statistics (E/CN.3/277)

Developments in demographic statistics are reported as well as preliminary work in an examination of population registers as requested by the Commission.

(b) Balance of payments statistics (E/CN.3/278)

A report by the International Monetary Fund on the present status of work in this field.

(c) Classification of government accounts (E/CN.3/279)

A further report on this activity was requested by the Commission at its last session. The document contains a summary of comments received from Governments on the Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions (ST/ECA/49).

14. Training of statisticians (E/CN.3/280)

This report summarizes training activities and indicates the need for intensified efforts, particularly with respect to the newer countries.

15. Priorities of the Commission's work programme

A paper on the future programme of work, priorities, and the control and limitation of documentation will be prepared by the Secretary-General after the decisions of the Commission are known.

16. Report of the eleventh session (E/CN.3/282)

The report of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council on its eleventh session will be prepared by the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat. A separate paper on the financial implications of the recommendations made by the Commission will be prepared by the Secretary-General, should the necessity arise.

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Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.3/L.51/Corr.1  
10 February 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Eleventh session  
20 April-6 May 1960

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

CORRIGENDUM

Change of date

After consultation with the Chairman of the Statistical Commission and the members of the Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, it has been decided to postpone the opening of the eleventh session from 18 April to 20 April 1960.

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60-03444