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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. Election of officers of the Commission

A chairman, a vice-chairman and a rapporteur shall be elected to serve from the beginning of the twelfth session to the beginning of the thirteenth session of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to modify (by deletion, addition, etc.) the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/283 of 18 January 1962). It may also wish to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. Review of international statistics (E/CN.3/286)

This report, the sixth in a series summarizing developments in international statistics, will contain detailed information covering the work of the United Nations (Statistical Office, Population Commission, regional commissions) and the specialized agencies, as well as a number of other international and regional statistical organizations. Included will be sections dealing with the development and application of standards; new statistical series, new publications (statistical, methodological, bibliographical); new projects, surveys and research; technical co-operation (training centres, seminars, group study tours, consultants, fellowships, training materials); summaries of proposed work programmes for 1962-1963; miscellaneous matters to be called to the Commission's attention for information or discussion. Special attention will be devoted to new trends in the regional programmes. The Commission's comments are invited on all aspects of this Review.

4. Industrial statistics

(a) The systems of industrial statistics of five highly industrialized countries (E/CN.3/285)

This will be a comparative description and analysis of the objectives, coverage and organization, the data gathered and compiled and the associated concepts and definitions utilized, and the techniques of collection employed in the case of inquiries into mining, manufacturing, construction and the production and distribution of electricity and gas for the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

(b) Some recent problems and developments in industrial statistics (E/CN.3/287)

This will be a description and analysis of the concepts and methods countries are evolving in order to resolve certain major problems in the field of industrial statistics (for example, the statistical and tabulating units to be utilized, measures of the value of the stock of fixed assets, current data on orders, sales, inventories and capital expenditures, the expansion and improvement of data on construction).

(c) The 1963 world programme of basic industrial statistics (E/CN.3/288)

This will be a description of international activities with regard to the 1963 World Programme and the plans of countries to participate therein.

5. Statistics of the accounts of enterprises: requirements, concepts and practices - statistics of balance-sheet and profit-and-loss accounts (E/CN.3/289)

This will be a comparative study of national requirements, problems and practices (concepts and methods) in the collection and compilation of statistics of assets and liabilities and revenue and expenditures of enterprises.

6. Integrated systems of product, income and financial statistics problems, developments and prospects (E/CN.3/290)

This will be a description and analysis of national developments, problems and plans in the field of integrated accounts on product, income and financial statistics.

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7. Survey and evaluation of country practices in national accounting
(E/CN.3/291)

This document will be based on material assembled for the preparation of the forthcoming Supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics. It will discuss prevailing country practices in respect of concepts of production, sectoring and transactions recorded within accounts, and summarize general statistical methodology and basic statistical sources utilized in the construction of current value and constant price estimates. Departures from common practices and new developments in current practices of estimating and presenting national accounts statistics will be described and evaluated in terms of frequency of occurrence and magnitude of items affected.

8. Progress report on national accounting and associated topics (E/CN.3/292)

This paper will summarize progress made in national accounting and related fields since the last session of the Commission. It will discuss plans for the development of existing publications such as the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics and Current Economic Indicators and outline a programme of future work in national accounting in accordance with the priorities recommended by the Commission.

9. Methodology and evaluation of continuous population registers (E/CN.3/293)

This will be a review of available information on continuous population registers, indicating their actual and potential uses as general statistical mechanisms and as specific tools for providing information on family histories.

10. Progress report on developments in demographic statistics (E/CN.3/294)

This will be a general summarization of developments during 1960-1961 in the collection, evaluation, publication and promotion of improvement of population, vital and migration statistics. A progress report on population and housing census-taking will be prepared under item 11.

11. Report on 1960 world population and housing census programmes (E/CN.3/295)

This will review the progress made between 1955 and 1961 in achieving world-wide coverage in enumeration of population and housing units. In addition

to information on the status of census plans in different countries, the report will review the extent to which international recommendations have been adopted in the various regions.

12. Progress report on development of statistics for social programmes
(E/CN.3/296)

This report will serve to inform the Commission of the activities of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes at its third session and of the progress achieved in the following projects:

- (a) First issue of the Compendium of Social Statistics. This will include the status and contents of the preliminary draft.
- (b) Methodology of household surveys. This will include the status of the Handbook of Household Surveys (the methodological guide for carrying out multi-purpose household inquiries).
- (c) International Definition and Measurement of Levels of Living: An Interim Guide.
- (d) Housing statistics other than the 1960 housing census programme. This will include progress achieved in developing statistical indicators of housing conditions; methods of estimating housing needs; international standards for current housing statistics; and the proposed Handbook of Housing Census Methods. A report on the status of the world housing census programme will be prepared under item 11.
- (e) Development of a classification for international analysis of population by socio-economic characteristics.

13. Report of ad hoc working group of specialists in sample survey methods
(E/CN.3/284)

This is the report of the Working Group convened (Geneva, 9-13 October 1961) by the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission at its eleventh session. The Commission may wish to pay special attention to the recommendation (para. 16) that a comprehensive review of sampling terminology be undertaken and that the 1950 report (The Preparation of Sampling Survey Reports) of its Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling serve as a starting point.

14. Classification of government accounts (E/CN.3/297)

A progress report will be submitted covering the recommendations of two regional budget workshops (Bangkok-Manila in 1960 and Addis Ababa in 1961). The African Workshop recommended a simplified economic-functional cross-classification for consideration of the countries of the region, based on the schemes developed in the Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions (ST/ECA/49). It further suggested that the Statistical Commission consider the possibility of preparing an international standard or guide in this field.

15. Progress report on balance-of-payments statistics (E/CN.3/298)

This report, prepared by the Balance of Payments Division of the International Monetary Fund, will describe the Balance of Payments Manual issued in the summer of 1961, the Balance of Payments Yearbooks and the Fund's annual training course in balance-of-payments methodology.

16. External trade statistics

(a) The implementation of the SITC, Revised (E/CN.3/299)

The Commission will be informed of the progress being made by Governments in revising their trade-by-commodity data to take account of the differences between the original and the revised SITC, and of the developments, since its last session, in the relation of customs nomenclature to statistical classification.

(b) The international compilation of external trade statistics by computer (E/CN.3/300)

The Commission will be informed of the existing arrangements for collecting and compiling world trade statistics and of the development of this field made possible by the use of electronic computers. On the basis of preparatory work carried out by an expert group, the Commission will be invited to make recommendations concerning the amount and type of data to be assembled and distributed at the international level.

17. The uses being made by the Statistical Office of electronic computers for statistical compilation (E/CN.3/301)

This will be an account of the results achieved in implementing the resolution of the eleventh session of the Commission that requested the Office to experiment with the use of computers for statistical compilation.

18. Proposed master programme to permit compilation, verification, analysis and tabulation of statistical data by electronic computer (E/CN.3/302)

This paper will inform the Commission of work being initiated by the Statistical Office to produce a master computer programme which can be used to perform a large variety of statistical operations. The selection of the particular operations to be performed in a specific case is to be made by means of a control deck of punched cards which can be prepared by statistical personnel without specialized training.

19. Tourist statistics (E/CN.3/303)

The Commission will be informed of steps taken since its eleventh session and planned for the near future to further the improvement of the usefulness and comparability of data on international travel.

20. Priorities of the Commission's work programme and control and limitation of documentation (E/CN.3/L.56)

A document presenting the future work programme, with priorities, will be prepared by the Secretary-General once the Commission's decisions are made. Included will be a report on documentation, as required by resolution 1272 (XIII) of the General Assembly.

21. Other business

The Commission may wish to discuss miscellaneous matters not covered under any other item of the agenda.

22. Report of the twelfth session

The report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council on its twelfth session will be prepared by the rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat. If necessary, a separate document on the financial implications of the Commission's recommendations will be prepared by the Secretary-General.