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STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Twelfth session  
Item 22 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
TWELFTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION, HELD AT  
NEW YORK FROM 24 APRIL TO \_\_\_ MAY 1962 INCLUSIVE

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its twelfth session at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 24 April to \_\_\_ May 1962.

Attendance

2. Attendance at the session was as follows:

MEMBERS

<u>Australia:</u>	Mr. K.M. Archer, Mr. F.B. Horner*.
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. Jessé de Sousa Montello.
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. Walter E. Duffett, Mr. S.A. Goldberg*.
<u>China:</u>	Mr. Jui Pao-kung, Mr. Chen Chung-sieu*.
<u>Cuba:</u>	Mr. Mario García-Incháustegui, Mr. Juan Juarbe y Juarbe*, Mr. Gilberto Mediavilla*.
<u>France:</u>	Mr. G.R. Chevry*.
<u>India:</u>	Mr. P.C. Mahalanobis, Mr. P.C. Mathew*, Mr. K.M. Bashir**.
<u>Ireland:</u>	Mr. M.D. McCarthy.

\* Alternate.

\*\* Adviser.

- Japan: Mr. Yuzo Morita, Mr. Saburo Kawai\*, Mr. Goroku Watanabe\*\*.
- New Zealand: Mr. J.V.T. Baker.
- Norway: Mr. Odd Aukrust\*.
- Romania: Mr. Mircea Bulgaru\*, Mr. Mihai Anastasescu\*\*.
- Sudan: Mr. Suleiman Taha Ayoub\*.
- Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic:  
Mr. Valentin Fedorovich Burlin,  
Mr. Valentin Ivanovich Tsurkan\*\*.
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:  
Mr. Anatoly Ivanovich Yezhov,  
Mr. Boris Pavlovich Prokofiev\*\*.
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:  
Sir Harry Campion.
- United States of America:  
Mr. Raymond T. Bowman, Mr. Hugh H. Smythe\*\*,  
Mr. Harry F. Venneman\*\*.
- Uruguay\*\*\*

#### SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- International Labour Organisation:  
Mr. H.E. Riley.
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:  
Mr. Salem H. Khamis.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:  
Mr. B.A. Liu.
- International Civil Aviation Organization:  
Mr. B. Kortekaas, Mr. A.M. Lester.
- International Monetary Fund:  
Mr. Earl Hicks, Mr. Walter Gardner,  
Mr. Poul Høst-Madsen, Mr. Fred Lynn.
- World Health Organization:  
Dr. Munir Grais.

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\* Alternate.

\*\* Adviser.

\*\*\* No nomination was received.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATEGORY A

International Chamber of Commerce:

Mrs. Roberta M. Lusardi

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions:

Mr. Lazar Teper, Mr. Daniel Nelson

CATEGORY B

Chamber of Commerce of the United States:

Mr. Earl F. Cruickshank.

Inter American Statistical Institute:

Mr. Tulo Montenegro, Miss Ana Casís.

International Air Transport Association:

Mr. Jay L. Sheppard.

International Conference of Catholic Charities:

Mr. Louis Longarzo.

International Statistical Institute:

Mr. Stuart A. Rice.

3. Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, represented the Secretary-General. The following members of the Secretariat participated: Statistical Office: Mr. W.R. Leonard, Mr. P.J. Loftus, Mr. A. Aidenoff, Mr. W.W. Flexner, Mr. F. Leacy, Mr. W.M.L. Murray, Miss N.P. Powell; Mr. Barrie N. Davies, regional statistician for Europe; Mr. B. Ramamurti, regional statistician for Asia and the Far East; Mr. J. Royer, regional statistician for Africa; Mr. Peyton Stapp, regional statistician for Latin America: Fiscal and Financial Branch: Mr. A. Landau. Miss R.F. Grossman acted as Secretary of the Commission.

Representation

4. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement on the representation of China in the Commission. The Chairman ruled that the Commission was not competent to deal with such questions.

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Elections of officers

5. At the 190th meeting, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. M.D. McCarthy (Ireland).
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Valentin Fedorovich Burlin (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic).
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. J.V.T. Baker (New Zealand).

Agenda

6. At the 190th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the following agenda:
1. Election of officers of the Commission
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Review of international statistics
  4. Industrial statistics:
    - (a) The systems of industrial statistics of five highly industrialized countries
    - (b) Some recent problems and developments in industrial statistics
    - (c) The 1963 world programme of basic industrial statistics
  5. Statistics of the accounts of enterprises: requirements, concepts and practices - statistics of balance-sheet and profit-and-loss accounts
  6. Integrated systems of product, income and financial statistics: problems, developments and prospects
  7. Survey and evaluation of country practices in national accounting
  8. Progress report on national accounting and associated topics
  9. Methodology and evaluation of continuous population registers
  10. Progress report on developments in demographic statistics
  11. Report on 1960 world population and housing census programme
  12. Progress report on development of statistics for social programmes
  13. Report of ad hoc working group of specialists in sample survey methods
  14. Classification of government accounts
  15. Progress report on balance-of-payments statistics

16. External trade statistics:
  - (a) The implementations of the SITC, Revised
  - (b) The international compilation of external trade statistics by computer
17. The uses being made by the Statistical Office of electronic computers for statistical compilation
18. Proposed master programme to permit compilation, verification, analysis and tabulation of statistical data by electronic computer
19. Tourist statistics
20. Priorities of the Commission's work programme and control and limitation of documentation
21. Other business
22. Report of the twelfth session

## II. REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

7. The Commission took up first a report of the Secretary-General containing a general review, in summary terms, of developments in international statistics during the two-year period since the eleventh session (E/CN.3/286). The report dealt first with matters of particular interest which had arisen, or had assumed greater importance, in the past two years. These included the considerable increase in regional activities in statistics, arising in part from the resolutions on decentralization approved by the Economic and Social Council<sup>1/</sup> and the General Assembly,<sup>2/</sup> the increased training activities, the statistical requirements implicit in the General Assembly resolution on the Development Decade,<sup>3/</sup> improvements in the tabulation of external trade statistics, new international series prepared by the Statistical Office, the new base year for indexes and other subjects not taken up in other documentation before the Commission. Other sections of the report concerned developments in statistical standards undertaken by the United Nations and associated agencies; other statistical activities

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<sup>1/</sup> Resolution 823 (XXXII).

<sup>2/</sup> Resolution 1709 (XVI).

<sup>3/</sup> Resolution 1710 (XVI).

including new statistical series, meetings and conferences and future work programmes; and the several programmes of technical co-operation carried on by the international agencies.

8. The Commission regarded the report as a useful and convenient summary of recent developments and proposed future programmes of work. It provided a general background for the discussion of the more detailed parts of the agenda and a basis for examining proposals for future programmes of work. The Commission suggested, however, that in the future it might be more convenient if the reports were arranged according to subject headings rather than mainly by organizational units.

9. In this context, the Commission discussed at some length the need to obtain a judicious balance among the different programmes, both as regards the emphasis to be accorded to various subjects and as regards the regional activities in statistics of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. There appeared to be a need for a much closer integration of programmes and activities, particularly in view of the general tendency towards decentralization. There were many benefits to be derived through decentralization, especially in the operational sense, but at the same time it was required that measures be taken to ensure substantive co-ordination among programmes and agencies, realistic priorities and consistent policies. Such measures were all the more important because of the scarce resources at the disposal of the agencies and the rapidly growing requests of countries for assistance in training and the development of statistical programmes adapted to their needs.

10. In the light of these considerations, the Commission concluded that it would be desirable to request the statistical agencies, including the regional statistical organizations, to draw up, in as much detail as possible, programmes of activities for at least five years ahead, and, perhaps in more general terms, programmes for the next ten years. The Commission would wish to review and comment upon these programmes at the next and succeeding sessions. This practice would facilitate the adaptation of the statistical programmes to the requirements associated with the Development Decade. It would also assist in achieving a reasonable balance among the programmes and bring to light areas of work that might have been neglected or overlooked. Some such areas already existed and means should be found to focus attention upon them. Some that immediately came

to mind included systems of price indexes, methods of measuring and forecasting capital formation, productivity studies and statistical investigations of the marginal contributions of labour and capital to the outputs of different industries. Studies of this kind are basic to development planning in order efficiently to allocate the means of production.

11. Consideration then was given to the statistical advisory services which have been established in co-operation with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and to the nature of the services provided by experts assigned to individual countries for extended periods. With respect to both activities, it was the view of the Commission that the main task was to assist in creating national statistical services which could respond to governmental needs connected with planning for economic and social development. The statistical services should be equipped to supply these special needs but at the same time should not ignore the importance of systematic compilations of basic economic and social data which serve a wide range of purposes. The regional advisers and experts should make it one of their main duties to train counterparts who could be entrusted to carry on the programmes in the future. They should also immerse themselves, to the extent possible and appropriate, in the actual work of statistical development and not simply offer abstract advice. In a number of circumstances, the use of a team of advisers could be recommended, particularly when conditions called for a kind of impact programme. At the same time, the absorptive capacity of the national statistical service must be taken into account. If, for example, the service is fully occupied with a census, as is often the case in the smaller countries, there is little use in trying to establish other statistics simultaneously. This kind of situation points to the need for technical co-operation experts to encourage countries to have a systematic programme of statistical development with priorities which are consistent with the economic and social programmes.

12. In this connexion, it was pointed out that while general guides and standards served very useful purposes, they could not be applied without discrimination. Not only were the needs of countries frequently rather different, but conditions in a given country and its institutional arrangements would require adaptation of general standards to national circumstances. This adaptation might in many cases

be on a regional basis when the countries are reasonably homogeneous; in other cases, general standards would have to be adjusted in the light of purely national conditions. Nevertheless, there was still a great need for additional detailed guides, mainly of a methodological nature, which would examine and comment upon the various methods used by other countries in collecting and compiling statistics on specific subjects. Additionally, the exchange of information on the detailed uses of a given statistical series would be of special importance to the developing countries. The Commission therefore desires to draw the attention of the international agencies to the desirability of arranging for the preparation and distribution of detailed guides on a practical level, which explain alternative methods and indicate specific purposes for which a given series may be used. It would be important also to show the interrelationship obtaining among different series, especially in the context of economic and social development plans. The Commission hoped that these points could be drawn to the attention of the regional conferences.

13. The Commission noted the adoption by the United Nations and several specialized agencies of a new base year (1958) for index numbers. It was considered that it would be very useful if such decisions could be made well in advance so that countries could take account of the proposed new base in preparing their statistical programmes. It was the expectation of the Statistical Office that the next base year would probably be the year 1963, which was the year in which many countries planned to conduct industrial censuses under the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics.

14. The following draft resolution was introduced:

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution

"The Statistical Commission,

"Noting the extensive and useful work accomplished in the field of statistics since the eleventh session, particularly with regard to the rendering of assistance in the organization of statistical services in the countries with less developed economies,

"Recommends that the Secretary-General.

"1. Take steps with a view to further intensifying the United Nations Statistical Office's activities directed towards the elaboration of efficient methods for the collection, processing and analysis of the statistical data



necessary for planning the economic and social development of the less developed countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and towards the training of the requisite local statisticians, more particularly by affording them broad familiarization with the experience of statistical work in other countries through the organization, with the help of local statistical bodies, of the publication of the necessary material, by formulating specific recommendations concerning the organization and execution of particular statistical operations, taking account of the experience gained in other countries and of the conditions prevailing in the countries of the area concerned, and by extending the facilities for obtaining experts to assist the countries concerned;

"2. Continue the work of improving the comparability of statistical data from countries having different social and economic systems, thereby contributing to the development of mutually-advantageous economic ties between them;

"3. Having regard to the forthcoming establishment, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI), of an Economic Projections and Programming Centre with sub-centres, as appropriate, in the regional economic commissions, consult the Governments of the States members of the United Nations Statistical Commission regarding possible participation by United Nations statistical bodies in the work of the aforesaid centres, and report the results of these consultations to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its thirteenth session;

"4. Take steps to extend the United Nations statistical publications, bearing in mind the responsibility of the United Nations to present as complete and reliable data as possible on individual countries."

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Addendum

III. INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

1. At its eleventh session, the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to continue work in the field of industrial statistics with particular emphasis on the comparison of the systems of industrial statistics in selected highly industrialized countries (resolution 1 (XI), document E/3375). The Commission had stated that, to be manageable, such investigations had to be restricted to a few Member States and that it was desirable to select for study countries whose systems of industrial statistics were representative of a broad range of practice. Accordingly, the Statistical Office had selected five countries, and the results of its study were presented to the Commission in document E/CN.3/285, entitled The Systems of Industrial Statistics of Five Highly Industrialized Countries. The countries were: the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States. The systems of these countries represented a broad range of approaches and practices in the collection and compiling of statistics covering the fields of mining, manufacturing, construction, electricity and gas, as detailed in the International Standard Industrial Classification, Divisions 1-4 and Major Group 51.

2. The paper described the scope and character of the statistics collected and compiled in these countries, as well as the various kinds of inquiries making up the system of each country. An effort was made to determine the extent to which data gathered under widely different circumstances were internationally comparable.

3. The Commission felt that the study constituted a useful presentation of the systems of the five countries. The value of the comparisons made among the various systems would be enhanced, however, if more information were furnished concerning the economic and statistical setting of each and the broad purposes served by the various types of data. It would also be desirable to distinguish clearly the problems of collecting data on construction from those of the other areas covered. It was necessary also to emphasize that the descriptions of the systems of the five countries were not intended as recommendations in this field. The main value of the study lay in the descriptions and comparisons of the various systems. The question was also raised as to the appropriateness of treating statistics of profit-and-loss and balance-sheet accounts of industrial enterprises as part of the field of industrial statistics.

4. The Commission concluded that the study, revised in the light of the comments of the Commission, and of the five countries concerned, should be published.

5. In the view of some members of the Commission, a comparative study of the systems of industrial statistics of selected developing countries would be of value to many developing countries. In order to be most useful to these countries in evolving an appropriate and adequate system of industrial statistics, the comparative study should cover a number of related subjects in addition to presenting a description of the existing systems of the selected countries. In particular, the requirements of these countries for industrial statistics should be analysed, and deficiencies in the industrial statistics now gathered should be noted. It would also be valuable if alternative approaches and techniques were suggested for improving and extending the statistics in this field. The representatives of Brazil, India and Japan agreed to furnish detailed descriptions of the systems of industrial statistics of their countries for purposes of the study. In addition to these three countries, it would be useful to include an African country in the study.

6. At its eleventh session, the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to keep under review developments in industrial statistics in order that new concepts and methods may be the subject of international exchange of experience (resolution 1 (XI), document E/3375). The study, E/CN.3/287, Some Recent Problems and Developments in Industrial Statistics, had been prepared in the light of this

request. The paper consisted of a discussion of major developments and outstanding problems in selected important aspects of industrial statistics. Among the topics dealt with were the use of various types of statistical and tabulating units, extensions or improvements in basic data, such as on the value of the stock of fixed assets and costs of production in addition to those traditionally gathered in industrial inquiries, and additions of current series. Also covered were efforts to gather more adequate data on the construction industry and construction activities and the major difficulties faced by a number of countries in this field of statistics.

7. The Commission felt that the document, E/CN.3/287, dealt with the main recent developments and outstanding problems in the field of industrial statistics and provided a valuable description and analysis of these matters. In the course of considering the paper, the Commission noted the practice and plans of some Member States with respect to the various topics covered in the document. The Commission also considered the further international work that should be done on these topics.

8. It was agreed that further international work, in the near future, on the statistical and tabulating units employed in industrial statistics was not likely to be fruitful. Valuable and rather exhaustive international discussion of this subject had already taken place. The degree of identity that could be attained internationally in the statistical units employed in various types of inquiries is necessarily limited by the differences in national requirements and circumstances. Investigation of the implications for international comparability of the use of differing tabulating units would need to await the results of national inquiries that are to be taken as part of the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics. It seemed likely that a number of countries would, as part of these inquiries, gather and compile data on the structural and statistical relationships between various types of statistical units. This information would be of considerable value in international and national study of the various statistical and tabulating units in relation to one another.

9. Concerted international work was needed on concepts, methods and techniques for gathering statistics on the construction industry and construction activities. It was evident from both the papers, E/CN.3/285 and E/CN.3/287, that despite

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the important requirements for these statistics there were substantial gaps in the available data on construction in a number of countries. This situation reflected the special problems and difficulties involved in construction statistics. It was suggested that construction costs and prices be included in intensified international work on statistics of construction.

10. The Commission also felt that it was important to keep under review developments and trends in some of the other aspects of industrial statistics dealt with in the document, E/CN.3/287. Some countries proposed to intensify work on the collection and compilation of data on the value of fixed assets, particularly those held by industrial units. These statistics were wanted for such purposes as measuring the productivity and capacity of the fixed capital of industrial units and for realistic national balance sheets. Use may be made in this work of the various ways - namely the direct inquiry, fire insurance and perpetual inventory approaches - of gathering figures of the replacement value of the stock of fixed assets, and it would be useful to continue the international exchange on problems and developments in this field.

11. The Commission considered it desirable to undertake a systematic review and study of the major uses to which industrial statistics are and might be put and the types of primary data and the analytical ratios, indexes and other compilations required for these purposes. Among the measures studied should be methods of estimating changes in the relationship of industrial output to input of materials, including energy, labour and capital. The study should also deal with the way in which the various items of primary data and the inquiries through which these items are gathered, might be related to one another in order to form an effective and efficient system of industrial statistics. The Commission noted that the various international documents on industrial statistics and on basic statistical series for the use of the developing countries in programmes of economic and social developments included valuable information and suggestions on these subjects. However, the material was scattered through various documents and was primarily summary in character. It was agreed that the study should relate to the more general requirements for and uses of industrial statistics.

12. The Commission also discussed the document E/CN.3/288, The 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics, under this item of the agenda. The

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Commission was pleased to note that adaptations of the 1963 World Programme had or would be adopted by each of the regional conferences of statisticians and the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics of the Inter-American Statistical Institute. The Commission also noted with gratification that over ninety countries or territories had indicated they would take inquiries as part of the 1963 World Programme and that technical guidance and assistance had been, and would continue to be furnished, by means of seminars and technical studies and the provision of expert assistance. In the case of a number of developing countries, the inquiries taken as part of the 1963 World Programme should provide the basis for evolving a system of the required industrial statistics.

13. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission

Requests the Secretary-General:

"1. To issue a publication based on document E/CN.3/285, The Systems of Industrial Statistics of Five Highly Industrialized Countries, revised in the light of the comments of the Commission and the five countries concerned;

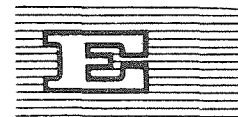
"2. To prepare a study of the industrial statistics of selected developing countries;

"3. To make a detailed study of the problems of and suitable concepts, methods and techniques for gathering data on construction, with the aid of experts, and in consultation when appropriate with countries and regional statistical organizations;

"4. To undertake a systematic investigation of the major general uses of and requirements for industrial statistics, including analytical ratios, indexes and compilations, and of the useful interrelations between the various items of data and industrial inquiries in order to meet these needs and to gather industrial statistics efficiently;

"5. To continue to keep under review developments in other selected aspects of industrial statistics in order that these topics may be the subject of international exchange of experience.

"Invites the Secretary-General to continue to provide technical guidance and assistance, in the planning and conduct of inquiries that are part of the 1963 World Programme, by means of technical studies and the provision of expert assistance."



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NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

a. Survey of national accounting practices

1. The Commission discussed a report by the Secretary-General on country practices in national accounting (E/CN.3/291). The report presented some conclusions arising from a review of material assembled for the preparation of a supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics.
2. The Commission felt that the report would have gained from further analysis of the basic statistical sources and their role in compiling the individual systems of national accounts, and that variations in the uses made of such accounts, giving rise to differences in statistical design and procedure, should have been taken into consideration.
3. The Commission suggested that high priority should be given to the continued study of methods of estimation and that this study should take precedence over, though at the same time recognizing, conceptual differences reflected in country practices. The suggestion was also made that where there were departures from standard procedure, further analysis should be undertaken to ascertain the reasons for such departures. In addition, it was hoped that such a study would bring out the numerical significance of the adjustments made in reconciling different treatments of specific elements. A number of individual items were singled out for attention in order to give point to these suggestions. They included factor income received from and paid abroad, indirect taxes, interest paid by government enterprises and public capital formation.

4. Further examples were given of the need for examination of concepts, definitions, sources and methods in the measurement of gross product at constant prices. These included the question of the meaning of indirect taxes in constant prices, the treatment of items representing differences between two gross flows and the conceptual as well as practical difficulties of constant price measurement in the area of services in general.

b. General review of work in national accounts

5. The Commission discussed progress at the international level in national accounting and related fields on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/292). The report included an examination of the Secretariat programme of recurrent publications in these fields and a general review of work at the international level on the development of standard concepts and classifications and on the dissemination of information on methods.

Programme of publication

6. The examination in the report of the Secretariat programme of recurrent publications drew attention to the problems arising from the continued expansion in the volume of data published on national accounts, stemming both from an increase in the number of reporting countries and from a rise in the amount of detail provided by each country. This expansion posed a problem in the allocation of the limited resources assigned to national accounts work. It involved an increasing shift of resources to work on the publication of data at the expense of other important elements of the work programme and, within the area of data publication itself, a concentration on the tasks of collection and compilation at the expense of efforts towards evaluation. The report enumerated some measures which might be taken to improve the situation.

7. The report also discussed work on other aspects of publication. The most important project of this kind currently being undertaken was the preparation of the previously mentioned survey of country practices in national accounting, designed specifically as a guide to the evaluation of data published in the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics. In addition to describing methods of estimation in some detail, the survey would include information on the main

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conceptual characteristics of each country's system of accounts and on the principal known limitations to the international comparability of the published figures.

The Secretariat hoped that the survey, which would be published as a supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, would serve as a general work of reference for users of the Yearbook and as a source of ideas to the statistically less advanced countries in improving their national accounting practices.

8. As a further development of its work on publication, the Secretariat intended to make a general investigation of the problems involved in the conversion of estimates of national income, product and expenditure to a common basis of valuation for the purposes of the international comparison of national estimates, and the formation of global, regional and other aggregates. The report suggested that a study of the various methods which had been used to solve the problem of conversion might be initiated as a first step in this work.

9. In discussing the various suggestions in this part of the report, the Commission stressed the desirability of maintaining, or expanding as circumstances permitted, the existing degree of detail in the country chapters of the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics. Economies might, however, be made in Part D of the Yearbook by a reduction or elimination of the processing of the primary data presented in the individual country chapters. In this connexion, the controversial nature of the methods used to calculate rates of growth in real gross domestic product and other aggregates was pointed out.

10. The Commission welcomed the proposal to publish a supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics devoted mainly to a country-by-country description of methods of estimation. In supporting this work, the Commission expressed the view that weaknesses in methods of estimation, rather than conceptual differences, were now primarily responsible for lack of international comparability in the published data. The supplement should include a broad description of the practices of the centrally planned economies in preparing their annual national economic balances, as well as a statement of the specific methods used by these countries in preparing the corresponding aggregates and classifications published in the Yearbook.

11. The Commission also welcomed the proposal to initiate a study of methods of converting national income, product and expenditure estimates to a common basis of

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valuation. An important aspect of this study, it was felt, should be a discussion of the limitations inherent in the use of prevailing official exchange rates as conversion factors.

Development of concepts and classifications

12. The report of the Secretary-General noted that, since the completion in 1959 of the first revision of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables (SNA), work at the international level on the development of the concepts and classifications of the standard system had proceeded at a relatively modest pace. During this period, work had been carried out by the Conference of European Statisticians.

13. The most important project of the Conference in this area had been the development of a European programme for the compilation of statistics of private consumption expenditure. Principal emphasis had been directed to the development of a classification of private consumption expenditure by function, supplemented by a secondary classification by item and a cross-classification of each item by degree of durability. The draft programme would be submitted for approval to the tenth plenary session of the Conference scheduled for June 1962.

14. The report also noted the active interest taken by the Conference of African Statisticians in the development of national accounting in Africa. Since the previous session of the Commission two meetings had been held by working groups of the Conference to discuss specific aspects of this work. The first of these meetings had taken place in June 1960 and had examined the question of the treatment of non-monetary transactions within the framework of national accounts. The second meeting, held in January 1961, had examined the uses of national accounts in African countries. A third meeting was scheduled for September 1962 to discuss modifications of the SNA system for use in African countries.

15. The Commission, in reviewing developments, commended the work of both the Conference of European Statisticians and the Conference of African Statisticians and also expressed support for the work recently undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization on the preparation of index numbers of agricultural production consistent with SNA concepts.

16. The Commission felt that the SNA system continued to be an acceptable standard for the international reporting of national accounts data and a useful basic guide for the construction of a system of accounts for national purposes. While further work on the refinement or amendment of concepts and classifications might be given a relatively low priority, there was a definite need for additional guidance in interpreting and applying the recommendations of SNA. The Commission therefore welcomed the proposal in the report that a national accounts manual designed to provide this guidance should be compiled.

Comparison of systems of accounts

17. The report of the Secretary-General also referred to the work of the Conference of European Statisticians on the comparison of the SNA system with the system of accounts used in countries with centrally planned economies. Since the last session of the Commission considerable progress had been made on the comparison of statistics of private consumption expenditure, on the comparison of concepts of production and on the construction of a system of accounts embracing the main elements of the two systems. The Commission, in commenting on these developments, strongly endorsed the work of the Conference on this subject.

18. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission,

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"1. To complete work on a supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, describing individual country practices in the preparation of national accounts data and indicating known deviations from international recommendations;

"2. To prepare, with the help of individual experts if necessary, a national accounts manual as a supplement to A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables, including a detailed discussion of the problems of principle arising in the construction of a system of national accounts and a commentary on, and explanation of, the recommendations of SNA and their application in practice;

"3. To prepare, in consultation with interested regional and international organizations and individual experts, a study of conceptual and statistical problems in the compilation of indexes of national product and expenditure in constant prices;

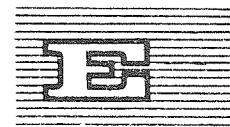
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"4. To study techniques of achieving international comparability of national income, expenditure and product aggregates by the use of a common basis of valuation;

"5. To complete the study, undertaken in co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians, of the points of correspondence and difference between the SNA system and the system of accounts used by countries with centrally planned economies;

"6. To continue the study, in co-operation with interested regional organizations and individual experts, of integrated systems of input-output flows and national accounts;

"7. To submit a report on progress on these projects to the Commission at its thirteenth session."



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DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
TWELFTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION HELD AT  
NEW YORK FROM 24 APRIL TO \_\_\_ MAY 1962 INCLUSIVE

Addendum

1. The representative of the IMF introduced E/CN.3/298, a progress report on balance-of-payments statistics. The document describes the third edition of the Fund's Balance of Payments Manual, points out that this will be available in French and Spanish as well as in English, and reviews the Fund's training programme on balance-of-payments statistics.
2. The Commission commended the Fund's work. They agreed that while there were a few remaining points involving balance-of-payments concepts and methodology on which there was not yet general agreement among all experts, work should now be directed to the practical problems associated with the collection and compilation of the figures.

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STATISTICS OF THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS OF ENTERPRISES

1. The Commission discussed the subject of statistics of the profit-and-loss and balance-sheet accounts of enterprises based on a report, E/CN.3/289, prepared by the Secretary-General. This report was prepared on the request of the Statistical Commission, at its eleventh session, for a comparative study of national requirements, problems and practices in the collection and compilation of statistics of assets and liabilities and revenue and expenditures of enterprises (resolution 4 (XI), document E/3375).

2. The first portion of the document, E/CN.3/289, dealt with the major uses of statistics of the profit-and-loss and balance-sheet accounts of enterprises. Among the requirements for these data covered in the paper were the uses in compiling accounts on the national income and product and on transactions in and holdings of financial assets and liabilities and in preparing statements on the uses and sources of funds and the combined revenue and expenditure and balance sheets of various types of businesses. Also considered in the document were the uses of the data as indicators of general economic conditions and of the financial circumstances and condition of various kinds of enterprises. In discussing these uses, attention was devoted to the characteristics of the data that would best serve the various purposes. The second portion of the paper was devoted to description and analysis of the inquiries being conducted in various countries in order to gather statistics on the financial accounts of enterprises. This

section of the paper dealt with the character, classification and definition of the items of data sought, the field of non-financial enterprises covered and the type of statistical unit employed in these inquiries, and the frequency of the various sources of information for the inquiries. In dealing with these topics, the approaches utilized to gather the required data and the problems encountered were discussed.

3. The Commission considered that the document, E/CN.3/289, was a very useful study of national requirements, practices and problems with respect to statistics of the profit-and-loss and balance-sheet accounts of non-financial enterprises. It furnished a comprehensive and realistic discussion of the practices and problems in this field. A number of countries were engaged in extending and improving these statistics, and the international exchange of information provided by the document was helpful in this work. In further studies, it would be useful to deal with such additional topics as: the gathering of data on the financial accounts of government-owned enterprises in the case of countries with market economies; and the treatment of acquisitions of businesses and investments in subsidiaries. It would also be desirable to make a sharp distinction between the characteristics of annual and quarterly inquiries. The Commission felt that it would be valuable to continue the international exchange of information and experience on statistics of the financial accounts of enterprises by bringing up to date, from time to time, the study presented in the document, E/CN.3/289. The Commission deferred decision on whether or not to engage in formulating guidelines for this field of statistics until consideration of the programme of future work as a whole.

4. The Commission noted that the requirements for financial statistics that received emphasis differed from one country to another, reflecting the particular circumstances of each country. The uses of these statistics on which attention was focussed have also varied from time to time in the case of any one country. For example, concentrating on the income approach to compiling national income and product accounts gave rise to the need for considerable data from the profit-and-loss accounts of businesses. Studies of the relative significance of internal and external sources of finance of business enterprises, of the nature of these sources of finance and of the impact of fiscal and monetary

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policies and financial-market conditions on the various sources of finance were major sources of the requirements for the statistics in a number of countries. Interest in the character, expansion and financing experiences of incorporated enterprises was also an important source of demand for these data in some countries. Extensive use was made of profit-and-loss and balance-sheet data in countries with centrally-planned economies for such purposes as assessing the operations and real and financial resources of enterprises and compiling national income and financial accounts.

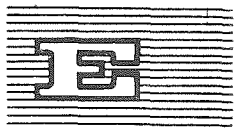
5. In countries with planned economies, data on profit-and-loss and balance-sheet accounts were gathered directly from enterprises on an annual and quarterly basis. The definition and standardization of these accounts in the light of the statistical and management requirements greatly facilitated these inquiries. The statistical authorities in other countries obtained data on the financial accounts of enterprises from records that were a by-product of governmental administrative activities as well as through direct surveys. Reports filed under company registration laws and regulations were an important source of these data in a number of countries. Review and revision of the company registration acts had been, or would be, undertaken in some countries; and it was hoped that this would result in more useful financial statistics from statements filed under these acts. Though valuable basic data were derived from taxation and company registration records, these statistics were not always available rapidly enough or in the most suitable form. In gathering profit-and-loss and balance-sheet statistics directly from enterprises, difficulties had been encountered as a result of the reluctance of respondents to furnish these data and of the limited standardization of business accounting. In devising these inquiries, statistical authorities had therefore found it essential to consult, extensively and in detail, with the accounting profession and prospective respondents. The employment of highly qualified and skilled personnel in gathering the required data had also proved to be desirable in some countries. The changes that occurred in the population of enterprises, the variation among enterprises in accounting periods and the collection of financial data on the branches of foreign companies, also raised problems. The gathering of adequate data on unincorporated enterprises required



the development of special approaches and techniques. Nevertheless, it has been found essential to start and proceed with inquiries in this field. Through this course of action, not only could urgently required data be gathered, but organized and reliable information might be obtained on accounting practices, methods of valuing assets and liabilities and related questions for purposes of improving the inquiries.

(Resolution of the Statistical Commission to be inserted after discussion of future work programme as a whole)

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Addendum

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS OF INCOME AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

(Item 6)

1. The Commission considered the subject of integrated systems of income and financial statistics, based on document E/CN.3/290, Problems and Developments in the Integration of Accounts on Financial and Income Statistics. The paper surveyed the major questions encountered in devising accounts on transactions in and holdings of financial assets and liabilities that were interrelated with the traditional accounts on production, expenditure and income, and described the alternatives for dealing with these matters that were being given consideration. The document dealt with such questions as the nature and classification of entries in financial accounts, the sectoring of these accounts, the extent to which the sectoring of the financial accounts might be carried into the income and product accounts, and the treatment, in integrated accounts, of interest, life insurance and capital gains and losses. The document had been prepared in response to the wish of the Commission to follow developments in integrated financial and income accounts and embodied the results of work done by the International Monetary Fund and the Statistical Office of the United Nations in connexion with the work of the Conference of European Statisticians on this subject.

2. The Commission felt that document E/CN.3/290 presented a useful though abbreviated survey of the problems and alternatives in compiling integrated accounts on financial and income statistics. The report was useful in particular for the statistical authorities of Governments which were not members of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Commission emphasized that further detailed technical discussions and exchanges of points of view and experience among national statisticians engaged in this field of work were essential. In the case of countries with market economies, intricate conceptual and practical problems were involved in devising integrated accounts on financial and income statistics, and experience in dealing with these problems was limited. Further, a body of theory basic to the analysis and use of these data was not yet available, and the approach to this field of statistics had to be quite pragmatic. At this juncture, meetings organized by the Conference of European Statisticians would provide a suitable medium for the required technical discussions. It would also be useful to prepare, from time to time, surveys of national developments and experience. The value of such surveys would be enhanced if national statistical authorities engaged in such work also issued technical reports.

3. The following points were also made in the course of the Commission's discussion:

- (i) The use made of the terms "institutional" and "functional" in the discussion of integrated accounts on financial and income statistics was ambiguous.
- (ii) Insufficient attention had been paid to analytical requirements in past discussions of the classification of financial assets and liabilities, the sectoring of integrated financial and income accounts, or other aspects of these systems of accounts. In some cases, the requirements for data might be adequately met through the classification of transactions and need not involve the use of separate sectoring.
- (iii) The important needs of some countries in this field of statistics might be met by compiling interrelated financial and income statistics for certain strategic sectors. In any case, the character and detail of the financial and

income accounts compiled would necessarily reflect the requirements of each country for this type of data as well as the available body of primary data.

- (iv) The countries with centrally planned economies compiled sets of fully integrated accounts on production, income, financial transactions and balances, and on certain other aspects of economic activity.

4. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, studies, as appropriate, on developments, practices and experience in the compilation of accounts on financial statistics that are interrelated or integrated with accounts on income, expenditure and production statistics.

Calls the attention of Member States of the United Nations engaged in devising or compiling interrelated or integrated accounts on financial and income statistics to the value of issuing technical reports on this work as a means of an international exchange of experience in a relatively new field of statistics."

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Addendum

1960 World Population and Housing Census Programmes  
(Item 11)

1. A report of activities carried out during 1960-1961 in connexion with the 1960 World Population and Housing Census Programmes was set before the Commission in document E/CN.3/295.
2. The Commission was informed that critical reviews of the experience of countries in conducting censuses of population and housing in the period 1955-1964 are now under way as the first step towards formulating recommendations for the 1970 cycle of censuses.
3. Members of the Commission expressed satisfaction with the results of the 1960 World Census Programmes. It was the consensus that the activities of the international bodies have resulted in both quantitative and qualitative improvements in census data, but that much still remains to be done, especially in evaluation of results. In this connexion, it was noted that the Secretariat planned to study national experiences with post-censal field checks of population censuses with a view to evaluating their effectiveness.
4. Emphasis was placed on the continuing importance of giving special consideration to the needs and problems of developing countries. It was the view of the Commission that in the preparation of the programmes for the 1970 censuses, increasing attention must be paid to those areas which are not yet able to take

full advantage of the most recent technical developments in census-taking but where the need for current census data is very great. Accordingly, the desirability of simplifying the international standards for such areas and the provision of additional information on the uses and techniques of sampling were stressed.

5. The universal importance of advance planning for careful evaluation of the accuracy of the census results was also emphasized, as was the need for dissemination of information on experience with automated data processing.

6. The need for continuation, and intensification at the proper time, of work leading to the development of the international recommendations for the 1970 series of censuses was pointed out. Several members of the Commission stressed the fact that the concept of the census of population should be changed from that of an isolated activity occurring once a decade to one of a continuous programme of data collection which could provide intercensal estimates or statistics on demographic factors, in addition to the elaboration of techniques for the next census. Advance planning should also take account of ways in which the population census could support or provide information useful for other types of inquiries.

7. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission

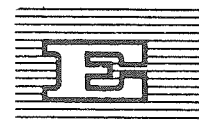
"Having in mind the importance of ensuring that final recommendations, training materials and technical assistance for the 1970 censuses of population and of housing would be available when needed by the countries, and that these recommendations should take full account of experiences gained during the 1960 World Census Programmes,

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"1. To complete the Handbook of Housing Census Methods now in preparation and issue it as soon as possible for the guidance of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies;

"2. To proceed with the examination now under way of the experience of countries in connexion with population and housing censuses held during 1955-1964 and report to the Commission at its next session on the information available up to that time concerning the extent to which countries have found it practicable to adopt the international or regional recommendations; and

"3. To prepare, after consultation with the specialized agencies and the regional bodies, a timetable of international activities proposed in connexion with the 1970 population and housing census programmes and present this for the consideration of the Commission at its next session."



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Addendum

Methodology and Evaluation of Continuous Population Registers  
(Item 9)

1. The Commission had before it a report (E/CN.3/293) presenting the findings of a study of the methodology of continuous population registers and an evaluation of their usefulness as statistical mechanisms.
2. The members of the Commission expressed the belief that the document served a useful purpose in bringing together current information on continuous population registers and that it should be circulated for review and possible additions before its issuance as a technical study.
3. It was, however, the opinion of the Commission that, while continuous population registers established for administrative purposes might yield certain statistical data, the difficulties of keeping such registers up to date, the costs involved and the potentially unreliable nature of the data, outweighed their usefulness as sources of statistical data only. It was felt that, with the exception of information on internal migration, adequate demographic statistics could more efficiently be obtained from other sources and that it was, therefore, inadvisable to establish such a register solely for the provision of demographic statistics.

4. The Commission considered that, with recent developments in electronic computers, it would be both simpler and more economical to undertake as required the direct linkage of records to bring together information from such sources as vital events registers, records of hospital admissions and other ad hoc registers in order to provide data for scientific studies. The view was expressed that it might be useful for the Secretary-General to assemble country experience in this area and to disseminate information on such direct record linkage techniques in the future.

5. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"1. To circulate the document on continuous population registers for review of the statements made and for revision of and possible additions to the study;

"2. To make any necessary changes based on the results of such reviews and the comments of the Commission; and

"3. To issue the final document as a technical study and make it available to Member States, the specialized agencies and other interested bodies."

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Addendum

Demographic Statistics, Other than Those derived  
from the Population Census  
(Item 10)

1. A review of activities in collection, publication and promotion of improvement in current population, vital and migration statistics during 1960-1961 was set forth for consideration of the Commission in document E/CN.3/294.
2. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made in developing and publishing the body of population and vital statistics described in the memorandum and expressed the hope that the amount of data would continue to increase as well as its quality. The system introduced in the Demographic Yearbook of indicating the quality of the series by codes and type face was pointed out as a major step forward since it not only assists the user of the data but tends to encourage improvements.
3. Special reference was made during the discussion to the needs of developing countries. Several members emphasized that plans for economic development and social advancement depend on a sound knowledge of current population growth rates and that it is unsafe to assume that the rates of growth observed between two successive censuses of population will continue unchanged in the future. In the absence of reliable vital statistics based on civil registers, it is essential to obtain intercensal estimates of natural increase by the sample survey technique or other methods. Such methods should be viewed as part of a continuous programme

of demographic data collection, which would ultimately include periodic population censuses as well as vital records and statistics.

4. In connexion with the problems encountered in developing countries, the Commission was informed of plans to initiate in Kenya an experimental programme of developing vital records and statistics for the population of a representative sample of local civil registration units. The Commission expressed interest in plans to initiate a similar experiment in Latin America when funds become available. Other activities suggested as part of a programme to develop improvement in demographic statistics include (1) the assignment of regional advisers in demographic statistics (as was initiated in Africa in 1961 and is to be started in Latin America in 1962); (2) the organizing of seminars or workshops for training of personnel at all levels; (3) the carrying out of pilot projects designed to demonstrate the importance of evaluating the quality of vital records and statistics and the methods of doing so; and (4) demonstration by case studies of the major uses of vital records and statistics. In connexion with the latter point, the Commission took note of the Consensus of Experts participating in the UN/WHO Seminar on the Use of Vital and Health Statistics in Genetic and Radiation Studies<sup>1/</sup> and called attention to the possibility of accomplishing some of the aims listed there without the introduction of population registers (see also paragraph 00).

5. The need for the evaluation of the quality of population and vital statistics was emphasized repeatedly by members of the Commission. Analysis of the relative quality of successive population censuses and of intercensal estimates based on the balance of births, deaths, emigration and immigration was considered essential and several members noted that methodological work on intercensal estimation procedures, especially for local areas and selected population segments, was assuming more importance in their own programmes.

6. In connexion with the production of intercensal estimates of population and of post-censal projections, the Commission emphasized the need for more quantitative information on international and internal migration. It was noted

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<sup>1/</sup> Proceedings of the Seminar sponsored by the United Nations and the World Health Organization, held in Geneva, 5-9 September 1960 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 61.XVII.8).

that improvement in international migration statistics would probably need to begin with consideration of the basic definition of a migrant. In this connexion, the Commission was informed that it had recently become possible to divert some Secretariat resources to this problem and that it was hoped that publication of migration statistics might therefore be resumed.

7. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission,

"Recommends:

"1. That emphasis be given to the production of more meaningful statistics on international migration;

"2. That the current status of conventional registration systems be surveyed in order that the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods might be revised;

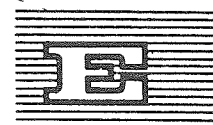
"3. That work be continued on assembling information on techniques of population projections with a view to developing standards for the guidance of countries;

"4. That close attention continue to be paid to the demographic needs of developing countries with a view to advising and assisting them in every possible way, including provision of regional advisers, regional seminars, training programmes, fellowship grants and dissemination of pertinent documentation;

"5. That study be intensified on methods of obtaining and improving vital statistics in countries and territories where conventional registration methods are not yet able to supply reliable data on population growth rates, required for planning purposes; and

"6. That the possibility of increasing the amounts of technical assistance funds available for activities of the type listed in (4) and (5) above be explored."

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Addendum

Classification of Government Accounts

(Item 14)

1. The Commission reviewed the progress report on classification of government accounts (E/CN.3/297) which described the work carried out by the Secretariat under Economic and Social Council resolution 378 D (XIII) and General Assembly resolution 407 (V) and, further, the progress made by various countries in the reclassification of government transactions according to economic and functional categories along the lines presented in the Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions.<sup>1/</sup>
2. The Commission was informed that, since its eleventh session, two more regional workshops on problems of budget reclassification and management were held, one in Bangkok in August/September 1960 and the other in Addis Ababa in September 1961. Another Budget Workshop is scheduled for South American countries and will be held in Santiago in September 1962. Among other matters this workshop will review the progress made by the countries of the region in the reclassification work.
3. The Commission noted that the Budget Workshop in Bangkok, while reviewing the progress made by the countries of the region in the field of budget reclassification, recommended the extension of budget reclassification work to the transactions of provincial or state governments, local authorities and government enterprises. The Workshop also considered the feasibility of establishing a uniform system of

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. 58.XVI.2.

reporting on government transactions and came to the conclusion that this would not be practical for some time in view of the institutional and structural disparities prevailing in the region. The Commission, further, noted that the Manual was submitted to the ECA Budget Workshop as the basic working document and was considered to provide valuable guidance in the reclassification work. It noted that the workshop recommended a simplified scheme of current and capital accounts presented in its report to the countries of the region for their consideration, feeling that this classification might be appropriate for a first attempt in undertaking such work. The main items of these accounts represent a simplified version of those included in the Manual and could in the opinion of the Workshop be adopted by the African countries without impairment of the flexibility they need to meet their own internal requirements. The Workshop also recommended certain modifications in the functional classification of the Manual for the consideration of the countries in the African region. The Commission further took note of the recommendation made by the ECA Budget Workshop that it should consider the possibility of preparing a standard cross-classification of government transactions by economic and functional categories.

4. During the discussion in the Commission, reference was made to the considerable work undertaken by various countries in the field of reclassification and the use made of the Manual in this work, resulting in significant improvements in the presentation of government financial data. The Commission recognized that the actual application of the Manual schemes varied from country to country to suit their own needs and their institutional set-up.

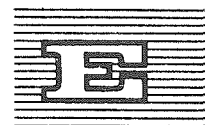
5. A number of the statements in course of the discussion related to questions such as the practical problems of obtaining uniform data on the transactions of local government authorities, securing a larger degree of international comparability in reporting on government transactions, the feasibility of adopting an economic and functional classification of government transactions as an integral part of the basic system of accounts, the question of obtaining fiscal data for the same accounting year as national income and product accounts where these differ, and the importance of an economically meaningful classification of public debt transactions.

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6. The Commission observed that the Manual had served as a useful guide to countries in their budget reclassification work, but noted that the countries felt the need for developing more simplified schemes for practical application. It was recommended that the work of the Secretariat in this field should be continued on its present basis. The particular usefulness of holding regional budget workshops at regular intervals was recognized in this context.

7. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a model simplified cross-classification of government expenditures by economic and functional categories, taking into account the modifications suggested by the ECAFE and ECA Budget Workshops held in 1960 in Bangkok and in 1961 in Addis Ababa, as well as the views on the subject expressed by the South American Workshop in 1959. The Secretary-General may further wish to supplement this cross-classification of government expenditures by a simplified economic classification of receipts. The Secretary-General should circulate such a draft to the regional statistical conferences and to the national statistical offices for their comments. The Commission, further, requested that the Secretary-General should initiate, within the resources available for this purpose, work on classification of public debt transactions. The Commission finally requested that the Secretary-General should submit to the thirteenth session of the Statistical Commission a progress report on these subjects and on further developments in the field of reclassification of government accounts.

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Addendum

EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS  
(Item 16)

1. The Commission took note of a report (E/CN.3/299) on the implementation by Governments of the SITC, Revised, which had been approved at its eleventh session. Sufficient countries were now compiling data according to the SITC, Revised, to permit the compilation and presentation of international statistics on that basis. Certain countries whose national statistics are based on classifications other than the SITC, and who currently report to the Statistical Office at the 3-digit level of the SITC, Revised, would have difficulty in recompiling their data at the 5-digit level for the whole range of commodities, though they would often be able to provide this detail for the commodities most important in their trade.
2. The representative of New Zealand explained that his country had recently adopted a new customs tariff in which commodities were classified according to the SITC, Revised, and that this classification would be used for statistical purposes as well as for customs and other administrative purposes. This would eliminate the need for duplicate classifications which, among other disadvantages, caused delays in the appearance of data. Since the SITC, Revised, classified commodities according to economic groupings, all tariff and other trade proposals would now be presented in groupings which would facilitate the study of their economic consequences.

3. The hope was expressed that further progress would be made in unifying customs nomenclature and statistical classification. The need for economic classifications subsidiary to the SITC was also stressed, particularly the need for keying the SITC items to the International Standard Industrial Classification in order to show the industrial origin of the goods entering external trade and the sector of use of commodities imported.

4. The Commission considered a proposal (E/CN.3/300 and Add.1) for increasing the availability to Governments and international organizations of trade-by-commodity-by-country statistics while, at the same time, decreasing the burden on Governments which are now under the necessity of reporting their detailed data simultaneously to a number of international organizations of which they are members. The data involved in this field were very voluminous and the different rearrangements and presentations desired for various purposes extremely numerous. It was not practicable to devise any system of regular publications which would meet the growing needs, both of international organizations and national institutions. The Commission had given some consideration to this problem at its eleventh session and had requested the Secretariat to experiment with the use of electronic computers to facilitate the rapid processing, verifying and printing of those statistics (resolution 6 (XI), para. 6). As a result of the Secretariat's experimental work in this field, the Secretary-General called a meeting of experts from Governments and international agencies interested in external trade statistics. The meeting took place at the Headquarters of FAO from 26 February to 2 March 1962, and its Report was before the Commission as Annex II to document E/CN.3/300. Having reviewed the current supply of, and demand for, international trade statistics, the experts felt that

- (i) there was substantial need for a new effort towards the rationalization of the collection, processing, and publication of statistics on external trade-by-commodity-by-country at the international level;
- (ii) steps should be taken towards such rationalization through the provision of an international servicing and computational centre for processing and making available that data;
- (iii) the centre should be attached to the Statistical Office of the United Nations.



5. The Commission was in agreement with the view of the experts that the technical development of electronic computers had reached the stage at which their use could make a major contribution to a much needed rationalization of the international collection and dissemination of trade statistics and that, because of the experience already acquired in this field by the Statistical Office, a central computing service for the purpose should be attached to the Office. After examining the recommendations made by the Expert Group as to the operation of the centre, the Commission reached the following conclusions, based on the views of the experts.

6. A centre should be established to assemble trade-by-commodity-by-country data quarterly (or, when that was impossible, at less frequent intervals) from Governments, in the form of tables, punched cards, or magnetic tape, as was most convenient in each individual case. These would be summary data in terms of value and, where appropriate, of quantity also, based on a commodity classification convenient to the country, preferably the SITC, Revised, but, where this was not possible, on any classification for which an adequate key to the SITC, Revised, was available and which did not require the centre to process an unmanageably large number of individual items of information.

7. The Commission agreed with the views of the experts that the project should aim at assembling commodity data principally at the 5-digit level of the SITC, Revised. It was recognized that many users, for example, those specializing in particular commodities, required greater detail, and that Governments and organizations would have to make other arrangements to meet their needs. It was also recognized that a number of Governments would wish to supply data at other levels of detail, such as the 4-digit or 3-digit level, and the project should be capable of utilizing these. The processing work of the centre should be designed to yield a basic array of data on world trade, classified in SITC terms and expressed in US dollars and metric units, which will meet the needs of users of international trade data at all levels of commodity analysis except the most detailed. The data would be made available to Governments and international agencies participating in the work of the centre in the form of tabulations, punched cards or magnetic tape. The centre would probably not be able to bear the entire cost of the distribution in printed form (made by photographic or other process) of the full detail available each quarter, but it was hoped that arrangements could be entered

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into with other participants to make regularly available a limited number of copies of tabulations containing most, if not all, the data available on the tapes. Arrangements should be made to permit participants to purchase duplicate magnetic tapes, punched cards based on the tapes and special tabulations of the data. As a library of magnetic tapes was built up by the centre, it would be possible to make tabulations by computer in a variety of special aggregates and comparisons as required, thus giving access, in a way never before possible, to the voluminous detail available in external trade statistics. In order to ensure the full utilization of existing experience, the centre should obtain the technical co-operation of those participating organizations at present engaged in the collection, compilation and publication of external trade statistics. The Secretariat was requested to consult with the international organizations expected to participate, and with the secretariats of the regional commissions, in order to ensure that the services of the centre be so arranged as to meet their needs in this field. The statistical services of Member States would have a substantial interest in the work of the centre and their views should be obtained on the nature of the statistics to be provided by the centre.

8. The following draft resolution was introduced:

The Statistical Commission,

Aware of the need to rationalize the collection and dissemination of statistics of international trade,

Noting that advances in the technique of electronic computation would not only permit speedier and more efficient processing of international data, but would give access to the full range of the data to a degree not previously possible,

Recalling the request made at its eleventh session that the Secretary-General "experiment with the use of high-speed, large-memory, stored-programme computing machines in facilitating the rapid processing, verifying and printing of the data",

Noting the experience acquired by the Statistical Office in the large-scale processing of statistical data by computer,

Noting the Report of the Expert Group on the International Compilation of External Trade Statistics,

Requests the Secretary-General:

1. To establish a centre, attached to the Statistical Office, for the collection of international data on external trade, and to arrange for the processing of the data by electronic computer;

2. To provide to Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations, on request, statistical information resulting from the work of the centre in the form of publications, tabulations, punched cards or magnetic tape, it being understood that special operations undertaken in response to any request shall be at the expense of the requestor;

3. To consult with the specialized agencies and other organizations interested in international trade statistics, including the regional commissions, in order to ensure that the centre may be able to meet appropriate requests of these organizations for international trade data.

9. While considering the above draft resolution, the Commission had taken note of a statement set forth in the Annex of this Report, of the financial implications of the resolution. The Commission was of the opinion that, while there were additional costs involved in the proposal, there would be savings to Governments as a result of the reduction of demands for data at present being made by a number of international organizations and as a result of economies arising from the central processing of the basic data as well as through the greatly increased use of the data which centralized processing by computer would make possible.

DATA PROCESSING BY ELECTRONIC COMPUTER  
(Items 17 and 18)

10. The Commission considered three documents presented to it for information and comment: one, entitled "Draft Proposal concerning an Inter-Agency Project for the Large-Scale Processing of Statistical Data" submitted jointly by the Secretariats of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and two submitted by the Secretary-General describing the data processing which has been undertaken by the Statistical Office on computers (E/CN.3/301 and 302).

11. In considering the ITU-UNESCO Project, the Commission wished to be informed how much of the work specifically mentioned in the document represented a firm commitment on the part of the specialized agencies for which it was to be done and

how much of the work was to be undertaken on behalf of individual countries. The representative of UNESCO informed the Commission that, of the 1,090 hours per year of computer time listed in the document before it, thirty-six represented work already being done by the Statistical Office of the United Nations on service bureau computers in New York, 104 represented work on frequency allocation which ITU was definitely committed to doing by computer and, of the rest, 500 hours was an estimate for research and training, and 486 was for work that might arise if a computer were available. Of this last figure, 360 hours per year represented work which might be done if countries wished their agricultural censuses to be processed by the Inter-Agency Project, and seventy-two was work which FAO might wish done on its own behalf. The representative of UNESCO felt that, once a computer was available, considerably more work would arise and gave examples of work which might be done for UNESCO in addition to the three hours per year listed in the document.

12. The Commission felt that further clarification was necessary as to the relation between the Inter-Agency Project and the International Computation Center (ICC) in Rome, an intergovernmental organization with eleven members whose establishment had been fostered by UNESCO.

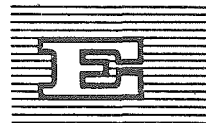
13. The Commission noted that the governing bodies of the agencies which might co-operate in the Project had not yet considered the financial implications of the project. The representative of UNESCO explained that it was hoped that firmer estimates could be made for presentation to the governing bodies after a meeting of agency officials scheduled to be held in Geneva at the time of the summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

14. The Commission noted that the draft plans for the ITU-UNESCO Project had been presented for information and comment. On the basis of the information it had received, the Commission felt that the need for an inter-agency project for the provision of computer services covering a wide range of statistics had not been demonstrated. The Commission suggested that, before deciding to establish a project of the kind proposed, agencies might wish to gain experience by using a small computer, as ITU was doing, or by contracting with service bureaux for the small amounts of computer time they would at first be using.

15. Members of the Commission conveyed to the Secretariat views of governmental experts in their countries on the two papers describing the use of computers by the

Statistical Office. In particular, the scheme for a master programme to permit varied statistical processing by computer with minimum recourse to experts on programming (E/CN.3/302) was thought unlikely to succeed to the extent hoped by the Statistical Office. It was mentioned that much experimentation in this area was proceeding in national offices and would be of assistance to the Secretariat. The Commission hoped that the question of developing programming methods might be discussed by the Conference of European Statisticians.

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NEW YORK FROM 24 APRIL TO \_\_\_ MAY 1962 INCLUSIVE

Addendum

TOURIST STATISTICS  
(Item 19)

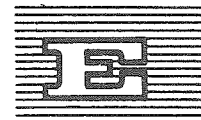
1. The Commission was informed (E/CN.3/303) that a group of experts convened by the Secretary-General had made recommendations, for consideration by the thirty-third session of the Economic and Social Council, on the scope and location of a conference on international travel and tourism and had prepared a provisional agenda. The experts had agreed that the conference would not concern itself with the technical problems of statistics, but had felt that it would assist the conference to know the views of the Statistical Commission on the definition of "tourist" or "temporary visitor". The International Union of Official Travel Organisations (IUOTO) has, in this connexion, agreed to prepare a document for the conference on current definitions used by Governments for (a) administrative purposes and (b) statistical purposes, and to suggest a definition which would serve both purposes.

2. The Commission emphasized the importance of considering the movement of tourists as part of the total movement of persons across frontiers and, therefore, drew attention to the need of consistency between tourist statistics and statistics of migrants (see International Migration Statistics, United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 53.XVII.10). The Commission was aware of the work of IUOTO on tourist statistics and of the work done by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on methods of estimating tourist expenditure and of the consequent interest of

the IMF in the definition of tourist and in methods of obtaining data on the numbers of tourists.

3. The Commission noted with approval the plan that the IUOTO in consultation with the IMF and the Statistical Office, and taking into account the interests of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the definition of tourist, draw up agreed proposals for the improvement of tourist statistics including the definition of tourist to be submitted to Governments and, after comment by Governments, to the Commission for consideration.

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Addendum

REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF SPECIALISTS IN  
SAMPLE SURVEY METHODS  
(Item 13)

1. The Commission considered document E/CN.3/284 and the attached report of the expert group appointed by the Secretary-General in response to resolution 12 of the Statistical Commission at its eleventh session, entitled: Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Specialists in Sample Survey Methods (ST/STAT/CONF.11/1).
2. The Commission noted that the terms of reference given to the Working Group ranged over a wide area of statistics and consequently the recommendations of the Working Group were necessarily of a general nature. The Commission generally endorsed these recommendations and expressed the view that the technical problems connected with household surveys should be examined in depth by the Secretary-General with the advice of experts from different regions. It was emphasized that the Secretary-General, before issuing such studies as standard recommendations to countries, should seek comments from individuals and institutions engaged in the field of household surveys. In this connexion, the Commission felt that countries engaged in conducting household surveys would benefit greatly if experience in this field were exchanged among these countries and that the Secretary-General should encourage such exchange of experience.



3. The Commission agreed with the Working Group that household surveys represent a powerful tool for statistical investigations of conditions of living and social conditions, particularly in the less developed countries, inasmuch as household surveys afford the possibility of combining different types of information into integrated sample surveys. The Commission, however, pointed out that besides household surveys there are other types of statistical investigations for collecting statistics for social programmes and that all these alternative methods should be examined for any given country in the light of the available human and material resources.

4. The Commission emphasized that it is of the utmost importance to bear in mind the object of any large-scale household survey both before embarking on the survey and at every stage of the planning process. Although it may not be possible to attain uniform accuracy of results for all variates under investigation in a multi-subject household survey, the user may be prepared to tolerate errors of very different magnitudes, depending on the purpose or purposes for which survey results are intended. In this connexion, it was felt highly desirable to specify the permissible error that the user of the results of a given survey was willing to accept. The view was expressed that it is not necessary to refine statistical techniques for a given survey beyond what is needed to aid the user in arriving at a correct decision.

5. The Commission commented at some length on the preparation of the Handbook of Household Surveys, a joint project undertaken by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. A summary of the discussion and the decisions adopted by the Commission concerning the Handbook is included under the item Progress Report on Development of Statistics for Social Programmes.

6. The Commission strongly endorsed the view of the Working Group that a comprehensive review of sampling terminology should be undertaken and that the report entitled The Preparation of Sampling Survey Reports could serve as a starting point for such a review. The report was prepared by the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling of the Statistical Commission and was published in a revised form in February 1950.

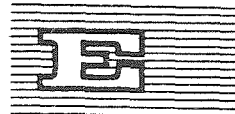
7. The Commission considered the following draft resolution:

"The Statistical Commission,

"Considering that the document entitled The Preparation of Sampling Survey Reports had widespread use in national sampling activities and that with the passage of time further developments in many methodological aspects of sampling have made the original report somewhat out of date,

"Recommends that the Secretary-General appoint a group of experts to undertake the preparation of a revised set of recommendations of sampling terminology to be issued by the Secretary-General to supersede the document entitled The Preparation of Sampling Survey Reports."

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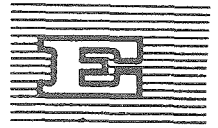
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Addendum

TRAINING  
(Item 3)

1. The Commission discussed the statistical activities implicit in the General Assembly resolution on the Development Decade. The Statistical Commission and the regional economic commissions and conferences and committees on planning have recognized that the lack of comprehensive and integrated statistical data has been a serious impediment to comprehensive and integrated economic and social development planning and implementation.
2. The Commission therefore urged that in the context of the Development Decade statistical development should be regarded as an important component of over-all development planning and implementation and countries should be encouraged and assisted in formulating and implementing plans for statistical development for inclusion in the national plans so that the necessary funds and facilities are ensured. The Commission attached great importance to strengthening of the statistical training services so as to enable countries to build a statistical organization adequate for the needs for planning. The Commission stressed in particular that programmes of training in economic development institutes contemplated under General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI) should as desired by the regional commissions also include training of statisticians and planning advisory statistical services.

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Addendum

Progress Report on Development of Statistics for Social Programmes  
(Item 12)

1. The Statistical Commission had for consideration in document E/CN.3/296 a progress report on the development of statistics for social programmes in accordance with the plan set forth by the Commission at its tenth session. The report noted that two of the projects could be considered completed for the time being. At its eleventh session, the Commission had considered a report on international definition and measurement of levels of living and had recommended that the Social Commission might consider whether the report had reached a stage at which the Secretary-General might be requested to distribute it to Member States for their interim guidance. The Social Commission noted with satisfaction the work done in this difficult and important field and, while realizing many of the shortcomings of the indicators, recognized that the process of improving specific components and indicators would be a continuous one. Hence, the Social Commission concurred with the recommendation of the Statistical Commission and International Definition and Measurement of Levels of Living: An Interim Guide was published in 1961 jointly by the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned (E/CN.3/270/Rev.1).

2. The Commission noted the second project which had attained a measure of completion during the interval since its eleventh session, that is, the development of statistical indicators of housing conditions, one of the twelve components

which are to be taken into consideration in measuring levels of living. At its eleventh session, the Commission had considered a technical report on this subject and had referred it for further study by the inter-agency Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes at its 1960 meeting as well as by the regional bodies concerned with housing statistics. The document, incorporating the views of the Statistical Commission and the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes, and taking account of the comments made by the Working Party on Housing and Building Statistics of the Economic Commission for Europe and the corresponding body of the Inter American Statistical Institute, was published in 1962 as Statistical Indicators of Housing Conditions (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 37).

3. The Commission was informed that the outline of the proposed content of the first issue of the Compendium, which the Commission had considered at its tenth and eleventh sessions, had now, with the assistance of the specialized agencies, been developed into a set of draft tables which would be available in July 1962. In accordance with the programme approved by the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes at its session in 1961, this working draft comprising fifty-nine tables in eight chapters covering population and vital statistics, health, food consumption and nutrition, housing, education, labour force, social security, and income and expenditure, would be circulated to the specialized agencies concerned for amendment and revision, with a view to publishing the first issue of the Compendium in early 1963.

4. The Commission noted that the project was moving forward on schedule and in accordance with the guide-lines suggested by the Commission. It was noted also that the origin of the Compendium had been a need to supplement the Report on the World Social Situation, the third issue of which will include inter alia a detailed and comprehensive review of changes in levels of living throughout the world.

5. Since the sources of the series to be presented in the Compendium were so different, several members emphasized the need for including comprehensive, explanatory notes concerning reliability, comparability and other factors necessary for proper interpretation, especially for statistics for which no internationally accepted standards had yet been drawn up. It was also noted that although more complex cross-classification of data or other indexes which might facilitate analysis were desirable, questions of space and practicability must be recognized as limitations on the amount of detail which could readily be published.

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6. In general, the Commission agreed to await availability of the first issue of the Compendium before recommending a time schedule for publication of future issues, and before considering the desirability of developing statistics for social programmes by encouraging Member States to compile national compendia paralleling the international publication.

7. The Commission was informed that the third draft of the Handbook of Household Surveys was nearing completion and that a provisional publication was scheduled for 1963. This latest revision would reflect the views of the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes which, at its third session, had examined twelve revised draft chapters submitted by the specialized agencies on subjects roughly paralleling those of the Compendium of Social Statistics (see para. 3) plus an introduction and a brief chapter on sampling methodology. It was also pointed out that the revision in process also reflects the observations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Specialists in Sample Survey Methods which considered the second draft at its meeting in 1961. The Commission noted that the revised draft chapters would be set before the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes at its session in September 1962.

8. The Commission was also informed of regional work in the field of household surveys, namely, (1) the convening of a Working Group of Consultants on Household Surveys in Addis Ababa in 1961, to clarify objectives and to propose methods of developing survey programmes as part of the regular work of national statistical offices in Africa; (2) the ILO/UN Regional Seminar on Household Surveys which took place in Vienna in 1961 with the purpose of exchanging experience in the operation and administration of household surveys; and (3) the continuing activities of the Working Group on Statistics of Private Consumption Expenditure of the Conference of European Statisticians.

9. Several members of the Commission drew attention again to the fact that this Handbook is designed primarily to give guidance to developing countries which need to utilize the household survey method as an interim means to obtain information on the conditions of living. Since it was felt that the Handbook should constitute a guide to countries which wished to use household surveys, the Commission felt that it was important that it reflect the views of members of the Statistical Commission and other selected experts. It was, therefore, agreed

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that the Handbook as revised by the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes should be circulated to the members of the Commission and to other experts selected by the specialized agencies for comment. It was also suggested that the deliberations of the regional seminars on the subject of household surveys should be taken into account.

10. At its eleventh session, the Commission had considered a note prepared by the Secretariat regarding methods of estimating housing needs (document E/CN.3/274). The Commission was informed that in accordance with its recommendation, the technical paper had been circulated to statistical offices and housing agencies of Member States and to the regional commissions for their comments, and the comments received were set forth in document E/CN.3/296. In the course of the discussion, several members of the Commission emphasized that caution was required in connexion with international activity in this area and pointed out that, especially in developing countries, the estimating of housing needs may be an illusionary subject, too much emphasis on which leads to a dilemma in which there is danger of resources being diverted from more important projects. The potential utility of such estimates in more advanced countries was noted. It was stressed that regional and national work would probably prove most effective in this field but, to stimulate such activity, the Commission agreed that the proposed methods set forth in document E/CN.3/274, revised to take account of the comments received, might be issued as a technical guide.

11. The Commission was informed concerning regional activities in developing a standard programme of current housing statistics undertaken by the Economic Commission for Europe and by the Inter American Statistical Institute, and of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes to be held in Copenhagen in September 1962. The latter is one of the projects designed to improve statistical data on housing conditions and housing programmes, included in the United Nations long-range programmes of concerted international action in the field of housing and related community facilities. It was the consensus that the national and regional levels were the most suitable places for activities designed to develop current statistics and that activity at the international level should be primarily one of stimulation and co-ordination.

12. In connexion with the Compendium of Social Statistics and the Report on the World Social Situation, the necessity was noted of being able to study

differences in the socio-economic structure of populations and the changes in the various categories over time. To meet this need, the Statistical Commission recommended [Res. 10 (XI)] that the Secretary-General study the nature and uses of socio-economic classifications currently in use in various Member States with a view to the possibility of achieving greater uniformity among them in the future.

13. The Commission was informed that in accordance with this resolution, the classifications used in over 100 population censuses had been examined and that a working paper based on this study had been brought before the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes at its third session. The Working Party agreed that it was important to have some kind of groupings for use at the national level and that the approach used by the Conference of European Statisticians was in general acceptable. However, it was the consensus of the Working Party that further work was required.

14. It was agreed that there is definite need at the local level for a classification which would be meaningful within the limits of national needs, concepts, practices and cultural patterns. Regional standardization was also considered as a feasible aim so as to provide for reflection of regional differences, but considerable scepticism was expressed over the possibility of developing one international standard classification which would meet the needs of all regions. It was the feeling of the members that discussions among experts, and study of the success achieved with the ECE classification proposed for the 1960 censuses of population, might provide the best chance of achieving progress in this area. It was also agreed that countries should be encouraged to develop classifications for national use which divide the population into relatively homogeneous groups and that cross-tabulation of economic and social statistics series, using the classification, should be made and published.

15. The following draft resolution was introduced:

"The Statistical Commission

"Having in mind the importance of developing statistics for social programmes and the continuing nature of such activities,

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"1. To complete the current revision of the Handbook of Household Surveys, and, after its consideration by the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes, circulate the draft for comment to members of the Statistical Commission and such other experts as may be selected by the specialized agencies concerned;

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"2. Taking into account the comments of the Commission members and experts, to revise the draft Handbook if required and publish it as a technical manual as soon as possible;

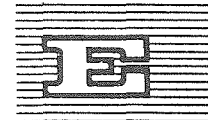
"3. To proceed with the publication of the first issue of the Compendium of Social Statistics and to bring it to the attention of the Statistical Commission at its 13th session, together with proposals for revision, including additional subjects; additional classifications, and proposals for greater depth in treatment;

"4. To continue the study of developing classifications of the socio-economic characteristics of populations which would be meaningful in comparing trends observed in different populations;

"5. In consultation with regional groups and taking account of the comments received from the Commission and other bodies, to revise the document on proposed methods of estimating housing needs, and to issue it as a provisional technical study to stimulate national and regional research on this subject; and

"6. To continue efforts in collaboration with the regional commissions and national Governments on the development of standards for a system of current housing statistics."

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Addendum

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK  
(Item 20)

1. In considering its programme of future work, the Commission noted that a number of projects which it had recommended for study at its eleventh session had not so far been carried out because of staff shortages in the Statistical Office. The programme of work which the Commission envisaged for the next few years was a heavy one and many of the projects related to highly specialized subjects on which international study and guidance, and ultimately recommendations, by the Commission were badly needed. The Commission noted that it was within its terms of reference to offer advice on the staff problems posed by the work programme.<sup>1/</sup>
2. The Commission was informed of the existing rules concerning the staffing of the Organization as a whole which involved the application of a formula by which the nationality distribution of the internationally recruited staff was made approximately proportionate to the contribution to the budget by each Member State.

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<sup>1/</sup> The Commission's original terms of reference stated, inter alia, that it "should assist in development of the Statistical Unit of the Secretariat by making recommendations regarding its staffing, organizational structure and functions, and by providing continuing advice on operational problems" (Report of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council, document E/39).

The shortage of statisticians for international service reflected the shortage of qualified statisticians in most of the Member States. Moreover, the establishment of the Statistical Office of approximately sixty posts of professional and higher grades was not large enough to accommodate nationals of all Member States. A substantial number of United Nations statisticians had left the Statistical Office on promotion in their own countries or elsewhere, at a time when the problem of geographic distribution in the Organization as a whole was most difficult. The shortage of statisticians in the newly independent countries and in most of the under-developed countries made it very difficult for these countries to nominate statistical personnel of the required level of training and experience.

3. In the circumstances the Statistical Office was unable to reflect in its staff composition the variety of experience of the statistically developed countries and was severely limited in its ability to provide training and experience for the personnel of the statistically backward countries. This was the case even though frequent exceptions to the rules relating to geographic distribution had been made in favour of the Statistical Office.

4. The Commission was informed of the geographic distribution of the staff of the Statistical Office and noted that certain countries with long experience in statistics, which might normally be expected to provide statisticians for periods of international service, were not represented, or were insufficiently represented. In all the circumstances, the Commission felt that special measures would be necessary to enable the Statistical Office to carry out the work programme over the next few years. Recourse might be had to obtaining the services of well qualified experts in specific subjects for limited periods of one or, in some cases, two years, on loan from Governments or academic institutions. In addition, small groups of experts employed for very short periods might be used for certain types of study. On the assumption that such means would be found to offset the staff shortages over the next few years, the Commission approved the work programme set out below.

5. It was noted that a number of projects would require collaboration and co-ordination with related work of the specialized agencies, regional secretariats

and other bodies. It is understood that, in carrying out these projects, the Statistical Office, as heretofore, would scrupulously observe the agreements on responsibility for international statistical work which had been entered into a number of years ago.

Continuing projects of high priority

6. Continue, as appropriate and necessary, the systematic publication of international statistics, together with appropriate indexes and bibliographies.
7. Strengthen the centralization of the collection of international trade data from Member States and arrange for the processing of such data by the most appropriate methods in order that, in so far as feasible, they may be promptly available for use by international organizations and Members States in the arrangement and detail that they may require.
8. Maintain and develop publications dealing with statistical methods, with particular reference to the need for the inclusion in these publications of material concerning the practices of national offices in solving problems of collection and analysis, taking account of difference of practice arising from differences of economic and social systems.
9. Maintain and develop arrangements for regional consultations and for regional advisers on statistical questions, especially in connexion with the statistical needs of the less developed countries in co-operation with the specialized agencies and other institutions concerned.
10. Intensify activities connected with the training of middle-level and higher professional personnel in the less developed countries in co-operation with inter-governmental and national institutions.
11. Maintain other activities designed to assist in the more rapid development of national statistics required for the planning of economic and social development, (a) by means of increased utilization of the facilities of the technical co-operation programmes, and (b) by active participation in the Economic Projections and Programming Centre envisaged in resolution 1708 (XVI) and in the proposed economic development centres.
12. Continue the work of improving the comparability of statistical data of Member States having different economic and social systems.

13. Provide advice and assistance in giving effect to existing standards or guiding principles for the improvement of national and international statistics in collaboration with the specialized agencies, together with the exchange of information on problems of methods and applications in the following fields:

- (a) Population and housing censuses;
- (b) Vital statistics;
- (c) Statistics for social programmes;
- (d) Basic industrial statistics;
- (e) Index numbers of industrial production;
- (f) External trade and transport statistics;
- (g) Distribution statistics;
- (h) National accounts;
- (i) Capital formation statistics;
- (j) Classification of industrial and related data according to kind of economic activity;
- (k) Basic statistical series for use in programmes of economic and social development;
- (l) Energy statistics;
- (m) Questions of methodology, including sampling, and information on electronic data processing.

Ad hoc projects also of high priority

14. Undertake a special study of statistical requirements for planning economic and social development in less advanced countries.

15. Revise and issue the document dealing with the systems of industrial statistics of highly industrialized countries.

16. Investigate major uses and requirements for industrial statistics, including analytical ratios and other interrelations among the various items of data, such as changes in productivity of labour and other factors of production.

17. Revise, with appropriate expansions, the publication Patterns of Industrial Growth, for re-issue in 1963.

18. Prepare a detailed study of the problems, suitable concepts, methods and techniques for the collection of data on construction in consultation with organizations concerned.

19. Prepare a study of the industrial statistics of selected economies in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.
20. Prepare a study relating the items of the SITC, Revised, to the groups and items of the ISIC and to commodity classifications for use in industrial and related statistics.
21. Complete the special supplement to the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics.
22. Prepare a manual as a supplement to the System of National Accounts, including a discussion of practical methods of application of the SNA principles and other principles.
23. Study the conceptual and statistical problems in the compilation of indexes of national product and expenditure in constant prices.
24. Study techniques of improving international comparisons of the main aggregates of the national accounts by the use of common methods of valuation.
25. Make a study in detail of methods, concepts and definitions for estimating capital formation, with discussion of the main uses of the resulting data.
26. In co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians, assist in the study of points of correspondence and differences in the SNA system and the system used in the socialist countries.
27. Consult with specialized agencies and regional organizations concerning the longer-term plans for work in statistics, with a view to improving the co-ordination and balance of the international statistical programme as a whole.
28. Make necessary revisions to the document on continuous population registers and issue as a technical study.
29. Complete the provisional issue of the Compendium of Social Statistics being prepared by the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes.
30. Complete the Handbook on Household Surveys being prepared by the Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes.
31. Study possible methods to improve international migration (including tourist) statistics in consultation with the organizations concerned.
32. Examine the status of conventional registration systems for vital statistics preparatory to a revision of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods, and in co-operation with organizations concerned, study methods to obtain vital statistics for countries where conventional methods are inapplicable.

33. Study further the possibilities of methods for the construction of socio-economic classifications, which might result in improved international comparability, in co-operation with interested agencies.

34. Continue technical co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians on the subject of inter-related financial and income accounts; keep under review, in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, developments, practices and experience in the compilation of financial statistics in relation to accounts on income and expenditure and production statistics, and report to the Commission at a future session.

Ad hoc projects of lower priority

35. Prepare a technical publication on the subject of collecting and compiling representative and comparable wholesale price statistics; formulate a draft set of guiding principles for consideration by the Commission.

36. Keep under study national requirements, practices and problems in the collection and compilation of statistics of the revenue and expenditure and assets and liabilities of non-financial enterprises; with a view to the development, ultimately, of suggestions as to the items of data to be gathered from the profit-and-loss and balance-sheet accounts, and as to their definition and classification, in consultation with the International Monetary Fund.

37. Continue the study in co-operation with interested regional organizations and individual experts, of integrated systems of input-output flows and national accounts.

38. Assemble materials for the ultimate preparation of a handbook on housing census methods, based, as far as possible, on the experience and evaluation of the 1960 censuses.

39. Examine methods of population projections to determine if a technical guide on this subject should be prepared.

40. Continue technical co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians on the subject of inter-related financial and income accounts.

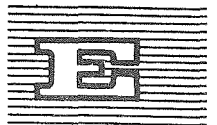
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Item 22 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
TWELFTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION, HELD AT  
NEW YORK FROM 24 APRIL TO \_\_\_\_\_ MAY 1962 INCLUSIVE

Addendum

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION  
(Item 20)

1. The Commission considered a memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/L.58/Add.1) on control and limitation of documentation and noted that, in line with General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 742 II (XXVIII), a decrease from 1,052 pages of documentation (eleventh session) to 664 pages (twelfth session) had been effected. The Commission was of the opinion that this reduction was generally satisfactory but asked that the Secretariat, in the future, keep in mind the need for greater detail in the less developed countries in cases of documents that might be of particular value to them.

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